

From the Pastor ...



As I write this, Easter Sunday is coming up. It will be our second Sunday back in the freshly painted sanctuary. It's beautiful! But far more wonderful than buildings, nine people will have been baptized on Easter!

Resurrection Sunday is a perfect day to be saved or baptized. Baptism is an outward expression of a life-changing belief in Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection.

The first Sunday in April we will finish a sermon series called "Believe," based on chapters 11-21 in the Gospel of John.

Martha declared a good but general statement of belief that people will be resurrected on the last day. Jesus pointed her general belief to a personal application: "Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:26).

As you know, Jesus proclaimed the good news about the Kingdom of God, often times supported by some amazing miracles. Shockingly, a few people who saw miracles still would not believe in Jesus (12:37, 39). Pray for people who chose to refuse to believe in spite of seeing evidence of God.

Jesus did mighty things while He walked the earth. He also prophesied about things to come. Why? "So that when it does happen you will believe that I am He (13:19)." What Jesus foretold about his death and resurrection did happen. What He prophesied about the end times is still to come. The Lord tells us ahead of time so we will believe.

One of the things Jesus talked about was how He would prepare rooms in His Father's house, and His followers knew the way. Some of the disciples just didn't get it. Jesus almost pleaded with them, "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves (14:11)."

Then in the next chapter, Jesus declared several indicators of a true disciple; things that should be evident in every believer.

- When you believe, the Word cleans you. 15:3
- When you believe, you remain in Jesus. 15:4
- When you believe, you bear fruit. 15:5
- When you believe you love each other. 15:9-12
- When you believe, you obey Jesus. 15:14
- When you believe, you might be hated. 15:18
- When you believe, you testify. 15:26-27

The Holy Spirit helps believers. But, amazingly, He is also here for those who *don't believe*. "When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Me (16:8-9)." The Spirit brings people who don't believe to the truth about the Lord, so they will be saved.

Jesus prayed for those who did believe and for those who would believe in the future. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message (17:20)." Think about this, Jesus prayed for *you* way back then! We also should pray for future believers and then tell them the message about salvation.

Everybody experiences occasional struggles in their faith journey. Sometimes it can be a crises of belief. In John 18, Judas, Peter, the high priests Annas and Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, and Barnabas all experienced a fork in the road of their faith. Some responded well, some did not.

John 19 details Jesus' death. Pilate, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, and the Apostle John all testified about Jesus the Lord, some by their words and others by their actions. John was with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry right through His terrible death on the cross. He wrote, "The man who saw it (John) has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe (19:35)." When you testify what you know to be true about Jesus, others will believe.

In John 20, Jesus arose from the grave! He appeared to Mary and to the Disciples (except for Thomas who was late for the meeting). A week later, Jesus appeared to them again and Thomas was there. Jesus told him, "Stop doubting and believe (20:27)." Doubt is alright when we work through it to a stronger faith. There often comes a time, however, when the Lord says that it's time to stop doubting and believe.

Peter was fishing when Jesus first called him to become a disciple. He said, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19)." Then twice in John 21 at the end of His time on earth, Jesus told Peter, "You must follow me (21:19, 22)." More accurately, *continue to follow me*." Salvation is the start of our belief in Jesus. We must keep believing, evidenced by continuing to follow Him and His plan for our lives.

April 14 we begin a new message series: **Hidden Gems**. Deuteronomy 29:29 (CSB) The hidden things belong to the Lord our God, but the revealed things belong to us and our children forever, so that we may follow all the words of this law.

See you Sunday!



Music Ministry



Hey Church Family!

What a great Sunday we had in the newly painted sanctuary!

It's so exciting seeing all of the capital improvements across our campus. It goes so well with the newness of spring!

Easter is upon us and the choir has been working hard on a special that I know you will enjoy. I hope to see you all this Easter Sunday to celebrate baptism and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus!

In Christ,

Sterling

How Can I Give to FBC?

- Place your offering in the offering plate
- Give on our website on the "online giving" tab
- Bring it to the Church office
- Text the word "BeCheerful" to 73-256
- Place it in the locked mailbox next to the office

With Thanks

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for helping children experience HOPE and HEALING in the name of Jesus!

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries exists to restore the faith, family, and future of vulnerable children and families through Christian services that emphasize ministry and healing.

Through your support, we can create moments of joy that profoundly impact the lives of those we serve.

For the dreams of children and families,

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries



April Events

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

- 9:15am Small Groups
- 10:30am Worship Service

Tuesday:

- 12:00pm Prayer for Revitalization

Wednesday:

- 10:00 Prayer in the Prayer Room
- 12:00pm Lunch, Prayer, & Devotions
- 6:00pm 1st Kids Children's Ministry, Impact Student Ministry, Small Groups for Adults
- 7:30pm Choir Practice
- (No Lunch & Devotions or Evening programs on Wednesday, April 3 due to Easter Break)

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First Baptist will volunteer at **Hartsville Soup Kitchen** on Thursday, April 11. If you would like to help with this community ministry, please contact the Church office.

