

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2023

FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

How might we prepare well for Easter Sunday?

We've been doing so throughout Lent by focusing on the words Jesus spoke from the cross. Our Lenten worship services have prompted us to reflect on the nature of Jesus' honesty, compassion, trust in God, forgiveness, constancy, and chosen way of living as the Son of God. You and I have been invited to follow Jesus' lead, either for the first time or as an act of personal renewal. I hope each of us has decided to do so.



Now try reading the Gospel accounts of Holy Week. Read them slowly. Make notes whenever a thought crosses your mind or a feeling touches your heart. Pay close attention to how civic and religious leaders, the general population, and even the disciples consistently misunderstand Jesus or try to use him for their own ends. As you move from story to story, ask yourself: "In all honesty, what role might I have played or what stance might I have taken had I been there?" Doing so helps us develop appropriate humility, as we move toward Easter.

Such humility prepares us to experience the Resurrection as an act of God's grace and steadfast love toward all persons in all of time and space, including us.

Mike



EASTER HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenetta Measels, Interim Minister of Music

He is not here: For He is risen, as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay.

Mt. 28:6

Charles Wesley wrote the originally titled "Hymn for Easter Day" for the first service in the new chapel (Foundry Meeting House) in London in 1739, one year after his dramatic conversion experience. He was inspired by Paul's gospel truth in 1 Corinthians 15. It summarizes both the experience and meaning of Christ's resurrection. The popularity of the hymn is due in part to the tune for which the composer has never been identified. "Hallelujah" or "alleluia" is from the ancient Hebrew worship service and was a common expression of praise in the early Christian church. Jerome, an important leader in the early church and translator of the Bible into Latin, wrote that in his day the very ceilings of houses of worship were often shaken with the reverberating "Hallelujahs" when believers sang their praises to God.

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

(101 Hymn Stories, Osbeck; *The Worshipping Church: A Hymnal*, Hustad, ed.)



JESUS' GIFT

By Carolyn Blevins

Lent was something I knew little about as I grew up. Since then, I have learned the importance of examining my faith and my life in preparation for Easter. Yes, Easter is a unique and holy day of celebration. But that celebration continues beyond that day if I have spent time taking a long hard look at who I really am

You aren't surprised to learn that I do not always like what I discover about myself, especially during Lent. Why do I sometimes judge others when Jesus said not to do so? Why have I refused to go the second mile at times?

Easter is the day for me to remember that Jesus was here to help me be the best I could be. It is not an easy task. But I have learned that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Josh Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

Summary of Operational Budget Income / Expenses through February 2023 Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 03/23/2023) = \$0.00
- **Forward in Faith Capital Campaign:** Updated through March 23 (*Pledge period is September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2023*):
 - Total campaign pledges = \$318,250.00
 - Total pledge gifts received = **\$278,143.50**
 - Total pledges outstanding = \$40,106.50
 - Fund balance = \$15,471.19
- **Our Forward in Faith Capital Campaign comes to a close 5 months from now.**

	November	December	January	February
Income	\$39,351.33	\$53,094.94	\$23,962.06	\$47,889.41
Expenses	\$23,891.41	\$31,355.45	\$31,041.04	\$27,581.18
Net Income	\$15,459.92	\$21,739.49	(\$7,078.98)	\$20,308.23
YTD	(\$2,034.62)	\$19,704.87	(\$7,078.98)	\$13,713.38

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

- April 2:** Susan Garber and Heidi Thomas / Nenetie Measels
April 9: Ann Porter and Ken Morton / Josh Gibson
April 16: Leon Shoemaker and Heidi Thomas / Chad Hartssock
April 23: Bruce Davenport and Ken Morton / Nenetie Measels
April 30: Ray Dalton and Betty Watkins / Josh Gibson

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The poster features a background of colorful, hand-drawn Easter eggs in various patterns and colors (blue, pink, purple, green). At the top left is the logo for First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Tennessee. A large, light pink circle in the center contains the event details. At the bottom right of the circle is a QR code.

First Baptist Church
JEFFERSON CITY, TENNESSEE

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 8th
10:00 to 11:00 am
Home of the Davenports
Crafts, Snacks, and Egg Hunting!
RSVP using the QR code below!



Contact Bethany Davenport, Chair of the Children and Youth Committee, with questions at bethanyk83@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!

From Robbie Pinkerton



Dear Members of First Baptist Church,

Thank you for your encouraging words, your donations, and your help with the Celebrity Waiter Dinner for the American Cancer Society. You did a great thing in helping to start the event.

In twenty-seven years, it has raised \$818,651.27 to fight cancer. Thank you for joining hands with many other volunteers to help us have a successful 2023 event raising \$55,200.00.

CELEBRATE LIFE!

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the pulpit musical/drama, *Celebrate Life!*, the Chancel Ensemble will present selections from the musical on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Book and Lyrics by Ragan Courtney, Music by Buryl Red, Broadman Press, 1972.




CHILDREN'S DAY OUT UPDATE

By Jessica Lawson, CDO Director

We will be hosting our annual Easter egg hunt on April 6, 2023. We have lots of activities to plan to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. If you would like to volunteer to hide eggs for the students, please contact the church office. We are also collecting eggs filled with candy and/or small treats if you would like to donate.

We have a few items on our wish list as we expand this wonderful program. If you would like to donate one of the following items, please let us know so we can prepare a tax-deductible form for your donation.

1. IKEA antilop high chair with tray, white/silver color: \$29.99 per chair
2. Baby swing/rocker for the rest time in the infant classroom
3. Baby wipes



Sermon Series:
The Good News at Work

April 16, 2023:
Parting Gifts, Acts 1:1-11

April 23, 2023:
How to Make Our Lives Count for Christ,
Acts 7:54-59

April 30, 2023:
Dr. Rick Bennett, Guest Speaker

May 7, 2023:
The God of All Peoples, Acts 11:1-18

may 14, 2023:
The Gospel in the Marketplace,
Acts 17:22-24

May 21, 2023:
When We Meet Jesus, Acts 9:1-9

May 28, 2023:
The Promise of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-21

SERVICE FOR JEAN HEDGES

By Carolyn Johnson

A Celebration of Life service will be held for Jean E. Hedges on Saturday, April 15th at the First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, 1610 Russell Avenue, Jefferson City, TN 37760. There will be a visitation period starting at 10:00 am and the service will begin at 11:00. Interment will follow the service at Westview Cemetery.



DEACONS' MEETING SUMMARY

By Heidi Thomas, Deacon Chair

The Deacons held their monthly meeting on March 15 in the Agape SS Class at 4:00 p.m. Seven deacons were present. Pastor Mike Smith joined the meeting. He said the Lord's supper will be a part of Palm Sunday. He reminded everyone that the prayer guides are available throughout the Church. After Easter he will begin a series of sermons from the Book of Acts. Efforts are underway with local churches to join in a service on Pentecost Sunday. He offered some suggestions on the proposed Outreach Card that is being developed by John Burton for the deacons as a means to reach new residents. Discussions ensued on his recommendations as well as others for the outreach card and ways to approach and interact with new residents.

This discussion will continue.



SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies
10:45am Worship Service

CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)
Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at www.fbcjeff.org or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

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