

APRIL 4, 2024

First Baptist Church of Eatonton
Messenger



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

FROM THE PASTOR

Speaking of resurrection again, because just once a year is never enough. It seems to me we have to keep talking about it in order to live into it, as well as to actually embody it.

I've seen some amazing resurrections in my life time. So have you! I continue to be amazed humans manage to rise from some of the absolute worst human experiences. It is astounding! It is testimony to the powers of resurrection that exist among us. The creative powers of God, that created something out of nothing continues to inspire life, to raise what is dead back to life. Thanks be to God!

The resurrection of Christ is affirmation the cross is the way of life. Such cruciform thought sounds so contradictory. It is a paradox. It takes a leap of faith to believe the cruciform way of God.

Some of the worst possible things we can imagine have happened and will happen in life, but the daring grace of Christian faith is to believe God is always a resurrecting power, operative in everyone's life. Such resurrection bears testimony to a loving, forgiving, redeeming, courageous God abounds among us. And the cruciform way is Jesus is the way God chose, and chooses to be present.

I confess I struggle to believe such resurrecting powers at times, especially in the midst of the worst. I've seen more than one parent survive, and rise from the death of a child. But I've always said I don't think I can do that. A dear friend promised me that in the face of such tragedy he believed I would somehow rise. I guess that's a friend believing for you when you cannot believe for yourself. We need such friends lest we succumb to the powers of death.

Thus we need one another for Easter. Perhaps the wisdom of gathering together as the Bible teaches us, is to gather into the collective faith of one another. Because faith is a group effort, more so at some times than others. Sometimes you carry the torch and sometimes I carry the torch. But all in all, we both believe because we have one another bearing faith with each other.

I wonder if the believers who remained after the crucifixion would have risen as they did, had it not been for one another. Women and men alike questioned, struggled and doubted. But they also held one another, bore testimony and met the resurrected Jesus together! And they themselves were raised back to faith, hope, love, courage, ...

What a gracious God to resurrect, love, forgive, empower, hope ... the world with creative powers! What joy God is so kind, and so foolish, as to keep covenanting with us! What resurrection is yet to be known? Only time will reveal such to us, but in time God will forever be present raising us to courageous, beautiful lives!

As Wendell Berry's poem, *April Woods: Morning*, says,

Birth of color
out of night and the ground.
Luminous the gatherings
of bloodroot
newly risen, green leaf,
white flower
in the sun, the dark
grown absent.

Rising,
Craig

P.O. Box 3400

115 N. Madison Ave

706-485-3331

firstbaptisteatonton.org

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

EASTER SUNDAY IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

Easter Sunday is only the beginning!

A great fifty-day feast (known as “Eastertide,” “Easter Season,” or “Easter Time,” as well as “Paschaltide,” “Paschal Season,” or “Paschal Time”) kicks off on Easter Day. In the Church Year, this is quite literally fifty days of feasting!

Easter is the highpoint of the Church Year. So, it makes sense that we would celebrate for so long. After all, the main point of the whole gospel is to prepare us for an eternal celebration and feast. This is reflected in the fact that our Lenten fast only lasts forty days (not including Sundays), while Easter is fifty days. Fasting will pass away, as Jesus said, but the Great Feast of the Lamb will last for “ages of ages”, or as we say, eternity!

So let the feasting begin!

After the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth before he ascended, and then there were ten more days after that before the Day of Pentecost. Luke writes in the first chapter of Acts that Jesus “presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” In chapter two, we find the followers of Jesus gathered for the Day of Pentecost, which means “fifty.” It happened during the Hebrew feast of *Shavuot*, which is why the followers of Jesus were gathering. The Hebrew festival was originally a harvest first fruits celebration, and later it had evolved into a commemoration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

So, the Great Fifty Days are a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ and all that means for us, leading to the launching of the Christian Church and its mission on Pentecost.

