



FirstNews

May / June 2020 | Newsletter of First Baptist Church, Elkton, MD

From Pastor's Desk...

“Will it ever end?” That’s a question many of us have on our minds as the Coronavirus crisis continues with no definite end in sight. The disruptions to almost every aspect of life have become discouraging. While God’s people are not immune to feelings of despair, I want to remember we have been given grace and hope to help us deal with them. Remember as I said this past Sunday, Biblical hope is not “wishful thinking,” but a confident expectation.

“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation- and my God. (Ps.43:5)

David directed this prayer to God for the purpose of lifting his soul from its downcast state. He had been oppressed by his enemies and separated from the worship of God in the assembly of His people, and David’s heart was heavy with the loss of God’s special presence. Believers often feel this way when they are deprived of fellowship with other believers . . . Believers can also feel distant from God when they have become negligent in their spiritual duties, such as Bible reading and prayer.

When things are most difficult, we hunger even more for God’s special presence in our lives. Our souls become downcast not only when we have neglected God’s means of strengthening His people but when we are dealing with a particular problem, which can cause us to spiral quickly into the depths of despair.

David’s remedy for the despairing: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him. David meditated on the goodness of God, on His love and faithfulness, and on His truth and light as means to guide Him in troubles. David knew that if he dwelled on his problems without putting his hope in God, he would be lost in despair. He realized that only by lifting his thoughts to God would he eventually be able to praise Him appropriately.

During times of despair, we should meditate on fixing our hope on God’s grace. It is too easy to be overcome by our feelings during difficult times; therefore, we must turn our thoughts toward Him in faith, even when we do not ‘feel’ like it, putting our hope in the only One who can lift our downcast souls.

Thank you for continuing to attend worship and Bible study (even virtually). Thank you as well for your continued support of the ministry. We will get through this and I look forward to seeing you all again face to face.

Pastor Arlen

Ladies Virtual Bible study: Tuesday nights at 7:00, studying 1 & 2 Peter. This is a free study you can join at any time and all materials will be provided for you. If you are interested contact Kelly Pfenninger at kellylpfenninger@gmail.com or the church office. A Zoom meeting invitation and materials will be sent to you.

Birthdays

- 5.2 Kathy Lloyd
5.3 Nicholas Porter
5.11 Dean Porter, Beverly Wescott
5.12 Melissa Moses, Greg Weigel
5.13 Charo Buckland
5.21 Kathy Stiltner
5.23 John Cherwaty, Mary Murray,
Debbie Thomas
5.27 Madison Wescott
5.28 Charlene Johnson, Tom Sheldon
5.29 Jonathan Pfenninger
5.31 Joan Chambers
- 6.2 Nora Simpson,
Katherine Thompson, Robbie Thompson
6.5 Linda Hendrickson
6.6 Gerald Ivey, David West
6.8 Peggy Wiggins
6.14 Janice Nickel
6.15 Rebecca Wilczewski
6.16 Louis Nickel
6.19 David Nickle, Martin Stroupe
6.20 Linda Cooper
6.21 June Estock
6.24 Jaden Ohrt, George Porter
6.26 Vicki Logan
6.27 Dan Musser, Jerry Potts

Anniversaries

- 5.13 Walt & Lisa Ayers
5.19 Jon & Danielle Scott
5.21 Greg & Cindy Weigel
- 6.4 Skip & Phyllis Sweetman
6.6 Arlen & Kelly Pfenninger
6.10 Steve & Sarah Lambert
6.14 Arthur & Sandra Abrams
6.16 Bill & Peggy Holter
6.20 Brock & Sherlen Bingham
6.21 Matt & Barb Glessner
6.25 Dan & Sue Musser

FBC Preschool Information

The FBC Preschool will remain closed as long as the public schools are directed to do so. We hope you all remain well and safe during this time, and we look forward to getting back into the classroom as soon as possible.

Susan Musser
Preschool Director

Prayer & Blessing Ministry

"Dear Father God, thank you for being my help today—perhaps in ways I have not seen. You have guided and protected me, cared for and comforted me. In this crisis and in every struggle in life, You have shown Yourself faithful. You are the God of Hope, and I'm thankful for joy and peace in Your presence. I pray again for my family and friends in need, and for others who are also hurting or lonely. If they know You, please be their refuge and strength, Lord. And if they don't know You, I ask You to use their tough circumstances to draw them and show them their need for salvation in Jesus. I am confident You will abide with me in the days ahead and will ultimately take me to live with You forever. You are sovereign, good, loving and kind, Lord, and I praise Your worthy name. Amen."

from

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/coronavirus/a-mighty-prayer-plan-for-daily-hope-strength-and-healing-during-the-coronavirus-crisis.html>

FBC Library

You may not be able to visit the church library to check out an inspiring book, but there are resources online that may interest you. Our Daily Bread is offering free online resources during this time at

<https://odb.org/coronavirus/>

On this webpage you will find links to free resources for kids, Our Daily Bread devotional online, Bible Reading plans, Biblical documentaries, a daily podcast, and free online courses.

