



February 4, 2024

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ♦ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Easter Devotional Book Give Away

The book of Lamentations is not a well-trodden part of the Bible. Yet dwelling in its bleak shadows, we find surprising treasure. For broken people in a broken world, Lamentations' aching sorrow is strangely refreshing. *The Way of Sorrow* contains a daily reflection and response, taking us on a journey from Ash Wednesday, February 14, to Easter Sunday, March 31. This Lent, come and walk through ruins of unflinching grief and there re-discover the unfailing grace of God in Jesus Christ. Free copies are available up front by the pulpit.

Evening Worship

Evening Worship is tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall! Join us!

Elders' Meeting

They will meet Tuesday, **February 6**.

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, the menu is **Beef Stew**. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club is at 6:20 p.m., Youth is at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study is at 6:45 p.m. Sign up in the hall for the meal!

Oyster Roasts

Our annual Men's Oyster Roast is scheduled for Thursday, **February 8**. Men, invite your friends to this fun outreach opportunity! The Family Oyster Roast will be Friday, **February 9**. Please sign the lists in the hallway.

Senior Adult Valentine's Lunch

This is scheduled for Sunday, **February 11**, at 12:00 p.m. Senior Saints, sign up in the hall!

Home Fellowships

We are having Home Fellowships the evening of Sunday, **February 18**. Please let Dawn know if you can host a group! We still need at least four homes.

Senior Saints' Monthly Outing

The Senior Saints will go to Ruby Tuesday for lunch on Tuesday, **February 20**, and shop at the Shoppes of Savannah (used to be Savannah Festival). Sign the list in the hall and meet at the church at 10:45 a.m.

Continued on p. 4

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt
Senior Pastor
912-398-4363
bob@fabchurch.com

Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone:
912-355-0949
office@fabchurch.com
www.fabchurch.com

February 4, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Matthew 17:4-8

Pew Bible p. 822

Hymn #50, bulletin p. 6

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner

Exodus 34:6-7

Pew Bible p. 74

Hymn, bulletin p. 7

"O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer"

Scripture Reading

Psalm 110

Reggie Brown

Pew Bible p. 509

Hymn, bulletin p. 8

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Message

Bob Dimmitt

Wanting to Be Seen

Matthew #28

Matthew 6:1-4, Pew Bible p. 811

Hymn, words below, music p. 9

"Doxology"

Owens tune

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

Wanting to Be Seen

Matthew #28

Matthew 6:1-4

It really does matter why you do what you do and how you do what you do.

Observation: Jesus assumes that generous giving will take place.

There were 13 large chests in the Temple compound used for gathering money.

Jesus uses the word "*hypocrites*" (used 22 times in the Bible, the singular another 12 times).

Hypocrite = NT:5273 - one who acts pretentiously, a counterfeit, a man who assumes and speaks or acts under a feigned character.

Giving is to be done in secret, not necessarily hiding what you are doing or giving but clearly not bringing attention to yourself.

2 Chronicles 15:7 and Ephesians 6:5-8

This is a temptation and a problem we will face; it is appealing to the pride of man. We want others to think well of us, to notice us, to esteem us. We want to do things that will affect their thoughts about us.
We want to be seen.

Continued from p. 1

Mentor Opportunity

The Old Savannah City Mission has asked Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church to assist them in mentoring men in their program. These men have either been incarcerated or addicted to drugs/alcohol. Please pray about God using you in these men’s lives. Over the next several weeks you will be hearing about this opportunity from Pastor Bob Dimmitt and Tom Keller. You will also hear from those who have already participated in the program as mentors (Bobby Deloach, Reggie Brown, and Tom Keller). We are asking God to raise up 3-4 men who would be willing to mentor a man through his struggle and healing.

Marriage Retreat

Tom is organizing a Marriage Retreat for April 26 and 27. Details will be available in the weeks to come, but mark your calendars!



Important Upcoming Dates

February:

8	Men’s Oyster Roast	6:00 p.m.
9	Family Oyster Roast	6:00 p.m.
11	Senior Saints’ Valentine Lunch	12:00 p.m.
15	Palentine’s Party	
18	Home Fellowships	6:00 p.m.
20	Senior Saints’ Lunch at Ruby Tuesday	10:45 a.m.
24	Dustin Herb & Emily Wise Wedding	4:00 p.m.