The Lectionary readings, during the following Sundays of Easter explore the post-resurrection appearances of Christ, and the promise of a future resurrection. We go back to a closed room in which Jesus suddenly appears...but Thomas isn't there. He doubts. Jesus later appears to him. Poor Thomas, forever cast as “doubting” even though his doubts were a helpful thing that eventually led him to worship Jesus and say, “My Lord, and My God.” Then we have breakfast with Jesus and Peter. Peter had denied Jesus three times and, after the Resurrection, had returned to fishing. Jesus restores him and gives him a mission: “Feed my Sheep” and “Follow me.”

We revisit Jesus' teaching on himself and his mission as well. He is preparing his disciples, and us, to take the power of his Resurrection to the world.

Ascension Day falls on the 40th day, which always falls on a Thursday. Because this is a weekday, some churches observe or focus on the Ascension that following Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter. In this we hear Jesus give us the Great Commission, our true Mission Statement.

Dylan

HALLELUJAH! OF CHORUS!

Hallelujah! Of Chorus!

Today I am still basking in the afterglow of an incredible Holy Week and Easter. While it is still fresh I want to thank our very special musical ministers. Connie Covington, Hunter Giddens, and Janice Turner did their always amazing job of helping us prepare and reflect on worship, and accompanying. Our JuBELLation handbell choir played their best ever on Maundy Thursday, and our Choir stretched beyond themselves to sing Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from Messiah beautifully.

We were blessed by our Holy Week musicians: Randy Brittain, our Men's Quartet, Gary McElhenney, and Juanita Crawford. I even got to play my EWI (electronic wind instrument). We are blessed!

Our Choir has seven more Sundays in this "semester" before we take a break for the Summer. Our final Sunday is May 19, and we will Re-Choir when school starts. Come help us finish strong! Our tentative singing schedule looks like this:

April 7	Solo by Ed Ricketson, "I Choose Jesus"
April 14	Choir: "At the Cross"
April 21	Choir: "All to Us"
April 28	Choir: "By Our Love"
May 5	JuBELLation: "What Wondrous Love Is This"
May 12(Mothers Day)	Choir: "Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me"
May 19	Choir: "Total Praise"

Special Opportunity:

JUBAL CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

Thursday, April 25 - Preludes begin at 6:30

Johns Creek Baptist, Alpharetta

No Admission cost - Love Offering for Mission Projects

This is the combined Sons of Jubal and Jubalheirs (men and women), together with our Jubal Orchestra, likely 300 or more Baptist musicians, in concert at our sister church that has one of the finest organs and pianos in the country. The music will be the best this side of heaven!

Let the church office know if you would like to ride our church bus.

John Cotten

**CHOIR'S LAST SUNDAY
BEFORE SUMMER BREAK
Sunday, May 19**

JUBAL CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Preludes begin at 6:30

Johns Creek Baptist, Alpharetta

PUTNAM CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE

We want to thank everyone who helped
with the Putnam Christian Outreach Food Drive.
What a blessing to be able to help out our community!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting



Tuesday, April 16
4:45 PM

Fellowship Hall

Contact Dylan to Sign Up As A Volunteer!



JOIN US THIS SUMMER
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH EATONTON
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 9 - 12
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTEATONTON.ORG



Shorter University
Elementary, Middle, and High School Students
Registration Now Open - Contact John Cotten for details.

Easter Lilies

2024

In Memory

Wendel and Mary Thomas
Bill Nolen
Sara Key
Sallie Key
Gehu Key
David Key
Fred Key
Shelba Key
Shelba Key
Jack Rossee
Bill Nolen
Rev. Henry Durham
Imogene Vincent
Hughlon and Lillian McElhenney
Belle and Percy Stewart
Bill and Janette Moore
Shelba Key
Bob Schell
Grace Resseau
T.H. Resseau Jr.
Dan Benshoof
Don's Parents
Pat's Parents
Our Parents
Felice's Brothers
Bill Harper

