

BRANCHES

NEWSLETTER

EASTER: THE HEART OF HOPE

Easter is more than a date on the calendar or a cherished spring tradition—it is the very heart of our faith. While Christmas celebrates the birth of our Savior, Easter proclaims the victory that gave His birth its ultimate purpose. It is the moment where hope overcame despair, where life triumphed over death, and where God’s love was fully revealed through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The empty tomb is not just a symbol; it is a promise. It reminds us that death does not have the final word, that brokenness can be restored, and that no situation is beyond God’s redeeming power. On the cross, Jesus bore the weight of sin, but through the resurrection, He conquered it completely. Easter completes the story of Christ’s mission on earth - His sacrifice and His victory - offering salvation and new life to all who believe.

Because He lives, we have **hope**. Not a fleeting or uncertain **hope**, but an active, enduring **hope** that sustains us through every season of life. It is **hope** for the weary heart, **hope** in the midst of trials, and **hope** that reaches beyond this life into eternity. In a world often filled with uncertainty, fear, and brokenness, **Easter stands as a powerful reminder that light will always overcome darkness and that God is still at work, making all things new.**

Easter invites us to walk in renewed faith, to extend grace to others, and to share the love that has been so freely given to us. As we celebrate this season, may we not only reflect on what Christ has done, but also rejoice in what He is still doing. **May our hearts be filled with gratitude, our lives marked by transformation, and our voices ready to share the greatest story ever told - a story of hope, redemption, and new life that continues to change lives today.**



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Community Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration:** Saturday March 28th. FBC Front Lawn
- **Holy Week:** March 29th – April 5th
- **Palm Sunday Concert:** March 29th FBC Sanctuary at 6pm
- **Church Conference:** Sunday March 29th, Directly after Worship Services
- **Community Lenten Lunch:** March 30th at the Presbyterian Church
- **Church Office will be closed April 3rd in observance of Good Friday**
- **No Wednesday Night Supper on April 8th due to Spring Break**

JOIN US FOR OUR PALM SUNDAY CONCERT



On March 29th at 6:00 p.m. for FBC’s Palm Sunday Concert, an inspiring Easter Musical Celebration directed by Dr. Todd Chandler. This special evening will feature a wonderful lineup of guest artists, including the East Middle School 6th Grade Chorus and members of the East Jackson High School Chorus. We are thrilled to welcome acclaimed opera singer Indra Thomas and the talented Angelina Vasquez. Several soloists will also shine alongside the FBC Adult Choir in a performance you won’t want to miss!

thank you

Friends at First Baptist, Thank you for praying faithfully and supporting work in Asia. This past year you helped us check Psalms twice, portions of Exodus and Philippians with 5 teams, who now have these portions in their languages for the first time. You also made it possible to help with a translation training program in northern Indonesia. Thank you, Terry & Sara Wardlaw

Dear Friends, We want to say thank you for your partnership, your faithfulness & the countless ways you shine the light of Christ in your community and beyond. We see it! We see it in your worship and witness. We see it in the ways you serve your neighbors! We are better together! With appreciation and hope! Ruth, Rachel & Cheryl

BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 3/29: Rosemary Callahan | 4/5: Anna Halley |
| 3/29: Marilyn Henderson | 4/5: Carolyn Perry |
| 4/1: Lauryn Renzetti | 4/6: Rudene Studdard |
| 4/2: Sheila Powell | 4/8: Betty Langston |
| 4/4: Cara Sosby | 4/8: Deborah Burell |
| 4/4: Jason Palmer | 4/10: Kathy Pruett |

SERVANTS @ A GLANCE

- Deacons:**
- March 29: *Linda Nicholson Beard and Susan Harvin
 - April 5: *Joyce Bradshaw and Johnny Eubanks
 - *Sunday Morning Announcements
- Greeters:**
- March 29: Paula Langston
 - April 5: Beth Bray
- Ushers:**
- March 29: *Terry Canup, Jon Massey, Tricia Massey, Jimmy Bray, & Pam Canup
 - April 5: *Mark Beardsley, Ron Henderson, Bob Harper, Johnny Eubanks, & Janis Miller
- Nursery Team:**
- March 29: Jennifer Sanders
 - April 5: Jennifer Sanders

MEALS ON WHEELS

- 3/25: Vickie McElroy & Patsy Simmons
- 3/26: Susan Harvin
- 3/27: Randall & Karen Wardlaw
- 3/30: Bob Harper
- 3/31: Amy Halley
- 4/1: Brittany Pilcher
- 4/2: Joh Massey
- 4/3: Marilyn & Michael Miller
- 4/6: Donna Sosebee & Gail Allen
- 4/7: Bob Harper
- 4/8: Beverly George
- 4/9: Brenda Meadows
- 4/10: Beth Mattox



FOOD BANK DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS

Week of March 22nd: Sharon Highsmith
 Week of March 29th: Mark Beardsley
 Week of April 5th: Jeanie Whitener
 Week of April 12th: Ann Rhoads

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly Giving Required: \$39,500
 Monthly Giving as To-Date: \$37,686
 Year To Date Giving Required: \$240,506
 YTD as of To-Date: \$219,736



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



March 29th - April 5th

- March 29th Palm Sunday** - The Lord’s Supper
 Palm Sunday Concert FBC Sanctuary at 6 p.m.
- March 30th Community Lenten Lunch** at the Presbyterian Church
 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- Our church will be providing desserts, drop off due by **10:30 a.m.**
- April 3rd Good Friday Service** - FBC Sanctuary at 6 p.m.
- April 3rd Church office** will be closed in observance of Good Friday
- April 5th Easter Sunrise Service** at Spencer Park
 Easter Worship Service FBC Sanctuary



NEXT MEETING APRIL 7

12:00 Noon in the Fellowship Hall
 Event is FREE; Just bring something tasty to share, and invite a friend!
 If you bring a new guest you will receive an extra raffle ticket!

NEXT EXCURSION APRIL 23

Shopping Day Trip at Hemrick’s
 RSVP by Friday April 17th
 Will be eating lunch in Anderson, SC
 The bus will leave at 10:00 AM

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

- General Budget in Memory of Sam Buffington
- General Budget in Memory of Linda Hendrix
- Food Bank in Memory of Sam Buffington
- General Budget in Memory of William Studdard
- Quilting in Memory of William Studdard



Volunteers are needed to help in the church nursery during the worship service. Please contact the church office if you are able to volunteer.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT... LITERALLY!

The Food Bank shelves are looking a little too roomy these days. If you’re able, please consider bringing a few non-perishable items to help restock them. Your small donation can make a big difference for someone in our community!