

APRIL 17, 2025

First Baptist Church of Eatonton *Messenger*

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



FROM THE PASTOR

I've seen him do it numerous times. Sensitized to hearing by the absence of eyesight, he listens to the preacher. Or the lecturer. Or the group of people who share with him what's been happening in their lives. Then he responds with a song as he plays the piano. He makes it up on the spot with his gift of voice, piano and hearing. You want to preserve it to play it later, but it is not recorded or written down. Just in that moment you receive the rich gift of Ken Medema's responsive gift of music and word.

One of them was recorded. In a session with the preacher, pastor and author Walter Wangerin, Jr. It was recorded by an old program going back to 1908 known as the Chicago Sunday Evening Club. I'll share more of it with you this Sunday. This is sort of a teaser.

Medema set things up for Wangerin with somber piece of music and the words,

Night was oh so long;
Light is a long time coming.
Now we take a sad, sad journey.
What will the day bring?
What song shall we be singing,
As we take this long, long journey to the tomb?

Then Wangerin shared the story of that first Easter morning with the resources of all the Gospel stories. He ended it with Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus, from the Gospel of John. Mary returned to the disciples once again and blurts out to Simon Peter and the others, "I have seen the Lord."

Medema is left to respond and he does so with something close to dance music on the keyboard as he sings,

Oh, dance, Simon, dance;
Hug me and hold me, spin me around and dance.
Now the night is gone away;
Did you ever see such a beautiful day?
Dance, dance, dance, Simon, dance.

You'll hear more of it Sunday as we lead ourselves to dance in the light of the resurrection. We've seen the Lord!

Dance with me,

Craig

"CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"

As we approach the glorious celebration of Easter, I find my heart and mind drawn to one of the most majestic hymns in our tradition—"Crown Him with Many Crowns." This powerful hymn captures the essence of our Easter joy as we celebrate Christ's resurrection and triumphant victory over death.

Written in the 19th century, this hymn invites us to behold our risen Lord in all His majesty. Each verse offers us a different "crown" or aspect of Christ's character to contemplate—from His divine sovereignty to His sacrificial love. The triumphant melody and rich text remind us that our risen Savior is worthy of endless praise.

This Easter Sunday, we will sing this timeless hymn during our worship service. I encourage you to let the music and words wash over you as we join together in celebration. Consider how each "crown" speaks to an aspect of Christ's character that has touched your life personally.

In our Easter preparations, I have spoken to different church members and they have shared what this hymn means to them. Many spoke of how the music's grand, ascending melody perfectly captures the feeling of resurrection—rising from death to life. Others mentioned how the text helps them envision Christ in His heavenly glory, reminding us that our worship here on earth joins with the eternal worship of heaven.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, I invite you to reflect on how we might "crown Him" in our daily lives. How can we acknowledge Christ's lordship through our actions and attitudes? How can we live as resurrection people all year long?

May this Easter season fill your heart with joy as we worship our risen Lord together!

In Christ's service,

Dylan

EXPERIENCE EASTER



Experience EASTER
At First Baptist Church Eatonton

PALM SUNDAY
April 13 at 10:50AM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
April 14 – 18 at 12:00pm
Lunch to follow

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
EVENING SERVICE &
COMMUNION**
April 17 at 6:00PM

**COMMUNITY EASTER
SUNRISE SERVICE**
April 20 at 7:00AM
THE PLAZA ARTS CENTER

**CHILDREN'S EASTER
EGG HUNT**
April 20 at 9:45AM

EASTER SERVICE
April 20 at 10:50AM



Living Cross

**We will be decorating
a living cross
on Easter Sunday.
Please bring flowers
to place on the cross,
Sunday April 20.**



Easter Egg Hunt

**APRIL 20 AT 9:45AM
BRING YOUR BASKET!**



COFFEE, JUICE, & DONUTS
APRIL 20 AT 9:45AM

Yum!

