

Good News Letter

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Easter is upon us, that most blessed time of the year for Christians. We observe Lent and Passion, which confronts us with the value of the life we have been given. The Bible gives us images of conflict and betrayal, sacrifice and love, the final meal, trials, and execution. Through these images we learn about the quest for meaning, and liberation from guilt and emptiness and death.

While this observance happens, Spring is coming, the days lengthen and the temperature gets warmer as the annual display of regeneration takes place right before our eyes. And it all leads to the grand celebration of forgiveness and resurrection at Easter, such a wonderful and meaningful time of the year.

Meanwhile, life goes on. There are so many concerns that it can be overwhelming to think about, but perhaps the most troubling involves the larger worldwide problems that we hear about on the news, often news about strife and division. We have lived under the threat of destruction for so long it is wearing on us, making us cranky, and less able to get along with people different from ourselves, and it is making us afraid.

In the face of these circumstances we faithfully attend to prayer, worship, and service, because *they work against the discouragement* that meets on the news and sometimes in our personal situations. We just completed the America for Christ



emphasis to support American Baptist ministries here in America that help churches grow, meet the needs of refugees, and provide chaplaincy services for those in the military. More locally, this month we will begin collecting items to give the teachers at Conger Elementary School in appreciation for their work, as well as supporting the work at the Common Ground Free Store with the Easter offering.

I am thankful as well for the wonderful worship services and the bible study that we have shared, and for the work that is being done on the building and for all the ministries both here in town and around the world that we actively support. I am thankful for the enthusiasm and effort each one of you gives to the life of our church in service to Jesus Christ.

My hope for all of us is that the message of Easter will break through all the distractions and concerns and give us peace and joy. The message of Easter is that God is working, life is winning, and hope prevails. May the

barriers that divide people be overcome and the burden be lightened as we celebrate this victory of life over death.

-Mark

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Worship

Maunder Thursday

Thurs, April 13

7:00 pm communion

Fellowship Hall

Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Service

Friday, April 14

Stations of the Cross

11:00 am

Worship Service

St. Mary's 12:00 Noon

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 16

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Worship

Mark your calendars and plan to attend. You are encouraged to invite family and friends to all of these services.

From Our Pastoral Intern

Good morning, First Baptist family! As we are about midway through this Lenten season and many of us are continuing to give up what we have chosen over those forty days, I am thinking about the approaching Easter

celebration that awaits us next month. Over these last days, we will walk together and follow Jesus as He approaches and enters Jerusalem, and ultimately the cross. We will watch and witness Jesus' preaching and teaching and His final Passover meal with the disciples. We will stand as witnesses to Jesus' trial and execution, and bear witness to the Resurrection. These next weeks will help us to understand the central message of our faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen.

During the month of March, the youth have been participating in a Lenten bible study, quickly walking through the writings of Paul. During the month of April, the youth will continue their conversation on ecumenism by visiting and observing a mass service at Saint Mary's Catholic Parish.

Looking forward to celebrating the Resurrection with you!

Blessings and Peace,
-David L. Harris, Jr.

Volunteers For April

Kid Connection

Apr. 2- Deb Fogle/Hannah Nace
Apr. 9- Deb Nace/Colin Ferguson
Apr. 16- David Harris/Will Fogle
Apr. 23- Pam Faulk/Bowen Nace
Apr. 30- Erin Faulk/Aidan Ferguson

Fellowship Time

Apr. 2- Lovells
Apr. 9-Open (Please volunteer)
Apr. 16- Easter (No Fellowship Time)
Apr. 23- Party for the Kilhefners
Apr. 30- Lees

Transportation For David Harris

No one has signed up for any Sundays in April. We know that the weather can still be bad in April, so we still need volunteers to give David a ride.

Panera Pick-Up

Apr. 6-Gosser
Apr. 13-Faulk
Apr. 20- Chambers
Apr. 27- Open (Please sign up)

Thank you all for volunteering

***Birthdays
and
Anniversaries***



April

- 1 Scott & Debra Nace
- 5 Evan Allison
- 10 Jane Mercer
Connor Trigg
- 15 Ray Serviss
- 20 Spencer Chesser
Tammy Ferguson
- 27 Colin Ferguson
- 29 Debbie Fogle
Benjamin Trigg

Please report any errors.

Newsletter Options

The "Good News Letter" is available by email. If you would like to save the time and postage needed to mail it to you, please send me your request at lfauk01@aol.com and I will make sure you are added to the list of those who receive it via email.

The newsletter is also available each month on our website: [www. FBCDelaware.org](http://www.FBCDelaware.org)



General Fund Deficit

Offerings for the first eleven weeks of 2017 have continued to fall short of budget projections. ,

Our expenses for Jan, Feb, and the first half of March have been \$3,500 more than our offerings to the general fund. This is a shortfall of about \$300 per week. Our bills are paid up and we have a balance in the checking account that allows us to remain current with our obligations. However, our expenses continue to be well below budget, and our reserves continue to decline. While this is not a crisis yet, it is a concern.

Our long term financial health depends on our commitment to FBC. Encouraging others to join in our fellowship and share in our worship, education, and service is key to our future.

