

Baptist Bugle



April 2020

First Baptist Church of Morris - Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 - Morris, Illinois

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Pastor's Ponderings –

I think we can safely say that these are very interesting times. We are now in the second week of a “Shelter in Place of Residence” order that goes all across the country. Kids may not be going back to school until the end of April at the earliest, maybe longer, we don't know. Kids all across the country, this week, are finding out what “remote learning” looks like; and so are the parents. Kids are being sent home with a Chromebook, and no real idea as to when they will be able to go back to their school buildings. Toilet paper has become a scarce commodity...who'd a thunk it! Many people really struggle to embrace the Government's definition of essential travel. So many changes to our lives right now.

We hear people saying, “I can't wait to get back to normal again.” Would you allow me to be the odd man out for a moment? Oh, don't misunderstand me, I want to get rid of this virus as much as anybody. But, there are some good things coming out of this whole situation. I think people are being forced to slow down. We are finding out we can live without the NBA and MLB. Doctors and Nurses, Police, Fire and EMT, Truck drivers and Farmers, people working in grocery stores all of a sudden are more important than the latest news coming out of Hollywood. ABOUT TIME!!! I see people helping people and looking out for one another. Families are spending time together, and maybe even eating together a little more as we're forced to slow down and change our routines. We'd all gotten used to a very busy, very fast-paced life style. Maybe it's not so bad to have to slow down a little. I see people reminding others to look to Jesus more. People posting Bible verses in order to encourage each other. People's perspectives and priorities are changing. Sure, we see a lot of panic, but we see an awful lot of good too.

There are many things that should be learned in times of discomfort. God uses those times as opportunities to teach us things that we can't learn when times are good. The lessons of God are not usually learned in times of ease and comfort. They are most usually learned in times of discomfort and desperation. And might I add that down through history, the times of great revival have come out of times of Desperation and great difficulty. God may very well be using these days to re-direct our attention to what is of most importance. Desperate days make to draw us closer to the Lord, seek His face, and cause us to hold on to Him all the more. *“Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”* I John 5:5

You could say that these are days of great uncertainty, and they are. But it's not like we've never had days of uncertainty before. Can you imagine what it must have been like for the disciples on Maundy Thursday, and then Good Friday, and then Saturday, and then on Easter. And then even for some days after Easter. They were afraid, confused, and doubtful, without hope. They didn't

know what was going to happen. They locked themselves inside for fear of the Jews. Things looked bleak and dark to them. They felt lost, and had no idea if things would ever get better again.

Here's the thing though - God was not lost. He was not afraid or confused. And regardless of what the disciples were feeling or thinking, Jesus had still risen from the dead. He was very much alive. The point being - No matter what the world throws at you, you cannot change God's truth. No matter what you're feeling inside, you cannot change God's truth. No matter how things look to you, you cannot change God's truth. God is still in control, and He will walk us through these days with the power and victory that rose Jesus from the dead. As we gather together this year for Palm Sunday and Easter, it is no doubt going to look different. We probably won't be meeting together in our churches. Our places of worship are no doubt going to be our living rooms with only our immediate families. We'll gather together over Facebook or by some other means. It's going to feel different. But you can't change God's truth - Jesus is still risen from the dead. No virus can change that!!

"Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in His mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

God is going to bring us through this time of uncertainty. And when He does I hope we will be able to say we learned some things, because God taught us some things that we never would have learned any other way. May these days, these uncertain days, more than anything else make us more like Jesus. That is my prayer.

HE IS RISEN! JESUS HAS RISEN!!

Blessings to you,

Pastor Steve



Christ
is
Risen!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women of Prayer
Tuesdays at 2:00 pm



Men of Action
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm
Are studying "*When to Walk Away*"
All men are invited to join us!

Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

Will begin studying a DVD series "*Perfect Ending - Why Your Eternal Future Matters Today*" by Dr. Robert Jeffress



All women are invited to come
Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625

Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Have begun studying "*Better; Study of Hebrews*" by Jen Wilkin

All women are invited to come
Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527



Single Moms' Group

Every other Wednesday Evening at 5:30 pm

If you are a single mom or know of one who would enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!



NO Congregational Prayer
Sunday, April 5
4:30 pm

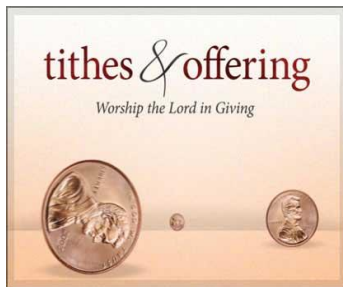
Boards to Meet on Tuesday, April 14
 3:00 pm – Board of Diaconates
 5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education
 5:30 pm – Board of Trustees

UNIFIED GIVING

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u> | <u>Monthly Amt. Received</u> |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March | \$25,720.00 | \$18,388.00 (because of church services being cancelled due to “Shelter in Place” order) |

Church Mortgage Balance as of March 26, 2020 \$78,912.67

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



This past year \$2,036 has been given to be applied to the ‘principal only’! Anyone wishing to contribute toward lowering the principal should write ‘apply to principal only’ on their check. For accounting purposes, it would be appreciated if you would write a separate check if giving for ‘principal only’, rather than including it in your regular giving check. Thank You!

JEWEL-OSCO FRESH DONATION

Jewel-Osco continues to donate fresh food each Sunday morning.
 The donated fresh food is that which is dated and must be used.

We have a great need for volunteers to go to Jewel at 11am on Sunday mornings to pick up the food and bring it back to the church. If you are able to serve in this capacity once a month or so, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board near the library.

If you have any questions, please see Deb Ritke, our coordinator.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path.”
 Psalm 27:11



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

**Sunday mornings
9:30 am – 10:30 am**

**Nursery – 3 years and under
Preschool – 2nd Grade – Teacher Lisa Vaksdal
3rd – 5th Grade – Teacher Kara Paulson
6th – 8th Grade – Teacher Diane Gagliardo
9th – 12th Grade – Teachers Mark and Gayle Conrod
Adults – Teachers Jeff and Claudette Swiggett**

Sunday School Matters...

This month we would like to introduce you to Mark and Gayle Conrod. They are our Senior High to Early 20's teachers. Mark and Gayle are parents of two adult children, Austin (Morgan) Conrod and Kayla (Drew) Hamilton who is a substitute teacher and member of the Board of Christian Education. They are also grandparents to Elijah Hamilton who you might see them with on Sunday mornings! Mark's father was Donald Conrod who served as minister here at First Baptist for many years. Mark is a chiropractor and owns his own business. Gayle a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing. They have been married for almost 30 years. They enjoy family, pickleball, outdoor activities, and are die hard Cubs fans. When asked how they have been blessed by teaching their response was, "The kids make us think outside the box. They push us to know God more through the questions they ask". They say they have lots of good conversation and the kids keep them on their toes! They love to hear the student's perspective on the topics they discuss. Also, when asked in 50 years what do you want your student to remember about your class, they said "Mainly, we ALL are saved by God's grace and that Mark and Gayle were not bible scholars but they loved the Lord and wanted us to also!"

If your young girls need some reading material during the extra time at home the church library has a new series called the Bible Belles Series geared to Pre and Early Readers, ages 4-8, and Independent Readers, ages 9 and 10. These books will help them understand God's love, to seek the true definition of beauty, and help them discover their life's purpose and unique leadership roles through the adventures of Rooney Cruz. Titles include:

- Abigail, The Belle of Bravery
- Ruth, The Belle of Loyalty
- Deborah, The Belle of Leadership
- Hannah, The Belle of Prayer
- Esther, The Belle of Patience

New curriculum, "The Bible in One Year", has been ordered from DigIn. It takes kids on a whirlwind journey from Genesis to Revelation. Kids experience a relationship with God through the eyes of ordinary Bible people. Kids will discover that they're a lot like people God has always loved and worked through. Some of the classes may be finishing up their current curriculum before starting it.