March:

10	Daylight Savings Time begins (Spring Forward)	2:00 a.m.
22	Spring Senior Saints’ Low Country Boil	
23	Easter Family Picnic	
24	Easter Cantata	6:00 p.m.
29	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
31	Easter Breakfast	8:45 a.m.
31	Easter Worship with Communion	10:00 a.m.

TRIP TO TEXAS UPDATE

Tom will be moving forward with planning the trip to Dallas, Texas! If you are still contemplating going, the sign up sheet will remain up until he needs a deposit to make the reservations.

Featured Content from Right Now Media

Do you like history? Check out *Drive Thru History* with Dave Stotts. From the description of *Drive Thru History—Ancient History*: *Drive Thru History, Ancient History series makes exploring the history of Western Civilization meaningful and totally entertaining at the same time. With Dave Stotts as your guide, you'll definitely enjoy the ride. In this first series Dave travels to Rome, where he discovers early Roman ruins and runs into a Roman Centurion guard. He travels to the land of the Parthenon, Alexander the Great, and classic philosophy! You'll have a front-row seat for more adventure, more laughs, and more history as you drive to cities and ancient ruins in Turkey that are truly off the beaten path. Dave explores the mysterious Turkish region of Cappadocia and the underground cave city*

rightnow
MEDIA®

once occupied by the early church. See why Istanbul was one of the most pivotal cities in world history. Investigate the rise of Islam and the impact of Emperor Constantine, and witness the powerful influence of early Christianity. You might even learn a thing or two about history and how we're all connected to these places and events. And who wants to be lectured to... so we'd better make it fun. And what about all the strange and interesting things that crop up along the way? That's part of the story. Remember, Ferdinand Magellan, Marco Polo, and Christopher Columbus...never had a driver's license. You may never read the Bible the same way again.

Log in, find our church page by clicking on Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church on the top right menu area, and scroll to the bottom to the "Bible & Church History" channel, where you will find the series.

Fairest Lord Jesus!

CRUSADERS' HYMN

From *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677

4th vs. trans. by Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

From *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842

Adapted by Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus! Rul - er of all na - ture!

2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,

3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,

4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cher - ish,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 And all the twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

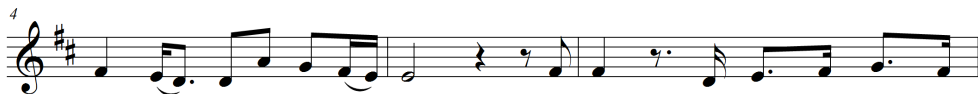
Thee will I hon - or, Thou my soul's glo - ry, joy and crown!
 Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er Than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
 Praise, ad - o - ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

♩ = 64



1. O Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem - er, great - est
 2. O Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem - er, strong de -
 3. O Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem - er, gra - cious



tre - sure of my long - ing soul, my God, like You there is no
 fend - er of my wea - ry heart, my sword to fight the cruel de -
 Sav - ior of my ru - ined life; my guilt and cross laid on Your



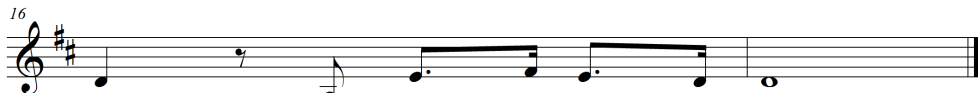
oth - er. True de - light is found in You a - lone. Your
 ceiv - er, and my shield a - gainst his hate - ful darts, my
 should - ders, in my place You suf - fered, bled and died. You



grace, a well too deep to fath - om, Your love ex - ceeds the heav - ens'
 song when en - e - mies sur - round me, my hope when tides of sor - row
 rose, the grave and death are con - quered! You broke my bonds of sin and



— reach; Your truth, a fount of per - fect wis - dom, my high - est
 — rise, my joy when tri - als are a - bound - ing, Your faith - ful -
 — shame! O Lord, my Rock and my Re - deem - er, may all my



good, and my un - end - ing need.
 ness, my re - fuge in the night.
 days bring glo - ry to Your Name.

