

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402
(937) 222-4691 • Email: fbc@fbcd Dayton.org • Website: www.fbcd Dayton.org

MARCH 2024
Volume 90, Issue 7

Ready for the Journey?

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

Packing ahead of time isn't really my thing. My wife, on the other hand, has had a suitcase ready a week in advance of our trip. I suppose I am prone to procrastinating, as the things to do to get ready to go away add up to the last minute. Then there is a weighing of things that can wait and things that can't. I do indeed pack, but I don't feel great anxiety about forgetting things, as I imagine there are stores where I am going if I really need something.

As I write this, we anticipate leaving in a couple days for Wales to visit Angie's daughter. Jenna is a masters student at Cardiff University and playing for the Cardiff Met Archers in the Women's British Basketball League. Visiting the UK in February may not be the most desirable season since it tends to be cold and rainy. But it is basketball season, so we will get to watch some games. And hey, the hotel rates are a lot better, too.

To continue this trans-Atlantic trip we will head from London to Fort Lauderdale for the annual Pastors Colloquium I attend. It will be nice to finish with sun after clouds. We also plan to see my sister and her husband who live in Florida. This three-week absence is the longest I can remember being away, so I'm looking forward to the extended vacation and ministry enrichment we hope to experience. Next month I will plan to report back with highlights from our adventures.

A minor health scare has made me appreciate the opportunity to go away even more. In the past couple weeks I started feeling pain and swelling in my leg. When it was examined, it turned out to be a DVT, or blood clots. Now I'm taking medication for that, and was assured by the attending physician that I could travel. I may need to walk a bit slower but I will be grateful to be free to keep going.

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Scripture often compares our life with God to a journey, and the old phrase "Christian walk" captures something of that notion. Discipleship is a matter of walking down the road with Christ, accompanying him and believing he is with us. As we go through the season of Lent, we often think of it as part of Christ's journey to the cross.

How do we prepare for our spiritual journey? We might set aside special time, make personal commitments, and find ways to extend ourselves on behalf of God and others. I suppose we are already on our spiritual journey, whether we are prepared or not. I think of how Jesus told his disciples not to worry too much about what they carried with them. They could rely on others along the way, and they might be surprised at God's provision for them.

I look forward to going away, and I also look forward to coming home. Travel can enrich us in ways we don't expect, but we also value knowing where we live and being centered there. I hope that as you continue your spiritual journey that you will both prepare and prepare to be surprised. Take heart in this benediction: May God the Father prepare your journey, Jesus the Son guide your footsteps, the Spirit of Life strengthen your body, the Three in One watch over you, on every road that you may follow.

~~Pastor Kent

Adult Sunday School Classes

March & April 2024

March 3
11:30am-12:15pm

Dr. Michael Cox will be finishing up his class on **Early Christian Scriptural Interpretation: Seeing Christ in the Whole Bible.**

Sermon Talkback with Pastor Jason on his sermon entitled, "Christ Crucified."

March 10 & 17
1st Floor Chapel @ 11:30am-12:15pm

Dr. Mark Ryan will lead a two-week study on **The Virtue of Art and the Christian Life.** This two-week Sunday school explores a few ideas derived from Mark Ryan's class on "Christian Ethics and Art" at UD. We will consider a few connections between the making of art and the Christian life.

April 7-28
1st Floor Chapel @ 11:30am-12:15pm

Dr. Brad Kallenberg will lead a 4-week study on **Philippians.** *Philippians* is one of the "prison epistles" written by the Apostle Paul to a congregation that he planted in northern Greece during his second missionary journey. The format of this adult Sunday School class will be interactive as we learn (and practice) a variety of ways of listening to Scripture together. The plan for the four weeks of April will be to tackle a chapter a week so as to get better at "reading in communion" in hopes that we begin to hear what God may be saying to us who gather at Monument and Ludlow this Eastertide, 2024.

First Baptist's Bicentennial Keepsake



The First Baptist Church of Dayton's Bicentennial is on our minds and hearts this year. We have a special keepsake to commemorate this historic event! It is a beautiful wooden replica of our church (5"3/8" high x 7 1/2" wide).

