

APRIL 6, 2023

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL



## FROM THE PASTOR

I find myself torn this week. It's the week of the cross. It's the week of the resurrection. One takes you to the depths of what humans will do to one another. The other takes you to the heights of what God does in response. It is too much to handle in such a short period of time.

Crosses are not in vogue, if they ever were. Talking about one of the worst lynchings ever to happen isn't lady like or gentlemanly either. I'm not sure a cross is ever politically correct among either red states, blue states or purple states. Talk about resurrection sounds better, but is met with extreme skepticism. Even among those who strongly affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus there is extreme skepticism that the world is ever going to get any better, experience resurrection itself.

I was asked, "Do you want a picture of the cross or the empty tomb on Easter Sunday's bulletin cover?" I bet a Baptist church could split over that question, if given the wrong, or would it be the right, leadership.

Will Willimon gives a definition of each. I invite you to hear them in two parts during the April newsletters. They come from his book, *God Turned Toward Us*.

**"Cross - One of the most vicious, publicly humiliating forms of capital punishment ever devised. Excruciating.**

Jesus didn't die peacefully in his sleep; he was agonizingly tortured to death, receiving nonviolently the world's violence. Crucifixion is Roman public murder that's disturbingly analogous to American lynching.

... The cross is a mirror that reflects who we really are as well as a window where we are given a privileged look into the heart of who God is. Who are we? Those who viciously rejected God. Who is God? The One who raised crucified, despised, betrayed Jesus from the dead, the One who decisively, graciously rejected our violent refusal.

A crucified Messiah? The thought that God's Anointed would suffer and die as a common criminal was unthinkable. "God forbid this should happen to you," said Peter, the premier disciple. While we were still trying to get our heads around the oxymoron of God pushed out of the world on a cross, Jesus predicted not only that he would go to the cross but we would as well. God forbid this should happen to us.

The cross proves that God is more than projection of our desires. As Paul said in Romans, we might be willing to die for a really good person, but Christ shows that he is unlike us by dying for sinners like us.

... when we've done our worst – put to death God's only Son – God turns our sin into the means of our salvation. Remember that, next time you either do or receive the worst."

Thanks be to God while the cross is humanity's worst deed toward God, it is also at the same time inexplicably God's merciful act toward humanity. May God enable us to contemplate such a conundrum and be redeemed in doing so.

Crosses,  
Craig

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

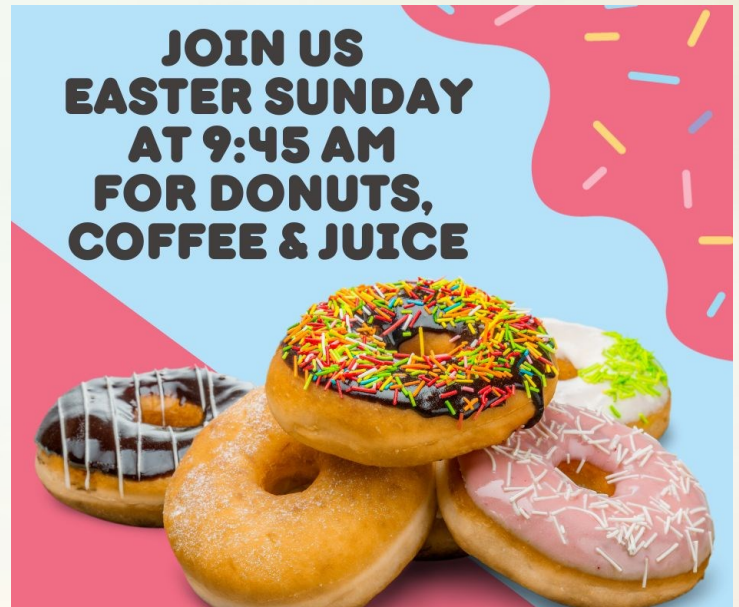
Parents, as we are nearing the end of the School year, we have some important things to attend to. We need to have a parent and volunteer meeting to schedule and plan out our summer activities. I really need your input while doing this. The first BIG thing we have coming up is Graduate Recognition Sunday, on May 21st. If you have a student graduating this year, please contact Dylan or the Church office to let us know. We want to make sure we do not forget or miss any of our graduating seniors. If you are not on the Youth Parent texting and email list, I would love for you to be added. I try to communicate in every way possible, to accommodate everyone.

