

# Baptist Bugle



April 2021

First Baptist Church of Morris

Pastor - Steve Larson

Youth Director - Leslie Meloun

1650 West Route 6 - Morris, Illinois

Phone: 815-942-0812 - [fbmorris1650@gmail.com](mailto:fbmorris1650@gmail.com) - [www.fbmorris.org](http://www.fbmorris.org)

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## Pastor's Ponderings -

I love how the Bible is always teaching. There is so much to glean and be gained by studying the truth of the word of God. One of the greatest examples of what it means to follow Jesus is found in the life of Mary. Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. All 3 loved the Lord dearly, all 3 were followers of Jesus. In what we have recorded for us in the four Gospels, Mary truly shows how she gives her heart to Jesus unconditionally. Let's look at her example to us:

- First of all in Luke 10:38-42, we find Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus. With everything else going on around her, a big meal being prepared, and a sister, (Martha) who was frustrated with her for not helping serve, continued to sit at Jesus feet in order to listen to Him speak. There were a lot of things pulling at Mary trying to distract her and get her to stop doing what she was doing. But she would not be moved. And Jesus affirmed she chose what was most important.
- Secondly in John chapter 11, we find Mary and Martha grieving because their dear brother Lazarus has died. Their hearts are breaking and they are both somewhat frustrated because Jesus is nowhere around. In fact by the time Jesus finally arrives, Lazarus has been dead for 4 days. Martha "lovingly" corrects Jesus for not coming earlier, and proceeds to "teach" Him that had He come earlier, her brother would not have died. While Mary, falling at the feet of Jesus, seems to be completely broken hearted, as if to say, "Why Lord, I just don't understand."
- And finally in John 12:1-9, we find Mary doing something that was completely misunderstood and highly criticized. It would appear that only 2 people understood what she did, and knew that it was the right thing to do. Those being Mary herself, and Jesus. In front of everyone, she pours an entire jar of pure spikenard on Jesus' body, and then proceeds to wipe His feet with her hair. This was a very costly oil filled with a strong perfume, imported from India. It was worth a whole year's wages. So a lot of people watching this unfold saw it as a huge waste, and thus were very indignant. And yet, in the middle of this beehive abuzz with criticism, Mary knew she was doing the right thing. Fascinating to me! A woman of her day was not given much credit. She wasn't the focal point of that particular gathering - Jesus and Lazarus were. She wasn't seen as an important person. And widely criticized for her actions. And yet, Jesus defends her, and

makes it clear to everyone that Mary is doing the right thing, for the right reason at just the right time.

Are you desperate for God? Do you truly believe you need God more than anything else? Do you realize that you are absolutely lost without Him? Do you want God more than you want this pandemic to be over, and for things to “just go back to normal”? If you are really, truly desperate for God, you will be willing to get on whatever page Jesus is on and stay there. You may not like it. You certainly may not understand it, or be able to comprehend what God is doing. But who among us can comprehend the mind of God? You may not want to do it. But you will say, “Yes, Lord,” and get on whatever page Jesus is on, in order to be a part of what God is doing.

I am absolutely fascinated by Mary’s very “controversial” actions in pouring the oil on Jesus in front of a room full of men who criticized her. Still she continued, it did not matter to her. And she knew what she was doing. She was preparing Jesus’ body for burial. She knew He was going to die. She believed Him when He told her that He was going to be betrayed into the hands of men, and suffer and die on a cross. She maybe didn’t understand it. She certainly didn’t like it. She could not comprehend it. But she believed it, and was willing to follow Jesus, even if it meant He was going to die. Mary knew what a crucifixion was. They happened often enough in Jesus’ day that she had seen at least one. She did not want to see Jesus die, leave alone by crucifixion. And yet she was willing to say, “Yes Lord, I will follow you, regardless.” Because she was more desperate for God than she was her own desires. Her desperate need for God outweighed her desire to comprehend the mind of God. What a lesson, what an example to us of what faith looks like. This is God’s standard for what it means to follow Him.

May we follow the Lord fully. Whether we understand what He is doing or not. May our desperate need for God outweigh our desire to be able to comprehend the mind of God. His ways are higher than our ways. He is doing things that we cannot see or understand. Through it all, He is in control of all things.

We can trust Him.

