

# The Beacon of New Bethel Baptist Church

## March 2024

XLII

Issue #7

Pastor's  
Corner

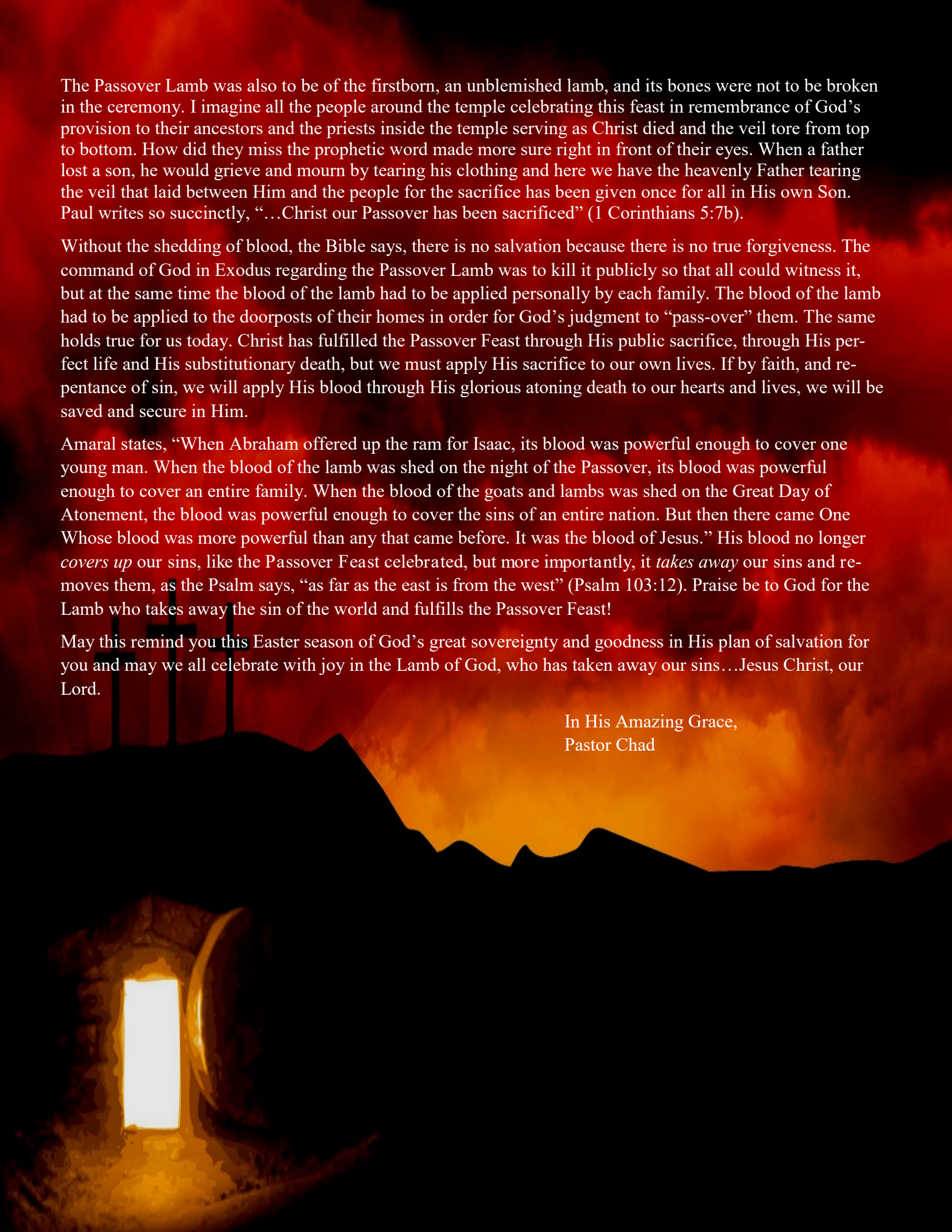


### “The Feast of the Passover”

As we enter into this season of Easter, I want to write to you a little about how our Savior, Jesus Christ, fulfills the Feast of the Passover. As a matter of fact, over the next few months for our newsletter I will pointing you toward how He fulfills many of the Old Testament feasts. When we talk about the Gospel in its purest form, we are talking about four main points: Christ’s crucifixion, Christ’s burial, Christ’s resurrection, and Christ’s ascension. Within all components we see His fulfillment of the feast of Passover, the feast of Unleavened Bread, the feast of Firstfruits, and the feast of Pentecost. I will point you to these truths over the next few months through our newsletter, but for this month, March 2024, I would like to direct your attention to the crucifixion of Christ as the fulfillment of the feast of Passover, as our Passover Lamb, with a few details we find in the Scriptures.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the death of Christ is described this way, “From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over the whole land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘*Elí, Elí, lemá sabacthání?*’ That is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’... Jesus shouted again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit” (Matthew 27:45-46, 50, HCSB). The question for us is this: Why is Matthew so detailed about the time of Jesus’ death? What is significant about Jesus dying at 3:00 p. m.? Joe Amaral, in his book, *Understanding Jesus*, says the answer lies in understanding another powerful Passover tradition.

In the days of the Temple, the evening sacrifices took place at 3:00 p.m. and the Passover Lamb was no different. At 3:00 p.m. the lamb for the nation was sacrificed and presented to the people. At that time, the priests would also blow a shofar [rams’ horn] to signify the sacrifice. Amaral says, “To those who heard the sound, it represented the voice of God declaring that His Passover Lamb had been sacrificed.” On that day, when Christ gave up His spirit not far from the Temple Mount, with the nation of Israel present for the Passover, the shofar sounded alerting the people of the death of the lamb, and Jesus gave up His spirit.