WOW

**JOIN US FOR A SWEET TREAT
THIS SUNDAY!**

Easter Lilies

2025

In Memory

Margaret Thompson
Shelba Key
Imogene Vincent
Amy Mitchum
Don's Parents
Pat's Parents
Wendel and Mary Thomas
Shelba Key
Myrtle Thompson
Margaret Thompson
Clayton Welch
Jack Rossee
Cleon James Johnson
Dan Benshoof
Dan Benshoof
Fred and Louise Winslette
Doyal and Jody Smith
Debbie McElhenney
Hughlon and Lillian McElhenney
Gary McElhenney
Pam McElhenney Lacey
Camille Ryan
Jim Page
Sallie Key
David Gehu Key Sr.
David Gehu Key Jr.
Fred Key
Sara Key
Bill Nolen

In Honor

Frank and Laura Thompson
Guerry and Joan Key
Trey and Kaitlyn Lancaster Family
Our Children
Our Grandchildren
Victor and Rebecca Hobbs
Gail and Ron Harley
Pew Sisters
Bill and Robin Rainey
Sue Johnson
Donald and Judy Shipp
Harry and Wanda Hallman

By

Amelia, Caroline, and Addie Hanks
Amelia, Caroline, and Addie Hanks
Jill Vaughan and Cheryl Williams
Jill Vaughan and Cheryl Williams
Don and Pat Turney
Don and Pat Turney
Faith Thomas
Frank and Laura Thompson and Family
Frank and Laura Thompson and Family
Frank and Laura Thompson and Family
Andrea Welch and Clay Harper
Chris and Danielle Hewette
The Mac Rainey Family
Helen Benshoof
Cindy and Jeff Smith
Charles and Christine Winslette
Charles and Christine Winslette
Tom and Amy McElhenney and Family
Tom and Amy McElhenney and Family
Tom and Amy McElhenney and Family
Tom and Amy McElhenney and Family
Jim Ryan
Madeleine Page
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
Guerry Key
His Family

By

Amelia, Caroline, and Addie Hanks
Amelia, Caroline, and Addie Hanks
Amelia, Caroline, and Addie Hanks
Don and Pat Turney
Don and Pat Turney
Faith Thomas
Faith Thomas
Joni Dixon
The Mac Rainey Family
The Mac Rainey Family
Tom and Amy McElhenney and Family
Tom and Amy McElhenney and Family

***Easter Lilies may be picked up on Easter Sunday following the morning worship service.**

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR APRIL

Kay Stevens

USHERS FOR APRIL

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

DEACON FOR APRIL 20

Roger Vining

DEACON FAMILIES

Tasha Cannon Family, George Dissmeyer Family,
David Lutz Family, Beth Willis, Karen Willis Family,
Charles Winslette Family, Warren Yates

DEACON FOR APRIL 27

Cary Walton

DEACON FAMILIES

Chad Davis Family, Ron Harley Family, Janice Knowles,
Randall McCook, Betty Pinholster, Don Turney Family,
Jerry Williams Family, Craig Williamson Family

BIRTHDAYS

04/17 - Winn Self
04/18 - Joe Rossee
04/21 - Mary Jo Balas
04/23 - Sherry Lyons, Pat Turney
04/24 - Catherine Williamson
04/25 - Amy McElhenney, Joseph Rainey
04/27 - Amy Joris
04/30 - Cooper Rainey

ANNIVERSARIES

04/19 - Mike and Kathy Faulk
04/22 - Tommy and Linda Copelan
04/23 - Hollis and Karen Harrison
04/27 - David and Marsha Lutz
04/28 - Ed and Karen Ricketson

WORSHIP REPORT

<u>Sunday, April 06</u>	<u>122</u>
<u>Sunday, April 13</u>	<u>125</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

MARCH 31, 2025

<u>Budget Needs YTD</u>	<u>\$139,843.50</u>
<u>Total Receipts YTD</u>	<u>\$139,806.95</u>
<u>Budget Expenditures YTD</u>	<u>\$209,751.69</u>

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

The Missions committee is collecting pocket change in baby bottles April 6-27 to help "change someone's life." The collections will be shared with First Call Pregnancy Center of Greensboro, GA. **Please bring baby bottles next Sunday, April 27 to the Narthex.**

CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE



WE ARE CALLING YOU TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BLESS FIRST CALL PREGNANCY CENTER BY PARTICIPATING IN OUR BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN FOR 2025.

OUR BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN PROVIDES AN EASY AND FUN WAY FOR CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT OUR CENTER. BY TAKING A BABY BOTTLE AND FILLING IT WITH YOUR CHANGE, YOU CAN HELP US CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE.

WE WILL BE COLLECTING CHANGE IN THE BABY BOTTLES APRIL 6-27. TURN IN YOUR BABY BOTTLES BY SUNDAY, APRIL 27.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



Something
grrrrreat is
coming!

Vacation Bible School
First Baptist Church
Eatonton, GA
June 8 – 11, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm
(Dinner begins @5:30pm)

Register at <https://www.myvbs.org/Fbcetruenorthvbs>