*Pastor Steve* ✝

*Christ  
is  
Risen!*

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women of Prayer  
Tuesdays at 2:00 pm

Men in Action  
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm  
All men are invited to join us!  
Please contact Stan Motter

Women's Afternoon Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 1:00 pm  
Are studying the "Book of Mark; *Becoming a Servant*"  
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625

Women's Evening Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Are studying the *Jennifer Rothschild's study, "Take Courage"*  
*a study on the book of Haggai*  
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527

Single Moms' Group  
Every other Wednesday Evening at 6:00 pm  
If you are a single mom or know of one who would  
enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!  
Please contact Kristi Larson

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."      Philippians 2:3-4



Maundy Thursday  
 April 1  
 6:00 pm Worship Service  
 w/communion

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Easter Sunday  
 April 4  
 8:00 am - Easter Worship Service  
 "mask required"  
 9:00-10:00 am - Breakfast provided  
 and served by Men in Action  
 (Takeout orders will also be available)  
 10:15 am - Easter Worship Service  
 "No mask required"

Boards to Meet on Tuesday, April 13  
 3:00 pm -Board of Diaconates  
 4:00 pm -Board of Christian Education  
 5:30 pm -Board of Trustees



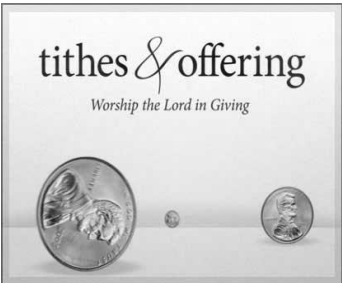
**UNIFIED GIVING**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
Thru March 20 <sup>th</sup>	\$25,720.00	\$19,620.00

*"The Monthly Amt. Received includes offertory that has been mailed in."*

**Church Mortgage is Paid in Full!**

*Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!*





## Children's Church

Each Sunday - during Worship Service



Pre-K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will meet from 10:30-11:00am  
in the old Adult Sunday School classroom  
Masks are available, if desired

Any questions, please call the church office at 815-942-0812

## **GOOD NEWS CLUB**

Grades K-5

Join us each week, either Tuesday or Thursday, now through April 29. Be with us via Zoom from 4-5pm for a fun and action-packed hour of learning about God. The clubs are designed to teach character and morals. Activities include singing, Bible lessons, scripture memory, missionary stories, and review games. Clubs are free and are taught by volunteers sponsored by *Child Evangelism Fellowship* (CEF). All leaders are trained and screened for a very safe hour. GNC is open to ALL children, regardless of faith and/or religious affiliation or belief. CEF is a non-denominational, Bible centered organization founded in 1937 that is active in all 50 states and around the world.

There is no charge for *Good News Club* Online, however, parents need to register the child(ren). Complete a registration for each child at [www.cef3rivers.org](http://www.cef3rivers.org). If you had registered for the Fall 2020 session, please re-enroll your child for this session. For any questions or comments, call 815-741-0366.



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**Live Nativity**  
**Friday & Saturday, December 10 & 11, 2021**  
**5-8 pm**

# OUR YOUTH OUTREACH



**Awana Club**  
**First Baptist Church**  
**Ages 4 yrs. to 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

We are very excited to have an Awana Club here **at First Baptist Church!**

Awana Club is held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at **4:00 – 5:15pm**

You may register by calling the Church office @ 815-942-0812

Registration is required

**Awana Club mtgs. this month...**

**Sunday, April 4**  
**No AWANA**

**Sunday, April 18**  
**Meet at church**  
**4:00 - 5:15 pm**

**Questions –**  
**call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson**

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**WE HAVE BEGUN AWANA AGAIN!**

**We will be set up a little differently right now to allow for social distancing, and the children will need to wear masks while indoors. Our activity time will be outside weather permitting, so in order to meet during daylight hours, we're planning on beginning at 4:00 and going til 5:15.**

**We are looking forward to seeing you!**



**Youth Group**  
**Ages 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

*Sunday, April 11*  
*Bowling*  
*5-7 pm (new time)*  
*Meet at Church*

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*Sunday, April 25*  
*5-7 pm (new time)*  
*Meet at Church*

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*Questions -*  
*Call Leslie Meloun*

be **STRONG &**  
**COURAGEOUS**  
do not be *afraid*  
or **TROUBLED**  
The *Word* **YOUR GOD**  
is with you  
**WHEREVER** you go  
Joshua 1:9

**We  
were made  
for  
WORSHIP!**



## PLEASE JOIN US.....

**Sunday Morning Worship Service - 8:00am**

(masks are required for this service)

Offering plate will be available

Practice social distancing (if not family)

