



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

Bringing Hope by Sharing God's Love

April 2018

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

April Church Calendar

Join us for Worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Copies of the new FBC Directory of Members and Friends are on the narthex table.

The March, April, May edition of *Our Daily Bread* are on the Narthex table.

Sun., Apr. 1 – Easter Sunday - Communion shared, and Easter Potluck Brunch follows service – everyone welcome!

Tues., Apr. 3 – Before, During & After Incarceration Family and Friends Fellowship Meal begins at 5:30

Sun., Apr. 8 – Church Council meeting following worship

Sun., Apr. 8, Apr. 15, Apr. 22 – Hygiene Pantry collection for Love INC/Jubilee House

Tue., Apr. 10 at 10 a.m. AB Women's Mission meeting, coffee and pastries provided

Apr. 22, 23, 24 – ABC-MI Clergy Retreat in Dewitt

Sun., May 6 – Communion Shared and May birthdays/anniversaries celebrated



What Does Worship Mean to YOU?

By Pastor MaryBeth Robertson

So come, let us worship: bow before God, on your knees before the Lord, who made us! Psalm 95:6

There will be no Easter service this year. WAIT!! Look at the calendar! Easter falls on April 1—April Fool's Day. So quickly read on: "April Fool's!" We will worship together—this Sunday, April 1, to celebrate Christ's resurrection. We don't usually associate Easter and being a fool. And yet, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 that the message of the cross seems to be foolishness by earthly criteria. We celebrate God's choice to send Jesus—God With Us—to live among us teaching us about God's love. And the ultimate act of that love was to go to the cross. God's victory comes through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection three days later. We gather to celebrate God's victory for each of us! We gather to worship together as God's beloved people.

As God's people, we gather in worship, bringing praise and honor to our Lord. What constitutes "worship?" Each of us has an expectation of when to worship and how we worship. Too often, one of the quickest ways to cause conflict in a congregation is to suggest a change in the time of the service! Too often, conflict arises when the elements of the worship service are changed: what hymns or songs do we sing? What instruments do we allow in our service? Can it really be a worship service without a sermon? Without the Lord's Prayer?

Perhaps one explanation for so many different denominations and faith groups can be traced to differences in worship preferences. Each of us becomes familiar, and thus comfortable, with certain ways of worshipping.

Following our Easter worship at the beginning of April, we will explore additional approaches to worship. Our



Join us following worship on
EASTER SUNDAY, April 1

March 18 service introduced us to this by focusing on worship through prayer. While worship can be done individually (and should be), we also are called to come together as a body of believers. In Hebrews 10:25 we are urged to encourage one another and not to avoid worshipping together . . . we are the family of God, the body of Christ. Perhaps our first question as we address worship, then, is “How do we form community?”

Throughout the rest of the month, we’ll experience worship through scripture and proclamation, worship through music and worship through giving (time, talent, treasure). If you have questions about worship, please give those to me. If you have favorite music or hymns or songs, please tell me what those are so we can include some of them in our worship services. If you have suggestions for something you would like to include in our worship together, again, please tell me.

Our worship is to glorify God, to offer our praises and honor to God for who God is and how much God loves us. What can we include in our worship services that draws you closer to God and enables you to praise and glorify God?

In Christ,

Pastor MaryBeth



April Birthdays

- Apr. 2 – John Reid
- Apr. 4 – Angel Wares
- Apr. 6 – Jim Cowley
- Apr. 8 - Rev. Bob Shaw
- Apr. 14 – Tana Wilsey
- Apr. 18 – Cliff Wares
- Apr. 19 – Sarah Walter
- Apr. 25 – Leanna Wares
- Apr. 26 – Ann Hains, Katie (Fleet) Martin
- Apr. 27 – Maggie Solis
- Apr. 28 – Carl Stephens
- Apr. 29 – Connie Sargent

The Following are April sermon titles and scripture.

Please join us every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



April 1 Easter Sunday - *He is Alive!*
John 20:1-18

April 8 *Living in the Family of God*
Hebrews 10:25

April 15 *Worship: Scripture, Proclamation*
1 Chronicles 16:23-36

April 22 *Worship: Through Music*
Psalm 150

April 29 *Worship: Through Giving*
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

FBC Financial Update

YTD General Fund: \$10,735.19 through March
YTD Expenses: \$8,119.14 through February
YTD Missions: \$953 through March

American Baptist Women’s Missions Society

By Juanita Strait

ABWM Society is excited to reconvene now that the winter months are behind us. We look forward to the return of our snowbird friends, and hope you all had an enjoyable winter season. The ABWM Society will meet on **Tuesday, April 10 at 10 a.m.** Coffee, tea, and coffeecake will be provided. We invite all women of the church to join us for fellowship, devotions, and a short business meeting.

