



## MARCH CALENDAR

Sundays	@	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday school class
	@	10:15 AM	Worship Service
	@	5:00 PM	Life Group at Carr's
	@	6:00 PM	Bible study/discussion at church
Mondays	@	10:00 AM	Women's Life Group
Wednesdays	@	5:30 PM	Family Meal
		6:00 PM	Kid Zone/Youth Zone
		6:00 PM	Worship on Wednesday

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Tuesday, March 1	6:00 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	CE & M&E Board meetings
Monday, March 7	No Women's Life Group	
	5:30 PM	Deacon & Worship Board meetings
Tuesday, March 15	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting
Thursday, March 17	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Wednesday, March 23	No Wednesday activities – Spring Break	

We're still providing a Worship experience through Facebook Live. You can tune into that worship by clicking on this

link: <https://www.facebook.com/Fairfield-First-Baptist-Church-104294022934947/>



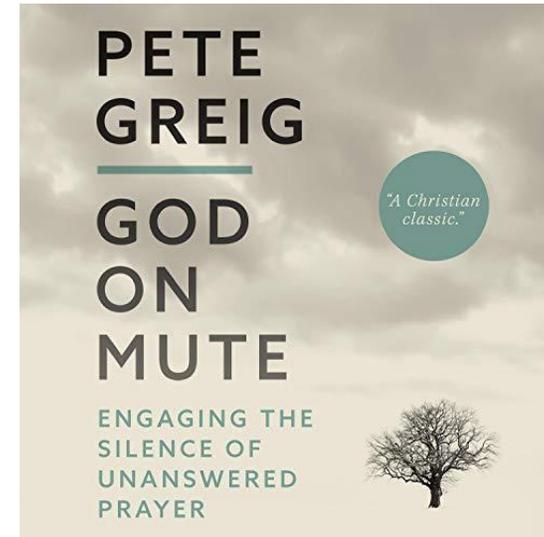
# Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church  
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVIII No. 2

March 3, 2022



How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?  
But I trust in your unfailing love;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation.  
*(Psalm 13:1-2, 5)*

We all know the pain that can come when we're crying out to God, our Father, but seem to get no response. It's as though someone hit the mute button and we can't hear what he might be saying...if he's answering at all.

Over a third of the Psalms are songs of Lament. A "lament" is "a crying out", and that's what the Psalmists do; they cry out to God because they feel that he hasn't answered their cries, or hasn't even heard them, and they don't know how long they can carry on. Whole books of the Bible, like Job and Lamentations, are committed to this quandary, that we have a good, loving, powerful

Father who promises to answer our prayers, yet too often, it seems, he does not.

CS Lewis, in his painfully personal and honest book, "A Grief Observed," (written after his wife, Joy, had died,) wrote:

***[When you're happy,] and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be — or so it feels — welcomed with open arms. But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away."***

If we're honest we can admit that we are often disappointed in our communication with the Father. So how do we deal with our disappointment? How can we make sense of a loving Father and our unanswered prayers to him?

These are the questions we'll be working through in our upcoming Life Group study called "God on Mute". We'll see that it's OK to level our complaints to God as so many of the Biblical writers had done. We'll see, too, that unanswered prayer has been a struggle for followers of Christ over the centuries of the Church. During our times together we'll discuss our own pain and disappointments and we'll let each other vent in honest conversation. We'll also acknowledge that, despite the silence that we often feel from God, he's still our only hope, and, like Jesus' disciples, we'll say to him, "To whom else can we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) We'll confess, as David did, "...But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation." We can say that because, while many unanswered prayers leave us wanting, he still is our constant provision.

So, I don't think you'll want to miss any of these discussion groups. **Come on out** to the church each **Sunday** night beginning this Sunday, **March 6<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>**, as we prepare for Easter. We'll **meet at 6:00 pm**. Why not **bring along a snack** that you would like to share...for those who would so like to eat it?