Since we are not able for now to attend Sunday School, here a few awesome resources for you and your family:

- The Bible Project (for the whole family)
- Good News Club (go to Youtube, search u-nite. There will be a session each week!
- And of course, THE BIBLE itself!

In this challenging time, we as parents, family members, friends, and neighbors need to nourish the minds and hearts of our children and young adults. We must provide them with a solid foundation. That firm foundation is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Kay Hemmersbach and Mary Motter
SS Superintendents

“Train a child up in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not part from it.”
 Proverbs 22:6

OUR YOUTH OUTREACH



Awana Club
First Baptist Church
Ages 4 yrs. to 8th grade

We are very excited to have started an Awana Club here **at First Baptist Church!** Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at **6:00 – 7:15pm** You may register by calling the church office @ 815-942-0812
 Registration is required

Awana Club mtgs. this month...

April 5 – NO Awana
April 19 – Bring your favorite stuffed animal

Questions –
Call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson



Youth Group
Ages 5th – 12th Grade

Sunday, April 12 Easter
 No Meeting

Sunday, April 26
 6:00pm
 Meeting

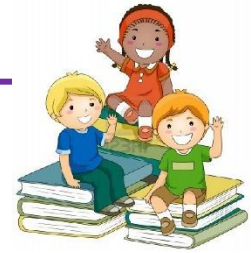
Questions –
 Call Leslie Meloun

Good News Club

Good News Club began Thursday, October 3rd and will finish Thursday, April 30, 2020. Club is held every Thursday during the time period that school is in session a full day, 2:45-4:00pm.

We are excited to see what God has planned for this school year and appreciate the prayers of our "Family of Faith" as God brings the kids! It's our fervent hope and prayer that many will come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and that they will be little missionaries in their homes, neighborhoods and school.

Staff for the 2019-2020 school year –
Carol Adair, Kara Paulson, Kristi Larson, Kay Hemmersbach,
Helen Brehm, Bella Aguilar and Paula Misek



Area I Youth

2020 Mission Experience

June 21-27, 2020

Indianapolis, Indiana

\$150/person

7th Grade thru Age 21

The Area 1 Youth will be partnering with Lynhurst Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana for a variety of mission opportunities.

Registration Form is due June 1, 2020

Forms can be picked up in the church office

Any questions, contact Colleen Miller or the church office

APRIL MEMORY VERSE.....

**“Do not be afraid
for I am with you.”**

Isaiah 43:5



“A sweet friendship refreshes the soul.” Proverbs 27:9

Birthdays

1 Charles Clark, Jim Hitchcock, Dave Punke
2 Gerry Carlson
4 Linda Burden
5 Patricia Neal
6 Renee Gretencord, Marilyn Marshall, Dan Severson
8 Coley Beal, J.J. Gonnam, David Nold
11 Mark Conrod, Lynn Wisslead, Rhonda Nold
12 Betty Vining
14 Nancy McKinney
16 Mark Schwalm, Caleb VandenBos, Nolan Walker
18 Melinda Rieland
20 Emmett Joneson
21 Andrew Ciesla, Shanon Matuszewski, Kylie Severson
22 Chris Lutz, Bill Needham
23 Matthew Paulson
24 Jim Gonnam, Keith Smith, Marie Walker
25 Zita Goebel
26 April Mrowczynski, Kathy Walcott
30 Marshall Ranz, Jeane Robertson

Anniversaries

5 Jim and Brenda Downey
8 Tim and Julie Applegate
14 Colin and Samantha Goerdt
17 Paul and Roberta Carlson
19 Rodney and Denise Ellis, Jerry and Pat Hunter
20 Dick and Deb Polanshek



“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 4:10

***The Bible doesn't promise us that life with Jesus is easier.
The difference is that when life gets hard, we have somewhere to turn
for strength, courage, hope, and peace.***

James 1:2-4

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

The Bible tells us to remain joyful not because we know what happens next, but because we know the end. We will be stronger when we reach the other side. Each trial is an opportunity to step closer to perfection—complete and utter dependence on and trust in God.

