



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

Furthering the Good News of Jesus and Reaching New People for the Kingdom of God

APRIL 2017

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

April / May Church Calendar

Each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. – Worship gathering with children’s program downstairs during the message.

Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. *Exploring the Seven Churches of Revelation.* **Adult Sunday School** series will be led by Joe Underwood.

Each Monday at 9:30 a.m. - Group Bible Study

Sun., Apr. 2 – Communion shared and April birthdays celebrated.

Mon., Apr. 3 – **Crafting Party.** Snacks at 5:30 p.m. and crafting begins at 6. Participants are encouraged to work on crafts for the April 15 sale.

Tues., Apr. 11 – **AB Women’s Missions Group** meets at 12-noon at the church.

Apr. 9 – **Palm Sunday**

Apr. 13 – **Maundy Thursday**

Apr. 14 – Community **Good Friday service** at Central United Methodist Church, noon to 3 p.m.

Sat., Apr. 15 – **Easter Baked Goods and Rummage Sale** in the church basement from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun., April 16 – **Easter Sunday**, followed by potluck – sign-up sheet is on the fellowship room table.

Looking ahead . . .

Sat., May 6 at 1 p.m. – Memorial service for Vadene Barshney.

Sun., May 14 – Missionaries Jon and Amanda Good will be with us to share their work in Hungary.

Sun., May 21 – Church Council meets following worship

Sat., July 22 – Memorial service for Margaret Underwood.



New Life in Christ

*A Word from
Pastor MaryBeth Robertson*

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

It has been three months since I began serving as your called pastor. It has been 14 months since I preached the first sermon at FBC, coming as a representative of ABC-Michigan. These have been months of worshiping together, praying for one another and, most recently, breaking bread together in fellowship meals

Easter is the time we celebrate the new life Jesus’ death and resurrection offer us. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we can choose to live victorious lives here and now. We don’t have to live in defeat; we don’t have to be downcast. Jesus’ death gave victory over the “prince of this world.” If, through Christ, we can live victoriously and can anticipate eternal life, shouldn’t we want the very same for all people? Shouldn’t we be offering this same hope to those living as without hope? Isn’t this the mission of the church—all churches, all churches?

How do we offer hope, connect people with God’s love for them? The days of opening the church doors and expecting people to flock in are in the past. Those times will not return in the same way we once experienced them. Instead, we are called to open the church doors and go out, go out into the “highways and byways” and invite all to the Lord’s banquet (Luke 14:23). We must go to those hurting and in need of God’s love.

I have a couple of suggestions for you to consider. Host a fellowship meal in your home. A colleague is encouraging those he knows to host "Jesus Parties," a meal for 6-8 to which the host invites friends, family, neighbors. A combination of those who attend church and those who don't offers opportunities for outreach and lively conversation. One of the professors at Northern Seminary has hosted a similar gathering on a weekly schedule, inviting the same group each week and talking about the concerns they all have and where faith and the Bible fit into their lives. A second possibility would be to host a Bible study group in your home. One ABC-MI church no longer has adult Sunday School classes meeting at the church on Sunday mornings. Instead, adult Bible study groups meet in homes on a schedule that best fits that group's members.

God's family is described in Acts 2:42: fellowship, teaching, prayer. As we become friends with those beyond our church, sharing concerns of our daily lives, eventually the door to the hearts of those who don't know Christ as Savior might be opened to the Good News. Our mission is connecting people with God's love; let's be creative!

Yours in Christ -

Pastor MaryBeth

Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Sermon Titles and Scripture

April 2 - Our Words Hurt

James 3; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

April 9 - The King is Coming

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44;
John 12:12-19

April 16 - He's Alive!

John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8;
Luke 24:1-12

April 23 - Did the Disciples "Get It"? Do We?

John 9:1-12

April 30 - What Does New Life Look Like?

Colossians 1:9-14

April Birthdays



April 2 – John Reid
 April 4 – Angel Wares
 April 6 – Jim Cowley
 April 9 – Bob Shaw
 April 14 – Tana Wilsey
 April 18 – Cliff Wares
 April 19 – Sarah Walter
 April 25 – Leanna Wares
 April 26 – Ann Hains and Katie Martin
 April 27 - Maggie Solis
 April 29 - Connie Sargent

FBC Financial Update

YTD General Fund Income: \$13,815.46
 YTD Expenses: \$6,209.80 (through Feb.)
 YTD Missions Offering: \$1,559
 Furnace Fund: \$7,385 to date

About Grace

By Velma Wiebe

Gifts are always appreciated, especially when we know that we are undeserving of them. The word "grace" means "unmerited favor." That's what God did when He willingly gave His very own Son for our salvation. What love!