**Sunday Morning Worship Service - 10:15 am**

Offering plate will be available

*Sunday Morning Children's Church (preK-3 grade) during this Worship Service*

**Sunday morning Multi-Generational Bible Study - 9:00 am**

*w/ Jeff and Claudette Swiggett*

**Sunday morning Post-High Bible Study - 9:00 am**

*w/ Rick Enlow*

**\*We are not able to offer child care at this time  
If there is anyone interested in being Nursery Coordinator,  
please let the church office know.**



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### **Multi-Generational Bible Study**

**Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am**



All ages will meet in the Sanctuary. This is a new spin on Sunday school, and will be in place through May of this year. This class is taught by Jeff and Claudette Swiggett. It is family oriented, so it's a special time for families to worship together. It will be all the Sunday school classes combined, including the Sunday morning Adult class that has been meeting. Looking forward to seeing you!



### **Post-High Bible Study**

**Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am**

This class is specifically for young adults that have recently graduated from High School. The class is being taught by Rick Enlow. The class offers "questions and discussions" based on Bible scripture and world events, allowing students a vocal platform. Sound interesting? Come check it out!

*“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act.”*

Psalm 37:5

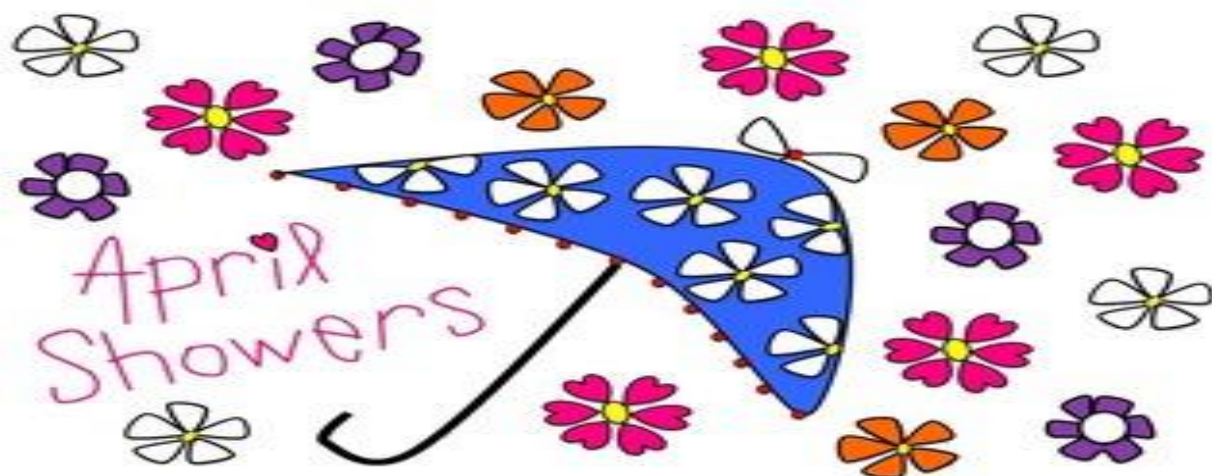
## April Birthdays ....

1 Jim Hitchcock, Dave Punke  
2 Gerry Carlson, Isabelle Nissen  
4 Linda Burden  
6 Marilyn Marshall  
8 David Nold  
11 Mark Conrod, Lynn Wisslead, Rhonda Nold  
12 Betty Vining  
16 Mark Schwalm  
20 Lisa Cottingim  
21 Monica Zavala  
22 Bill Needham  
23 Matthew Paulson  
24 Jim Gonnam, Keith Smith, Marie Walker  
25 Zita Goebel  
30 Marshall Ranz, Jeane Robertson



## April Anniversaries ....

5 Jim and Brenda Downey  
8 Tim and Julie Applegate  
19 Rodney and Denise Ellis, Jerry and Pat Hunter





# YOUR DAILY BIBLE VERSE

## Which Book of the Bible Should You Read Next?

by Kristi Woods

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” – 2 Timothy 3:16*

Sometimes my Bible reading is alive and full – somewhat like a scenic picture bursting with color.

And some days I simply don't know what to read or where to start. The mountain of words, verses, and books of the Bible bring rise to an overwhelmed stare.

A few books of the Bible rush to the rescue for situations like these. They help us grow. Consider the options below.



# 1. Calling New and Old Christians Alike!

Twelve disciples + 1 Messiah make for four fabulous Gospels. If you're new to the Bible, why not start at the beginning of the New Testament? Seasoned Christian? It's a solid review as well.

