



First Baptist Church

306 E Divide Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-223-8614

Newsletter for Members & Friends of First Baptist Church

April 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Bob Weiss

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am

Church Office:

Monday thru Thursday
8:30 am – 1:00 pm
701-223-8614
firstbaptistbis@q.com
www.firstbaptist.faith

Volunteers for the Month of April

Flower Committee:

Joyce Allmedinger &
Deb Smith

Van Drivers:

Lloyd Gingery, Leo Heinz
&
Karlene Fine

Ushers:

Leo Heinz &
Renee Herman

Over the years I have collected stories and articles to use as sermon intros or illustrations. I came across this article in my files a few days ago. I can't remember where I got it or who gave it to me. Whether it is an actual event or a modern day parable, in light of our prayer focus lately it made me think.

TEXAS BEER JOINT SUES LOCAL CHURCH OVER LIGHTNING STRIKE!

A bar called Drummond's (in Mt Vernon, TX) began construction on an expansion of their building, hoping to grow their business.

In response, the local Southern Baptist Church started a campaign to block the bar from expanding – petitions, prayers, etc. About a week before the bar's grand reopening; a bolt of lightning struck the bar and burned it to the ground!

Afterward, the church folks were rather smug – bragging about “the power of prayer.” The angry bar owner eventually sued the church on grounds that the church “was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, through direct actions or indirect means.”

Of course, the church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise.

The judge read carefully through the plaintiff's complaint and the defendant's reply. He then opened the hearing by saying, “I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but it appears from the paperwork that what we have here is a bar owner who now believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that does not.”



6th Deb Smith
11th Caitlin Martin
12th Dan Rowinski
27th Kandy Kasper
28th Deogracias NGoma

If your Birthday is missing and you would like it added, please contact Shirley in the church office 223-8614 or firstbaptistbis@q.com.



Wednesday's

6:30-8:00 pm

April 3rd
"Parent night"

April 10th
"Regular night"

April 17
"Birthday night"

April 24th
"Regular night"

April is National Volunteer Month



First Baptist Church has some amazing volunteers!

We will always be thankful for having volunteers like you! Your tireless devotion to the congregation is a blessing and greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
~Sherry Anderson*

We will have an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday at 9:30 am for children through 5th grade. If you would like to help out by filling eggs (eggs and fillers provided) or hiding eggs Sunday morning, please let Kathy Martin know. We are hoping to have an outside hunt this year. Parents, if you do not want to take the plastic eggs home, we will have a container for them in the entryway. Just remember to empty them out first and take the goodies home.

Youth group kids are invited to help with the Easter breakfast. Further details will be coming soon.

Camp Sunday will be April 28th during the morning service. Wear your "camp" clothes and come prepared to have fun. We will be taking up a special offering for Camp Bentley scholarships and we will have all the information you need to apply for scholarships and register for camp.

FBC will be hosting Family Camp this year. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Make plans to attend now. It is July 12-14. If you have any ideas for activities for family camp, please give them to Kathy Martin as soon as possible. We have a small committee that will be planning Family Camp.

Marty Lundblad is now a Camp Bentley Board member representing FBC. Larry Martin has stepped down after many years on the board as a member and board chair. Thank you Larry for your years of dedication and service to Camp Bentley.





Long Term Prayer Needs

- Ann Schoepp
- Charlotte Martin
- Dale & Annette Eckstrom's granddaughter
- Edwyna McRaney
- Mary Ann Rauser
- Norma Eberle
- Sue Reuther
- The Congo

Please be in prayer for:

- Bruce Rauser
- Caryl Kaseman
- Deanna Hedegaard
- Family of Carl Malmgren
- Gary Lund- surgery
- Kari Kolstoe
- Ken Reichenberg -cancer treatment-Margret Malmgren's brother
- Lee Weiss-Pastor Bob brother
- Steven Hawley-Charlotte Martin's brother

Military Service

- Adam Vettel
(Norma Eberly's grandson)

Remember our Home Bound

- Ann Schoepp
- Charlotte Martin
- Curtis Funches
- Edwyna McRaney
- Mary Ann Rause
- Norma Eberly
- Shirley Zacher

If you have an on-going need for prayer, please contact the church office, so we can Include it in the newsletter.