Let's be open and honest about our disappointments, while trusting that, "sorrow may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning."

Waiting for His replies,  
- Pastor John



## PRAYER LIST

Jerry Leazer, Pastor Kermott's mom, Steve Crane, Aaron Kness, Becky Stagers, Trudy Oliver, the family of Marilyn Holmes, those fighting Covid, people of Ukraine

## THANK YOU NOTE

We would like to thank everyone for their thought and prayers for Marvin's recent eye surgery. Also, thank you for the fruit basket we received. It means a lot to having a caring church family.

In Christ's Love, Marvin & Joyce Roemen

Thanks so very much to everyone that helped with the Date Night party. Our kids had so much fun and it's a comfort knowing they are safe and happy while we do something. The Nicholson Family

## THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU

The donations from our generous church family totaled \$2176 for the dirt bike for Greg Lentz's ministry in Nicaragua. This will be a much used ministry tool for Greg as he leaves to serve in Nicaragua in mid-April. Watch for announcements and updates on his ministry.

## RECAP OF FEB. 27<sup>th</sup> TAKE AWAY HUNGER PACKING

The 17<sup>th</sup> packing session for Take Away Hunger was held Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at Word of Life Church. Total meals packed that day were 12,096 by roughly 60-70 volunteers!

In past years, most of the meals were sent to countries such as Haiti and Guatemala. The past two years, majority of the meals have gone to southern storm areas in the United States, areas that have suffered tornados, hurricanes, floods, and even to Cedar Rapids after their wind storm.

Since the beginning in Fairfield, 488,982 meals have been provided to the Take Away Hunger mission. Thank you to everyone who helped with this mission...either providing funds or volunteer service.

It's so good to be a part of the Family of God!





**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

4 Scott Worley	12 Dan Reneker	24 Turner Worley
4 Amy Van Winkle	12 Aubrey Ryan	24 Jensen Worley
4 Toby Gates	12 Karen Hoyle	25 Nick Taylor
7 Calen Gates	14 Trisha Copeland	26 Emma Kermott
7 Darrel Bisgard	16 Leota Boyce	30 Madden Copeland
8 Dick Hunt	24 Jan Baird	

**MARCH ANNIVERSARY**

22 Paul & Lisa Greenig

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is this month, but is not listed, please call the church office with that information.

**HEAD USHERS**

March 6	James Kyle
13	Dave Goehring
20	Darrel Bisgard
27	Mike Carr

CHILDREN’S SERMON March 6: Darrel Bisgard  
 COMMUNION SERVERS March 6 – Lisa Greenig, Joyce Roemen,  
 Ray Woody (for Dick Hunt), Darrel Bisgard, Margaret Wilson

**MAXINE BATES CIRCLE**

Maxine Bates Circle will meet Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. Martha Cathey will be hostess. Women will be tying a quilt. All hands are welcome to help.

The birthing kit project for the Republic of the Congo is coming along great! Many kits have already been completed. No more fabric is available at this time. If you have projects in progress, you have until March 27<sup>th</sup> to return. The birthing kits will be boxed and shipped out that following week.

Maxine Bates Circle is also asking for bingo prizes of small items like coloring books, colored pencils, crayons, playing cards, etc. for the nursing homes. There are a lot of these kinds of things at the dollar stores. Please give to Lorri Deeke or Margaret Stephens, or leave in the church office.

**God On Mute: Engaging the Silence of Unanswered Prayer**

We’re beginning a new Life Group Study on Sunday nights called, “God on Mute”, which is looking at how we deal with unanswered prayer and will lead us into Easter. It will be held Sunday nights from March 6<sup>th</sup>- April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00, in the Fellowship Hall.



Other group options may be available. Books are at the Welcome Booth in the narthex for \$13.50, (you could just add that to your offering.) You can also get a Kindle copy for \$2.99 on Amazon. Videos, leader guides, group discussion guides and a ton of other resources can be found on the website at [www.unanswered.prayercourse.org](http://www.unanswered.prayercourse.org).