River of Life, Summer Mission Project information has been emailed out last week. If you have not received this, and would like more information, please let Dylan know. The deadline for our Church to register is April 15th! (student information and payment is due at a later date). If you have any questions please reach out to Dylan.

Lastly, I am asking for your continued prayers for the student ministry here at FBCE. Join me in praying that we will continue to worship and grow together as we seek to follow Jesus in our everyday living. Pray that the Lord would allow us to see the needs of our students in this community, and help us to meet them. Most of all, pray that through this ministry lives would be changed and Christ would be glorified through all that we do.

Blessings,  
*Dylan*

## EXPERIENCE EASTER



# Easter Lilies

## 2023

### In Memory

Bill Nolen  
Fred Winslette  
Louise Winslette  
Percy and Belle Stewart  
Hulon and Mamie McElhenney  
Hughlon and Lillian McElhenney  
Jim Thomas  
Jim Thomas  
Jim Thomas  
Jim Thomas  
Jim Thomas  
Mary and Wendel Thomas  
Bill Nolen  
Sallie Key  
Gehu Key Sr.  
Gehu Key Jr.  
Fred Key  
Sara Key  
C.W. Wright  
Bob and Andriette Weeks  
Powell and Marianne Griffith  
Jeff and Georgia Corley  
Charlie Burnes  
Shelba Key  
Imogene Vincent  
Don's Parents  
Pat's Parents  
George's Parents  
Felice's Parents  
Felice's Brothers  
Venia Funderburk  
Pat and Hammond Adams  
Bob Schell  
TH Resseau Jr.

### In Honor

Victor and Rebecca Hobbs  
Ron and Gail Harley  
Ellen Trice  
Ben and Cherry Leverette  
Victor and Kay Stevens  
Harris and Janette McCollum  
Savannah Davis  
Madison Davis  
William Davis  
Rev. Craig Williamson  
Rev. Dylan Bowden  
Rev. John Cotten  
Denise Carmichael  
Ellen Trice  
Helen Benshoof  
Linda Reagin  
Faith Thomas  
Sonny Turner  
Our Children  
Our Grandchildren  
Grace Resseau  
Catherine Williamson

### By

Ron and Gail Harley  
Ron and Gail Harley  
Ron and Gail Harley  
The McElhenney Family  
The McElhenney Family  
The McElhenney Family  
Sharon Thomas  
Stan Thomas  
Mark and Kay Jackson  
Matthew and Chelsey Jackson  
Ali Jackson  
Faith Thomas  
Joan Nolen Key  
Guerry Key  
Guerry Key  
Guerry Key  
Guerry Key  
Guerry Key  
Guerry and Joan Key  
Guerry and Joan Key  
Guerry and Joan Key  
Guerry and Joan Key  
Guerry and Joan Key  
Clayton and Pam Lancaster  
Jill Vaughan, Cheryl Williams and Amy Mitchum  
Don and Pat Turney  
Don and Pat Turney  
George and Felice Dissmeyer  
George and Felice Dissmeyer  
George and Felice Dissmeyer  
Gene and Lesa Adams  
Gene and Lesa Adams  
Lois Schell  
Lois Schell

### By

Faith Thomas  
Faith Thomas  
Faith Thomas  
Ralph and Joan Barclay  
Ralph and Joan Barclay  
Ralph and Joan Barclay  
Chad and Jessica Davis  
Chad and Jessica Davis  
Chad and Jessica Davis  
Edge and Esther Farley  
Edge and Esther Farley  
Edge and Esther Farley  
Edge and Esther Farley  
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Edge and Esther Farley  
Edge and Esther Farley  
Don and Pat Turney  
Don and Pat Turney  
Lois Schell  
Craig Williamson

# APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 6pm Youth Group	3 12 noon Holy Week Services	4 12 noon Holy Week Services	5 12 noon Holy Week Services No Wednesday Night Activities	6 12 noon Holy Week Services 6pm Maundy Thursday Evening Service	7 12 noon Holy Week Services	8
9 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00am Sunrise Service at the Plaza 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Easter Egg Hunt 10:50am Worship 6pm Youth Group	10 EASTER MONDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 6pm Ladies Bible Study	11	12 5:30pm Supper 6pm AWANA 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	13 6:45pm Jubal Brass Concert at Grace Fellowship in Greensboro	14	15
16 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 6pm Youth Group	17 6pm Ladies Bible Study	18	19 5:30pm Supper 6pm AWANA 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	20	21	22
23 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship & Church Conference 6pm Youth Group	24 6pm Ladies Bible Study	25	26 5:30pm Supper 6pm AWANA 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	27	28	29
30 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 6pm Youth Group						



# WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, March 26      105  
Sunday, April 2      115

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### WELCOMING FOR APRIL

Kay Stevens

### USHERS FOR APRIL

David Stickley, Jarred Camp,  
John Wojtas, Walt Rocker, Jim Hall

### DEACON FOR APRIL 9

Cary Walton

### DEACON FAMILIES

Ron Harley family  
Randall McCook  
Betty Pinholster  
Don Turney family  
Jerry Williams family  
Craig Williamson family

### DEACON FOR APRIL 2

Roger Vining

### DEACON FAMILIES

Terry Blanton family  
Maxine Godin  
Grace Resseau  
Walt Rocker family  
Lois Schell  
Ellen Trice  
Nell Wright

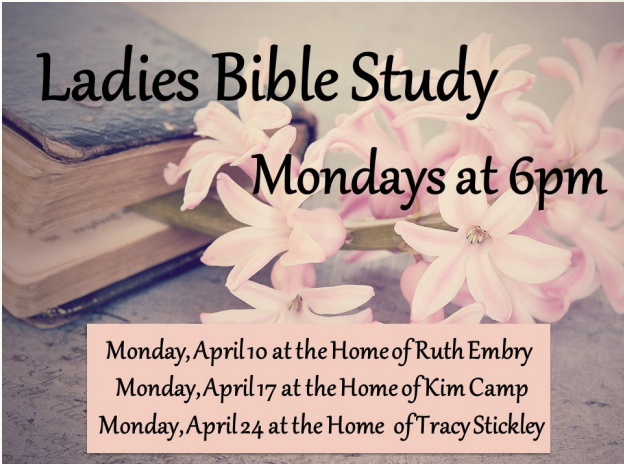
## BIRTHDAYS

04/07 - Sharon Haney  
04/08 - Sylvia Cheney  
04/11 - Sonny Turner  
04/12 - Aidan Rainey, Parker Rainey  
04/15 - Jennie Sharp  
04/16 - Libby Rainey  
04/18 - Joe Rossee

## ANNIVERSARIES

04/08 - Harris and Janette McCollum  
04/19 - Mike and Kathy Faulk

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ladies Bible Study  
Mondays at 6pm

Monday, April 10 at the Home of Ruth Embry  
Monday, April 17 at the Home of Kim Camp  
Monday, April 24 at the Home of Tracy Stickley

## JUBAL BRASS CONCERT

April 13 at 6:45 p.m.

Grace Fellowship in Greensboro



## CHURCH CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 23  
AT 10:50 AM  
DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE



First Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 3400  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
Return Service Requested

A wooden cross is the central focus, set against a vibrant sunset sky with orange, yellow, and purple hues. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and lens flare effect. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams.

*Experience  
Easter*  
Sunday, April 9

**Sunrise Service at 7am at the Plaza  
Easter Service at 10:50am**