



MONTHLY

APRIL 2025

M E S S E N G E R

490 Morrow St | PO Box 176
Dresden TN 38225
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Worship Schedule

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sundays 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm
TeamKID 6:00 Youth Group 6:30

John 19:16–19. What does the cross mean in today's society?

We wear it around our necks, we hang it on our walls as decoration, we place it on the side of the road to memorialize lives lost. Many people today don't realize the sacrifice that God made through Christ's death on the cross because we have glamorized it for the sake of a holiday—a day off work.

But at the time of Christ, the cross caused great distress. It was the symbol of ultimate torture and cruelty—human crucifixion. The writers of the Bible didn't include the horrific details about what happened to the human body during crucifixion because they didn't need to. Those who lived in fear of this barbaric death penalty knew all too well its effects.

The great Roman politician Cicero said about crucifixion, "It is a crime to bind a Roman citizen; to scourge him is a wickedness; to put him to death is almost parricide. What shall I say of crucifying him? So guilty an action cannot by any possibility be adequately expressed by any name bad enough for it."

The cross represents the nasty, despicable mess of this world—the ultimate darkness—but the world is overcome and made perfect through the blood of Christ and love of God, providing the hope of eternity. Christ's ultimate sacrifice erased the sin of everyone who believes in Him. Jesus died, arms wide open, to create a direct path to the Father. He provides a bridge that takes us from our sin-filled humanity to the perfect home that awaits us in heaven.

But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

(Isaiah 53:5–8)

When Abraham took Isaac with him to make a sacrifice without bringing an animal, he assured his son, "God Himself will provide" (see Genesis 22:1–14, HCSB). Some 2,000 years later, God would give His own Son as the perfect offering, the "lamb that was slain" to take our place.

Not one of us can imagine what happened that day at the cross. For all the times we've read the story in the Bible, all the paintings we've ever seen, all the dramatizations we've ever watched, we still are left with only inadequate glimpses of what Jesus endured for us. This is how we remember and honor His sacrifice on the cross. We never forget the price He paid to redeem us by retelling this message of love and grace again.

JOIN US Easter Sunday @ 10:45 am for "By His Stripes We Are Healed" presented by the Adult Easter Choir, sermon to follow by Pastor Don McCulley.

Note from our Minister of Education, Bro. Wayne Perkins fbcwayne40@gmail.com

Welcome to Spring!! It is an opportunity to watch the power of God in nature as the trees and vegetation come to life after a long fall and winter. I am blessed when I see God's handiwork come about right before our eyes! Let's give God praise for His resurrection power!!

Our Sunday School attendance has been showing good signs of improving in the last four Sundays. During that time, we have a weekly average of 170! Praise the Lord and trust Him as we continue to reach out beyond the walls of our classrooms. Instead of the "summer slump," we can experience a "summer surge" if we work at it as a tribute to our Savior.

The new Sunday School class for Young Adults, ages 18-25, is sailing along with consistent attendance. I am thankful for the vision and the work that one of our deacons, Ben Moore, has put into this. I know this class will grow. There is still a room available for another new class when God leads someone to develop a vision and a burden for that to happen.

I am praying daily for a real Heaven sent, Holy Ghost revival to come to our church and services. I'm praying that it starts with ME! Will you join me in that prayer for our church and for yourself??

See you at Sunday School and preaching services!



Note from our Director of Student Ministries, Christian Carr chracarr@gmail.com

As we prepare to celebrate Easter at the end of the month, I hope you dwell on what Christ has done for you on Calvary. For Christ died for your sins, he was buried and raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Christ died to redeem you. He rose to conquer death for you. He ascended to heaven to intercede for you. May we bless his glorious name. May we remember all that he has done for us this Easter season. Do not let the business of this time of year cause you to miss the blessedness of the remembrance of the resurrection. I pray that you may take time with your family to remember Christ and what he has done. Read the Easter story together. Talk about how the Son of God rose from the dead. This truth is more important than anything else you will do as a family this month. I pray you will take time to dwell on Christ's death and resurrection more than just Easter morning.