\$	\$
February Finances:	
Giving:	\$21,080.32
Expenses:	\$19,082.68
\$	\$



**LIFE GROUPS**

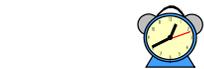
The Sunday Night Life Group continues to meet at Mike & Sue Carr’s at 5:00 P.M. The dates for their upcoming meetings are March 6, 13, 20, & 27, and April 3.

The Monday morning Women’s Life Group continues to meet on Monday mornings at 10:00 A.M. at church after taking a break on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Here is their schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
March 7	BREAK – no class	
14	Eve – The First Woman -A Far Reaching Choice	Genesis 3:1-13
21	Sarah and Hagar - Waiting for God to Act	Genesis 16; 18:1-15
28	Miriam – A Critical Spirit	Numbers 12
April 4	Rahab – An Unlikely Ally	Joshua 2; Joshua 6:15-25
11	Ruth – The Cost of Loyalty	Ruth 1-2
18	Naomi - Sadness Swallowed Up by Joy	Ruth 3-4
25	BREAK – no class	

**TIME TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS!**

**Don't Forget!** Daylight Saving Time will begin March 13<sup>th</sup>. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Daylight Saving Time will end November 6<sup>th</sup> this year.



Daylight Savings Time

**HELPING HANDS MINISTRY**

Our Helping Hands Program, through the Deacon Board Ministry, is available to help you with a job that you are unable to tackle by yourself. Sometimes even the smallest task is too big to do...like



changing a high-hanging light bulb, taking the trash out to the curb, or picking up



a few groceries! Our church members and attendees are blessed to have such a program. Just call the church office (472-5205) any weekday morning or contact one of your deacons and we will try to fulfill that need.

- |                 |          |                |          |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| John Rathbun    | 472-1452 | Darrel Bisgard | 472-6201 |
| Margaret Wilson | 472-5594 | Sharie Leazer  | 472-3892 |
| Jan Baird       | 472-5293 | Harold Munson  | 472-8895 |
| Lee Muntz       | 919-3337 | Lisa Greenig   | 919-4343 |



When a board or committee plans an upcoming event at church, please check the wall calendar in the office for date availability, then fill in the event on the calendar to avoid conflicts.

As church policy, the removable wall in Fellowship Hall/narthex is **NOT** to have anything taped, pinned, or posted on it or anything leaning up against it. Also, any woodwork is **NOT** to have anything taped to it. Fun-tak is to be used instead.

Thanks for your consideration.

**SPRING WORK WEEK AT FOREST LAKE CAMP**

**May 9-14**

For information contact camp @ 641-684-8908

**MISSION MOMENTS – THE LORD’S CUPBOARD**

The Lord's Cupboard of Jefferson County was established in 1982 to help fight hunger by supplying food assistance to those in need.

Residents of this county can receive a weekly benefit of items purchased or donated to the Cupboard by businesses and individuals. Every three months they are eligible for larger amount of various canned items, meat bundles, nonperishable items, paper, and toiletry products.

The Lord's Cupboard has two special programs. The L.O.A.F. Program during the summer months is for families with school aged children. Each December, Holiday Meal Boxes are distributed which include food items for a holiday meal, plus a little extra.

The Lord's Cupboard relies on volunteers from the community to provide these benefits. Please call 641-472-8457 or stop in at 303 N. 4th Street if you would like to help or donate.



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*Prayer Warrior Boot Camp  
Ladies' Retreat  
April 29-30  
@*

*Forest Lake Camp & Conference Center*

Registration fee \$50.00 (includes meals, lodging, and program materials) if paid by April 15<sup>th</sup>. After April 15<sup>th</sup>, cost will be \$60 (and program materials cannot be guaranteed). Can't make it overnight? There is an optional one-day only fee of \$30.

