

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

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



FROM THE PASTOR

I've always been a fan of prayer and praying. However, what I pray and the way I pray has certainly evolved. Samuel Wells wrote about three kinds of prayers.

He writes in relation to a request of a lady asking him to pray for her dad. "He's not himself, the dementia's really kicking in, and I feel like he's losing his identity inch by unrelenting inch."

Wells reflects there are two conventional ways to pray for her and her dad. He calls the first way resurrection. "You pray, "God, by the power with which you raised Jesus from the dead, restore this man in mind and body, make him himself again, and bring my friend the joy of companionship and the hope of a long and fruitful family life together."

But as Wells thinks of doing so, he says, "You love your friend. You see how watching her dad disintegrate before her eyes is breaking her heart. You want God to show some compassion, some change, some action. ... But you've also seen hopes dashed, Alzheimer's ends only one way, and part of you can't even say the word heal because it seems that healing just isn't going to happen. You know Christianity's founded on the prayer of resurrection—but sometimes you just find it too hard to say."

So he offers another conventional kind of prayer called the prayer of incarnation. It prays, "God, in Jesus you shared our pain, our foolishness, and our sheer bad luck; you took on our flesh with all its needs and clumsiness and weakness. Visit my friend and her father: give them patience to endure what lies ahead, hope for every trying day, and companions to show them your love."

You can reflect, and should, on the differences between these two prayers.

They are common kinds of prayers, but Wells goes even further by suggesting, "there's a third kind of prayer — a prayer of transfiguration. It goes like this: "God, in your son's transfiguration we see a whole reality within and beneath and beyond what we thought we understood; in their times of bewilderment and confusion, show my friend and her father your glory, that they may find a deeper truth to their life than they ever knew, make firmer friends than they ever had, discover reasons for living beyond what they'd ever imagined, and be folded into your grace like never before.""

And then Wells dares to extend that prayer by inviting us to continue to pray, "Make this trial and tragedy, this problem and pain, a glimpse of your glory, a window into your world. Let me see your face, sense the mystery in all things, and walk with angels and saints. Bring me closer to you in this crisis than I ever have been in calmer times. Make this a moment of truth, and when, like your disciples, I cower in fear and feel alone, touch me, raise me, and make me alive like never before."

As one who appreciates prayer in many forms, I am challenged by all of these prayers. Give it some thought and perhaps you too might also be challenged. May our praying and our prayers open us to the glory of God, of one another and of life.

*Amen,
Craig*

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

It is hard for me to believe we are already halfway through February! Time moves fast and there is much to be done. We are quickly approaching DNOW '23, on March 10-12. We have not had many registrations so far. Please be sure you sign up no later than February 26th, so I can be sure to get the correct number of items ordered for our students. We will have another parent & planning meeting soon, so please be looking for that announcement and date. One of my primary objectives as a Youth Pastor is to build relationships with our students and their families. I have been and will continue to be attending as many extra curricular activities as possible to support our students, and to build relationships.

I find myself in a season now with our Youth Ministry, where I am watering and nurturing seeds that were planted before I arrived at FBCE. I also find myself in a season with a unique opportunity to begin planting new seeds, and creating new relationships with students that I am meeting outside of the Church services. Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God." I am prepared to do whatever it takes to plant and water seeds, so that our young people and students may come to know Christ and have a relationship with Him. As our Student Ministry continues to grow and adapt, we will continue to have opportunities for all to be a part of the ministry and to serve. As always, I ask for and covet your prayers over the Student Ministry here at FBCE as we seek to follow and serve The Lord together.