Here are some important dates to remember:

April 1st: You can donate candy for our Community Egg Hunt until the 16th.

April 16th: The youth will pack eggs for the Community Egg Hunt. If the youth need service hours, they can get service hours helping pack eggs.

April 19th: Community Egg Hunt at Wilson Park. Beginning at 10:00am we will have our Community Egg Hunt at Wilson Park for children up through the 6th grade. We will spread eggs all over the ball fields for the children to collect. Before the egg hunt, we will have a time where we read the Easter Story together. Your family will receive a free Easter Story book to take home. Spread the news and join us for our Community Egg Hunt on April 19th at 10:00!

April 20th: Easter Sunday

April 23rd: TeamKid Store

April 30th: TeamKid closing ceremony

Worship in Music Robert Nanney, Min. of Music rnannay@utm.edu

Greetings! God has richly blessed us with beautiful (albeit chilly) spring days and the excitement and renewed hope that it has brought after a long winter. It's an extremely busy and rewarding music season with the glorious celebration of Easter on the horizon

ADULT CHOIR – The choir continues to pull double duty, preparing for the weekly special music (with new songs) and rehearsing for the Easter cantata. I appreciate their spirit and dedication so much. Weekly attendance has been great with most of our 35 members present, including our two new members. We always need more and would love to have you!

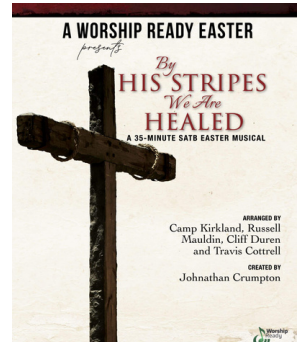
EASTER CANTATA – We are in the final rehearsals for a brand, new Easter cantata, "By His Stripes We Are Healed," which we'll present on Easter morning, April 20. The worship service will again begin a bit earlier, 10:45, so that we can leave time for Bro. Don to preach. This 35-minute cantata will bless your heart and will be enhanced by a DVD video. I'm proud of the choir and the several soloists who are involved.

CHOIR BANQUET – Another exciting event in April will be our annual Choir Banquet. The date has yet to be determined, but we'll again gather for a yummy catered meal, fellowship and entertainment. Our sound/video crew is also invited because of the invaluable service they provide throughout the year.

PRAISE TEAMS, HAND CHIME CHOIRS – We're thankful that our praise teams and hand chime choirs continue to be active and will do so in April. See Jeanie's column for more details.

THANK YOU! – On March 15, I completed eight years of service in the music ministry at this church. The first year was as the interim, and the other seven were as the "official" minister of music. The service and blessings have been the same throughout. As I start my ninth year, I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve and appreciate so much the children, youth and adults who step up each week to serve with us. I also appreciate Jeanie, who is so wonderful to help me in every aspect of the ministry. Of the five churches that I've served since I began my music ministry in 1972 (at age 18), this is already my third longest tenure in a church, and for that I'm also thankful.

God bless you all,



Jeanie Nanney, Call to Worship Coordinator



Our Older Youth Praise Team, with 10 singers present, kicked off the month of March by singing "Unashamed" by Matthew West. On the next Sunday, March 9th, eight members of the Younger Youth Praise Team opened the morning worship service with "Who You Say I Am." The Older Children Praise Team sang "Forever" on March 16th, and this was probably the most challenging song they have sung as a group. With so many families out of town on the first Sunday of Spring Break, March 23rd, it was nice to be able to count on several members of our Adult Praise Team to lead the Call to Worship. The Adult Hand Chime Choir will conclude the month of March when they play on March 30th. We are so grateful for everyone who is willing to be a part of our worship teams, which includes not only performing but also coming to early 9:15 practices on their assigned days.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN, PRE-K THROUGH 6TH GRADE: The adult choir will be performing our annual Easter cantata, "By His Stripes We are Healed," on Easter Sunday, April 20th. We are inviting all of the children who are in attendance that day to join the choir on the second song of the cantata, "Love Comes to Town." This song celebrates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on what is traditionally called Palm Sunday. We will be using a few minutes of our TeamKid music time to practice the song so they will be ready to join the choir on the chorus of this song. They will also wave palm branches as they sing to recreate the joyful atmosphere of that day 2000 years ago just a few short days before the crucifixion. We will be sending a note home with the children from both TeamKid and Sunday School to further explain all of this to the parents.