Registration forms may be found on our welcome center.

*"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. - Psalms 17:6*

**LETTER FROM FOREST LAKE CAMP MINISTRY TEAM**

February 10, 2022

Dear Friends,

Forest Lake Camp has been an important part of the faith walk of so many youth, adults, and kids in our region. Many of you have fond memories of attending camp here or bringing your kids and grandkids to camp. In so many ways you have been a vital part of the amazing work that happens here by volunteering, promoting camp, being drivers to our campers, providing financial support, and most importantly, as prayer warriors.

Over the last year we have seen greater need for financial support to help with camp fees among our camp families. We will no longer be doing the "bring a friend free" program or offering any full scholarships. We are making some changes to be able to help as many campers as possible. We don't want money to be the reason kids don't come to camp even though we may not be able to help as many campers as we want to.

Kids are the future of the church and we need to work together to keep them connected. Therefore, we are reaching out to our region family asking you to partner with us in this mission. Here are a few ideas of ways your church or individual members might help:

1. Donate to our scholarship fund by having a special offering or a fundraiser.
2. Help kids in your church or community with their camp fees.
3. Help kids in your church or community hold fundraisers to pay their camp fees. This would also teach them the value of working for something they want.
4. Pray that God will provide a way for all kids to attend camp.

You may have other ideas and we would love to hear them. If you feel called to donate, please make sure you designate 'scholarships' on the memo line of your check. God's Blessings Always, Forest Lake Ministry Teams



## FOREST LAKE SUMMER CAMPS 2022

It's time to be thinking about summer camp! Plan **NOW** to attend and get signed up **before May 1<sup>st</sup>** to receive the early bird discount! Even greater news: if you are a regular attendee on Sunday morning or Wednesday night, you qualify for a 50% scholarship through our church.

Brochures and registration forms are available in the narthex.

**1st – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Camp** Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)  
June 16-18

**4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp** Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)  
July 11-16

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp** Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)  
July 18-23

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp** Cost: \$275 (\$250 before May 1)  
July 25-30

**Outdoor Adventure**(tents) Grades 6-8  
June 13-15 Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)

**Horse Camp** Grades 6-12  
June 26 (4 PM) – 28 Cost: \$150 (\$135 before May 1)

**Canoe Trip** Grades 6-12  
July 31 (4 PM) – Aug. 2 Cost: \$95 (\$80 before May 1)

**Fish Camp** Grades 4-12  
June 26 (4 PM) – June 28 Cost: \$95 (\$80 before May 1)

**Special Needs Day Camp**  
June 29-31 Cost: \$125 (\$110 before May 1)  
Cost overnight: \$165)

**Family Camp** The WHOLE family  
Aug. 19 – 21 Program fee: \$50/family (food & lodging extra)

Please return **ALL** registrations and deposits to the church office **before** May 1<sup>st</sup>.



## First Baptist Church Council Meeting

February 15, 2022

Present: Pastor John Kermott, John Rathbun(JDR), Lorri Deeke, Aaron Kooiker, Pat Comfort, JoDee Kyle, Joyce Romen  
Aaron opened meeting with devotion and prayer.

Joyce Roemen made the motion to accept minutes as written and John Rathbun (JDR) 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.

Consensus of the council is to hold monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month when Tuesday falls on the first of the month so as not to interfere with board meetings.

John Rathbun (JDR) made a motion to use line 116 in the budget for this year's leader's conference. Aaron Kooiker 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor John reported the All Church Retreat will focus on education on Prayer, such as a prayer tent, prayer walks, and First Baptist Church as a center to gather prayer requests. John (JDR) will speak at the retreat about deacon responsibility in part concerning evangelism and the possibility of First Baptist Church hosting Jordan St Cyr (Christian singer). Mark Copeland's ordination is February 20 during church service.

John Rathbun (JDR) reported the treasury balance is \$62,119.05.