But God commends His love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). Thank you, Lord, for your wonderful gift!

Here are a couple of verses that remind us of what we can hope for in Him:

- May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, and that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost (Rom.15:13).
- That He would grant you, according to the riches of His Glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man. (Ephesians 3:16). Let's just stop and meditate on the wonderful gift God gave us!

I think that giving thanks and praising God can change our lives – “Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful work to the children of men!” Psalm 107:21
God Bless!

Lest We Forget
By Marian Larson

April 9, 1942, seventy-five years ago, was the day of the surrender of the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines to the Japanese. During World War II, two days after the Pearl Harbor bombing, the Japanese began their invasion of the Philippines. By April, Gen. Wainwright's army, lacking naval and air support, and crippled by starvation and disease, began withdrawing to Corregidor in Manila Bay. Seventy-five thousand Filipino and American troops were trapped by the Japanese and were forced to surrender. The forced 65 mile walk, aptly named “death march”, was designed to kill, brutalize, weaken, and demoralize the men. Those men subsisted on one meal of rice daily and endured the atrocities committed by the Japanese guards. Ten-thousand men died during that march which ended at the infamous prison camp where they spent 40 months in horrifying conditions.

“There are no atheists in fox holes” was from a field sermon on Bataan Peninsula.

In his book “Ghost Soldiers” by Hampton Sides, he describes the effort in 1945 to rescue the remaining 513 POW survivors of the march who were wasting away in that diabolical camp. This is a book everyone should read.

American Baptist Women's Missions Report
By Juanita Strait

All women of the church are invited to attend AB Women's Missions Group meetings. Our next meeting is Tues., Apr. 11 at noon in the fellowship room. Dessert will be provided.

The Easter Craft, Baked Goods, and Rummage Sale is scheduled for Sat., Apr. 15 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Contact Sandy Hampel, [946-4323](tel:946-4323) or Juanita Strait, [941-5264](tel:941-5264) for more information. We appreciate all donations. Please be sure rummage sale items are in working order and presentable for sale. At this time we ask that no clothing or electronics be donated. We appreciate all the love and time that will go into your baking and crafting. Some ladies will be working on craft

projects for our Easter fundraiser at the April craft gathering on Mon., Apr. 3. Please bring your own project or contact Toni Hulett as she may have a few project kits left. Snacks are served 5:30 p.m. - bring your own dish to pass and crafting to begin at 6.

Funds raised have supported our American Baptist state, national, and international missions. We continue to roll and send bandages. We have supported locally Love INC, and the Coalition Against Sex Trafficking).

Notes of Interest

- Invite your friends and family to join us for Easter Sunday worship. A potluck brunch will follow.
- Thank you for your generosity! The recent coin offering taken to purchase a rug for our Junior Church classroom totaled \$199.13.
- Sign-up sheets for “Get Acquainted Meals” with Pastor MaryBeth are on the table in the fellowship room.
- Hot water heaters are being installed in the men's and women's restrooms.
- Hygiene Pantry collection for Love INC and Jubilee House is in progress; the collection box is in the narthex. Please consider donating small sizes of toothpaste and brushes, bar soap, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner.
- The FBC staff relations committee (Pastor MaryBeth, Dave Wilsey, Robin Murray, and Zeke Flee)t held their initial meeting on March 22. The group acts as an intermediary between the pastor and congregation.
- Plans are in the works for FBC “movie nights” that will be open to everyone. Please consider inviting friends and family to join us!
- Church council is looking at best practices for greeting and retaining church visitors.
- Missionaries Jon and Amanda Good and family will visit FBC on May 14 to speak about their work in Hungary.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Join us in supporting the
HYGEINE PANTRY
Assisting those in need in
Grand Traverse County

Please donate small-size shampoo,
conditioner, bar soap, toothpaste
and brushes. Collection box is in
the narthex.

Invite your kids and
grandkids to
Junior Church



Bible lessons
Games
Crafts
Each Sunday at 11 a.m.



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