

Good News Letter

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The 51st Psalm is associated with the period in King David's life after he had been confronted about his sinful relationship with Uriah's wife Bathsheba, involving both adultery and murder, not to mention the rather blatant abuse of power. In that context the psalm makes perfect sense as a prayer of penitence and confession.

It is an offering of repentance, a prayer about the loss of life's joy, and about the feeling that life is meaningless. Yet it is a hopeful prayer, expressing a great belief in God's mercy; that restoration and reconciliation are not only possible, but will come in due time.

As such, even though we do not identify with sinfulness on such a scale as David's, this sacred poem offers itself as a realistic Lenten prayer that anyone can pray. It is fit for the season we are in, and appropriate as Easter draws near. It also turns out to be one of the readings from the psalter during Lent, and thus it would be an error to ignore the opportunity to make it our prayer.

Confession of sin, of course, can be a dangerous thing for someone to ask of others.

March



Calls for repentance can be and have been used down through the years in manipulative and domineering, thus in harmful ways. No such meaning is intended here. There is no cause to artificially impose guilt on anyone. The only goal is to acknowledge the reality that sin and guilt are already a present part of life, and we are healthier when we are honest about them, ask forgiveness, and work to remove them from our lives.

And so, in the spirit of the season, I offer it now, Psalm 51:1-12, and hope that its words can convey the biblical message and the sentiments in our hearts better than I ever

could. Take the time to make this prayer your own as you journey through Lent.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

(Continued on page 2)

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship
5:00 pm Bible Study

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28
7:00 pm Communion
Fellowship Hall

Good Friday

Friday, March 29
11:00 Stations of the Cross
Noon Service at St. Mary

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31
9:15 am coffee & pastries
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship

(continued from page 1)

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Blessings, Mark

Also, I hope to see you Sunday afternoons in March for the Lenten Bible Study, "Scenes in Acts."



March Panera Volunteers

Wed

Mar 6-Faulk
Mar 13-Faulk
Mar 20-Gosser
Mar 27-Faulk

Thur

Mar 7-Brown
Mar 14-Brown
Mar 21-Gosser
Mar 28-Faulk

Thank you all for volunteering to this rewarding mission. There is a new sign-up sheet for the spring quarter in the Gathering Place. Let's see how quickly we can fill all the spaces. .

PERSONALS

- The brother of Dr. Bob Caulkins passed away last month.

- Randy and Jennifer Turner thank everyone for their prayers for the family when several of them had COVID last month.

- Ken Shears fell and broke his pelvis in several places. He is in rehab at Sarah Moore for a few weeks.

-Claire and Annabelle Pierce attended church on February 11 and the pancake supper on the 13th.

-Dave Lovell suffered an allergic reaction on Feb. 11. Mary Lou Lovell would like to thank all those who filled in with the music that day, as she stayed home to be with Dave.

-Laura Brown visited her brother who suffers from Alzheimers in Missouri last week.

- Evan and Devin Allison from Colorado visited Pastor Mark over Presidents Day weekend.

ABW - Women's Fellowship

February, being Random Acts of Kindness Month, was dealt an unkind act by Mother Nature. Our meeting on February 17th was cancelled due to an unexpected heavy snowfall. Hopefully it won't happen again for our next meeting.

March is Women's History Month and we will extend an invitation to the Second Baptist Church's Women's Fellowship to join us for a potluck lunch on March 9th. This change to the second Saturday is because of members' travel plans surrounding Spring Break. All women are welcome to come and celebrate a month dedicated to our shared history.
- Laura Brown

Easter Offering

The Easter Offerings in the special Easter envelopes will go to Helpline. Helpline connects people with agencies that provide services that they need.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



March

5 Mike Showalter
Ben Turner
8 Mike Reynolds
9 Rolf Remlinger
10 Connie Roberts
11 Rick & Sandy VanBrimmer
12 Evan Trigg
14 Darlene Caulkins
18 Dave Lovell
20 Bob & Darlene Caulkins
24 Richard & Laura Brown

Please report any errors.

GRACE UPON GRACE

The 2024 America for Christ theme "Grace Upon Grace" is based on Lamentations 3:22-23. "Because of God's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." God's love for us, even in times of despair, never wavers. Each year the ABHMS awards grants from the donations that they receive from AFC. Here are some of the areas that are funded by AFC:

- Grants to churches to fund ministry initiatives such as camps, daycare, youth, and young adult initiatives.
- Grants to American Baptist seminaries and colleges.
- Grants to American Baptist Partners training opportunities, funding of learning opportunities that involve travel and housing, repairs and upgrades to preserve our critical American Baptist spaces.
- American Baptist Regional Offices.
- Scholarships for which our own members may apply.
- Disaster response and recovery efforts.

ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for operations or overhead. One hundred percent of AFC dollars support vital ministries. AFC empowers us to provide "Grace upon Grace." Please prayerfully consider your contribution during the month of March as you read about some of the ways the AFC money is used in the weekly church bulletin. Our church's goal is \$1000.