We will be selling and taking orders April 7 to 21. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall where you may sign up for how many keepsakes you would like to purchase. The price will be \$10 each and may be picked up after payment.

We are blessed and honored to follow those who have led the way in the Dayton community for 200 years. May we be a blessing to those in the future of First Baptist Church of Dayton.



Irish Dancers at FBC Sunday, March 17 after service

Please join us for some St. Patrick's Day joy! Along with refreshments, we will have dancers from the Celtic Academy of Irish Dance share their talents and enjoyment of Irish dancing! We are blessed to have them join us. They will definitely bring happiness to your hearts!

January 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	105.01	83.33	105.01
Pledges	207794.00	26549.50	17316.17	26549.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	3870.00	4583.33	3870.00

Holy Week 2024



Palm Sunday – March 24th

10am – Worship @ First Baptist Church of Dayton

11:15am – Palm Sunday Luncheon

(Luncheon: Sliders, including vegetarian, and drinks will be provided by the Deacon Board. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Reservations appreciated by Monday, March 18.)

Maundy Thursday – March 28th

6:30pm - Agape Meal @ Christ Episcopal Church

Good Friday – March 29th

Noon – Good Friday Walk for Justice & Peace

2pm – Soup Luncheon @ First Baptist Church of Dayton

On March 29 there will be a Good Friday Walk for Justice & Peace through Downtown Dayton from 12-2pm. This is an ecumenical witness for justice and peace issues based on the Stations of the Cross. The walk begins at Courthouse Square (Third & Main) and ends at First Baptist Church. Rain or shine, come for all or part. **Following the walk at approximately 2pm, First Baptist will invite participants to enter the church and into Fellowship Hall where there will be soup and water prepared for them. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and in fellowship hall asking for donations of soup (vegetarian options preferred) and/or help in other ways.**

Easter Sunday – March 31st

10am – Worship @ First Baptist Church of Dayton

Flowering of the Cross | Special Music



Easter Flowers

Orders & Dedications

You are invited to share in the decoration of the sanctuary with spring flowers for Easter Sunday, March 31. A special insert on Easter Sunday will include names of donors and names of those in whose memory or honor a flower is given. A gift of \$20 is suggested. **Please turn in your order by Friday, March 22.** Checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church and please note 'Easter Flowers' on the memo line. (To place your order, email the church office at fbc@fbcd Dayton.org or fill out a yellow card on Sunday.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH CELEBRANTS

- 1 Kate Bradley, Yuriko Hance
- 3 Peggy Coggins, Anne Veghte
- 4 Madeline Compton, Susan Parent, Jackson Smith
- 6 Anna Gough
- 8 Camilla Black
- 19 Neil Earnest
- 20 Ethan Charron
- 22 Nancy Soloski, Harold West
- 25 Joe Henry
- 26 Shirley Nash
- 28 Sandy Thorn



(April's birthday list will be posted in the April Courier.)

March Church Meetings

Board Meetings

Wednesday, March 13 @ 6:30pm

Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 20 @ 6:30pm

Stewardship 2024

If you would like to make a financial pledge for year 2024, please contact Nancy Kerr by phone or email nkerr@fbcd Dayton.org. Thank you!

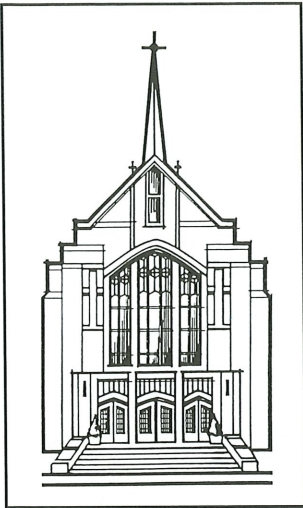
Thank You

From Alan Kimbrough

Many thanks for all the Happy 80th Birthday wishes, the delicious birthday cake for coffee hour February 18th, and the lovely orchid. I feel very blessed not only in my four score years but also in doing so amid my very supportive First Baptist family.

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Our Condolences

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and many friends of The Rev. James Earnest who passed away on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the age of 101.

*Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend our brother, Jim.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you,
a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock.
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the Saints in light.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

For Our Cards and Prayers



Glen Babb	Shirley Nash
Gerald Busch	Mary Ann Paloncy
Don Brown	Susan Parent
Earnest Family	Judy Smith
Lavanda Ferguson	Roger Stephens
Bill Harrell	Anne Veghte
Tim Holmen	Harold West
Ray Landis	Dorothy Williams
Gene Lee	Sharon Wingham
Arthur Merkle	

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson

First Baptist Church of Dayton
Presents

May Festival Youth Chorus

Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 PM

The First Baptist Church of Dayton will present in concert the renowned Cincinnati's May Festival Youth Chorus on Sunday, March 3 at 4:00 p.m. The youth chorus will perform selections of all periods and styles. Soloists in the group will perform operatic arias and other popular vocal selections, along with a world premiere work entitled *What Do the Tress Know?* The chorus is under the direction of Dr. Matthew Swanson, the newly appointed director of the May Festival Chorus, which is the oldest of its kind in the northern hemisphere. The concert is free and open to the public. Free parking available. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

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Sunday Service 10 AM



BYF Gatherings in March 2024

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join our Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) gatherings, where we share in food, fellowship, reflection and fun times. Here are our upcoming gatherings in the month of February:

BYF Gathering @ FBC Dayton

Sunday, March 17 @ 12:15-3:00pm

BYF Dining Together

Palm Sunday, March 24

Youth and leaders will dine together during the churchwide Palm Sunday Dinner

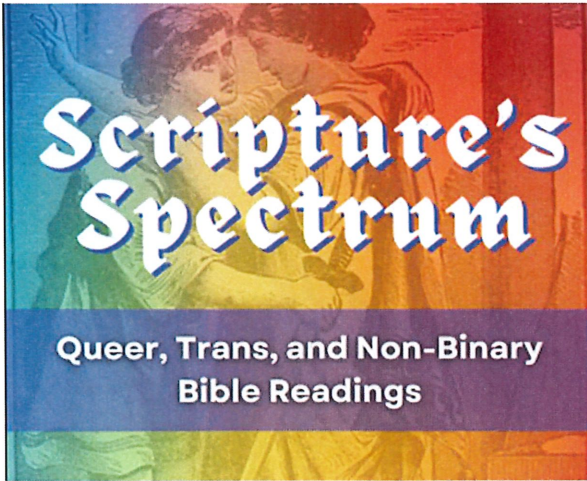
Also, as we start a new year we would like to be sure to have updated information for our youth participants, and ask that parents turn in a completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation Form for each youth to Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org / 937-631-3579). Printed copies are available on the table near the church office. Friends are always welcome, but we ask that they also turn in a BYF Form.



BYF Bowling Outing at Capri Lanes on February 11th.



BYF Paint Party to continue Youth Room Reno on February 24th.



Wednesday Evening Lenten Study Christ Episcopal Church – Fellowship Hall

"Scripture's Spectrum: Queer, Trans, and Non-Binary Bible Readings"

Led by Dr. Esther Brownsmith
Wednesdays @ 6:00 – 7:30pm
Feb. 21 & 28 and March 6, 13, 20

(NOTE: The program begins with a light soup & salad meal that is provided.)

The stories of the Bible capture humanity's quest to understand ourselves and our relationship with God. This makes it vitally important to see the full range of humanity represented and belonging in God's family. In this series, taught by Bible scholar Dr. Esther Brownsmith, we will move beyond the "clobber texts" to seek out biblical stories of people who range across the spectrum of gender and sexuality. By reflecting on these stories and their positive portrayals of embodied identities, we will learn how to embrace ourselves and our neighbors more fully, confident in God's abundant love.

Remaining Weekly Schedule

March 6: "Whither Thou Goest": Ruth's Sapphic Steadfastness
March 13: The Non-Binary Wisdom of Mordecai and Qohelet
March 21: Imagining a Genderfluid God



First Baptist Church Chancel Choir members, Jeanne and Susan attended the Junior Vocal Recital of soprano Cyerra Pemberton at The Schuster Auditorium at Wright State University. Not pictured is Alan Carroll who was also in attendance. Cyerra sings in the Chancel Choir as well as Samantha Leal. Congratulations to all !!