Holy, Holy, Holy

NICAEA

REGINALD HEBER, 1783-1826

JOHN B. DYKES, 1823-1876

1. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly, Lord God Al-might-y! Ear-ly in the
 2. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee, Cast-ing down their
 3. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly! Tho the dark-ness hide Thee, Tho the eye of
 4. Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly, Lord God Al-might-y! All Thy works shall

morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee; Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly!
 gold-en crowns a - round the glass-y sea; Cher-u-bim and ser-a - phim
 sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see; On - ly Thou art ho - ly -
 praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea; Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly!

Mer - ci - ful and Might-y! God in Three Per - sons, bless-ed Trin-i - ty!
 fall - ing down be - fore Thee, Which wert and art and ev - er-more shalt be.
 there is none be - side Thee Per - fect in pow'r, in love and pur-i - ty.
 Mer - ci - ful and Might-y! God in Three Per - sons, bless-ed Trin-i - ty!

Doxology

Jimmy Owens

B♭7 E♭ Gm E♭/G A♭ E♭/G A♭ A♭6

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise Him, all

7 E♭ B♭7 E♭ B♭7 E♭ Gm E♭/G A♭

crea - tures here be - low. Praise Him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly

13 E♭/G A♭ E♭/G Fm/A♭ E♭/B♭ B♭7 E♭

host. Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

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Articles

The Internet is “A Lot Like Pornography”: An Interview with Samuel D. James

By Jonathon Van Maren

Like most of my generation, I don't remember when internet optimism began—but I remember when it ended. I graduated high school in 2006 and the first iPhone was released in 2007, so my childhood was largely unmarred by the now-omnipresent screens that dominate the childhoods of all but a few with hyper-vigilant parents consciously swimming against the current. But smartphones and social media arrived soon enough, and we swiftly discovered that the digital world had the power to shape and even transform the real one. Some of us were fortunate enough to only get addicted to our devices or social media. Most got hooked on hardcore porn.

There are few internet optimists left, and the consensus is that social media and smartphones have profoundly damaged us in ways we are just beginning to understand. We now know that the masterminds behind social media created platforms that were designed to turn us into hopeless addicts. As Sean Parker, the first president of Facebook, put it: “The thought process that went into building these applications, Facebook being the first of them, was all about: How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible?” And that means that we need to... give you a little dopamine hit every once in a while, because someone liked or commented on a photo or post.”

The creators of much of our digital world, Parker noted, created a “social-validation feedback loop” that amounts to “exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology”—and that they “understood this consciously, and we did it anyway.” In other words, if you're wondering why you struggle with addiction to your smartphone or the internet, it's because you're using the tool the way it was designed to be used. The social effects of this are hard to comprehend: near-universal consumption of pornography driving the emergence of a genuine rape culture; and a mental health pandemic that has a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report noting that nearly 60% of U.S. girls feel “persistently sad or hopeless.” This is a generation who have had their minds wired by the internet.

Nicholas Carr's groundbreaking book *The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing To Our Brains* (2011) catalyzed conversations about how the internet was changing us, and a growing mountain of data since then has consistently proved his gloomy analysis correct. Carr's work formed the foundation for other intellectuals to begin questioning aspects of our digital world. One of the best is Samuel D. James, an American evangelical intellectual who has consistently produced some of the most insightful analysis I have yet. His book *Digital Liturgies: Discovering Christian Wisdom in an Online Age* has just been published.

James is, in my view, one of a handful of emerging Christian intellectuals with something both necessary and unique to say. I finished *Digital Liturgies* in two sittings, and I believe that any Christian grappling with the implications of the digital

world—and if you aren't, you should be—should read this book. James not only provides a trenchant cultural critique of the internet's impacts; he integrates theology and philosophy to provide a clear picture of the implications for social and spiritual life in a way that makes his conclusions seem obvious. James lays out the structure of the digital world and provides both a “you are here” map along with compelling—and often uncomfortably probing—questions.

James is the associate acquisitions editor at the Christian publishing house Crossway and a resident of Louisville, Kentucky, with his wife and their three children. He kindly agreed to answer our questions.

You observed, early on, that: “The very form of the internet forms our mind—not just what we consume, but how we consume it. As our entire lives are increasingly structured around the Internet, we are being profoundly conditioned to see the world in certain ways and live our lives in certain ways.” It seems to me that the conclusion of your book is that although we cannot escape the internet, we must resist the way it shapes us. Is that a practical possibility considering the sheer addictive power of the platforms and content?

