

FROM THE PASTOR

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year falls on Valentine's Day. On Ash Wednesday we ponder our mortality and the need to live lives that matter. On Valentine's Day we celebrate romantic love. I pondered a few clever ways to join the cultural and liturgical calendars with themes like:

Love Is As Strong As Death (borrowing from the Song of Solomon)
Love May Kill You
If Your Valentine's a Dud, Don't Worry, You'll Die One Day

But then, this past Sunday, as I listened to the youth lead us so wonderfully in worship and how they returned often to the theme of loving God and neighbor, I began to see how the two different days may not be so different after all.

During this season of Lent we will be tuning our ears at the cross as we listen to the seven last words of Jesus. It dawned on me that these words come from the divine heart of love, which include words of longing, doubt, forgiveness, care, and resolve. You won't see any of Jesus' words on Valentine's Day cards, but they express God's true love for the world in ways deeper than many of us can imagine.

I hope you will make the journey with us through the Lenten season (February 14 - March 29), then join us through the season of Easter (April 7 - May 5) as we dive into the depths of the Great Commandment to love God with all that we are and love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Prayers for Our People

We are praying for you and all that God will do for you.

Let us pray for: Rachel Bishop, Sandy Bostelman, Denise Bowen, Carolyn Brown, Prentiss Brown, Lynn Bryant, Kathleen Cook, Shirley Coxen, Polly Davis, Wendy Dix, Caroline Kate Eckles, Joni Wiggins Fox, Kay Hannon, Ed Hill, Trish Herlovich, Claudette Mahan, David Malcolm, Shirley Malcolm, Lydia Mason, Billy McEachern, Don Morris, June Morris, Mildred Pigg, Buddy Prescott, Troy Roberts, Donna Sheffield, Kelly Sumner, Sarah Stevens, Farise Taylor, Lee Taylor, Katrina Vaughn, Van Waters, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil

Members in Care Facilities

Pruitt Health (Ocilla): Drew Fountain

Homebound Members – Fitzgerald and Out of Town/State

June and Don Morris – Fitzgerald and Lois Eppes – Middleburg, FL

Sanctuary Flowers

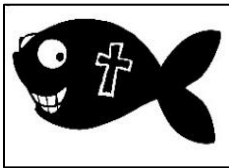
The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 18, 2024, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of glory of God and placed in loving memory of W.D. (Bill) Brown by Ollie Brown, Debra Weil, Deena Smith, Shannon Deen, and John David McLeod and families.



YOUTH NEWS

Great Youth Sunday! Thanks to all who participated!

We had over 40 youth take part in Youth Sunday this past week. Thank you PARENTS for allowing and even encouraging your teenager to be a part of the youth ministry here at FBC. Every Wednesday and



Sunday, we want EVERY STUDENT to feel welcome when they arrive at any youth activity. Thank you for trusting us with your children!! We will have WNL this week so Don't Dare Miss It!

LOOKING AHEAD: Our Summer Youth Mission Camp Dates ARE SET – JUNE 9th-12th. THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT THIS YEAR OF \$50 BY THE END OF MARCH IN ORDER TO SAVE YOUR SPOT FOR YOUTH CAMP! Make sure you tell your parents THE DATES NOW so you can plan to attend with us!



This Sunday morning the choir will sing "Behold the Lamb" which is a congregational favorite! **ALL CHRISTMAS CHOIR FOLKS**

ARE INVITED TO SING WITH US! Be on the lookout for your text this week. Handbells and orchestra will also return to play this Sunday morning. LOOKING AHEAD, our next choir practice will be on February 25th and throughout the Lent season we will be singing some of our favorite songs. Join us when you can!



Ben Hill-Irwin County Baptist Campground Clean-up Day THIS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 7:30am – 12pm

HELP IS NEEDED!!! Anyone that could spare their time on this day to help clean the campground would be most gracious. Bring your work gloves and any yard tools (chain saw, rakes, shovels, weedeaters, wheelbarrows, hand saws, pruning shears, containers to collect pinecones, and Rangers/golf carts to easily haul back and forth) that you have. If anyone has any questions regarding the clean-up projects on this day or need location directions please call the church office.



Luncheon and Quarterly Church Conference This Sunday, February 18 Following Worship in Burch Hall



Women's Bible Study This Sunday, February 18 The ladies will go back to meeting at 5:00pm in Mann Hall.

Ms. Carly's Corner For Kids



RA RACING NIGHT

It was a great night for the RA Racers! Special thanks to Mr. Larry, Mr. Brian, and all those who made it a great night! The GAs raised \$361 for the Christian Kitchen! Thanks to all the GA leaders and moms for a great consession stand!



VALENTINE'S PARTY

We had a great turnout for the Children's Valentine's Sunday School Party! Thanks to Ms. Jane for the lesson, Zach and Kayla Sheppard and Leslie and Tyler Clemons for breakfast!

PASSPORTkids Summer Camp

There is now a waiting list for camp. If your child would like to attend let me know ASAP. (3rd-5thgrade/July 14-17th at Rock Eagle)

Children's Choir:

Join us each Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Choir Room above the Breezeway!

Mission Friends, RAs, and GAs:

Each Wednesday at 6pm.

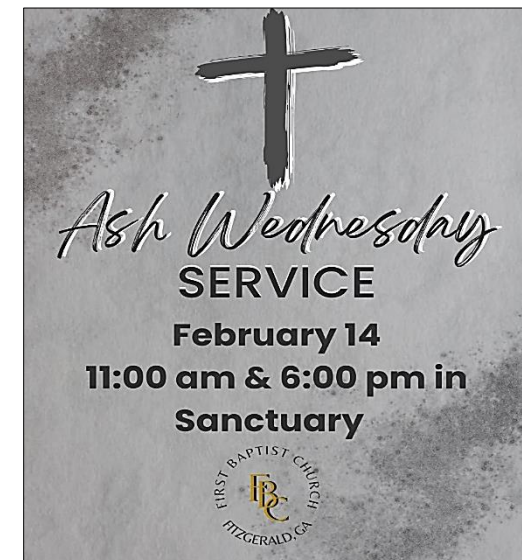
Sunday School: Every Sunday at 10am!