Special Communion Service **April 19th** **7:00 pm**

GOOD FRIDAY



Southwest North Dakota

Child Evangelism Fellowship

Child Evangelism Fellowship of North Dakota Spring Banquet



Date: Sunday, April 28

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Ramkota Hotel

Featuring guest speaker, Todd Erickson, who serves as the state director for CEF of North Dakota.

Tickets are \$25. Per person. Reserve your ticket by contacting ambria.neshem@ndcef.com or 701-500-2829.

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

Easter is just a few weeks away and this year for the Lenten series we will be using the book "The Path to Forgiveness and Study Guide". Come and join us Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and learn about forgiveness.

The Lois Circle will be meeting Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. with Mavis Heinz as hostess. The Ruth Circle will not be meeting in the month of April.

First Baptist Church has launched a new website page. Please check us out regularly, as it is a new work-in-progress.



www.firstbaptist.faith

Sermons and weekly bulletins are available to our homebound members. If you would like one mailed to you, or know of someone that would enjoy receiving either, please contact the Church office.



If you are able, please visit or call our homebound.

“The homebound need to have fellowship brought to them. They miss their friends and the fellowship of other Church members.”

THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayers for Carl Malmgren and his family during his illness and his going home to heaven on March 3, 2019. Your cards, condolences and shared memories have been very much appreciated. We miss him but know that he is in a better place without the challenges that were happening to his earthly body. A point of joy was the safe arrival on March 22 of Carl and Marilyn’s second grandson. We praise God for this addition to Granny Margret’s list of great grandchildren.

Margret Malmgren, Chuck, Karlene and Katrina Fine

Happening this month

April 2	6:30 Church Leadership Meeting
April 3, 10, 17, 24	5:30 AWANA Family Meal
April 3, 10, 17, 24	6:30- 8:00 pm: AWANA and Youth
April 3, 10, 17, 24	7:00 pm Lenten Forgiveness Groups
April 4	1:00 pm Stonecroft Meeting
April 11, 18, 25	6:30 Worship Team Practice
April 10	1:00 Lois Circle Meeting
April 15	Tax Day
April 19	Office Closed
	7:00 pm Good Friday Service
April 21	Easter Sunday
	9:00 Easter Breakfast
	9:30 Easter egg Hunt
April 22	Newsletter Deadline
April 27	8:00 am Men’s Breakfast
April 28	Camp Sunday



“How to be Grateful”
the **R**
Receive from others

You will be a grateful person if you can learn to **R**eceive what others want and have to give to you. When people give, they want you to **R**eceive.

Being able to **R**eceive from others proves that you are humble and unselfish. Being able to **R**eceive from others will also create a “freeing” in your spirit

Do you have a Lenten practice?

Margaret Marcuson
Christian Citizen March 14, 2019

I did not grow up observing Lent. In our evangelical circles, giving up something for Lent was what Catholics did. We didn’t even observe Holy Week, jumping happily from Palm Sunday to Easter.

When I joined an American Baptist church in my twenties, I moved into a world where liturgy was not a bad word. I loved the little liturgical touches—the Advent candles, the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services—and the invitation to observe Lent in preparation for Easter. For me “giving something up” for Lent was an addition, not a sacrifice. I happily gave up ice cream, chocolate. I even gave up coffee one memorable year, when two bouts of flu right before Lent broke my real caffeine addiction and offered the chance to take on a sacrifice that seemed impossible before.

Every year I reflect prayerfully on what my practice should be. As my Lenten practice has matured, I now always know when I’ve hit it because my first thought is, “I don’t want to do *that*!” I’ve learned to lean into that feeling and take it on. Whether I’m giving something up or adding it on, I know this will be a real sacrifice.

Here are some of the practices that have been the most meaningful to me:

1) *Giving up genre fiction.* This was one of the biggest sacrifices of my journey with Lenten practices. Really. Genre fiction (romance, mystery and the occasional fantasy novel) is my biggest form of entertainment. I read it every single day. I’m in a book group which reads classic fiction, so I didn’t give up fiction entirely. But through that Lent I mostly read non-fiction, including some wonderful books, like Kathleen Norris’ *Acedia and Me: Marriage, Monks, and a Writer’s Life*—perfect reading for Lent.

