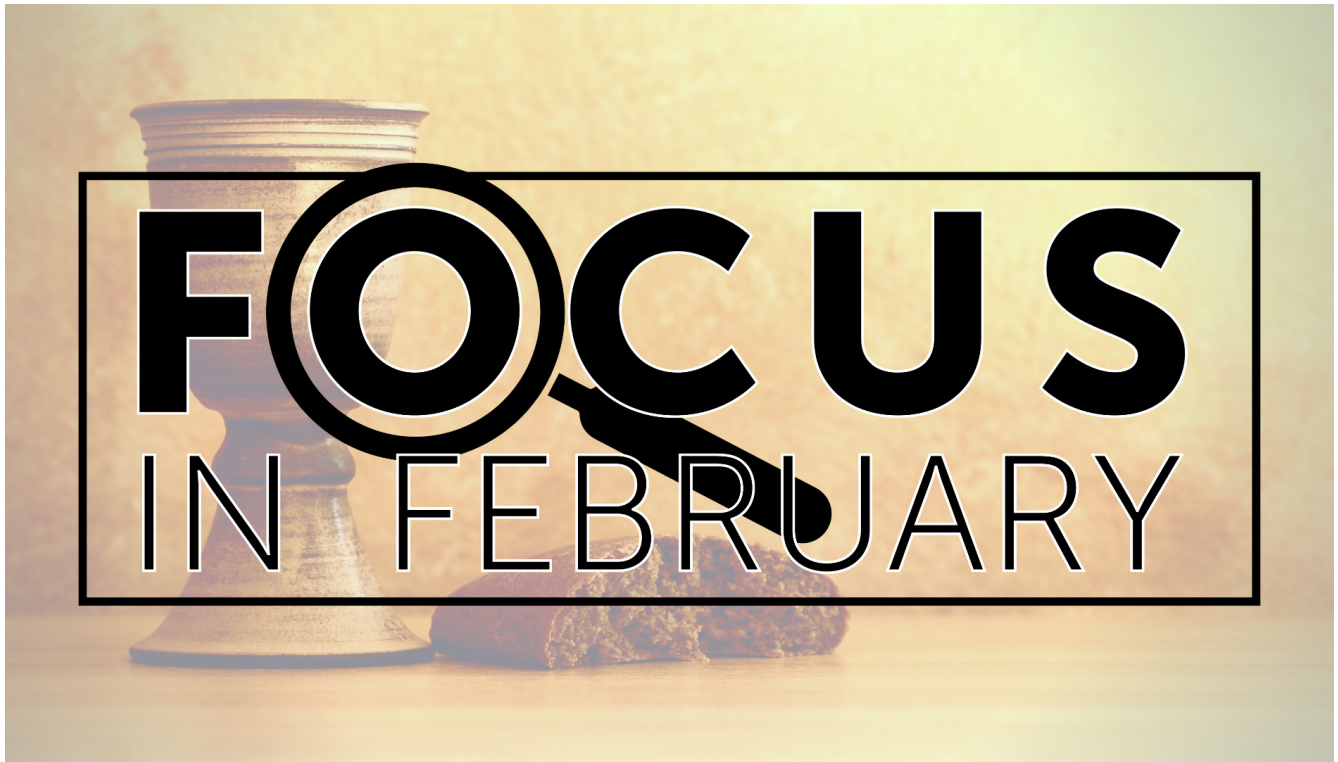


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY / 2023



THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our annual Focus in February series has become something I look forward to each year. In the last several years, we have used the Sunday nights in February to study what it means to be made in God's image, differences between English Bible translations, and what we and other Christian traditions believe about baptism. This year we will spend each Sunday evening in February thinking through what we believe about the Lord's supper.

When we celebrate the Lord's supper each month, do you understand what all is happening and why? Have you ever wondered what the purpose of

the Lord's supper is or what the Bible says about it? Have you ever attended a different church that celebrates the Lord's supper in a different way?

Over these 4 Sundays in February, we will study what the Bible says about the Lord's supper. Why do we celebrate it? What have different Christians throughout history thought about the Lord's supper? When and how often should we celebrate the Lord's supper? Who should be included in celebrating the Lord's supper? How should we celebrate the supper? And what do different traditions (such as Catho-

lic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, etc.) believe today? We will discuss questions that you may have each week, but the entire service on February 26 will be dedicated to questions from you with answers and discussion from your pastors.

Whether you regularly attend or have never been to a Sunday evening service before, we hope that you will make a point of attending these 4 weeks. Go ahead and make plans now. Prioritize being with your church family and taking part in this discussion and Bible study about the meaning and purpose of the Lord's supper.

Praising God in our Prayer

Jake Beattie
Pastor

Every February for many years now, we have set aside a twenty-four hour period of time to devote ourselves to praying. We pray for our church, for the pastors and staff, for the volunteers, for the youth and children, for the people of our congregation. We pray for our community, our neighbors, our friends, and others. We pray that God will save more people. All of those things are great things to be praying for, and I look forward to devoting twenty-four straight hours to praying for those things.

But I would also like to encourage you to do something besides that when you pray. Not just this time when we have our twenty-four hours of prayer, but every time you pray. I want to challenge you to spend time praising God when you pray to him. Grab your Bible and open to Psalm 65. Now put this newsletter down and read Psalm 65 and Psalm 66. Seriously, put this newsletter down and read both of those Psalms.