Romans 8:28, 35

28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

35 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"

Philippians 4:6-7

"...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The peace of God doesn't make sense. The NIV translation says it "transcends all understanding." It's beyond, higher than, out of reach of all understanding. We can be calm in the midst of complete chaos when we have that peace—and it *protects* us. Jesus guards our hearts against anxiety and stress by filling us with a peace that the world can't understand (because it doesn't come from this world).

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

When asked what the greatest commandment of the law is, Jesus said: one, love God, and two, love others. He continued, *"On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets"* (Matthew 22:36-40). When we focus on what really matters to God, it simplifies our lives. Jesus cut through hundreds of Jewish laws to reveal that they could all be reduced to these two simple commands. When life feels complicated and heavy, Jesus says, **"Come to Me"** so He can lighten the load.

Psalm 23:1-6

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Sheep trust their shepherd. Experience and the surrounding flock tell the sheep that wherever the shepherd leads, they will be provided for. Even as the valley gets dark, rocky, and difficult, the sheep trust the shepherd to lead them out of it. For us, this passage is a reminder that even when we have no idea what’s going on or where our life is going, **God is in charge, and we can trust Him.**

Matthew 6:25-34

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, no about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

“Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will be anxious for itself.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

In other words, what do you gain by being anxious? Food and clothing are valid concerns. God knows you need them. But He doesn’t want you to be anxious about them. Anxiety is an internal state of being, and it doesn’t change our external circumstances. Let God replace that anxiety with peace, trusting that God know your needs

Faith is not believing that God can – it’s knowing He will!



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 5-12

Due to the Governor's "Shelter in Place" order on gathering together –
there will be no church services on Palm Sunday
Stay tuned to our FB page or you may call the office
concerning the next two church services

Thursday, April 9 – *Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion at 7:00pm*
Sunday, April 12 – *Easter Sunday Services 8:00 & 10:45am*
(Men Serving Breakfast between Services)
Children's "Easter Sunday Special" at 10:00am



Feed My Starving Children
Saturday, May 9
Save the date!

We will once again be volunteering at the
"Feed My Starving Children" facility in Aurora.
This is the 6th year we have gone, and it is
an amazing day of packing meals to
feed children around the world!

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer
Any questions, contact Jen Goebel



The resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

Bible Crossword No.3



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Across

- 1 where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt.27:60)
- 4 the place where Jesus died (Matt.27:33)
- 5 Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt.27:38)
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 The angel said "He is _____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
- 10 They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matt.27:28)
- 12 Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matt.27:3)
- 14 Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt.27:4)
- 15 The 12 companions of Jesus

DOWN

- 2 Jesus shed His _____ for our sins
- 3 Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt.27:4)
- 5 Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt.27:54)
- 6 Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou _____ me" (Matt.27:46)
- 7 a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt.27:17)
- 11 They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt.27:59)
- 12 Jesus wore a "crown of _____"
- 13 our Lord and Saviour

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Easter Story

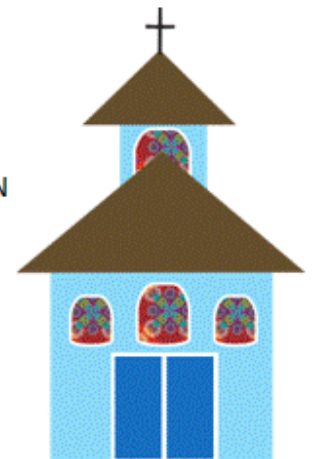
Word Search

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APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSEOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB



"God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son."
1 John 5:11