## Missions Offering

First Baptist collected for the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** for North American missions during March.

One hundred percent of gifts given go to support more than 2,400 missionary families serving across the US and Canada.

Current total received is \$1,477.00



## *April Birthdays*

4-4 Avery Crist  
4-5 Miranda Averill  
4-6 Maxie Cantley  
4-6 Wanda Howle  
4-8 Elsie Byrd  
4-12 Randy McPherson  
4-15 Brooke Moody Goss  
4-16 Jordan Tomlinson  
4-20 Cecil Winburn  
4-22 Scott Gupton Sr.  
4-25 Chad Fink  
4-26 Lauren Wint  
4-27 Debbie Fink  
4-29 Linda Britt  
4-29 Diane DeLucia  
4-29 Brandy Johnson  
4-29 Lora Knotts  
4-30 Gloria Atkinson

### ***Happy Birthday!***

If we have accidentally missed your birthday or have the date wrong, please let the Church office know.

## *FBC Staff*

Dr. Greg Boyd: Pastor  
Sterling Dyar: Worship Leader  
Lauren Wint: Children's Director  
Jackie Ponder: Volunteer Student Director  
Jim Privette: Volunteer Church Administrator  
Crystal Hopkins: Financial Secretary  
Ruth Kilgore: Administrative Secretary  
Tucker Smith: Organist and Pianist  
Vivian Robinson: Custodian  
Omerea Thurman: Preschool Director  
Logan Fink: Volunteer Drummer  
Lydia Smith: Nursery worker

## *Announcements*

### ***Did You Know?***

Our weekly church bulletin and monthly newsletter are on our website! Go to [www.firstbaptisthartsville.org](http://www.firstbaptisthartsville.org) and choose the "Bulletin and Newsletter" tab and you will find links to both.

### ***Please Contact the Church Office:***

- If you are scheduling a meeting, to make sure that the date, location, and time are open on the Church calendar
- If your address, email, or telephone number has changed
- If you have updates for the Prayer List
- If you need more offering envelopes or would like to get personalized offering envelopes
- If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone

### ***Take One!***

Feel free to take the pens in the church pew and hand them out in the community along with a blessing - at lunch, at the fitness center, in the grocery store, wherever you go.

## *FBC on Social Media*

*Website:* [firstbaptisthartsville.org](http://firstbaptisthartsville.org)

*Facebook:* First Baptist Church Hartsville

*YouTube:* FBC Hartsville SC

If you can help improve our social media and online presence, please contact the church office.

## *Church Office Information*

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

(lunch 12:30-1:30pm)

Friday 8am-12noon

Phone: 843-332-6571

## *With Sympathy*

Our hearts go out to the families of:

Mrs. Doris Winburn



Mrs. Deborah Crawford

## *Impact Student Ministry*

# IMPACT

NEXT GEN MINISTRY  
(6TH-12TH GRADE)

Dear Church Family,

March was a busy month with the attendance of youth on

Wednesday night continuing to grow. We talked a lot about Easter and how that impacts how we live our lives.

We will not meet the first Wednesday in April, since it is Spring Break, but we will meet the other Wednesday nights.

Each week we have food, activities, and a lesson for our youth. The youth spend time after the lesson discussing it in small groups. We have a blast each week. Come join us!

In Christian Love,

## *1st Kids Children's Ministry*



Jackie Ponder

Dear Church Family,

Wow. Have y'all seen all the kids in church lately? If not, then you're missing

out! We are averaging in the 20s on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

God has certainly heard our prayers for growth and provided! We are even seeing more babies in the nursery! However, with growth comes a greater need for volunteers. Please let me know if you are willing to be a part of the nursery on Sundays or classes on Wednesdays.

Thank you so much for all of the prayers for this ministry! It continues to be such a blessing to serve in it!

In Love,

Ms. Lauren

## *First Baptist Preschool*



Dear First Baptist,

This time of year reminds me of a picture I saw in Sunday School as a

small child. It depicted Jesus sitting on a rock with a group of young children sitting at his feet. Dogwood trees were blooming in the background. Spring flowers were all around. It was such a peaceful and loving scene. The scripture was Matthew 9:14 - "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Just as Christ proclaimed His love for little children, so have you as a church family. You have opened the campus to dozens of little feet and hands and accept the wear and tear that goes along with them. You work tirelessly to keep everything inside and out in repair. The church staff help in so many ways. We, as the Preschool, feel your love for the little children and are appreciative for your support and prayers. It is such a blessing to see the progress our students have made and how blessed we are. God has given us (church and school) a tremendous responsibility for them and their families. He also blesses us each day as parents drop them off with confidence and peace of mind.

We have opened enrollment to the public for the 2024-2025 school year. Currently we have 46 children enrolled.

The Preschool will be closed the first week of April for our Spring Break.

May God continue to bless each of you.  
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