



Messenger



From the Pastor's Desk

Everyone knows this past Sunday was Valentine's Day, but there was also another significant day this past week, Ash Wednesday. Plenty of people will say Baptists aren't supposed to know that. It may not be proprietary for Baptists to know it, but it can be redemptive to know it; to share in the world-wide Christian practice of Lent.

Sometimes Baptists have been better at Mardi Gras than Ash Wednesday. Quick to join in for a costume party to celebrate Mardi Gras but slow to join an Ash Wednesday service for the imposition of Ashes. And you could even blame Covid for the inability to receive your ashes this year because doing so ignores social distancing.

But however you think about any of the above, the point is Easter will be upon us in just a few short six weeks, six and half weeks since this past Ash Wednesday. What are you doing now to prepare for Easter? What are you doing that makes you hopeful you will share in the celebration of the resurrection of Christ; that the resurrection of Christ will occur within you and your world?

The common perception of Lent is it's a few weeks to fast, to give up something. By doing so you will be changed, almost like dieting. That's not the worst image to have of Lent. However, the ancient church had deeper hopes when enacting Lent. They hoped to institute a designated time on the annual calendar for Christians to repent. The repentance would be a penitent commitment to particular actions, readings, prayers, etc. Lent would lead Christians in transformative repentance. A change would occur deep within. People would be raised up as a result of the actions taken. And one's soul would be lifted as well. At the end of Lent, Easter would be celebrated with more vigor. One might say along with Mary Magdalene, "I have seen the Lord." Or along with the man born blind, "I was blind, now I see."

I don't know how you planned to spend the next six weeks. In the name of Lent I encourage you to engage in something that nurtures your soul, and others' souls toward resurrection. Such "Soul Keeping" will be the name of our Lenten study on Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the sanctuary. I invite you to listen along with me to John Ortberg. We'll discuss together the challenges and the joys of soul keeping. My hope is we'll be raised together to be keepers of the soul.

Soul Keeping,

Craig

Children Update

The children's committee met to discuss the children's program moving forward. We are excited to announce the children's ministry is back to offering a full Wednesday night and Sunday morning Children's program.

The children will have an opportunity to participate in Sunday School class and children's church during the leading service. Right now, we are offering one Sunday school class for children, and we will continue to add more as the numbers are required to keep distance and safety a priority.

The children's church will be staffed by our young adult's class (In Between Class) and continue with the children's sermon during our worship hour. Our goal is to allow families to worship during Sunday school and the main service by offering age-appropriate classes for everyone in the family.

Also, to help families out with dinner options on Wednesday nights, we will start offering dinner for youth and children in the youth room at 6 pm. Wednesday night dinner will begin in March and be available to children and youth, with service ending at our normal 7:15 pm. We hope this will alleviate some of the difficulties for families and help reach our community. We are excited and will continue to update the church with the dinner menu for March.

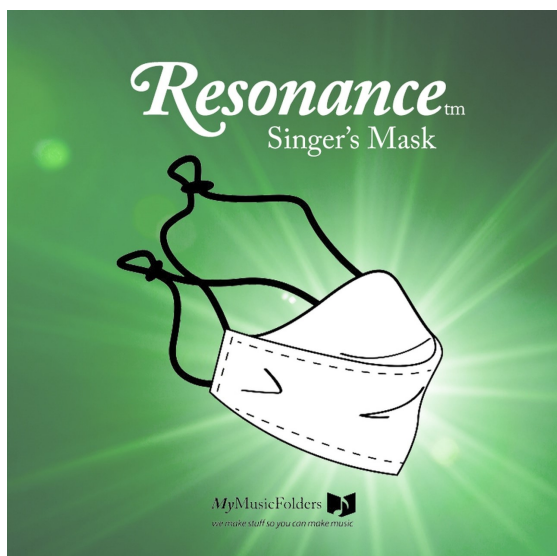
Jacob Roberts



Our Choir is Gearing Up

We are ordering specifically designed "Singer's Masks" for members of our Choir, in hopes of resuming their ministry in the weeks ahead. We would love to have more people join us. When we resume, we will remain properly distanced and some kind of mask will be required. These special Singer's Masks, now being used by church and university choirs around the country, are expensive at \$33 each, but they are far better than ordinary masks, allowing much freer breathing and stronger protections while singing. They come in Small, Medium, and Large sizes for adults.

If you would like to sing with our Choir when we resume, John Cotten will order a mask for you, paid through our Music Ministry Budget. He needs to know your mask size now. Then he will add your name to our Choir Roll for updates as they look forward to again singing new songs unto the Lord.



LINK FOR SIZING CHART PDF: <http://bit.ly/RESONANCE-size-guide>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY BONFIRE

Saturday, February 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Daryl and Connie's House

152 Kilpatrick Rd, Eatonton, GA

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!



Deacon Development

**Sunday, February 21
5:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall**

WORSHIP WITH US

**Sunday Mornings
at 10:50 a.m. in the
sanctuary or online**

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

**Wednesday Nights
at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary**

Join us for music, prayer,
Bible Study and games.

BIRTHDAYS

2-20 Ben Leverette
2-20 Jerry Williams
2-21 Charlotte Green
2-22 Dakota Davis
2-23 Russell Davis
2-27 Cherry Leverette
3-02 Hollis Harrison
3-03 Martha Strube



Happy Birthday

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weeks of February 7 and February 14, 2021

Budget Needs	20,144.00
Budget Receipts	16,741.00
Budget Needs YTD	70,504.00
Budget Receipts YTD	55,711.75

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, February 07, 2021 71
Sunday, February 14, 2021 85

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS UPDATED

Monday—Thursday

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed 12-1 for lunch

Friday

9:00 a.m.—12:00p.m.

COVID-19

We assume you are following the ongoing story of the spread of the COVID-19. We are doing everything we can to provide a safe, healthy environment here at our church. We want you to know we are taking the following proactive steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. We will appreciate your help in doing your part.

- Wear a mask
- Socially distance yourself at least 6 feet from others
- Wash your hands thoroughly using soap and water for 20-30 seconds.
- Utilize the hand sanitizer stations throughout the church

If you have been exposed to Covid-19 or have symptoms, like a fever, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath, we respectfully ask you stay home.

First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 3400
Eatonton, GA 31024
Return Service Requested

MISSION OPPORTUNITY



**Putnam Christian Outreach
Non-Perishable Food Drive
February 28 – March 28**



PUTNAM CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE

The Missions Food Drive for 2021 will start on Sunday, February 28th through Sunday, March 28th.

Please bring your nonperishable foods to the Sanctuary when attending Church on Sunday and Wednesday night Bible Study.

This includes Youth and Children as well.

If you would like to drop off food during the week, there will be a container outside under the portico by the Fellowship Hall during the day Monday-Friday and placed inside at night.

The Missions Committee will also pick up the food/donations from your Porch.

Donations are always appreciated!

“We will do your Shopping.”