Rev. Dylan Bowden

YOUTH WEEKLY EVENTS

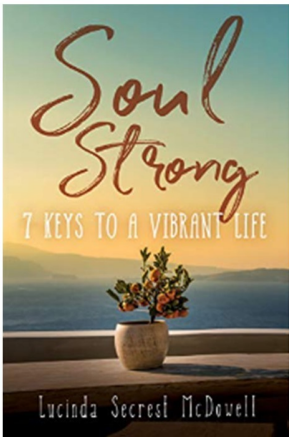
Come Grow with Us

SUN.	SMALL GROUP 9:45 AM
SUN.	FELLOWSHIP 6:00 PM
WED.	WORSHIP 6:00 PM

SO MUCH MORE

DNOW 2023
MARCH 10-12
\$60 PER STUDENT
REGISTER BY FEB. 24TH

ANNOUNCEMENTS



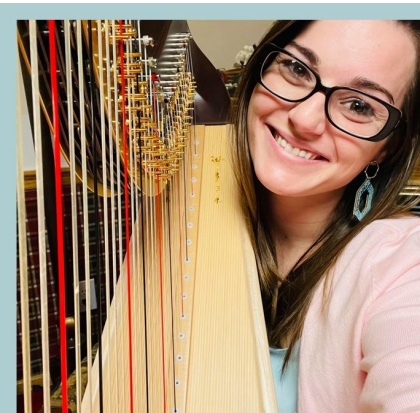
Ladies Bible Study

MONDAY, February 20
AT 6:00 PM
AT FBC FELLOWSHIP HALL
HOSTED BY CHERRY LEVERTTE
DINNER AND DESSERTS PROVIDED

Contact Kim Camp to sign up
or for more information.

WINTER FEST

FEBRUARY 25 • 2 PM - 4 PM
BOUNCY HOUSES, GAMES, FOOD & FUN!



Join us on
Sunday, February 26
at 10:50 a.m.
during morning worship
with special guest harpist,
Helen Huttsell

Easter LILLIES

Cost is \$8
Deadline is March 20

Easter Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuary for Easter.
If you would like to place a lily in memory or honor of a loved one, please place your check and information in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

WELCOMING FOR FEBRUARY

Mike and Sherry Lyons

USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

Mike Lyons
Howell Cardwell
Mike Faulk
Brandon Cardwell
Frank Thompson

DEACON FOR FEBRUARY 19

Harris McCollum

DEACON FAMILIES

Ralph Barclay family
Sharon Haney
Paula Rossee family
Grady Strube family
Lynda Walker family
Cary Walton family
Sug Walton

DEACON FOR FEBRUARY 26

Steven Prance

DEACON FAMILIES

Howell Cardwell family
Jo Ann Clay
David Giddens family
Janice Knowles family
Harris McCollum family
Gary McElhenney
Karen Ricketson family

BIRTHDAYS

02/17 - Baker Stickley
02/19 - Jessica Davis, Madison Davis, Savannah Davis
02/20 - Ben Leverette, Jerry Williams
02/21 - Charlotte Green
02/22 - Dakota Davis, Rita Masson
02/23 - Russell Davis, Rayna Harper
02/24 - William Davis
02/25 - Sherri Farmer
02/27 - Cherry Leverette
03/02 - Donald Baker, Hollis Harrison

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, February 05 128
Sunday, February 12 115

FINANCIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26
Budget Receipts \$20,038.50
Budget Needs YTD \$62,353.56
Budget Receipts YTD \$62,189.75

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Budget Needs \$10,392.26
Budget Receipts \$9,974.00
Budget Needs YTD \$72,745.82
Budget Receipts YTD \$72,163.75

DELIVERING BUCKETS TO GRIFFIN



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 KING AND QUEEN



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

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 5 - Sunday, March 5
BRING FOOD TO THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

Please help us collect non-perishable foods for Putnam Christian Outreach. This food drive serves many families in need within our community.



MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS FOR PCO FOOD DRIVE



- HORIZON ORGANIC LOWFAT MILK
- MC TRADER MILK
- A2 WHOLE MILK
- FROSTED FLAKES CEREAL
- CHEF BOYARDEE
- MACARONI AND CHEESE CUPS