2) *Giving away money every day.* This one I *really* didn’t want to do, but it fit perfectly with my own efforts toward greater spiritual freedom in relation to money. That year, on Ash Wednesday about 6:00 p.m. I said to my husband, “I haven’t given any money away today. I’m going to have to find something to do.” Moments later, the doorbell rang. On our door step was a woman who instantly said, “My daughter and I have just become homeless. Would you have any work I could do for pay?” My son had just given me a hundred-dollar bill to pay back some money he owed us. I knew what I should do, and I simply gave her that bill. But what she gave me was much more valuable—the opportunity to begin my practice with a real commitment. Through the days of Lent, I gave extra money to the *Street Roots* homeless publication vendors, to local nonprofits, to my kids. Sometimes it was easy and fun, and



Artists Celebrating Christ

April 5th thru 7th
Trinity Lutheran Church
3rd St & Ave A
Bismarck, ND

Event will include a juried art show, art workshops for students, adults and family groups, musical performances and artists demonstrations throughout the show. There will also be vendor booths and a silent auction.

Baptist Health Care Fundraising Banquet April 4, 2019

BANQUET

Marci Narum, owner of Inspired Woman LLC and magazine, will keynote the Baptist Health Care Reflection Fundraising Banquet on April 4, 2019.



Marci is a native of North Dakota. She grew up on a farm near Douglas where she and her three older brothers helped milk, feed, herd and chase the cows when they got out of the pasture. She learned the value of hard work--driving the tractor or the truck for her dad, hauling bales, and raising a garden with her mom.



Thursday, April 4, 2019
Century Baptist Church in Bismarck

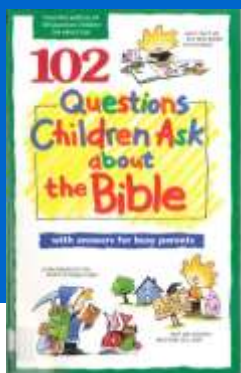
Registration starts at 6 pm
Dinner served at 6:30 pm

Reserve your free seat online:
<https://bit.ly/2QS714x>
or call (701) 989-7415

Did you know First Baptist Church has a library?

As a lover of books, history & reading, I am taking on the task of revitalizing the FBC Library. Stop by and check out a book.

Book of the month



sometimes it was a challenge. At one point, I thought, “Is Lent *ever* going to be over?” However, the practice helped me toward greater awareness of those in need around me and greater generosity.

3) *Online news*. I took on this practice last year. I’ve written about it before for *The Christian Citizen*. It felt hard to take on, but it turned out to be the easiest Lenten sacrifice I’ve ever made. I felt happier instantly. I haven’t gone back. I do read the news, but in a contained, bounded format like a newspaper or newsmagazine. Online news and 24-hour television news coverage have no boundaries, so we need to create boundaries for ourselves. That’s a spiritual practice.

Here’s what I’m doing this year: I’m going back to 20 minutes of meditation daily. My husband is looking for a job, and the more spiritually grounded I can remain, the better. Meditating is not as sexy as giving away money, but it’s a practice I need. I’ve done it before, and I’ve been meditating for about 5 minutes a day so I’m already in the habit. Most important: I feel the resistance—(“I don’t want to do *that!*”)—that is the sign I’m on the right track spiritually.

I’m grateful for the season of Lent, and these practices that have helped me be more aware, more thoughtful, and more free. Have you taken on a Lenten practice this year? Whether you take something on or give something up, it’s not too late to begin.

Please Join Our Prayer Chain

Pray
without
ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

If you would like to join the First Baptist Church “Prayer Chain” please submit your email address to the Church Office at firstbaptistbis@q.com

Beach Break

**A 3-Day Youth Conference
Join Us June 21-23 in
Virginia Beach**

American Baptist pastors, youth leaders and youth are invited to bring your youth groups to Beach Break: A 3-Day Youth Conference! The event, running in conjunction with the American Baptist Churches USA Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach, Va., June 21-23, 2019, will be a whole new way to experience the Biennial - while the adults are down the street, the youth will be playing games, enjoying the beach, immersing themselves in live worship, engaging in service activities and learning from guest speakers.