Allow the pages to flip to Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Start at the beginning, and work your way to the end.

*Jesus answered, "The greatest is, 'Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. Mark 12:29-30*

## 2. No Time to Read?

Sometimes life's schedule fills with work responsibilities, kids' activities, workouts, a sick family member, and more. The calendar bursts at its seams. Bible reading becomes somewhat of a lost art in the mix.

In those times, what's a person to do? Consider a short book of the Bible, one containing six or fewer chapters.

Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians are my go-to when the schedule overflows. They read with ease, packing power and applicable instruction in their short length. James, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> John, the Peters, and Jude read likewise.

In their chapters, armor, unity, and freedom dance to life. God's love does as well. Encouragement to press on toward the goal cheers for readers. Rules for Christian households opens wide for acceptance. Everyday application awaits.

## 3. A Plan Sounds Great. Help!

You want a plan. You try to plan. You're simply out of time to organize a plan. Sounds like the perfect time to consider Proverbs.

Proverbs contains 31 chapters, one for each day of the month. How easy, right? If it's the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, read Proverbs 14. Proverbs 15 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and so forth. No bookmark needed!

The bonus? This method helps readers keep track of the date, 100!

*What book of the Bible are you reading right now? What is your favorite book of the Bible?*

"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from Him.  
Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I shall not be shaken.  
My salvation and my honor depend on God;  
He is my mighty rock, my refuge.  
Trust in Him at all times, you people;  
pour out your hearts to Him,  
for **GOD IS OUR REFUGE.**"

Psalm 62:5-8



New Beginnings  
306 E. High St.  
Morris, IL 60450  
815-513-3964



Looking for volunteers

Open Monday – Friday  
Volunteers work 3 hour shifts

Will need to have an interview  
and present a few references

If interested, please call the above number  
and ask for Tammy

## Deepest Sympathy –

*Emmett Joneson went to be with the LORD in the early morning hours on March 5, 2021.*

The family of Emmett Joneson would like to thank you all for your outpouring of love and support. Your thoughts and prayers have helped sustain us through this challenging time. We would also like to thank those that helped with the funeral luncheon. Your time and talents were appreciated by so many. We miss Emmett deeply, yet we know his suffering has ended and he is home resting in the loving arms of our Savior.

*Bonnie and family*



## GOD is everywhere..... by Mandy Smith

Take a step outside and you will be surrounded by the intricacies and fascinating systematic creation that was created by our God. He is in the mountains, the beaches, jungles, ocean depths, prairies, farmland, deserts, and valleys. To see His creation is to see a piece of Him. As it says in Romans 1:20, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” Not only can we feel His presence in His creation but there is more knowledge that He wants to share with us through it all.

### 1. He Delights in Beauty

Look around as the seasons change and you will see beauty upon beauty emerging from its cocoon. An orange fiery sunset, crystal clear waters, snowcapped mountain peaks, miles of sunflower fields...the list goes on and on. Sometimes something is so beautiful we can only stand in awe of its presence.

GOD shines from His creation. It is just a glimpse of the beauty we will fully behold in Heaven. Eden was perfect. The trees, food, river watering all the vegetation, and the first two people created in perfection, Adam and Eve. Though sin entered the world shortly after, the beauty of the remains is all we see of a glimpse of the New Eden that will be restored in Heaven... to see GOD’S creation is to see GOD.

### 2. His Timing is Perfect

GOD not only times our lives into a patchwork quilt of His will but also the cyclical timing of a 24-hour day, 365-day year, and constant motion of planets spinning on their axis at just the right angle is a testament to His control. To see the change of seasons in nature is to see GOD’S perfect timing, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...”

Your dream may not be visible, or your heart may be aching from a loss. Remember that the same GOD that ordains the sun to rise and set is the same GOD that has your heart in the palm of His hands. In His timing, all is made right whether here on earth or in glory, “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what GOD has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

# An Easter Prayer of Celebration: He Is Risen!

By Debbie McDaniel

*"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said..." Matthew 28:6*

Such incredible, miraculous, life-changing words. "He is not here, He has risen..."

His power could not be contained in a grave. His love could not be conquered by death. His truth could never be buried and forgotten.