Outreach Ministries



Submitted by Sheila Swearingen, JOY coordinator

What a great day we had at JOY this past month. We had 41 in attendance to hear Ben Moore give an inspiring devotion on spreading seeds of encouragement and a personal testimony of how those seeds have influenced his own life. We then enjoyed a wonderful catered meal.

Brenda Williams and Rhonda Greer representing the Bag Ladies from Union City delivered a great program on taking the disposable plastic bags and turning them into mats for the homeless. These are beautifully crocheted mats which include a pillow, a blanket, socks, toboggan, scarf and a bag of hygiene items. A sign containing the Plan of Salvation is attached to each one. These mats have been delivered to Memphis, Nashville, Paducah, and even to Ethiopia. The Union City group has made and delivered over 2000 bags. Bag Ladies meet from 9 until noon every Thursday at Second Baptist in Union City. Such an amazing ministry these ladies perform.

Our Penny the Pig offering this past quarter went to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. A total of \$185 was collected. Next quarter offering will go to the Bag Ladies Ministry.

We are so excited about our April 15th program. Bro Jerry Powell will be bringing our devotion. Joan Jones Gregory, well known gospel singer and recording artist, will be our guest. We have waited for quite some time to schedule Joan. She is a busy lady. Joan is from Alamo, Tennessee and sang with her family, the Jones Family, for many years. She began singing with her family at the age of 3 and has never slowed down. Joan and her late husband, Bobby Gregory, travelled extensively with their music ministry from 2004 until Bobby's declining health and death in August 2024.

Joan has received numerous vocal awards, both nationally and internationally, and has performed on the same stage with many of the Bill Gaither artists. She has recorded 13 gospel solo CDs and has been featured on the cover of two national gospel music magazines.

I have known Joan all my life and have many connections with her and her family. It is a very special treat to have Joan with us. It is rare we have the opportunity to have someone of Joan's talent and ability with us for a JOY program. Tell your friends and loved ones. If you love gospel music, you DO NOT want to miss this day. April 15th. See you then. Make your reservations early!!



DFBC will partner with DES Sunshine Committee to provide breakfast for Dresden Elem. Teachers in support for April testing month. If you would like to write a card of prayer/encouragement to teachers please submit to church office by Sun. April 13th.

Gifts to the Church

In Memory of Ray Morgan by: John & Melanie Johnson

In Memory of Debbie Carter by: John & Melanie Johnson

In Memory of Frankie Harris by: John & Melanie Johnson, Kenneth & Janice Gatewood, Richard & Barbara Ferrell

In Memory of Betty Cianfarani by: John & Melanie Johnson

In Memory of Eugene & Paula Norman by: Kenny & Pam Caldwell

In Memory of Phillip, Violet, and Zachary Jackson by: Duane Jackson (AAEO)

In Memory of Freda Whitworth by: Joyce Hurt, John & Melanie Johnson

In Memory of George Castleman by: John & Melanie Johnson

In Memory of Sylvia Swearingen by: Kelley & Sheila Swearingen (AAEO)

In Honor of Kenseth Esch by: David & Carrie Esch (Children's Ministry)

Thank you cards to the church family are posted at Information Station Board



- 2nd Kaitlyn Ritz
- 3rd Jason Taylor, Andrew Pritchett
- 4th Karen Wilson, Sheila McGowan
- 5th Donivon Sawyer, Gwen Joyner
- 6th Hudson McDaniel, Ryan Evans, Shirley Halliburton
- 7th Marlee Scronce
- 11th James Washburn
- 14th Gracie Kibbler
- 18th Harley Taylor, BJ Wetherell, Renza Adams
- 19th Carla Hutcherson
- 20th Mitch White
- 21st Don Cleek
- 24th Martin Dunn
- 26th Chris Harper, Deborah Ams, Donna Ferrell
- 27th Emma Parham
- 28th Jennifer Brooks
- 30th Amber VanMeter