I think so! One of the points that Nicholas Carr makes in his book, The Shallows, which was a very influential work for my book, is that the human brain is very ‘shape-able.’ This is what’s known as cognitive plasticity.

That’s a big reason why digital technology has the effect it does. But that’s true also in the opposite direction. We can take steps to mitigate and even push back against the mental effects of the Web for the same reason we feel those effects in the first place.

For many, the first and most consequential step they will take is simply to stop using digital technologies that don’t serve their values. Whether that’s cancelling a social media account, limiting your phone, or simply building in periods of abstinence, pushing back on digital media’s harmful effects is actually not as complicated as many might think.

And I think there’s a very good chance that governments and elected leaders are going to make these efforts easier for the average person. There seems to be a growing awareness of how addictive and deformative some of these technologies are. There’s a very real public health crisis element to this. It’s not too difficult to imagine a future in which smartphones have the same kind of stigma attached to them as cigarettes.

One aspect of the digital age that is beginning to get more attention is the ways in which it has transformed our social imaginary. You noted that as “human culture transforms, so too do the stories we tell ourselves ... it is not simply the content of the stories that can captivate and change us but the form of these stories.” One of the things I have observed in Christian communities is the way the arrival of the smartphone is facilitating a breakdown in the intergenerational experience—that the shared stories that underpin those communities are being replaced, subverted, or forgotten. The stories of the grandparents; the history of the community; these things are replaced by the “infinite scroll,” the tyranny of the present. Hyperreality is simply far more alluring than the collective experiences of an embodied community. Have you observed this challenge as well? How do you suggest we might address it?

Absolutely. One of the more bracing examples of this is the transgender revolution. Now, regardless of whether you think adults should be legally entitled to identify as any gender, you have to read some of the testimonies in Abigail Shrier's book and others with a profound sense of sadness at the alienation between the emerging generation and their parents that's being facilitated by social media. Preteens and teens who are known and loved in a family context are discovering influencers online who tell them that their insecurities and social anxiety are due to their probably being a different gender identity. It's the word of a remote influencer—who may be profiting personally from this kind of content—versus the word of a mother, a father, a sibling, a grandparent, who know this child in a very personal way. There's obviously a lot going on there, but one unmistakable dynamic is the allure of the social media world vs the embodied world.

But even short of things like the gender revolution, the epistemology of social media is set radically against the values of the community. The internet isolates us. It allows us a godlike freedom to curate our sense of reality. Community flourishes when people have to rely not just on themselves but on each other to make sense of life. The atomizing setting of the Web intrinsically undermines this. I think pushing back against this dynamic starts with recognizing that too much of our modern life is organized around technological efficiency and privacy. I think we're going to look back in 20 years and be absolutely flabbergasted that any parent ever handed their young child a tablet, phone, or laptop and let them live alone in their room with it.

The internet has eliminated the gatekeepers not only of the mainstream media and other elite institutions, but also in church communities. If children and young people are online, adults lose the ability to present new information within a biblical context (e.g., they will very likely see Pride Month content long before their parents discuss LGBT issues with them) and alternative stories and ways of seeing the world created by talented storytellers are already being explored. I'm seeing this in many Christian high schools—the teachers are stunned to discover that the social imaginary of the students is being shaped by social media on issues from pronouns to same-sex relationships, not by Christianity. How can we respond to this?

I think there has to be a widespread recognition that Christians have largely failed to understand the Web for what it is. We've focused so much on filtering out obviously immoral content that we've missed the fact that the Web is a teacher whose lessons are shaped in the image of expressive individualism. It will always, always, always make sense online for someone to identify as a different gender, or to believe that two or three or four people can be married. Why? Because the Web is a disembodied habitat, a plausibility structure for the feeling that there is no givenness to reality, there is simply individual will. That's what all of us are when log on. We are mental wills projected onto a screen. Christian orthodoxy makes as much intuitive sense in the epistemological context of the Web as the idea of sun-tan lotion makes to a deep sea creature. There's just a profound dissonance between the online medium and the Christian message.

In terms of response, I think churches have to take initiative here and reemphasize in-person discipleship, especially discipleship that puts the generations in contact with one another and points to the beauty of God's given design. Some have missed this due to not wanting to offend progressive sensibilities in their congregation. Others have missed this because they're so fo-

Missionary of the Week

Jerry Fields
RCE - Madrid, Spain

Received via email on Saturday, January 27.