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

GRACE upon GRACE

March Offering

"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." ~ Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the 2024 America for Christ Offering which seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministries through our churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico. Our gifts to this offering support regions, churches, and community organizations with grants for a variety of purposes, including: Chaplaincy and spiritual caregivers support; aid for children living in poverty; new, innovative ministries; developing church leaders; promoting discipleship. Please help us continue to bring healing and hope to communities, families, children and Jesus' disciples in 2024 by supporting this year's America for Christ Offering. Special offering envelopes are available in the pew racks.

Assorted Photos from the First Baptist Church Album



Alan Kimbrough's 80th, lookin' good! 2/18



Tim & Connie Holmen w/Dr. David Crean



Dr. David Crean organ recital 2/11



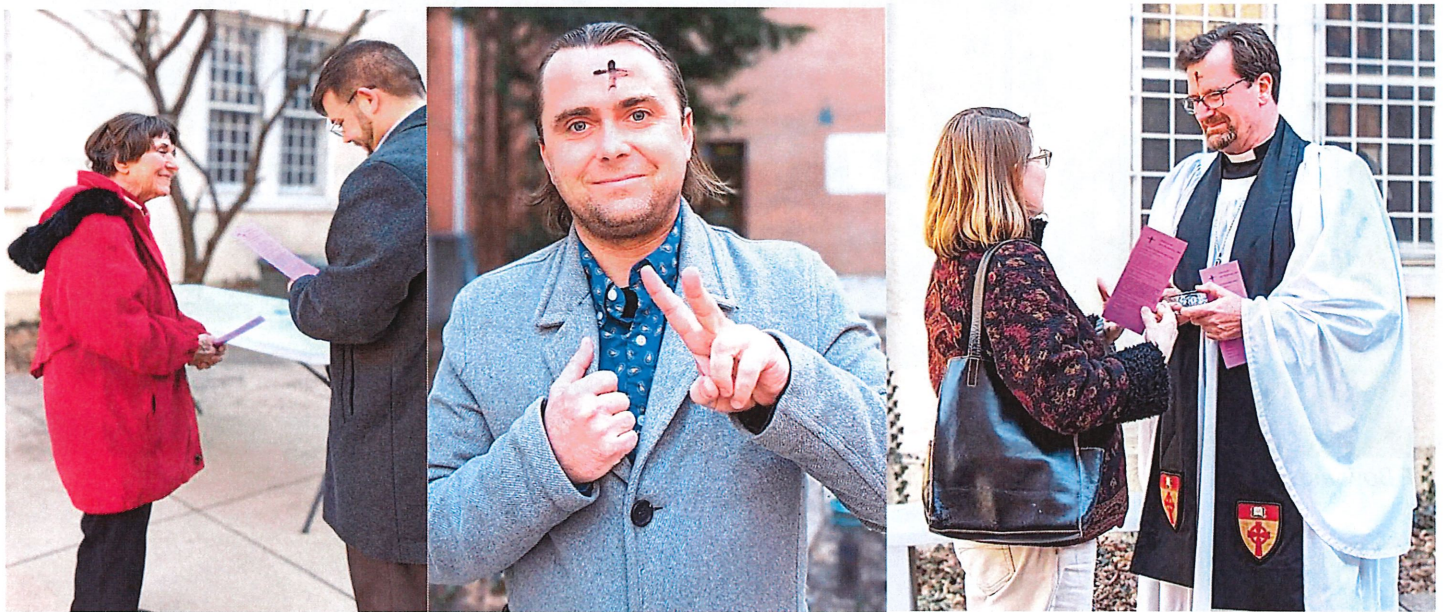
Choir Gathering at Curry's home 2/2



Choir Gathering 2/2

Ash Wednesday 2024 with Christ Episcopal Church

Traditional Worship & Ashes-to-Go



Installation Service & Luncheon for Rev. Jeff Perkins at DLABC on Feb. 25, 2024.