April Volunteers

April 6

Nursery AM: Kristin & Abigail Kibbler, Bendy White, Kayla Strain |

PM Pat Phillips

Kids Worship: Brittany Forrester

Greeters: Judy Cleek, Angie Plunk, Jim Moseley

Deacon: Ricky Finney

Safety & Security: AM Jason Taylor | PM Jim Moseley | Wed. 9: Adam

Harrison

April 13

Nursery AM: Janie Clark, Jennifer McClain, Jennifer Moore, Heather

Hodges | PM: Janet Robinson

Kids Worship: Kristin Kibbler

Greeters: David & Kim Bailey, Sheila Swearingen

Deacon: Ben Moore

Safety & Security: AM: Mark Williams | PM: Kenneth Gatewood |

Wed. 16 Alex VanMeter

April 20

Nursery AM: Becky Anderson, Pam Bennett, Lisa & Myra Grace Morgan

Kids Worship not meeting

Greeters: Debbie Anderson, Kathy Simmons, Kelley Swearingen

Deacon: Kenneth Gatewood

Safety & Security: AM: Nyle Carlton | Wed. 23: David Esch

April 27

Nursery AM: Whitney & Tilley Hopper, Anita & Josh Dunn |

PM: Becky Anderson

Kids Worship not meeting

Greeters: Tommy & Karen Wilson, Jerrie Moseley

Deacon: James Washburn

Safety & Security: AM: Bruce Slusser | PM: Larry Pollard |

Wed. 30: John Gallimore

April Offering Ushers: Austin Davis, Nyle Carlton, Bruce Slusser, Eric Allman, Cooper Allman, John Gallimore



***If you would like to serve on any of these ministries,
please see Janet in the church office to be added to the rotation.***



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12 pm WC Backpack	2 6 pm TeamKID 6pm LBS 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Prayer/Bible Study 7:25 pm Choir practice	3	4	5 8 am Men's Breakfast 9-12 Sew Faithful
6 9:45 am SS 11 am Worship VBS Mtg 4:50 pm WOM 5 pm Deacons 6 pm Worship	7	8	9 6 pm TeamKID 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Prayer/Bible Study 7:25 pm Choir practice	10	11	12 FLC in use
13 9:45 am SS 11 am Worship 6 pm Worship	14	15 10:30 am SAM 11:30 am JOY— Program Joan Gregory	16 6 pm TeamKID 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Prayer/Bible Study 7:25 pm Choir practice	17	18	19 10 am Community Wide Egg Hunt @ Wilson Park—hosted by Children's Comm.
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9:45 am SS 10:45 am Worship No Evening Services	21	22	23 6 pm TeamKID 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Prayer/Bible Study 7:25 pm Choir practice	24	25	26 FLC in use
27 9:45 am SS 11 am Worship 6 pm Worship	28	29	30 6 pm TeamKID Closing Ceremony— in Worship Center—all invited 7:25 pm Choir practice			



Sermons available online
www.dresdenfbc.org/resources/sermons

DFBC Staff available if we can help in anyway

Dr. Don McCulley, Pastor
Bro. Wayne Perkins, Min. of Ed.
Dr. Robert Nanney, Min. of Music
Christian Carr, Student Minister
Becky Anderson, Nursery Director
Janet Robinson, Ministry Assistant
Lisa Harris, Custodian

Connect with DFBC on www.dresdenfbc.org
Live Stream available on facebook.com/dresdenfbc-live
and [www.dresdenfbc.org/Live Stream](http://www.dresdenfbc.org/LiveStream)
on Sundays at 11 am & 6 pm and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Sunday 11 am Radio Broadcast on 95.1fm
Sunday School lesson 10 am on live stream options

Three Ways to Give



At Church
offering plates or
boxes in foyer



Online
dresdenfbc.org/Give



By Mail
PO Box 176
Dresden

Thank you for your faithful giving . 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8