A few new items we will be discussing include a possible rummage/garage sale this summer, and possibly having another women’s tea. I look forward to another great year as we strive to do God’s work in our community and in all mission fields.

Remember the REAL Meaning of Easter

By Marian Larson

Do you enjoy biting the ears off your chocolate Easter bunny? Wait a minute. How did he get to be a part of Easter? What does the Easter bunny have to do with the resurrection of our Lord? I had to look it up!

It all originated with the German Lutherans in the fifteenth century when the Easter hare was thought to be the judge of whether children were naughty. This theory merged with pagan beliefs. In the year 1680 it was believed that the Teutonic deity, Eastma, was the goddess of spring and stemming from this belief came the first story of a rabbit laying eggs. There is no story in the Bible about a rabbit laying eggs, so what does the Easter bunny have to do with the resurrection? Nothing.

The Easter egg has a pre-Christian history; it's uncertain about how it became associated with Easter. How about other Easter traditions?

What about Easter lilies? A flower called the Madonna lily was believed to have grown in the garden of Gethsemane, symbolizing rebirth, purity and innocence. In 1880 the Bermuda lily replaced the Madonna Lily as they were easy to force into bloom at Easter time.



Hot Cross Buns, the warm, spicy, fruity, yeast rolls decorated with a cross on the top, are traditional for Good Friday in memory of Jesus' crucifixion on the cross. Good Friday was not recognized until the fourth century.

Easter was first celebrated in AD 325 as a special day to celebrate the Christ's resurrection. The date varies from year to year depending on the March equinox. So enjoy your bunny ears or chocolate eggs, but always remember the real meaning of Easter.

A special thanks to Jan Stephens, Harold and Tana Wilsey, and Robin Murray/AB Women's Mission Society for providing Easter lilies to First Baptist Church

Doubts and Fears

By Velma Wiebe

Doubts and fears are normal emotions for everyone occasionally have. But what does the Bible say about doubts and fear?

One type of fear is the fear of God. "The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear Him, and delivers them." Psalm 34:7 Also, "A woman that fears the Lord should be praised." Proverbs 31:36.

The other type of fear is when we doubt God's wonderful words of love, watchcare, and protection. Like Peter, as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he, too, was able to walk on the water as he came to Jesus, but when he felt the boisterous wind and waves he was fearful and began to sink. Then, Peter cried out to Jesus saying, "Lord, save me!" Immediately, Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him, and said unto him, "Oh thou of little faith, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:28-31



It is even possible to doubt that the entire word of God should be believed in and obeyed. Sometimes this happens when we don't understand God's word, and therefore, we put a different meaning in its place. This is called "taking away from or adding to" God's word. Here are some verses that make these things more clear: II Peter 1:21, II Timothy 3:16, Revelation 22:18-19.

I share these truths with you because as I look up these Biblical references it helps me to be an overcomer, and a stronger Christian - and they are things I have had on my mind. I hope you also find them helpful!

"Doubts and fears end when faith begins"

Our Daily Bread



Recap of March 11 Church Council Meeting

By Zeke Fleet

On Sunday, March 11, the church council held a special meeting to discuss some issues pertaining to the church treasurer position, church council seats, possible bylaw actions and Pastor MaryBeth's annual review.

- Church council approved an agreement to utilize the services of JL Stephan Co. for bookkeeping services, beginning in March. These services include accounts payable, offering management, reporting and payroll.
- Actions may need to be made in our church bylaws to reflect the temporary vacancies of the church treasurer position and the temporary change in the number of church council seats.

These actions will be on the agenda of the April 8 council meeting. Proposed bylaw changes will be presented to the congregation for approval

- The FBC staff-relations committee finished the annual review process for pastor MaryBeth, and will discuss the outcome at the April 8 council meeting.
- Council approved the specifics of the agreement with Mingo Garza, who began work as church custodian in late February.
- FBC members are invited to talk with Pastor MaryBeth or Zeke if interested in joining the church council.
- The next church council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 8 following worship.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1Thessalonians 5:16-18



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