



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY / 2024



Prayer is an integral part in the life of the believer. Throughout God's word, from Genesis to Revelation, we see men and women crying out to God in prayer. There are prayers recorded and woven into all parts of the Bible. Jesus makes sure to teach his disciples how to pray, and Paul instructs us to pray "in everything" (Phil. 4:6) and "without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). Clearly the Bible takes prayer seriously.

At FBC Fairdale, we recognize the importance of prayer. Sometimes prayer can be difficult or seem awkward or feel unproductive. But if we value God's word, we must seek to prioritize prayer in the same way. Because of this, we strive to make prayer a part of the regular rhythm of our church.

Each Sunday, we have multiple times of prayer during our regular worship service. Every Sunday school class and Bible study begins and ends with a time of prayer. We take time on Wednesday evenings to gather to pray for one another and the things going on in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We are encouraged to continue praying during the week for the requests mentioned on Wednesday evening. Once a month, both our men and our women meet for a time of fellowship and focused prayer at our Prayer Breakfasts. We pray before church meals and before leaving for camps and retreats. Our church does a lot of praying!

Coming up in less than 2 weeks, we have another opportunity to spend focused time in prayer. Twice a year (once in February and once in August), we set aside 24 hours to dedicate to individual and small group prayer. Our 24 Hours of Prayer is February 16 & 17 (starting and ending at 4:00 pm) and it is our hope that you will join us during this time. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the office. Pick a time (even if someone is already signed up!) and make plans to come to the church during that hour and pray. May we as a church take seriously our need to pray and God's desire for us to pray. May we declare God's praises, confess our sins, and ask for his mercy and grace in our lives!

# Focus in February: God's Word and Parenting

**Josh Greene | Pastor**

I am impressed at how much the Bible speaks toward parenting. We don't hear enough about it. Why is that? Perhaps it is because parenting is such a loaded subject for Christians. Not only is parenting challenging, it is also complicated. And not only is parenting challenging and complicated, it is also sensitive. For these reasons, Christians have not looked to God's word enough and therefore haven't learned enough from God's word to have a solid, Biblical understanding of parenting. The result is that the topic is often neglected and avoided. Thinking about our church specifically, this is concerning. We cannot afford to have this many children around for us to not be ultra-focused on training, equipping, and assisting parents in this beautiful God-given endeavor! So we have decided to be proactive and go heavy on discussing the topic of family and parenting.

By the time we get to the end of February, Lord willing, we will have devoted six full church services and messages to the study of parenting. That is about 6 hours total worth of Bible teaching. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless this work, and that many mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers will be helped as they labor to love and disciple the young people underneath them. We have been praying for this Focus In February series.

To be clear, the 6 services are: 1) Sunday evening, January 21: Matt McBroom preached on the stewardship of the family. 2) Sunday morning, February 4: I preached on "How God Uses Parents to Shape Kids." 3) Sunday evening, February 4: I taught on "Time" in regards to

Parenting. And then the next 3 Sunday evenings will be on Parenting as well, for a total of 6 services.

If you are in the parenting stage of life or if this subject is simply of interest to you, we hope that you will listen/watch these messages. We trust they will be very beneficial to you.

I said earlier that I am impressed at how much the Bible speaks toward parenting, so I want to point out a few examples:

In Genesis 22:5 Abraham says, "*Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship.*" What a strong little statement! Parents, we need to speak to our kids in this way. When has a parent ever said to their kids, "We are going to worship.?"

In Exodus 13:8 God says, "*You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me.'*" Again, when have you heard parents telling their kids what the Lord has done for them?

In Exodus 20 when God gives the Ten Commandments, one of the commandments is to honor mom and dad. Honoring your parents is so important that it made the Ten Commandments. Do not kill. No other gods. No adultery. In the middle of these laws from God to govern His whole creation, He included, "Honor your father and mother." We need to see that the parent/child relationship is that critical.

God's word is profitable, and we are prayerful that these messages will bless our families and homes.

## BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

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

# Good Gifts from a Good Father

**Andrew Crawford | Minister of Music**

One of the great joys of “false spring” – those few days in the winter months in Kentucky where the sun comes out and temperatures rise just high enough to trick you into believing spring is here – is the opportunity to get a glimpse of the beautiful weather that is just around the corner. This past weekend, we had a full day of beautiful weather. We took every opportunity to spend every minute we could outside.

I sat with my two-year-old daughter, Eloise, outside on our deck as she pushed our porch swing back and forth with all her little might. As I watched her push the swing back and forth, she turned around and took two small steps backwards, her back now to the moving swing, not realizing that she had just entered into the flight space of the heavy wooden swing. Fortunately, I was alert to the situation and rushed to pick up Eloise and move her out of the way before the swing crashed into the back of her head. Eloise, unbeknownst to the whole situation, just stared at me with a look of half confusion and half annoyance, not understanding why I had just jumped up to move her. I found myself getting annoyed at her annoyance with me. But in the moment the realization hit me – she has no idea the things I am protecting her from.

In Matthew 7:7-11, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his followers,

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”*

We have a heavenly Father who has perfect provision for each of us. His provision extends far beyond our own understanding. How often do I take for granted the blessings and protections from

God? How often am I like Eloise, completely unaware of all the ways that my heavenly Father is protecting and providing for me?

My purpose in writing this is primarily to be a prayer of thanksgiving – to thank God for his daily provisions. Each morning when I wake, it is God who has given me life, given me earthly blessings and responsibilities, and puts breath in my lungs. My salvation is a gift from God that I could not attain on my own. My faith, my testimony, my strength are all gifts from God. God continues to offer provisions for each and every one of us – in ways seen, and in ways unseen. May we continue to praise the Lord and thank God for his blessings.

***“Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”***

***Psalm 90:14***