Shout for joy to God,
all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!

Say to God,
"How awesome are
your deeds!
So great is your power that
your enemies come
cringing to you.

All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your
name."

Psalm 65 begins with a wonderful reminder that praise is due to God. He is worthy of receiving praise from his people. Verse 2 promptly reminds us that he is a God who hears prayer. When we pray to him we can be confident that he hears us. But notice how the psalm changes a bit in verse 5; the psalmist begins recounting the wonderful deeds that the Lord has done. This is a great habit for us to get into because it reminds us of what God has done, and it brings glory to God to hear his people recount all the wonderful things he has done.

Psalm 66 is similar. It begins with the call to, "Shout for joy to God, all the earth!" Verse 2 tells us to sing the glory of his name. Now notice verse 3. Say to whom? Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!" This is reiterated in verse 5, "Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man." Make no mistake, God loves to hear his children recount his wonderful works, his wonderful deeds back to his ears.

It may be that for much of your life you have thought about prayer as a time to ask God to heal all the sick people you know, fix all the broken relationships you are aware of, and to save all the people you love. And let me be clear that we should absolutely pray for those things. But we should also be people who come to God in prayer and we pour our praise to God by recounting the wonderful things he has done. Thank him for what he has done for us in salvation through his son, Jesus. Thank him for what he has done specifically in your life. Thank him for every possible thing you can think of, because he has done all of that and so much more that we may not even be aware of. Praise is certainly due to our God in Zion!

BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS



With prayer being a priority for our church, we want to equip you with tools to strengthen your prayer life. Each month, this section of the newsletter will be dedicated to a specific prayer focus.

This month, let us pray for the various ministries in our church. Pray that these ministries would:

- » Prioritize our church's mission statement: loving and serving both God and people.
- » Be led by humble and servant-hearted people.
- » Be focused on the gospel, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and filled with the truth of God's word.

FBC Fairdale Ministries

- » Music/Media
- » Nursery
- » Children
- » Youth
- » College
- » Men's/Women's
- » Senior Adult
- » Visitation
- » Food Pantry
- » Kitchen/Sports Team Meals
- » Bereavement
- » Missions/Outreach
- » Benevolence
- » Various Committees
 - » Personnel
 - » Finance
 - » Buildings & Grounds
 - » Audit

Student Events: Developing Love for God and One Another

Garth Farmer
Minister of Youth

It's hard to believe that 2023 is already upon us! I know that the student ministry team and myself are incredibly excited to see what God has in store for the coming year! One of the things we discussed in our first meeting of the year is how we desire for our students to have more opportunities to hangout with each other in the coming year. We're so grateful that God is building some incredible Christian friendships amongst our students and we praise God for that! With that being said, here is a list of some the events we have planned in the coming months that you can be praying for in our student ministry.

Next week, on February 10th, our students will be going bowling. This will be a fun night for our students to hangout together and continue to grow in community with one another. On February 12th, the Sunday following, we will be having our 6th Annual Youth Chili Cook Off. This is one of my favorite events! Its always to encouraging to watch our church come together in friendly competition and enjoy a meal together. All while supporting our students in going to camp over the summer! Praise God for how he works in the life of our church through events like this!

On February 18th, during 24 Hours of Prayer we will be having our very first FBCF Student Ministry Prayer Hour. This is the first time we have done this, but I'm so excited for our students to gather together and to pray for our

church! My hope is that this will be a normal occurrence for our student ministry going forward. On March 11th we will be having our Disciple Now weekend. This is a weekend that our students will spend together studying the word of God together! Bryan Esterday (a former member of our church and current Youth Pastor at Highview Baptist Church) will be preaching to our students on evangelism and what it looks like for our students to share their faith as Middle and High Schoolers. I'm really looking forward to this weekend! What a great opportunity we have for our students to set aside a weekend to hangout, have fun, and study the word of God together.

"May God use these events to deepen the faith of our students, to draw them closer to Jesus, and to bring himself glory."

As you all can tell even in the first months of 2023 there will be lots going on in the life of our student ministry! We pray that God would bless each and every event that our students have in the coming year.

May God use these events to deepen the faith of our students, to draw them closer to Jesus, and to bring himself glory. So please pray for us church. Pray that God would work in the hearts and lives of our students in the coming year. Pray that we as youth leaders would have many opportunities to share the Gospel with our students and that their faiths would be strengthened in the coming year. Pray that their friendships would strengthen in the coming year. Pray that God would be glorified in all that we do!

GET INVOLVED

If you've been around FBC Fairdale long enough, you know that food is a central part in the life of our church. Our kitchen is a major area of service, both to our church congregation and the local community. If you would like more information about serving in any of the following areas, talk to one of our pastors or contact the church office.

CHURCH DINNERS – We are happy to offer a warm meal every other Wednesday before evening activities.

SPORTS TEAM MEALS – We have the pleasure of serving pre-game meals to Fairdale High School football and soccer teams. This is a great opportunity to build relationships with the students and coaches (weekly during sports seasons).

BEREAVEMENT MEALS – Our church offers to provide food for any family suffering a loss. This includes bringing food or helping to serve/clean up (as needed).

SPECIAL EVENTS – We serve food for special events like Homecoming, Easter breakfast, and King of the Bluegrass Hospitality Rooms (as needed).