-Pam Faulk

Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.
Please send changes to Larry Faulk (lfaulk01@aol.com).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Dr. Allison's sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Janet Lathrop	Health Issues
Jay & Caldwell Lovell	Health Issues
Pat Gosser	Health Issues
Jenni Pedzinski and family	Father's stroke
Donna Brown	Health Issues
Trigg Family	Continued Prayers

Condolences to the Caulkins family on the death of Dr. Bob's brother

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

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 10. On that Sunday, we ask that you bring all your loose change to church for the Change for Change offering. The money will be sent to Andrews House which oversees the summer lunch program for Delaware children. This is one small way that our church can help eliminate hunger in our own community.

EASTER BREAKFAST (of sorts)

On Easter morning there will be coffee and pastries in the Gathering Place at 9:15. Everyone is welcome to join us for Sunday school.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come

together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality. Marked annually on March 8, IWD is one of the most important days of the year to celebrate women's achievements, educate and raise awareness for women's equality, call for positive change advancing women, and fundraise for female-focused charities. In many countries it is a national holiday.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March. It brings women of different races, cultures, and traditions together in fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

Mission/Outreach News

We have had many cold nights in February. Thanks to those who have made soup for the Zion United Church of Christ Place of Warmth for men needing a place to stay.

February's outreach was to Family Promise. Family Promise houses those women and children who have sought shelter from domestic abuse. The basket has overflowed with needed items. Thank you for your kindness and generosity to provide for others.

Thank you to Peter White for delivering the items to the shelter.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone has been collecting the unsold items from Panera on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Thank you for your commitment to this outreach.

People In Need Basket

The basket in the Welcome Center continues to have food items in it at all times. Thank you to all who give on a regular basis to help others in need of food.

Looking Ahead

In April, we also will be collecting items for the Teacher Appreciation bags that are given to the staff at Conger Elementary School

2024 Directory

I have begun revising the Directory for 2024 and hope to have it available by Easter. If you have updated your phone number or email address, I would like to include it. If you would like an updated photo, see me or send me one. Thanks, Larry Faulk, lfaulk01@aol.com.

Easter Lillies

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lilly for our Easter service, the cost this year is \$13 each. Dedication forms will be available in the Welcome Center soon.

1897 Bulletin

I have been adding copies of our Worship Bulletins to our website. The oldest bulletin that I have found in our files is a bulletin from October 3, 1897 which was the dedication service for the rebuilt church. There are bulletins from most years from 1939 going forward with the exception of some more recent years.

I have no bulletins for 1989 or for 1991-1996. If you have access to any of those bulletins (or any others that you see missing) let me know and I will make copies for the website.

Visit our website: fbcdelaware.org and click on "View Bulletins" to explore them.



Wedding Reception Open House

May 27th, 2024 from 4-8 pm
at the Mingo Park 3-Seasons Shelter, Delaware, OH

*Please join us to celebrate the marriage of
Deb & Rob.*

Join us for food, fun, music, dancing, and games. Your presence is our present so please refrain from bringing gifts. Come anytime, stay as long as you like.

RSVP by May 20th to deltheminimonies@gmail.com

DIRECTORY UPDATE











Calvin, Taylor, and Kennedy Turner
7060 Dustin Road
Galena, OH 43021

First Baptist Church
101 North Franklin Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015

March

2024

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor
Office Hours: by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>Third Sunday of Lent3</div> <div>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Holy Communion 5:00 pm Lenten Study</div> <div>America for Christ Offering</div> <div></div>	4	5	<div>6</div> <div>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown</div>	<div>8</div> <div>International Women's Day</div>	<div>9</div> <div>11:30 am Women's Luncheon With 2nd Baptist Fellowship Hall</div> <div>Set Clocks forward tonight</div> <div></div>
<div>Fourth Sunday of Lent10</div> <div>Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 5:00 pm Lenten Study</div> <div>Change for Change Offering AFC Offering Continues</div> <div></div>	<div>11</div> <div>5:30 Deacons</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk</div>	<div>14</div> <div>8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>8 am Men's Breakfast-Bob Evans</div>
<div>Fifth Sunday of Lent17</div> <div>9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 5:00 pm Lenten Study</div> <div>St. Patrick's Day</div> <div>AFC Offering Continues</div> <div></div>	<div>18</div>	<div>VOTE19</div> <div>Spring Begins</div> <div></div>	<div>20</div> <div>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Gosser</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8:45 Panera Pickup - Gosser</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>
<div>Palm Sunday24</div> <div>Sixth Sunday of Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 5:00 pm Lenten Study AFC Offering Continues April newsletter deadline</div> <div></div>	<div>25</div> <div>Annunciation of the Lord</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk</div>	<div>28</div> <div>7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Candlelight Communion 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Good Friday</div> <div>11:00 Stations of the Cross Noon Service at St. Mary</div> <div></div>	<div>30</div>
<div>Easter Sunday31</div> <div>9:15 am Coffee and Pastries 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</div> <div>AFC Offering Ends April newsletter available today</div> <div></div>	<div>April1</div> <div>April Fools Day</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup -Faulk</div>	<div>4</div> <div>8:45 Panera Pickup -Faulk</div>	<div>March Mission Focus:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">America for ChristChange for ChangeEaster Offering</div>	