

April 2019

Celebrating Easter by Going!

The first step in making disciples is to go... Matthew 28:19 says, “Therefore, go and make disciples...” Going implies that a mission that has been given to the church. This mission is described in a parallel account as becoming witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). It is always the right time to invite others to come with you to a worship service, but this is especially true on Easter. It will be a time of celebration as we rest our hope in the resurrected Jesus, who is alive today and waiting for the time when the Father tells Him to go get His bride (the Church). I want to challenge you to make this Easter a time where you do more than just celebrate, but you engage in mission. Here is what I am challenging you to do:



EASTER CHALLENGE

1. Ask God to lay three people on your heart that you can invite to one of our Easter services.
2. Write the names of those three people down and make a point to pray for them.
3. Invite them to come join you in whatever service you are attending.
4. Give them an invitation card (provided at the welcome center) as a reminder.

The Book of Hebrews has been describing to us the beauty of the Gospel as well as a call to endure in faith. In April and May, we will be exploring chapter 11 (the faith chapter), and discovering that the life we are called to live is one of faith in the power, presence, and promises of God. For many, inviting people to come with them to church will be a huge act of faith, but I believe it is worth the risk. We have been rescued by Jesus and have now been entrusted with the Good News of the Gospel. That in and of itself should be motive enough to take this challenge, but let me offer two more. First, it is a tangible way to show to others that you care about their soul. Finally, joy will be the result of engaging God's mission. So what do you say? Are you ready to engage? Will you take the challenge?



Lift Training - April 13th

On April 13th from 8am-12pm, Life Matters Worldwide will be providing a workshop on the LIFT Ministry. This workshop will include what LIFT is, why it is important in the local church, and how you as an individual can engage in the care ministry of others here at FBC. The training will be both informative and practical. We encourage anyone thinking about how they can use their desire to serve and care for others for the glory of God in the church to be at the Lift Training. The only cost for the training is your time! You are invited to stay for lunch after the training to debrief about the training. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Online giving is now available. Just go to www.fbcclowell.org and click on the Online Giving picture on the front page. This will take you to the spot where you can give online. You can give by ACH (this is FBC's

preference) or by credit/debit card. You can also set it up as a regular donation that automatically comes out of your account each month. We use Stripe which is a secure and reputable company that services many churches around the USA. We prefer that people use ACH as it is only a \$.25 transaction fee as opposed to the higher fees associated with using a credit or debit card.



April 14 we will have a **Faith Path Legacy Workshop for Parent/Child Dedication**. The workshop will be held in Room 15 (at the bottom of the steps, near the pop machine).

This workshop is for parents who are interested in dedicating themselves to raising their children in a Godly home. We will look at what is the dedication process and why we choose to dedicate parents and children. This class is for any family that would like to take this step and dedicate their themselves to raising Godly children.

The dedication service will be on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12, during the worship service.

Next Workshop: May 12 Prayer

[Dis · ci · ple]

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children”

— Ephesians 5:1

God is clear: his people must “do justice” (Micah 6:8). Certainly, we could add to that list. But it would be dangerous for us to minimize or neglect the importance of justice. What then is “justice”? Although the term is used in a variety of contexts, one of the primary meanings of the word refers to someone’s legal claim or to what is due to them. It exists when people are treated fairly and without favoritism. To do justice is to give people what they deserve.

Doing justice is one God’s defining qualities: “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing” (Deut. 10:17-18). God does justice, but he has particular concern for the fatherless, the widow, and the sojourner. These people represent the most vulnerable in society, and therefore those who are most likely to suffer from injustice because they rarely have the resources to defend themselves. God is particularly concerned that the vulnerable are treated equitably.



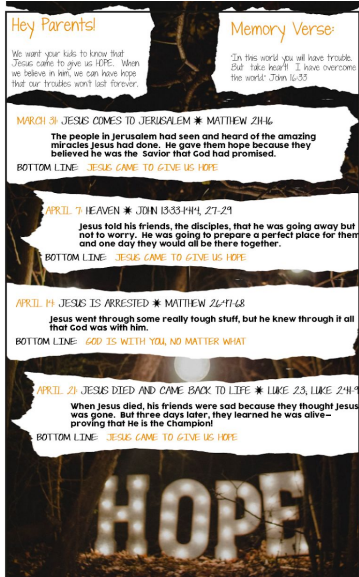
As disciples, we are called to imitate God. We must also do justice. Ezekiel 18:5-9 describes a person who “does what is just and right.” This person keeps God’s laws. He does not worship idols. He does not commit adultery. He does not steal. But he also does something else: he “gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment” (v. 7). He is *generous*. And God does not consider providing for the powerless and vulnerable simply an act of charity. It is justice. To do justice then is to leverage any power, position, or privilege we have in order to care for the vulnerable.