Please be in prayer for the planning team of this event, as they work hard to ensure that everything will be in place for attendees ranging in age from Kindergarten through twelfth grades.



Easter Morning Activities

Come join us on Easter morning, April 20.

Breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. and will be served until approximately 9:40 a.m. Ralph Layton has agreed to cook that morning and the youth will be assisting with the serving of the meal. A free will offering will be taken with any monies received over the cost of the meal being donated to the youth for their activities. There will be no Sunday School that morning to allow everyone the opportunity to participate in this time of fellowship. Come for breakfast, stay for the Easter Egg Hunt (children up to 5th grade) and Worship at 10:00 a.m.



The Legacy of the Hopevale Missionaries

December 20, 2018 marked a historic event; the 75th Anniversary of the martyrdom of 11 missionaries of the Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS, now known as International Ministries) in the Philippines during the World War II.

This tragedy has deeply affected American and Filipino Baptists alike and on the anniversary, over 400 people made the pilgrimage to the remote area where these missionaries spent the last months of their lives.

Their Story

ABFMA missionaries James and Charma Covell were serving as teachers in Japan when the war broke out. As the country became increasingly militarized, they felt convicted that this conflict ran counter to the teachings of Jesus and they could not remain silent.

The Covells' open defiance was a source of danger not only to themselves, but also



How good are you at forgiving?
Would you be willing to commit
to the next four weeks during
Lent, to going deeper and
learning more about
forgiveness and how to
become a better forgiver?

Using the book "The Path to
Forgiveness" and the new "Path
to Forgiveness Study Guide";
the small groups will meet
for the next four Thursday at
7:00 pm for 1 hour.

If you are interested in being part
of this Lent Forgiveness
Challenge, please talk to Pastor
Bob or Preston VanLoon.

to other Baptists in Japan. For safety, James and Charma were relocated to the Philippine island of Panay, where 19 other ABFMA missionaries had an established ministry. Unfortunately, the Japanese military was not far behind.

With invading forces closing in, 10 of the missionaries decided to stay and surrender. The rest reached out to a Filipino pastor they knew and he took them deep into the jungle to find a suitable hiding place. They stopped at the bottom of a ravine surrounded by thick forest and call this place "Hopevale".

Over the next 20 months, Hopevale became a waystation for Americans fleeing the Japanese forces. Its presence was a closely guarded secret, but the steady stream of refugees was an undeniable risk. Eventually, an American miner was captured and under torture he gave up the location.

On December 19, 1943 the little camp was overtaken. No one escaped.

The leader of the arrest platoon, a captain was attempting to contact his superiors about what to do with the missionaries. Before he could proceed, however, his group was intercepted by another platoon-this one lead by a colonel, a higher ranking officer. Overruling the captain's protests, the colonel demanded that the prisoners be killed.

James Covell begged the officers for their lives, indicating that they were missionaries and not soldiers, but he was refused. He asked to be taken to the internment camp. This was also refused. Seeing no other options, he requested a time to prepare for his death. This was granted.

The condemned prisoners, 11 adults and one couple's young son, clasped hands and prayed, then lifted their voices to sing a hymn. Finally, James Covell said, "Now we are ready". They were taken to separate sites, two by two and executed.

Their legacy

As word of this tragedy spread, even as Baptists mourned the loss, people throughout the Philippines were deeply touched by the martyrs' faith and many came to Christ. Even today, this legacy continues to animate the spirit of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches. For the 75th Anniversary, the Convention organized a four-day time of remembrance. A group of eight represented IM at the event to commemorate this part of our shared history. Leslie Turley, area director for Southeast Asia and Japan, recalls, "It was a sobering time as we look back at the tragic death of missionaries who had given all in service to God and the people of the Philippines. But what shines though is the amazing triumph of our God who lived in the hearts and lives of those who bore witness to his goodness and faithfulness as they went to their deaths singing hymn of faith".

While few are called to make such a sacrifice, the Hopevale martyrs remind us that we must give witness to the power of the Holy Spirit every day of our lives, no matter the cost. If you are seeking to revitalize the spirit of your church, remember the Hopevale missionaries.



"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13