The Passover Lamb was also to be of the firstborn, an unblemished lamb, and its bones were not to be broken in the ceremony. I imagine all the people around the temple celebrating this feast in remembrance of God's provision to their ancestors and the priests inside the temple serving as Christ died and the veil tore from top to bottom. How did they miss the prophetic word made more sure right in front of their eyes. When a father lost a son, he would grieve and mourn by tearing his clothing and here we have the heavenly Father tearing the veil that laid between Him and the people for the sacrifice has been given once for all in His own Son. Paul writes so succinctly, "...Christ our Passover has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7b).

Without the shedding of blood, the Bible says, there is no salvation because there is no true forgiveness. The command of God in Exodus regarding the Passover Lamb was to kill it publicly so that all could witness it, but at the same time the blood of the lamb had to be applied personally by each family. The blood of the lamb had to be applied to the doorposts of their homes in order for God's judgment to "pass-over" them. The same holds true for us today. Christ has fulfilled the Passover Feast through His public sacrifice, through His perfect life and His substitutionary death, but we must apply His sacrifice to our own lives. If by faith, and repentance of sin, we will apply His blood through His glorious atoning death to our hearts and lives, we will be saved and secure in Him.

Amaral states, "When Abraham offered up the ram for Isaac, its blood was powerful enough to cover one young man. When the blood of the lamb was shed on the night of the Passover, its blood was powerful enough to cover an entire family. When the blood of the goats and lambs was shed on the Great Day of Atonement, the blood was powerful enough to cover the sins of an entire nation. But then there came One Whose blood was more powerful than any that came before. It was the blood of Jesus." His blood no longer *covers up* our sins, like the Passover Feast celebrated, but more importantly, it *takes away* our sins and removes them, as the Psalm says, "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). Praise be to God for the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world and fulfills the Passover Feast!

May this remind you this Easter season of God's great sovereignty and goodness in His plan of salvation for you and may we all celebrate with joy in the Lamb of God, who has taken away our sins...Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In His Amazing Grace,  
Pastor Chad



### **Good Friday Service**

Mark your calendars for March 29 at 7:00 pm for our Good Friday Service. This will be a special service with guest speaker. Look for more information in the bulletin, Facebook page, and in the mail later this month.