But our natural tendency is precisely the opposite. We use our power and privilege to make sure we and our families are safe and comfortable. But justice requires that we leverage these things not for ourselves but for others. Perhaps we may even have to give them up. But we can’t. We won’t. How then can we become people who do justice? Deuteronomy 10 provides the answer. In vv. 17-18, God calls himself the great, awesome God, who executes justice. He commands his people to do the same “for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt” (v. 19).

The only motivation for true justice is the gospel. We will be just people only when we are amazed by what Jesus did for us. He gave up his power, position, and privilege as the Son of God and took the place of rebellious sinners on the cross. Jesus loved the weak, the vulnerable, the powerless. If we do not see ourselves as weak, vulnerable, and powerless because of sin, we cannot accept the gospel. But when we do accept the gospel, we must be people who care for the vulnerable. Then we will be doing what God requires of us: justice.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FAMILY TAKE AWAY - HOPE



This month at the Faith@Home Center - the Family Take Away is on Hope. This month, as we focus in on the death and resurrection of Jesus, we would love to help your family focus on why Jesus came to the earth and died on the cross. He did this to give us hope. The Family Take Away this month includes Bible passages to read with your family, as well as Easter Story stones for your family. These story stones can be used in several ways to help your child (at any age) engage in the Easter Story. **Pick up a Family Take Away and a Story Stones Bag, today.**

Additional resources are also available at the Faith@Home Center that you can use to further help your family deepen their relationship with Christ. The books are for you to borrow and return, so that other families can enjoy them. All the pamphlets are available for you to take home and keep or share with others.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Egg Hunt April 20



Thanks to all who have donated candy and filled eggs!!! If you have bags of eggs that you are filling, please return them by April 14. Don't forget to invite friends and neighbors to come and join in on the fun, as we celebrate our risen Lord!!!

VBS June 9-13 - SAVE THE DATE

This is always a special week - we have the opportunity to share to gospel with the children of our community. You won't want to miss this chance to serve!



FBC Youth

Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church family,

March was the first month that we had no snow days and so finally had a full month of youth group. That means that we were finally able to go through a full month with our new curriculum and new schedule. We focused on the doctrine of creation this month, guided by the following questions: "How and why did God create us?" and "What else did God create?" Mike Sullivan taught during the first week and explained what it means to be made in the image of God and how amazing it is that God created out of nothing. On the second Monday, we studied the creation account in Genesis 1:1-2:3 in our respective small groups. On the third week, we had two large group discussions about the month's theme. And then on the last Monday of the month, we had an extended time of praise and prayer. We sang several songs together and spent some time praying through the Lord's Prayer together.

I was especially encouraged this past week by all of the students who are involved in music on Monday evenings. Steve has done an excellent job in recruiting and encouraging students to get involved and to use and develop their gifts. He has also been creating space for students to take more ownership in music on Monday nights. From those who pick the songs to those on stage to those who help with sound and slides, I love seeing our students involved and being responsible to serve in so many ways.

- Pastor Andrew



MISSIONARY CORNER

Our showcased missionaries this month are Ronald and Chris Self. They are in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This past Sunday they had three visitors from Venezuela, and two more in the evening. Please pray that they can effectively minister to each one and that they come back this Sunday.

They are going to be beginning a New Members class in two weeks for several who are interested in joining the church and baptism. Pray for them as they continue to preach the gospel and make disciples in accordance with God's command.

Due to several eye surgeries, Ronald has very poor depth perception. Many of the sidewalks in Argentina are uneven which cause him to trip and fall quite frequently. This week as he was making a hospital call he tripped over a half inch curb that he didn't see. He fell on the sidewalk injuring both wrists, a knee, and damaging some cartilage in his rib-cage while trying to recover his balance. Prayers for a quick and complete recovery and better depth perception.

Last week they held the first of 5 weddings coming up in their church during the next year. They are so thankful for the many young families that God has raised up to continue the work here in the next generation. The picture to the right is of that ceremony.



Continue to be in prayer for the Ronald and Chris Self.