In Honor

Victor and Rebecca Hobbs
Ron and Gail Harley
Tom and Amy McElhenney
Pam Lacey
Cristi Sheppard
Leslie Peebles
Carri Thomas
Ellen Trice
Our Children
Our Grandchildren

By

Faith Thomas
Joan Nolen Key
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
Frank and Laura Thompson
Clayton and Pam Lancaster
Danielle Hewette
Ron and Gail Harley and Keith Scott
Thomas Scott and Gail Harley
Cheryl Williams
The McElhenney Family
The McElhenney Family
Cristi Sheppard, Leslie Peebles, Carri Thomas
Gary McElhenney
Lois Schell
Lois Schell
Lois Schell
Helen Benshoof
Don and Pat Turney
Don and Pat Turney
George and Felice Dissmeyer
George and Felice Dissmeyer
Family

By

Faith McElhenney
Faith McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Don and Pat Turney
Don and Pat Turney

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 EASTER MONDAY Church Office Closed Putnam County Schools Spring Break	2 3pm Children's Choir Putnam County Schools Spring Break	3 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Putnam County Schools Spring Break	4 Putnam County Schools Spring Break	5 Putnam County Schools Spring Break	6
7 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	8 Gatewood Schools Spring Break	9 3pm Children's Choir Gatewood Schools Spring Break	10 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Gatewood Schools Spring Break	11 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary Gatewood Schools Spring Break	12 Gatewood Schools Spring Break	13
14 8:30am Deacons Meeting 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	15	16 3pm Children's Choir 4:45pm VBS Volunteer Meeting	17 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	18 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary 6pm Finance Meeting	19	20
21 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	22	23 3pm Children's Choir	24 5:30pm Supper 6pm Youth Group 6:15pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir	25 8am Men's Prayer Group in the Sanctuary	26	27
28 9:45am Sunday School 10:50am Worship 1:30pm Handbells	29	30 3pm Children's Choir				

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR APRIL

Pat McDade

USHERS FOR APRIL

David Stickley, Head Usher

Jarred Camp

Jim Hall

Walt Rocker

John Wojtas

DEACON FOR APRIL 7

Kim Camp

DEACON FAMILIES

Steve Benton Family

Brandon Cardwell Family

Daryl Covington Family

Jesse Covington

Frank Thompson Family

Charles Winslette Family

Warren Yates

DEACON FOR APRIL 14

Tracy Stickley

DEACON FAMILIES

Lauren Brown Family

Jarred Camp Family

Tim Camp Family

Ryan Carmichael Family

Jo Ann Clay

Ashley Rich Family

Andrea Wolverton

BIRTHDAYS

04/07 - Sharon Haney

04/08 - Sylvia Cheney

04/11 - Sonny Turner

04/12 - Aidan Rainey, Parker Rainey

04/15 - Tanner Peebles, Tucker Peebles, Jennie Sharp

04/16 - Libby Rainey

04/17 - Winn Self

04/18 - Joe Rossee

ANNIVERSARY

04/08 - Harris and Janette McCollum

THANK YOU

Thank you to my loving and caring church
for the prayers, cards, and visits.

I am so grateful for your compassion.

Betty Pinholster

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, March 24 150

Sunday, March 31 210

FINANCIAL REPORT

MARCH 17, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$6,373.00

Budget Needs YTD \$112,206.16

Budget Receipts YTD \$125,113.19

MARCH 24, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$4,795.00

Budget Needs YTD \$122,406.72

Budget Receipts YTD \$129,908.19

MARCH 31, 2024

Budget Needs \$10,200.56

Budget Receipts \$10,855.75

Budget Needs YTD \$132,607.28

Budget Receipts YTD \$140,763.94

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

ARE YOU GRADUATING?

If you have a student graduating High School or College this spring and would like them to be recognized for our Graduate Sunday on May 19, please contact Rev. Dylan Bowden or call the church office by Sunday, May 5.