

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER





MARCH / 2024



The sun has been shining, birds are chirping, and the temperatures are starting to warm up outside. Although it feels like January was just a few days ago, we're already into March and gearing up for spring. In just a few weeks, we will be preparing our hearts for Holy Week and celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday. We want to make sure you know about all that we have going on Easter Weekend to celebrate our glorious Savior.

Friday, March 29, we will have a Good Friday service at 6:30 pm. This is a shorter, more solemn service that helps us remember the cost of our salvation. Pastor Josh Wamble has written more about Good Friday in his newsletter article on the next page.

EASTER WEEKEND

-  **Good Friday Service**
March 29
6:30 PM
-  **Sunrise Service**
March 31
7:00 AM
-  **Church Breakfast**
March 31
8:30 AM
-  **Easter Worship**
March 31
10:45 AM

Easter Sunday, we will kick off the day with Sunrise service at 7:00 am on the front steps of the church. Every year, we gather in the cold and darkness to sing, pray, and hear the Gospel and conclude with the beauty of the sun peeking through the clouds. After the Sunrise service, everyone is invited to stay for breakfast in the church basement at 8:30 am. We will have a full spread and a great time of fellowship.

Finally, on Sunday morning at 10:45 am, we have our Easter Worship service. This service is full of joy and celebration as we delight in the resurrection and what it means for us as believers. Make plans to attend, invite friends and family, and spend time this spring remembering and celebrating all that God has done for you through Jesus Christ!

The Goodness of Good Friday

Josh Wamble | Pastor

When I was growing up, I always found it odd that the Friday of Easter week was called Good Friday. It seemed strange to call the day that Jesus was crucified good. I remember wondering what was so good about that day. As I have thought about it, of course there is a very good reason to call this day, of all days, Good Friday. In fact, there are several reasons.

Good Friday is Good because in the Cross, We See the True Nature of Our Sins.

Different crimes are punished in different ways depending on their severity. Some only merit a small fine; others many years in prison. Our disobedience cannot be easily overcome, and our guilt cannot be cheaply covered. When we see what our sin cost our savior on the cross, we are forced to admit the depths of our fallenness and seek him for our forgiveness.

Good Friday is good because in the cross, we see the true nature of our sins!

Good Friday is Good because in the Cross, We See the Greatness of God's Love.

God's love for his people is nowhere more clearly seen than on the cross. In John 15:13, Jesus says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." Paul expands on this in Romans 5. In verse 8, he says, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." And, in verse 10, he writes that this happened while we were his enemies.

Not only did God send His Son to die for our sins, and not only did Jesus willingly come to die for his people, but he did so when we were his enemies—when we were against him, when we didn't want to be helped. God had every right and justification to leave us in our sins and corruption; yet, simply because He loves us, he chose to make a way to reconcile us to Himself.

Good Friday is good because in the cross, we see the greatness of God's love!

Good Friday is Good because in the Cross, Jesus Won Our Forgiveness.

The cross was not an event outside of Jesus's control. Jesus said that no one could take His life unless He laid it down, and that is exactly what He did. The cross was Jesus's plan from the very beginning to reconcile the world to Himself. In John 19:30, from the cross, Jesus says, "It is finished," and then "he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

Good Friday is good because in the cross, Jesus won our forgiveness!

Good Friday is Good because the Cross is not the End of the Story

Good Friday is good because there is more to the story. Jesus's death is not the end of the story. Early in Jesus's ministry (John 2:18-22), He predicted his death in a parable about the temple. After Jesus's resurrection, his disciples remembered this and understood that He was talking about the resurrection.

Good Friday is good because the cross is not the end of the story!

BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

This month, let us pray for our community - Fairdale, Louisville, and all the areas where we live and work.

Pray that:

- our good works in the community would glorify God.
- we would live with integrity as representatives of Jesus.
- we would look for ways to serve and love our neighbors and community.
- God would grant opportunities to share the gospel with those around us.
- we would be faithful to share about the faith and hope that we have.
- the Holy Spirit would be working in hearts, preparing people to respond in faith.
- our church would be diligent to disciple new believers.

Life Changes and Family Priorities

Mary Catherine Anderson | Director of Nursery

2024 is a year of milestone birthdays for our family. Laney will hit double digits, turning 10 in September. Maylie will be an official teenager in May. And one of the adults (I'll let you decide who is older by 11 months) will turn the big 4-0 this spring. All these big birthdays coming up in the next year has had me reflecting on change and growth. Obviously, our family has changed over the years. We've experienced job, home, & school changes; sickness and new babies; losing friends and making new ones; family death and estrangement; financial ups and downs - all of the many things that make up a full, happy, hard life. And all of that has shaped us into the people we are today - very much different and changed from who we were when Marshall and I first met two decades ago.

Along with that, I have been reflecting on the aspects of our family life that haven't changed. There are many practices and elements that have stayed consistent in our family over the years. These are priorities for us, and I pray that they continue to be a part of our family rhythm for as long as the Lord allows us time together. The way these priorities work out practically in our lives has changed and will certainly continue to evolve, but the core values remains the same. And if you desire to make these same priorities part of your family life, may I encourage you that your specific practices and habits will look different from our family and from every other family in our church.

One of these priorities is time together. We want to make sure that we have enough room in our schedule to spend with one another in a way that restores our bodies & souls and builds our relationships with one another. Spending time with one another gives us moments of conversation to direct our children towards the things of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-7) and guide them in wisdom (Proverbs 22:6). Spending time together - whether it's a spring hike, a lazy morning of video games, or dinner after a busy day - gives us time to rest and

encourage one another. As the girls have gotten older, they have gotten involved in more activities, but we still try to prioritize restful time together.

Another priority that has stayed consistent in our family is commitment to our church. Our girls understand that going to church regularly is just a part of our life. They also know that serving others - both inside and outside the church - is a priority for our family. Again, the level of involvement has looked different depending on the season of life we have been in, but throughout the years, we have made a strong emphasis not to neglect the gathering of believers in whatever church we were members of at the time (Hebrews 10:25).

The last (but not least) priority that has been central to our family is God's word and prayer. Certainly God himself - as well as the power of the gospel through Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts - is an unchanging reality in our lives. We know that the Lord remains the same "yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) and while the things of earth will pass away, "the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). How can we not make a relationship with God - hearing from him through his word and praying to him - a priority for our family? I will be the first to admit that we haven't been perfect about this. We have gone through dry spells where we don't prioritize it as often or as much as we should. But we always come back to the Lord and his ways. In the words of Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69).

So while family life will change over the years - babies grow into teenagers, parents and grandparents pass away, we move or get new jobs or face health complications - remember that there can still be certain fixed priorities in your family. Take time to consider them, name them, and ask God to help you sustain them throughout the ups and downs of life.