

FROM THE PASTOR

The Jesus Creed Begins This Sunday

This Sunday, April 7, marks the beginning of a five-week emphasis on *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Neighbor*. When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment he went back to the essential statement of Israelite faith and joined it together with a verse from Leviticus, giving us what writer and professor Scot McKnight calls "The Jesus Creed." The word "creed" comes from the Latin *credo*, which simply means "I believe." When asked what you believe you could do no better than to quote Jesus and say, "I believe that God is one, and God's children are to love God with all that we are and love our neighbor as we love ourselves." In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus defines the neighbor as anyone you find in need. This would include, especially our enemies.

Sunday's sermon will introduce The Jesus Creed and the Great Commandment. The remaining four sermons will invite us to see how much God loves us, how we are to love ourselves, what it means to love God, and how our love for others can literally change the world.

We will follow the lectionary readings in worship as they lead us through the First Letter of John and passages from John's Gospel. On Wednesdays at 11:00 and 6:00 we will join together for Bible Study, looking more closely John's First Letter, concluding our study with a look at Second and Third John.

For the season of Easter we will use The Jesus Creed as our Affirmation of Faith. I encourage you to commit the creed to memory and challenge your children to do the same. These words of Jesus are the most important words he ever spoke. They also serve as our guide to a Christian interpretation of Scripture. Make plans to join us!

Prayers for Our People

We are praying for you, your family, your caretakers, and all that God will do for you.

Let us pray for: Rachel Bishop, Denise Bowen, Linda Braun, Carolyn Brown, Prentiss Brown, Lynn Bryant, Shirley Coxen, Polly Davis, Wendy Dix, Joni Wiggins Fox, Johnny Giddens, Kay Hannon, Ed Hill, Trish Herlovich, Claudette Mahan, David Malcolm, Shirley Malcolm, Billy McEachern, Don Morris, June Morris, Mildred Pigg, Betty Redus, Debbie Sherret, Kelly Sumner, Sarah Stevens, Lee Taylor, Joyce Vaughn, Katrina Vaughn, Van Waters, Brenda Wiggins, Donald Wiggins, Debra Weil, Nancy Yeager

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, April 7, 2024, are dedicated to the glory of God and placed in loving memory of Doris and Wilmer Stewart by Kenny and Jean Brown and family.



YOUTH NEWS

With school being out this week for Ben Hill County Schools, we will NOT have Wednesday Night Live. ALSO, on April 10th, I will be away for the day and so we will NOT meet on the 10th as well. We will start back with WNL on April 17th.



ATTENTION FBC GRADUATES AND JUNIORS! There will be a meeting on Sunday, April 14th for the Graduates to start planning the Graduate Service and banquet set for May 19th. We will meet at 10am in the youth room. Juniors and their parents will meet immediately following worship on the same day!



If you HAVE NOT PAID your \$50 non-refundable deposit for Summer Youth Mission Camp and still plan to attend, please contact Blane immediately.



Thanks to Barbara Jacobs, Lyndee Gray, Ashley Roberts, Nicki Toupe and Amanda Roberts for volunteering to make 350 Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches this past Saturday for the Peanut Butter and Jesus team. We had so much fun!



We will have **CHOIR PRACTICE** this coming Sunday morning at 9:15am in the sanctuary. If you can't make practice, join us as we warm up at 10:45am in the choir room! Also, mark your calendars for April 14th as our Sportsman Class Choir will lead in worship.

The repair work to the Pipe Organ is underway. Over the next few months, parts of the organ will not be functioning which means it may sound a little different. I will keep you posted on all updates.



What's Happening in April

April Deacons of the Month: Stan Bryant and David Herlovich

April Ushers: *Jimmy Davis, *Bobby Tharp, Ronnie Clemons, Greg Brown, Tony Sheffield, Scott Sheppard, Mark Turner, Eric Stone, Brian Gunter, and Tyler Clemons

Wed Apr 3 SPRING BREAK WEEK, NO ACTIVITIES ON WEDNESDAY

Mon Apr 8 55+ Club/Young at Heart Fish Fry Dinner (5pm Burch Hall)
Blood Drive (1-6pm Gymnasium)

Wed Apr 10 Children's Easter Nursing Home Parade (see Carly's text message)

Sun Apr 14 Deacons Meeting (12:15pm Mann Hall)
FBC Graduates Only Meeting (10am Youth Room – see Blane's article)
Juniors (Class of 2025) and Their Parents Meeting (12pm Sanctuary – see Blane's article)

Mon Apr 15 Congregational Care Team Meeting (6pm Burch Hall)

Tue Apr 16 Women on Mission Bible Study (10am Library)

Sun Apr 21 Graduates Sunday & Banquet
1st Round of Deacon Election (11am cast ballot by the end of Worship)
Children's Ice Cream Party (2-4pm Burch Hall – see Carly's article)

Sun Apr 28 Fourth Sunday (1st-5th Grade Children's Ext. Worship Service located in the Team Kids Room after the Children's Sermon)



WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU & BRING YOUR APPETITE!

55+ Club/Young at Heart

Date: Monday, April 8th

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Burch Hall

Ms. Carly's Corner For Kids

The RAs attended the STATE R.A. CAMPOREE at CAMP KALEO last weekend. Below are the results!!



