

Church News

APRIL 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings ...

From the words of the old hymn, "Crown Him with Many Crowns" –

*"Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heavenly anthems drown all music but its own!
Awake my soul, and sing of Him who died for me, and
Hail Him as thy matchless King thro' all eternity.*

*Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save;
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high, who
Died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die."*

I hate to think where we would be without Easter. I hate to think where we would be were it not for the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. Thankfully, we don't have to worry about that. We live in victory because of Jesus' victory. However, there are many people who do not know that victory; and there are many others who are having a real hard time realizing that victory simply because life is very, very hard. The struggles are great, and many times the end is nowhere in sight. I have to believe the victory must be found before the struggle is over. When the hard times are over and the struggles are past, it's easy to see the victory. But victory must come first in the middle of the struggle, when difficulty is at its peak, in order for Jesus to have the victory in our lives. Usually, probably, maybe always, Jesus has to bring us low in order for us to let Him have the victory that He wants to have in our lives. Has Jesus been trying to get you low in order that you would display Him as the victory in your life? From the hymn "Sitting at the Feet of Jesus" –

*"Bless me, O my Savior, bless me, as I sit low at Thy feet;
Oh, look down in love upon me, let me see Thy face so sweet;
Give me, Lord, the mind of Jesus, keep me holy as He is;
May I prove I've been with Jesus, who is all my righteousness."*

So many times we want to show or prove we've been with Jesus. We want the Lord to give us the mind of Jesus, and keep us holy as He is. But the victory in that is so often found in the deepest of difficulties, in the most trying of times. It's hard to have one without the other – letting Jesus have the victory in our lives is letting Him take us through our struggles. May we prove we've been with Jesus; may it be so evident to the world around us. When Jesus is trying to get us low, time is best served on our knees.

To God be the victory,

Pastor Steve

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women's Prayer Group
Wednesdays at 10:00am

Men of Action

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm

We are currently studying the series *"How (not) to Read the Bible"*
by Dan Kimball

All men are invited to join us!

Questions?? - contact Stan Motter at 815-545-7441



Ladies Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

We are studying the *Book of James* on February 18th.

Join us as we learn to apply biblical Christian wisdom to our daily lives,
while enjoying the special bonding and fellowship we have together!

Come join us!

Kim Enlow at 815-931-2533

Ladies Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

We are studying a series called

"Relying on the Holy Spirit" ...Discover Who He is and How He Works

by Charles F. Stanley

We hope you will join us!

Colette Kirby at 815-954-9527



Single Moms Support Group

Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month

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 at 815-942-0812

*"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message
is heard through the word of Christ."* Romans 10:17



New Boards to Meet on Tuesday, April 14

10:00am – Board of Deacons
5:30pm – Board of Christian Ed
5:30pm – Board of Trustees

NO Congregational Prayer
on Easter Sunday



“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.”
Psalm 145:18

*“Let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;
let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them.”*
Psalm 5:11

God told us from the very beginning that in love – His love –
We find the answer to all our needs as well as healing for our
broken lives. When your heart is anchored to the heart of Jesus Christ,
you will find Him near and always eager to confirm His personal love for
you. The love of the world will pass away, but God’s love is guaranteed
never to fade. He is the Source of all true, lasting love.

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt Received</u>
Total Given for March 3/22	\$25,720.00	\$31,595.00

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!

A decorative floral background consisting of various flowers and leaves in shades of grey and white, creating a soft, textured effect.



Awana Club

"Because Kids Matter to God"

First Baptist Church

Age 4 thru 7th grade

Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday

of each month at **4:00 - 5:15pm**

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

April 5

NO Awana - Easter

April 19

Cookie Decorating

Questions -

**Call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson
We are looking forward to seeing you!**

*"Lord, give my child a discerning spirit to know right from wrong,
wisdom to benefit their life,
and convictions to stand strong in their peer groups,
leading rather than following".*

Simple prayer for kids, *"Thank you, God, for this day, for my family, and for
keeping me safe. Help me be good and love others. Amen,"* or a bedtime version
saying, *"Thank you for loving me, please keep me safe tonight and help me
have good dreams. Amen"*

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23

April Birthdays ...



1 Jim Hitchcock, Dave Punke
2 Cindy Binion
8 David Nold
11 Mark Conrod, Lynn Wisslead, Rhonda Nold
16 Mark Schwalm
20 Lisa Cottingim
22 Bill Needham
23 Matthew Paulson
24 Keith Smith, Marie Walker
25 Zita Castelluccio



April Anniversaries...

5 Jim and Brenda Downey
8 Tim and Julie Applegate
19 Jerry and Pat Hunter



PLEASE JOIN US.....

