



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



Although it may feel like January was just a few weeks ago, we're already well into April. This coming Sunday, Palm Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. In just a few days, 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, April 18, is our Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m. This is a shorter, more sol-

emn service that helps us remember the cost of our salvation. We will reflect on the crucifixion and the cross as we worship the Savior who died to make atonement for our sins once and for all.

Easter Sunday, April 20, we kick off the day with a Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. on the front steps of the church. Every year, we gather in the cold and darkness to sing, pray, and hear the Gospel then conclude with the beauty of the sun peeking through the clouds. After the Sunrise

service, everyone is invited for breakfast in the church basement at 8:30 a.m. We will have a full spread and a great time of fellowship.

Finally, on Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m., 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!

Because of the Resurrection: New Life in Christ

Josh Wamble | Pastor

This changes everything!

You have probably heard someone say that before. Perhaps you have even said it yourself. Sometimes there are events in life that are of such magnitude that everything is different afterwards. This could be because of something really good that happens - meeting a spouse for the first time, getting into a certain college or landing a certain job, having your first child. Sometimes, these life-altering events are tragedies after which you cannot go back to life the way it was before.

There are several events like this in the Bible, but none of them rises to the level of change that happened in response to Jesus' resurrection. Jesus' resurrection is the most monumental thing that has ever happened in the history of the world. It literally changed everything! Nothing could stay the same.

Instead of remaining enemies of God, because of the resurrection, we have been reconciled to God.

In Romans 4:25, Paul says, "[Jesus our Lord] who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

Through the resurrection, Jesus has accomplished our justification. He fully satisfied the righteous wrath of God. Because he finished that work, he rose from the dead. We can now be declared innocent before God. The guilt and shame of our sin that once separated us from God has been removed. We can now enter into his presence freely and boldly.

Instead of remaining dead in our sins, because of the resurrection, we have been made alive in Christ Jesus.

In Ephesians 2:4-6, Paul says, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

We are now spiritually alive with Christ!

Instead of continuing in the pattern of our old life, because of the resurrection, we have a new quality of life.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away..."

Not only do we go from being dead to being alive, we are given a new type of life. We have resurrection life here and now. Where before we acted as if we were our own lords and lived according to the flesh, now we serve the risen savior—our Lord, Jesus Christ—and live according to the Spirit.

Instead of remaining hopeless in our guilt before God, because of the resurrection, we have a hope and a future.

In 1 Corinthians 15:20-21, Paul says, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead."

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The Fullness of Our Salvation at Easter

Andrew Crawford | Minister of Music

Easter Sunday is a week that we set aside to give special remembrance to the death and resurrection of Christ. Christ's death, burial, and resurrection are the foundation for our worship services each and every week. Easter weekend is both a literal historic event where Jesus died on the cross, was buried in the tomb, and rose from the grave – and it is our hope for salvation today that has a profound impact on the way we worship.

The Cross: Where Justice Met Love

The cross wasn't just a tragic moment in history. It was the divine intersection where the justice of God met the mercy of God—where our sin was paid for in full, and the atoning work of Christ was completed by the grace of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us that, "For our sake He made Him who knew no sin to be sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." It is the justice of God that he pours out his wrath upon sin; it is the grace of God that Jesus bears that punishment on our behalf – so that His righteousness might be imputed to us. When Jesus, on the cross, said, "It is finished," he wasn't just talking about his suffering. He was declaring that every barrier of sin between us and God had been torn down.

The Tomb: Where Sin is buried

When Jesus was buried in the tomb, sin was buried there too. The tomb illustrates that death has died. Romans 6:4 teaches that, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too might walk in newness of life." If united with

Christ in his death, then our sin has been defeated by the power of Christ.

The Resurrection: Where redemption meets victory

Christ's resurrection from the dead establishes his victory of sin and our freedom from the dominion of sin. This is the bedrock of the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 15:17 tells us, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." If Christ did not rise, then your faith would be futile and would still be under the power of sin. But Christ did rise and the tomb is empty, which means that your faith has power and your life is to be lived as a slave to righteousness and not a slave to sin.

This Easter Sunday may come and go as a day on the calendar, but its power is alive in us every day. Let's be a church that lives in light of the cross – a people whose worship is fueled by the Gospel, shaped by grace, and overflowing with the joy of the resurrection.

Reminders

Church Suppers | April 16 & 30

Prayer Breakfasts

Men's - April 19 - 8:00 a.m.

Ladies' - No April Meeting

Morning Playdate | 10:00 a.m.

April 15 | May 20 | June 17

Easter Weekend Schedule

Good Friday Service | April 19 | 6:00 p.m.

Sunrise Service | April 20 | 7:00 a.m.

Church Breakfast | April 20 | 8:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday Service | April 20 | 10:45 a.m.

There will be no Sunday School or Sunday Evening Service

Next2Him Shaker Village Outing | April 24

Sign up on the office bulletin board

See Becki McBroom for more info

New Members Class | May 4, 11, 18 | 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested in or want more information about church membership, please plan to attend this class.

Contact the church office to sign up

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Jesus is not only the first human to experience resurrection, he has done so on our behalf as our representative. And his resurrection is a guarantee of what we will experience in the future. Just as his body came back to life never to die again, so will our bodies come back to life never to face the corruption of death again but to live forever with our Savior and our God!

The resurrection really does change everything!