Dear friends and partners in ministry,

Good morning from Madrid Spain,

I want to share a few prayer needs for the upcoming days and weeks for our students here at Evangelical Christian Academy. First off, this coming week is our Spiritual Emphasis Week where we will focus on cross cultural missions/ministries. We will have special speakers for both the elementary and secondary students. Pray that our students will be challenged from God's word.

Friday is our "Flipped Service Day" where our entire school will be leading classes in the local Camarma Spanish school. We did this last year and have been invited back again. Our students will be leading the Spanish students in English learning activities. Pray with us that our students will allow Christ to shine through them as we interact with the students at the local school. It's also a great time for our staff to interact with the Spanish teachers in their setting and classrooms.

Just around the corner on Feb 14, we have two student mission trip groups. One of the groups is going to the Czech Republic to help in English conversation classes in two local schools. The other group is going to Northern Ireland to participate in the sports ministry of SALT Belfast. (Student Athlete Leadership Training) Each of these opportunities will stretch our students and challenge them to depend more on the Lord as He teaches them flexibility, cross-cultural skills, and grows their faith.

I always want to add the request that God would send more workers (teachers) into His field (the world) and specifically for our needs for more help here at ECA. See the poster for some more info. (*Dawn has placed the poster on the hall bulletin board.*)

Thanks for praying!

Love you all,

Filled with hope because of the resurrection,

Jerry, Josiah, & Julia



Old Savannah City Mission Mentor Ministry

Three areas for prayer

1. Pray for our church:

- Pray for Ferguson men to step forward to mentor the men in the program.
- Pray for the success of our partnership.
- Prayer for Ferguson's continued influence.

2. Pray for our Mentors:

- *Pray for Tom Keller:*
 - ◆ Pray for the friends and neighbors who come to chapel every Friday at 12-1 pm.
 - ◆ Pray for the men Tom mentors
 - ◆ Pray for Jesus Christ and the Gospel to be central.
- *Pray for Bobby DeLoach:*
 - ◆ Pray for the students who come to Bobby's Tuesday morning class.
 - ◆ Pray for the men Bobby mentors
 - ◆ Pray for Jesus Christ and the Gospel to be the central focus
- *Pray for Reggie Brown:*
 - ◆ Pray for the students that come to Reggie's Friday morning class.
 - ◆ Pray for the friends and neighbors that attend the chapel on Wednesday 12-1pm.
 - ◆ Pray for the men Reggie mentors.
 - ◆ Pray for Jesus Christ and the Gospel to be central.

3. Pray for OSCM:

- Pray for the facility as they seek to find ways to end homelessness, not enable it.
- Pray for the success of the program and people would get out of their addictions.
- Pray for the friends and neighbors to become contributors to society.
- Pray for each man to find his identity in Christ.

Nursery February 4

Babies:

Cindy Dimmitt, Cindy Wise

Toddlers:

Jan DeLoach, Rebekah Helmick

Preschoolers:

Rachel Beatty, Amy Keller

Nursery February 11

Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Beth Lewis,

Jeanie Groover

Toddlers:

Michael & Karrie Walker

Preschoolers:

Logan & Stacey Kelly

Right Now Media

If you would like a free subscription to Right Now Media use this link:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fabchurchga>

or scan this QR code:



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC

Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Elders' Meeting	
Joy Class	9:00 a.m.
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Supper: Beef Stew	5:30 p.m.
Adventure Club	6:20 p.m.
Youth	6:30 p.m.
Bible Study	6:45 p.m.

Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Men's Oyster Roast	6:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.

Friday

Family Oyster Roast	6:00 p.m.
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Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for February

Bobby DeLoach, Danny Edwards

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

"Systematic Theology"	Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"New Members"	Gym Overhang: Tom Keller
"Exodus"	Youth House: Steve Posner
"Heaven Rules"	Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith

Children and Students

Babies	Room 3:	Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges
Toddlers	Room 24:	Lynn Ernst, Kelly Zittrouer
Pre-K	Room 25:	Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter
K, 1st and 2nd Grade	Room 28:	John and Pam Humphrey
3rd-6th Grade Boys	Room 202:	Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills
3rd-6th Grade Girls	Room 204:	Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton
Youth Guys	Room 206:	Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion
Youth Girls	Room 206:	Avalon DeLoach