### **Thank You**

Dear New Bethel Family,

Words cannot express how blessed my family and I are to be part of such a loving and caring church. We want to thank everyone for your prayers, calls, cards, flowers, food and anything else you might have done for us during our loss. They truly were appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Marjorie Stewart and family

### **Retirement Reception**

Sunday, March 10 here at New Bethel we will be having a retirement reception for Bro. Don Coleman who will be retiring as our Missions Strategist at the end of this month. The church will be providing light refreshments and desserts. Everyone is welcome to come and wish him well on his retirement.

### **Baby Bottle Collection**

March 3rd is the last Sunday to bring in your filled baby bottles. You may drop them off during the week during regular office hours to Kathy.

### **Operation Christmas Child News**

New Bethel Operation Christmas Child Team will meet after morning worship on March 3, 2024 for its annual planning meeting. Please plan to attend this important meeting and bring your fund raising ideas with you! A pot luck lunch dish is also welcome. New members (men, women and youth) are needed and encouraged to come.

### **Children's Easter Egg Hunt**

Easter is quickly approaching and we are in need of candy donations to fill the eggs for the egg hunt. If you would like to donate candy to help fill the eggs, please have it to the church office by Friday, March 22.



It is getting close to that time of the year again for camp! This year we are going to go to Louisville and attend Mfuge from July 1 – July 5. Mfuge is sort of like combining Crossings with Kentucky Changers. In the morning and afternoon, we will be doing more typical camp activities, and then after lunch we will be doing service projects around the community. We need to know who is planning to attend this year, so we can reserve our spots. If you are planning on coming to camp this year, please reach out to Pastor Stephen and let him know.



## March

1-Lois Rich  
Ethan Art  
2-Gabriella Robinson  
5-Jimmie Webster  
8-Brady Cook  
12-Karla Porter  
Shelby Burton Russo  
15-Cana Griffin  
16-Jackie Alford  
18-Shawn Kirk  
24-Randal Presser  
25-Lauren Hellard  
Lindsey Dow  
Dane Dwyer  
Emma Strunk  
26-Nicholas Ryan  
Shannon Bloomer  
Austin Jewell  
27-Hannah Robinson  
Ann B. Stevens  
Addison Greener  
28-Charolette Kemper

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Kathy McDannold, Administrative Assistant:  
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Visit us on the web at [www.nbbcky.com](http://www.nbbcky.com)

2nd Trustees Work Day 9:00 am  
3rd OCC Meeting after the morning service  
Kids Night 5:30-7:30 pm  
Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 pm  
Youth Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm  
4th Classical Conversations 8:00am-5:00 pm  
Fairhaven 5:00 pm  
5th Women's Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm  
6th ARC Bible Study 3:00 pm  
Mid-week Bible Study 7:00 pm  
10th Retirement Reception 2:00 pm  
Kids Night 5:30-7:30 pm  
Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 pm  
Youth Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm  
11th Classical Conversations 8:00am-5:00 pm  
12th WMU Meeting 9:30 am  
Women's Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm  
13th ARC Bible Study 3:00 pm  
Mid-week Bible Study 7:00 pm  
17th-Kids Night 5:30-7:30 pm  
Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 pm  
Youth Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm  
*St. Patrick's Day*  
18th Classical Conversations 8:00am-5:00 pm  
19th Women's Bible Study 6:30-8:30 pm  
20th ARC Bible Study 3:00 pm  
Mid-week Bible Study 7:00 pm  
24th Kids Night 5:30-7:30 pm  
Choir Practice 5:30-6:30 pm  
Youth Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm  
*Palm Sunday*  
25th Classical Conversations 8:00am-5:00 pm  
27th ARC Bible Study 3:00 pm  
Classical Conversations Meeting 6:00 pm  
29th Good Friday Service 7:00 pm  
30th Children's Egg Hunt 12:00 pm  
31st *Easter Sunday*