\$1875 has been collected for the purchase of a motor bike for Greg Lentz. Pat Comfort reported there is a farewell celebration planned for Greg on April 3 in which Mt Pleasant Baptist Church will be participating. Details will be announced later.

Pat Comfort reported the M & E Board has been having an ongoing discussion regarding the evangelism part of our responsibilities and the idea that we, as a Board, need to do more in this area. This will be an ongoing discussion each month until we are able to develop this part of our responsibilities in ways that will benefit the congregation.

John (JDR) closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorri Deeke, clerk

## **Fairfield First Baptist All-Church Retreat - Pray it Forward**

February 20, 2022

Prayer songs on video were sung to start the meeting.

Pastor John spoke about how to develop a deeper prayer ministry. He mentioned 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 17; Rejoice always, pray continually.

Prayers leaders are Virgil Symmonds, Ray Woody, Sue Carr, Darrel Bisgard, and Margaret Wilson.

The focus will be on 3 kinds of ministry:

### **Prayer Walking:**

2 videos were shown on prayer walking. Then volunteers walked out the west entrance, walked through the parking lot around the fire station, restaurant, flower shop, and Arandas and returned to the church's East entrance. As we walked, we were to think of prayers that could be said concerning these places. Jason Crandall shared a way he prays when he goes out on an emergency. Sue Carr plans to walk to the schools and pray for the children and teachers. Darrel Bisgard mentioned maybe buttons or vests be worn by walkers.

### **Prayer Tent Ministry:**

Darrel Bisgard will lead this ministry. Let Darrel know if you will volunteer to help. A tent will be set up at a public gathering and at least 2 people will be there to pray with people who come to the tent. There will be no soliciting. Volunteers will talk with people about God and will pray with them if they desire prayer. Information about Fairfield First Baptist, Bibles, and other material will be available. The Prayer tent Ministry will make us visible and make us available to people's needs.

### **Prayer Request and Circulation:**

First Baptist will be a collection and circulation center of prayer requests. Pastor John said this will be developed further this year.

John (JDR) Rathbun spoke on evangelism and the power of prayer. He handed out a sheet of paper with 30 circles and asked what these reminded us of and gave 3 minutes to create something showing how different each person thinks. He pointed to 6 points as the base of prayer, Praise, priority, provision pardon, protection, praise using the Lord's Prayer.

Sunday school for children during adult Bible class was discussed at length. The conclusion is that right now there are too few children that will attend. Pastor John added the situation will be closely monitored to see if and when a program should begin. Also the Wednesday night Kids Zone and Sunday morning Kids Zone is well attended.

Submitted by Lorri Deeke

"I will praise you and testify about what you have done." PSALM 22:22

# TESTIMONY



**AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2022**

PLEASE GIVE TODAY! | [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)



## **AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING**

During the month of March, our church family will have the opportunity to participate in the first of four denominational offerings sponsored by the American Baptists, USA. The America for Christ Offering is using a theme from Psalm 22:22 – “I will praise you and testify about what you have done.” In this Psalm the psalmist tells about God's many acts of deliverance and rescue in tumultuous times.

During this past year, it has been clear that American Baptist partners throughout the USA and Puerto Rico have been serving in congregations and communities across this country as they creatively and faithfully respond to the diverse needs within their local contexts. During the next four weeks you will be able to read about some of their stories provided for you in our weekly bulletins. Make sure that you read about these folks and become acquainted with what ministries they are providing and also about some of the recipients of their faithful service.

Our goal this year for our church is \$600.00 Will you help to meet the needs of our American Baptist partners who are ministering to others who are hurting and lost? Think about the ravages of the Pandemic, tornados, wildfires, hunger, violence, poverty, homelessness etc., and other issues affecting people in horrific ways. The America for Christ assists persons who have been impacted by these things. Read more about this in the weekly bulletins and see how you can assist in this offering.