February Children's Church Volunteers

February 18th...Kathleen Cook & Brie Henderson

February 25th...Justin & Elizabeth Phillips

If you would like to be added or removed from the rotation, please let me know!



CHURCH CALENDAR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Daily Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4.3-6. Mark 9.2-9

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

THE SEASON OF LENT: ASH WEDNESDAY

Daily Scripture: Joel 2.1-2, 12-17a or Isaiah 58.112. Psalm 51.1-17.

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.2-10. Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

11:00 AM.....Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

5:30 PM.....Children's Choir

6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*

6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*

6:00 PM.....Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Daily Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17. Psalm 25.1-10

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Daily Scripture: 1 Peter 3:18-22. Psalm 25.1-10

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Daily Scripture: Mark 1:9-15. Psalm 25.1-10

7:30 AM-12PM.....BH-Irwin Co Baptist Campground Cleanup Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM.....Sunday School*

11:00 AM.....Youth Sunday*

12:00 PM.....Lunch & Quarterly Church Conference following Worship

5:00 PM.....Note: time change.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Daily Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17. Psalm 25.1-10

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Daily Scripture: 1 Peter 3:18-22. Psalm 25.1-10

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Daily Scripture: Mark 1:9-15. Psalm 25.1-10

WINTER BREAK – No Wednesday Events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Daily Scripture: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16. Psalm 22.23-31

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Daily Scripture: Romans 4.14-25. Psalm 22.23-31

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Daily Scripture: Mark 8.31-38. Psalm 22.23-31

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM.....Sunday School*

11:00 AM.....Youth Sunday*

5:00 PM.....Note: time change.....Women's Bible Study (Mann Hall)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Daily Scripture: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16. Psalm 22.23-31

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Daily Scripture: Romans 4.14-25. Psalm 22.23-31

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Daily Scripture: Mark 8.31-38. Psalm 22.23-31

11:00 AM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)

5:30 PM.....Children's Choir

6:00 PM.....Mission Friends, GAs and RAs*

6:00 PM.....Youth WNL (Youth Room)*

6:00 PM.....Adult Vespers (Burch Hall)*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Daily Scripture: Exodus 20.1-17. Psalm 19

10:00 AM.....Exercise Class (Mann Hall)

*Nursery Staff available for these events.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, closed all day Friday

8:30am-12:15pm (12:15-1:30 closed for lunch & office errands) 1:30pm-5pm

February Deacons of the Month: Mike Raynor and Mike Sherret

February Ushers: *Byron Smith, *Lew Brinson, Bob Jones, Todd Cook, Kevin Phillips,

Johnny Giddens, Jared Garner, Tony Eckler, and Justin Phillips

First Baptist Church

P. O. Box 367

(402 S. Merrimac Drive)

Fitzgerald, GA 31750

Return Service Requested

PRSR STD
Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2
FITZGERALD, GA

Blank Blank
Blank

Blank, GA 55555



First Baptist Church

OF FITZGERALD, GA.

First Baptist Church is a loving and caring Christian community seeking to extend the open hand of God's grace to meet physical and spiritual needs through worship, education, ministry, fellowship, and spiritual nurturing.

Wednesday Vespers

11:00am and 6:00pm Burch Hall

February 14 Ash Wednesday Service
(11:00am and 6:00pm, Sanctuary)

February 21 WINTER BREAK

February 28 Psalm 51 (I)

March 6 Psalm 51 (II)

March 13 Psalm 51 (III)

March 20 Psalm 51 (IV)

Sunday School 10:00am

Worship 11:00am

February 18 **The First Sunday in Lent**
I Thirst
Genesis 9:8-17. Psalm 25:1-10.
1 Peter 3:18-22. Mark 1:9-15

February 25 **The Second Sunday in Lent**
My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16. Psalm 22:23-31.
Romans 4:14-25. Mark 8:31-38

March 3 **The Third Sunday in Lent**
Behold Your New Family
Exodus 20:1-17. Psalm 19.
1 Corinthians 1:18-25. John 2:13-22



Our Stewardship Review
Budget Report through 2/1/24 – 2/10/24

Weekly Budget Required.....	\$12,992.33
Weekly Budget Received for 2/1/24 – 2/10/24.....	\$11,072.20
Monthly Budget Required.....	\$56,300.08
MTD Budget Received.....	\$11,072.20
YTD Budget Requirement.....	\$69,292.40
YTD Budget Giving Received.....	\$46,041.27
YTD Budget Expenses.....	\$63,723.91
Prayer Garden Giving Received.....	\$37,943.57
Special Gifts (Non-Budget) for the week of 2/1/24 – 2/10/24.....	\$937.10

Church Staff

Pastor..... Greg Pope
Minister of Music & Youth.....Blane Jacobs
Administrative Assistant..... Dana Luckie
Director of Children's Activities.....Carly Harper
Church Administrator.....Byron Smith
Custodian.....Jeffrey Morgan
Housekeeping..... Antoinette Hill
Church Organist..... Barbara Jacobs
Church Pianist..... Susan Spivey
Nursery Staff.....Dana Luckie, Candy Herod, and Megan McLeod

Contact us at 229-423-4367 or by email at fbc@fbcfitz.com. You can also check out church information and activities on our website www.fbcfitz.com.