***Jesus Christ rose again, He is Victorious!***

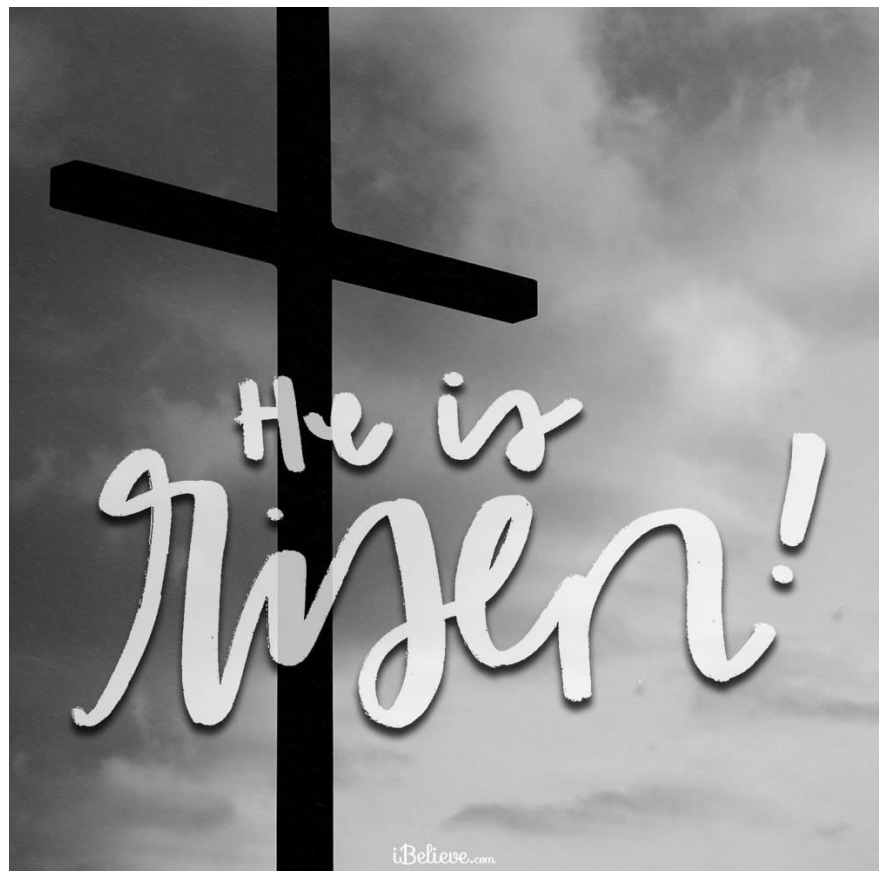
And He makes all things new.

The very purpose of this Easter reminds us that no matter what we've been through in the past, what we might be facing today, or what uncertainties tomorrow may hold, Christ alone is our Hope. He conquered death, He rose from the grave, He is all Powerful.

He breathes new life, so that we can live...free.

We have so much to celebrate today, for He has risen!

**He has risen indeed!**



Dear God,

Thank You that you make all things new. Thank You for the Victory and Power in Your Name. Thank You that You hold the keys over death, and that by Your might, Christ was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to live free. Thank You that You had a plan, thank You that You made a way.

We praise You for Your great strength, we praise You for Your lavish love. We praise You for You are Conqueror, Victor, Redeemer, and Friend. We praise You that You alone are our Deliverer, You are Worthy, You are our everlasting Father, our great and awesome God.

We confess our need for You. We ask that You would renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. We pray for Your spirit of refreshing to fill us again.

Keep Your words of truth planted firmly within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to Your Word. And when the enemy reminds us of where we have been, whispering his lies and hurling attacks our way, may he be reminded again of his future. For we have a future and a hope in You. We've been set free, redeemed, the old has lost its grip, the new has come.

Shine Your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for Your glory and purpose. Set Your way before us. As all Your plans succeed, may we reflect Your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs Your presence and healing.

Thanks be to You God, for your indescribable gift!

To You be glory and honor, on this Resurrection Day, and forever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

**Happy  
Easter!**

# Church Bulletin Board

## VBS

Looking for 2 individuals to work together to coordinate Vacation Bible School this year. We are thinking of having it in July, but nothing is set yet. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

## Nursery Coordinator

Looking for someone to coordinate a schedule of individuals to help in the nursery during Sunday School and Worship Services. This is a volunteer position and very important to our church ministry. If you are interested in helping in the Nursery and/or being the coordinator, please contact the church office.