Building and Grounds

Greetings from Building and Grounds!

Last month I said that we may be seeing green grass and robins by now. I think we have everything except the green in the grass. I have great confidence that it will be green within the next month. Spring is here. That being said, I have many flower beds and parking islands that will soon be in need of a little clean up, weed pulling and fresh mulch. If you would like to adopt one of these areas please let me know. If you had an area last year and would like to keep the same, please let me know also.



With the weather warming up it also becomes the season for those pesky little insects. We do a pretty good job keeping them at bay, but your help is needed. If you see a food or drink spill please clean it up or let me know. It's far easier to prevent issues than it is to treat them.

If there is an area that you would like to help with around the buildings or the grounds, please let me know! I would be happy to utilize the able body God has blessed you with.

God bless,
Russ Race - Building and Grounds



Good Friday Service: April 19th @ 7pm **Egg Hunt:** April 20th @ 11am
Easter Services: April 21st @ 9am & 10:45am

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 2019

Birthdays		Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Teresa Ingraham	4/01	George Raimer	4/18	* Tim & Laura Compton	4/19
Jacob Dusendang	4/04	Michelle Bosscher	4/19	David & Dawn Milley	4/27
Madeleine Haines	4/06	Stephen Mills	4/19		
Kim Race	4/06	Arietta Crain	4/20		
Wendy Tenney	4/06	Eliana Kalee	4/20		
Lydia Benjamin	4/07	Brian Roush	4/20		
Jim White	4/07	Trent Chipman	4/23		
Gail Blanchard	4/08	Gracie Phillips	4/24		
Rachel Benjamin	4/09	Mike Roberts	4/25		
Felicia Rash	4/09	Randy Wieland	4/25		
Pastor Taylor	4/09	Michael Crain	4/26		
Grace Postema (M.K.)	4/12	Joshua Milley	4/26		
Barb Antles	4/13	Lauren Swain	4/26		
* John Dannenberg	4/16	Chris Runstrom	4/27		
Lori Gerard	4/16	* Wolfgang Grotendiek	4/29		
Sheila McQueen	4/16	Evelyn Zalis	4/30	* Missionary	

April Reading Plan

Week 1 <i>Starting on April 1</i>	Week 2 <i>Starting on April 8</i>	Week 3 <i>Starting on April 15</i>	Week 4 <i>Starting on April 22</i>	Week 5 <i>Starting on April 29</i>
Day 1: Luke 23:32-42	Day 1: John 19:28-30	Day 1: John 20:24-29	Day 1: Heb. 11:4-7	Day 1: Heb. 11:8-22
Day 2: Psalm 51	Day 2: John 12:20-36	Day 2: John 5:16-47	Day 2: Gen. 4:1-16	Day 2: Gen. 12:1-9
Day 3: Psalm 130	Day 3: John 4:31-38	Day 3: John 10:22-42	Day 3: Gen. 5:22-24	Day 3: Gen. 15:1-21
Day 4: Psalm 32	Day 4: John 6:35-40	Day 4: John 12:37-50	Day 4: Gen. 6:9-7:24	Day 4: Gen. 17:15-19; 18:9-15; 21:1-7
Day 5: Matt. 18:9-14	Day 5: John 17:1-19	Day 5: John 14:1-14	Day 5: Gen. 8:1-9, 19	Day 5: Gen. 22:1-19

April Memory Verse: Luke 23:39-43

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

FBC Calendar: April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids 4:00pm: Missions Team Meeting	7:00am: Basketball 5:30pm: Family Matters Team 7:00pm: Children's Ministry Team	10:00am: Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00am: Basketball
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am: Morning Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	8:30am: Men's Bible Study 10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids 6:15pm: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: MOPS 7:00pm: Admin Mt. 7:00pm: Mercy Mt.		7:00am: Basketball
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am: Morning Service Communion 11:00am: Quarterly Business Meeting	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids 6:15pm: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 11:00am: Prime Time	10:00am: Prayer Shawl Ministry 12pm: Community CrossWalk 7pm: Good Friday Service	11:00am: Annual Egg Hunt
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter Services 9am & 10:45am	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 6pm: Tae Kwon Do 7:00pm: Elder's Mt.	8:30am: Men's Bible Study 10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids 6:15am: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: MOPS 6:30pm: Ladies Coffee Break		7:00am: Basketball
28	29	30				
9:30am: Morning Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do				