



First Baptist Church

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April 2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING

April Spring Showers

They say April brings spring showers which in turn will bring May flowers. I love flowers and look forward to them coming. God brings showers of blessing too. If you have noticed some farmers burn off some of their fields which helps the crops. Of course, there are some nitrates in the ashes which gives fertilizer to the ground and improves the crops. In the New Testament the Greek word {dijunaadzo-allow} means to test, examine: to refine by fire. This word can be thought of in a way that God never gets in a hurry, because Godly character is more important to him than gifts, talents, or temporary success in the eyes of other people. Yes, he does want to use you, but he also wants you to be ready to be used! Right now, you may need some time to prepare, change, and grow. That way when God finally promotes you, you will have what you need both naturally and spiritually to stay established in that God-ordained position as you fulfill your assignment with excellence. So sometimes I call it {dokinmadzo-allow} we need to be refined by fire to grow and become excellent. Maybe you need a little ash in your life to become all you can be.

I Thessalonians 2:4 says, "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which tried our hearts." To be the best flower we need to be allowed for God! My hope is as you enjoy the flowers you will be refined and allowed for God.

Blessing this April,

Pastor Brian

Morning Worship Message Series

Teaching the Heart of the Old Testament

April 7—God's Greatest Dream	Genesis 1-2
April 14—Community Busters	Genesis 3-4
April 2—Time to DTR	Genesis 12-22
April 28—God is with Us	Genesis 24

Opportunities to Serve This Month

Ministry Meetings

Discipleship Ministry Team	April 1, 6:00
Building and Grounds Ministry Team	April 3, 6:30
Worship Ministry Team	April 8, 6:00
Shepherding Ministry Team	April 15, 6:00
Mission & Outreach Ministry Team	April 22, 6:00
Leadership Council	April 23, 6:30
Quarterly Business Meeting	April 28

Super Tuesday—Join us on Tuesday, April 9 at noon for a "Weeding Your Garden" devotion, meal, and fellowship. Sign up at the Welcome Center to volunteer for soups, sandwiches, or a dessert and to let us know if you plan to attend.

Rescue Mission Meal—Sign up at the Welcome Center to help provide and serve an evening meal on Thursday, April 11. Please have your donations at the church by Sunday, April 7.



Ken Meikle	10 th	Teresa Christiansen	13 th
Juliette Montalvo	14 th	Chris Wilson	16 th
Ricky Geu	26 th		



Moses Merrill Youth Camp Opportunity

Do you know a neighborhood child or maybe your own grandchild that you would like to invite to a summer camp experience? Registrations are now open for summer camps at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. Scholarships are available for up to 50% of the registration fee. Please see Jill Blaylock for the application form.

Membership Class

Would you like to become a member of First Baptist Church? Start the process by attending the membership class to learn about our church, what we believe, how we are governed and the structure of the ministry. The class will meet during the Sunday school hour (9:00-10:00) on April 21 and 28. If you have questions see Pastor Brian or John Blaylock.

Vacation Bible School 2024

Vacation Bible School will be held at the church building on June 2-4 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. each evening. A meal will be served from 6:00-6:30.



This year's theme is "Set Sail!" Participants will learn about spiritual habits from the gospels. Please contact Andrea High to volunteer to help.

Foster Care Closet Event

Our church family is walking alongside the organization [Foster Closet of Nebraska](#) to bring a Foster Care Closet Day to Norfolk on May 25th from 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.. The group will be bringing their closet of clothes and other items for foster care families to visit and meet the needs of individuals in foster care. There will be roles to serve such as greeters, check-in, department assistants, and carry-out helpers. A sign-up sheet will be on the welcome center in early May. Please consider giving an hour or two on that day to serve.

Building Bridges at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center Weaver Hall Update Campaign

The Leadership Council has approved a campaign to support the updating of our shared state-wide camp ministry at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. During the months of April, May, and June you will be hearing of ways you can participate in a matching funds campaign using dollars from our restricted funds interest income line as a match to each of our gifts. The Council is asking members and friends of First Baptist Church to consider giving to this cause and a match of up to \$5,000 will be made on behalf our church family. The Council will be promoting several ways to participate in this cause including "Spare Change" Sunday offerings, a freewill offering dinner, and an opportunity to visualize your gift with an envelope campaign noted for chairs and tables. Join your brothers and sisters in supporting this statewide campaign effort.

Quarterly Business Meeting

Plan to participate in the April 28th Quarterly Business Meeting after worship. Several important new business items will be on the agenda.



If you have items you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please contact John Blaylock at least one week prior to the first Sunday of the month.