LADS:

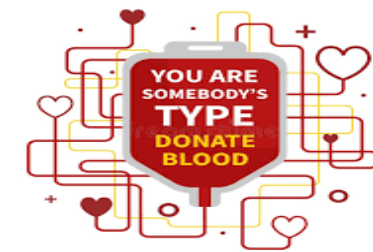
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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Team First Aid - 1st | 1st - Sheet Bend - Max Luckie |
| Team Chariot Race - 2nd | 2nd - Wild Wood Run - Max Luckie |
| Max, Fenn, Evan | 2nd - Bird ID - Max Luckie |
| Team Chariot Race - 3rd | 1st Bird ID- Fenn Campbell |
| Max, Bowers, Evan | 1st - Wild Wood Run - Fenn Campbell |
| Team Rope Craft - 2nd Place | 2nd - Nature Hunt - Fenn Campbell |
| 3rd - Nature Hunt - Max Luckie | 3rd - Wild Wood Run - Bowers Rodgers |
| 3rd - Bird ID - Wilkes Dawson | 1st - Bowline - Evan Mercier |
| 1st - Square Knot - Brandley Mercier | 3rd - Archery - Evan Mercier |

CRUSADERS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Team First Aid - 1st Place | 3rd - Wild Wood Run - Wilson House |
| Team Fire Building - 1st Place | 2nd - Bird ID - Will Herlovich |
| Team Rope Craft - 2nd Place | 1st - Bird ID - Logan Clemons |
| 1st - Clove Hitch - Wilson House | 3rd - Bird ID - Taylor Brown |
| 3rd - Archery - Wilson House | 1st - Will Wood Run - Will Herlovich |

REMINDER: There are no activities this Wednesday because of SPRING BREAK!

Mark your calendars for April 21st for the ICE CREAM PARTY from 2-4pm in the Burch Hall. Children will serve ice cream sundaes. All tips collected will go to Called to Care. Come support our children!



Blood Drive

Monday, April 8th
1:00p-6:00p (Gym)



We have been blessed here at First Baptist. So many have touched our lives over the years. We are moving to Valdosta to be close to our daughter. Thank you for the memories. Our new

address is 2581 US Hwy. 84, West, Valdosta, Georgia 31601. We would love to stay in touch with you. Keeping you always in our prayers, Prentiss and Carolyn Brown

CHURCH CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

Daily Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 - SPRING BREAK for Ben Hill Co. Schools, NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Daily Scripture: John 20:1-18, Psalm 18:1-2, 14-24

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Daily Scripture: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Daily Scripture: 1 John 1:1-2:2, Psalm 133

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Daily Scripture: John 20:19-31, Psalm 133

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:15 AM.....Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*

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

11:00 AM.....Worship*

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

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Daily Scripture: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133

5:00 PM.....55+Club/Young at Heart FISH FRY SUPPER (Burch Hall)

1:00-6:00 PM.....Blood Drive (Gym)

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Daily Scripture: 1 John 1:1-2:2, Psalm 133

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Daily Scripture: John 20:19-31, Psalm 133

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

No Children's Choir due to Easter Nursing Home Parade

5:45 PM.....Mission Friends (Meet for Easter Nursing Home Parade Trailer ride in our Preschool Parking lot)*

5:50 PM.....GAs & RAs (Meet for Easter Nursing Home Parade at Fellowship Baptist Church parking lot: 126 Lincoln Ave)*

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Daily Scripture: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Daily Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7, Psalm 4

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Daily Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48, Psalm 4

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

11:00 AM.....Worship*

12:15 PM.....Deacon's Meeting (Mann Hall)

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

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Daily Scripture: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Daily Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7, Psalm 4

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Daily Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48, Psalm 4

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, APRIL 18

Daily Scripture: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Daily Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24, Psalm 23

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Daily Scripture: John 10:11-18, Psalm 23

*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

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April Ushers: *Jimmy Davis, *Bobby Sharp, Ronnie Clemons, Greg Brown, Tony Sheffield,

Scott Sheppard, Mark Turner, Eric Stone, Brian Gunter, and Tyler Clemons

First Baptist Church

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First Baptist Church
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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

April 3 SPRING BREAK WEEK - NO EVENTS
April 10 – May 22 The Letters of First, Second, and Third John

Sunday School 10:00am
Worship 11:00am

April 7 **The Second Sunday of Easter**
The Jesus Creed (I): The Heart of Christianity
Acts 4:32-35. Psalm 133. 1 John 1:1-2:2. John 20:19-31

April 14 **The Third Sunday of Easter**
The Jesus Creed (II): The God Who Loves Us
Acts 3:12-19. Psalm 4. 1 John 3:1-7. Luke 24:36b-48
The Sportsman's Sunday School Class Choir

April 21 **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**
The Jesus Creed (III):
Lady Gaga and Shakespeare, Aretha Franklin and Jesus
Acts 4:5-12. Psalm 23. 1 John 3:16-24. John 10:11-18

April 28 **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**
The Jesus Creed (IV): The Cobbler's Gift
Acts 8:26-40. Psalm 22:25-31. 1 John 4:7-21. John 15:1-8
Baby Dedication: Emma Cate Calhoun

May 5 **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**
The Jesus Creed (V): A World-Conquering Love
Acts 10:44-48. Psalm 98. 1 John 5:1-6. John 15:9-17
Baptism: Kayla Sheppard

Our Stewardship Review

Budget Report through 3/24/24 – 3/30/24

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Rows include Weekly Budget Required, Monthly Budget Required, YTD Budget Requirement, etc.

Sunday School Attendance – 188 Worship Attendance – 206

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.