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 8:00 am
We offer a staffed Nursery

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 10:30 am
Sunday Morning Kid's Church (Pre-K and up)
during this Worship Service
we offer a staffed Nursery

Kid's Church



Every Sunday morning during the 10:30 am Worship Service

Meets in our Library ... Sue Cheng (age 4 to 1st grade), Kristi Larson (2nd to 5th grade) and Lisa Vaksdal (sub). This class offers a Bible lesson, craft and snack for the kids during the worship service. It gives the parents a chance to listen to the message and also the kids to receive a message as well. If your kids are too young for this class, we have a staffed Nursery that you may take them to at the same time. Kids are brought back to their parents before the main worship service is concluded. Come check us out!

Adult Bible Study

Sunday 9:15 am

Meets in the Sanctuary.... Claudette Swiggett
Looking forward to seeing you!



"Look to the LORD and His strength, seek His face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 9:15 am

Pre-K thru 2nd Grade Jen Goebel, sub.
3rd thru 5th Grade ... Jen Goebel
Jr. High Mary Motter
High SchoolCathy Planeta

Take all your anxieties to Calvary. Stand in the shadow of God's crucified Son. Now ask your questions. "Is Jesus on my side?" Look at the wound in His. "Will He stay with me?" Having given the supreme and costliest gift, is there anything else He wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?
Romans 8:32

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IN NEED OF PRAYER?

First Baptist Church has a wonderful team of prayer warriors who are willing to lift your requests to our heavenly Father.

Colette Kirby leads this ministry,
and you can email your prayer needs to her at –

colette.kirby@comcast.net

or text 815-954-9527



*“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”* John 15:7

The dearest treasure of your life - second only to your relationship with Jesus Christ - is a close friend. A friend loves you unconditionally, catches you when you fall, believes in the best for you and encourages the best in you, understands your deepest concerns, applauds your successes and shares your pain, offers you constructive criticism in times of error, and feels sorrow for you in times of pain or rejection. A genuine friend is a gift of God's mercy to you.

“We ought to obey God rather than men.”
Acts 5:29

God's ways don't always appear to make sense! It didn't make sense for Gideon to reduce his armies from thousands to three hundred. It didn't make sense for Joshua to send the Israelites marching silently around the walled city of Jericho as a battle strategy. It didn't make sense for David to go after the champion warrior of the Philistines armed only with a slingshot and a handful of stones. What God calls us to do may not make sense. We may be able to come up with all sorts of excuses for not obeying. In the end, however, there's only one wise choice:

Obey God.




EASTER SCHEDULE



Maundy Thursday – April 2, 2026
NO Worship Service

Good Friday – April 3, 2026
Worship Service at 7:00 pm w/Communion
“7 Last Words from the Cross”



Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026
Worship Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am
w/Communion

Easter Breakfast
9:15 – 10:15 am
(hosted by Men of Action)

Please join us!
Any questions please contact church office at 815-942-0812

On that first Easter morning, something happened that had never happened before in the history of the human race – and would never happen again: someone came back from the dead, never to die again... Jesus' resurrection also tells us that there is life beyond the grave. This world is not all there is; when we die, we continue to live – either in the place of utter darkness the Bible calls Hell or in the place of endless joy the Bible calls Heaven. And now Jesus has opened the way to Heaven for us, by His death and resurrection. Because Jesus rose from the dead, death has been defeated and Heaven awaits us.

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

John 11:25-26

He is risen



Adopt-A-Highway Saturday, April 25

Spring is here and with it comes time to clean up our section of Saratoga Road from Route 6 to Old Stage Road. We will meet at the church at **8:00am** to pick up our supplies. Please put your name on the signup sheet in the foyer if you plan to help.

You need to bring your own gloves.

We will supply safety vests and bags.

Hope to see you there!

Questions, call church office 815-942-0812.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Saturday, May 9 (Sign-up Sheet on Foyer Table)

11:30 – 1:45pm

Meet at the Church at 9:45am

Any questions, please contact Jen Goebel



Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 3

10:30am

Anyone graduating from Jr. High, High School
or College please contact the church office

*“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:16*

Sunday Worship Services

8:00am Early Service
 9:15am Adult Sunday School
 9:15am Youth Sunday School
 10:30am Late Service
 10:30am Kid's Church

April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	2 Maundy Thurs. NO Worship Service 6:30pm Single Moms	3 Good Friday 7pm Worship Service w/Communion <i>"Seven Last Words From the Cross"</i>	4
5 Easter/ Communion 8am Worship Service 9:15am Easter Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	6 Office Closed	7 7pm Men of Action	8 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	9	10	11
12	13 Office Closed	14 10am Deacon Bd. 5:30pm CE Bd. 5:30pm Trustees Bd. 7pm Men of Action	15 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	16 6:30pm Single Moms	17	18
19 4-5:15pm AWANA	20 Office Closed	21 7pm Men of Action	22 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	23	24	25 8am Adopt-A-Highway
26	27 Office Closed	28 7pm Men of Action	29	30		



Word Search

Easter



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

- EASTER
- APRIL
- CHOCOLATE EGG
- CHICKS
- SPRING
- BASKET
- EGG HUNT
- BUNNY
- GRASS
- SUNDAY
- LILY
- HOLIDAY