## Feed My Starving Children

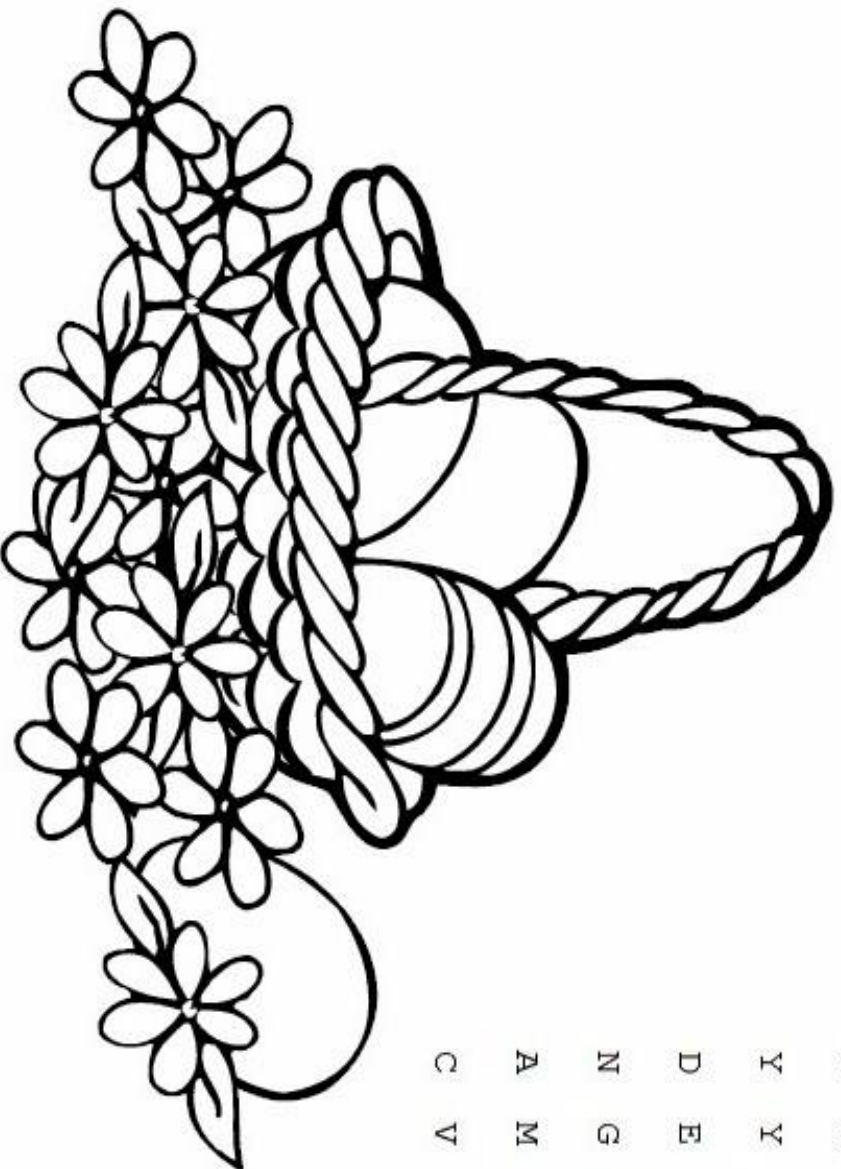
Saturday, May 8  
11:30-1:30

## Working Together in Christ

4“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:4-8

# Easter

## WORD SEARCH



H O P Y Y N N U B Z C  
Y E F F E T D H A R M  
B V Z I A H J G O H Y  
M Y C P S N I S G U K  
A P D L T I S I Y H T  
L K W A E R K V C J E  
Y Y U F R M J R E J K  
D E L B I B U S L W S  
N G T M K H U Y J Q A  
A M L Y C S M H F S B  
C V Q P P Q N E G G S

BASKET	CROSS
BIBLE	EASTER
BUNNY	EGGS
CANDY	JESUS
CHURCH	LAMB

# COFFEE CUP MINISTRY

**This ministry is to help encourage each other right here at First Baptist Church.**

1) You will need to bring a cup, of any kind, to the Church by the first Sunday of the month. Be sure to label the bottom with your name.

2) Inside the cup you can put your special prayer requests, special needs or anything else you wish to have prayed for during the month. The cups will go on a table in the foyer.

3) Each of you will choose a cup. Every morning, as you drink from that cup, you can pray for the individual. On the last Sunday of the month you will return the cup to the Church table. You may add a special note for that person if you wish.

Depending on the interest shown, we would like to continue this ministry monthly.

Any questions, you may contact Leslie Meloun.



Special Prayer Request

Special Need

Please pray for ....