-Larry Faulk, treasurer

Did You Know?

Our email has changed to:
fbcdelaware@midohio.twcbc.com

Church Directory Available

Copies of the 2017 Church Directory are available in the Welcome Center. If you would like an electronic copy, please email me at lfauk01@aol.com

Personals

- Aidan Ferguson was baptized during the morning worship service on March 5. Congratulations Aidan!
- The Faulks are vacationing in Florida.
- Jane and Jim Snyder took a trip to Arizona.

• Aidan Ferguson played the part of William Shakespeare in a school play at Dempsey last month.

• Claire Turner has done quite well in several horse shows for Miami University recently.

• Deb Guebert's sister from Pennsylvania visited us during the morning worship on March 12.

• Former interim pastor Ellen Brown will be our guest pastor on April 2 while Pastor Allison is on vacation.

• The March 20 Delaware Gazette had an article about the Piecemakers' quilt display at the library and included conversation with Jeanne Ekelberry.

-Pam Faulk, personals editor



Easter Lilies

The church is taking orders for Easter lilies for our sanctuary. You may order them in honor or memory of someone. Please include that information on the Get Connected form with your order. Lilies may be taken home after Easter. The cost is \$8.00 per plant, and a check should be made out to the First Baptist Church. The deadline for ordering is April 9.

Change For Change

Way to go First Baptist! On March 12 we collected our Change for Change offering. It

Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons. Prayer requests will be removed after 2 months unless "renewed". Please send changes to Larry Faulk (lfaulk01@aol.com).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Alvin Cox	Health Issues
Dr. Ernest Jones	Health Issues
Richard Lovell	Health Issues

Remember daily all the men and women in the military — Those stationed in the USA and those deployed throughout the world. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

totaled \$188.27 and one disc battery. Thank you all for contributing your loose change for the Delaware Schools Summer Lunch Program for children.

Remember to empty your pockets each night to be ready for the collection the next time the time changes in the Fall.

Thank you all!

Easter Offering

The offering in the special Easter envelopes will go to Common Ground Free Store.

Mission/Outreach News

The items that you donated to be given to the victims of trafficking were taken to the Salvation Army by Peter White. Thanks Peter! Thanks for your generosity to help those who are starting their lives over.

Panera Pick Up continues. There is opportunity for you to help collect the unsold items from Panera, bag them, and deliver them on Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. to Andrews House. The items are used at the Food Pantry and given to those in need who come to Andrews House, as well as other outlets in the community. Those that receive them are very grateful.

Remember that if the items are not picked up by volunteers and distributed in the community, Panera has to throw them in the garbage. If you have not been a part of this ministry, sign up with someone else on the form in the Gathering Place. It doesn't take a lot of time and it sure helps those in the community.

If you would like to help and have questions, talk with Pat Gosser.

The Warming Center has been continuing to be open when it is under 20 degrees in March.

Meals for Stepping Up Participants

We will be preparing a meal on Wed., May 10th and Mon. May 22nd for the participants of the Stepping Up classes. There will a sign up sheet in the Gathering Place to donate something, prepare food, and /or serve at William St. Church.

Please consider donating \$25 gift cards to Meijer or Kroger to be given to participants.

See Mary Lou Lovell if you need her to take the food to the church for you. Thank you for helping with this now and in the past.

Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop

The Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop is open to anyone:

Friday, April 21 5-9 pm

Registration is half hour before each day.

Saturday, April 22 9 am to 4 pm
Andrews House, 39 West Winter St., Delaware

For more information email bristle@gmail.com

Block Party

Plans continue for the Second Family Festival on Sat., July 15th. There will be more churches involved and more activities are being planned. We will be hosting the lawn game area.

Teacher Appreciation Bags

During the month of April we will be collecting items to put in bags for Teacher Appreciation Day in May. We want the teachers at Conger Elementary School to have something a little special for the countless hours they spend for their students.

We are asking that you bring individually wrapped items for the bags.

Ideas:

- granola bars
- chocolate
- hard candy tootsie rolls
- chips
- cheese crackers
- peanut butter crackers
- fruit snacks
- popcorn
- hot chocolate
- individually wrapped:
 - tea bags
 - cookies

There will be a box labeled Conger for the items. We will be making 45 bags.

Thank you for all you brought last year. We are looking forward to surprising them again this year.

Our next Missions/Outreach meeting (everyone is welcome) will be April 30th at 2 p.m.

Welcome Party

After worship on April 23, all are invited to share in a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall to welcome Lyailah and Elijah to the Kilhefner family. Chad and Christina are in the process of adopting Lyailah and Elijah.

We would like to celebrate this joy with them and to help provide some necessary transition items for Layailah and Elijah.

See Pat Gosser for more details as we get closer to the party.

Delaware Community Coalition

The Fifth Sunday Celebration will be at First Presbyterian Church on April 30th. There will be a dinner and worship sponsored by the Delaware Community Coalition. Plan to attend this multi-church opportunity for fellowship and worship.

Maunday Thursday Service

Please plan to join us for our annual Maundy Thursday "Upper Room" candlelight service of worship and communion, Thursday, April 13th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

-Larry Faulk

