



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of Fort Wayne, Indiana



April 2023
Newsletter

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Sunday:

Bible Study—9:00 AM
Worship—10:00 AM

Pastor's Corner

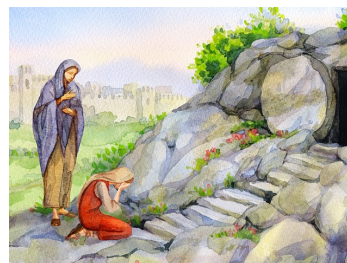
By Pastor Peter Janzen

Easter is the high water mark of the church calendar. This year John 20:1-20 is the gospel text. In it Mary Magdalene, often recognized as the leading woman amongst Jesus' disciples, is confused by the open tomb and the absence of the body of Jesus. She even encounters Jesus but doesn't recognize him. She assumes that he is the gardener and for some reason has taken the body. Only after Jesus says her name does Mary Magdalene cry out "Rabboni! Teacher!" Then the resurrected Jesus instructs her to go to Peter and the other disciples to tell them the news that Jesus lives!! Thus Mary Magdalene becomes the first evangelist for the risen Savior.

International Women's Day was recognized on March 8. On March 15, we reached the point when equity was reached between what women are paid annually compared to men. This means that a woman doing the same job as a man for less pay needs 3 months more work in a tax year than a man to be "equal". The world 2000 years ago and today has not changed in the disparity between how men and women are valued in the marketplace. Someone like Mary Magdalene was considered insignificant when compared to other women, let alone men. In short, Mary Magdalene was a prostitute, an adulterer, who Jesus welcomed. She was empowered by Jesus to be the boldest witness of his resurrection. She was given the same task that Peter, James and the rest of the disciples were given.

To proclaim Jesus is Lord today is open to any believer. Easter is a reminder that the "abundant life" that Jesus speaks about is not meant for heaven alone. We can rejoice and sing daily that our sins are forgiven and our present life on earth has the highest purpose possible, namely to be "Good News" sharers to any and all who care to hear about the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. May we all have the peace of Christ. Amen.

Pastor Peter



Celebrating 200 Million Blessings

By God's grace, Operation Christmas Child reaches a special milestone.

We thank God for 200 million shoebox gifts packed and for all the boys and girls around the world who have had an opportunity to hear the Good News that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Gift-filled shoeboxes have been delivered to children in 175 countries and territories since the project started. This would never have been possible without faithful shoebox packers lovingly and prayerfully preparing boxes in Jesus' Name.

These simple gifts continue to open doors for our local church partners in remote and impoverished communities to share the Gospel with children—many who have never heard about God's love for them.

A Cross-Country Tour

Elizabeth Groff went on a special journey to help pack the symbolic 200 millionth shoebox gift. Elizabeth, who received a shoebox years ago in an orphanage in Ukraine, traveled to different drop-off locations and processing centers with the shoebox gift to encourage people to continue packing boxes.

Elizabeth participated in the cross-country celebration because she wants people to know that God is using shoebox gifts to demonstrate His love to children who are in desperate need.

“There are so many children out there just like me who have never heard of Jesus or experienced His everlasting love,” she said. “I know the impact a single shoebox can make. It absolutely changed my life. There's no greater reward than being able to serve through this ministry.”

At each stop along the national tour, Elizabeth added a gift item chosen by voters on our Operation Christmas Child social media platforms. She started her journey by packing a doll in Denver, Colorado, as well as items selected by the Samaritan's Purse international affiliate offices: a flashlight by the United Kingdom; a reusable canvas bag by Canada; a plush koala toy by Australia/New Zealand; a jump rope by Germany; and a pencil sharpener by Korea.

After visiting Denver, Elizabeth headed to Aurora, Illinois, where she added a necklace. In Nashville, Tennessee, Elizabeth packed colorful socks.

The cross-country celebration continued in Punta Gorda, Florida, where Samaritan's Purse volunteers were serving in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. Elizabeth thanked disaster relief staff and volunteers for serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. In Florida, she added a water bottle filled with pretty hair ties to the special shoebox.

The tour wrapped up in North Carolina at the Charlotte Processing Center where Samaritan's Purse President, Franklin Graham, prayerfully dedicated the shoebox. He also added the final item to the 200 millionth gift: a shiny yellow yo-yo.

Article taken from the Special Report magazine of Samaritan's Purse.

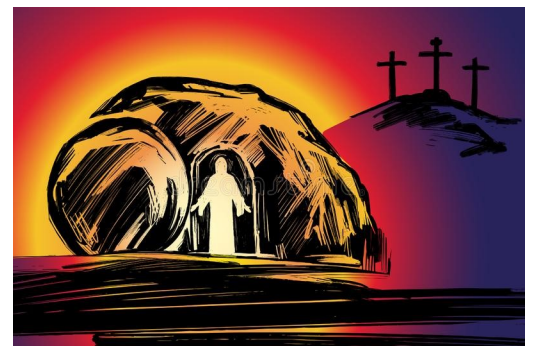
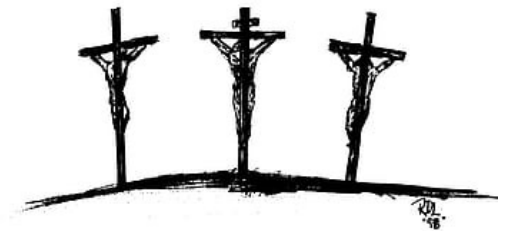
Easter Poem by David Sowards

Jesus and his followers went to Jerusalem.
As they traveled, great crowds followed them.
He went to the temple and drove out merchants there.
He said, "This is not for thieves. It is a house of prayer."
He taught at the temple and preached the Good News.
Then some priests and elders came to question all his views.
They confronted him as if looking for a fight.
They asked, "Why are you here? Who gave you the right?"
Jesus then asked them a question so they would understand.
He asked, "Did John's right to baptize come from God or man?"
The priests and elders could not tell them.
So Jesus refused to tell them.
Some teachers of the law tried to trick him.
But Jesus was calm and ready to answer them.
They asked him, "Is it against our law? Tell us."
"Shall we pay taxes to the emperor, Jesus?"
But Jesus was ready for their little dare.
He asked, "Show me a coin whose face and name are there?"
"The emperor," they said. And so Jesus answered them,
"Go and pay the emperor what you owe to him."
"And pay God what belongs to God," he said.
They had tried to trap him but left speechless instead.
The time for the Festival of Passover was near.
Jesus had left the chief priest in fear.
They wanted to find a way to slay him.
So they tried to get Judas to betray him.
They offered him money to buy his trust.
And he agreed to trap his friend, Jesus.
Jesus and his disciples sat for his final meal.
They listened for what he would reveal.
Jesus told them, "One of you shall betray me."
They looked around and asked, "Who could that be?"
As they were eating Jesus passed out some bread.
He gave a prayer, broke it, gave it out, and said,
"This is my body, take it and eat it."
They did as he asked. He didn't need to repeat it.
Then Jesus took a large cup.
It had some wine and was all filled up.
He said, "This is my blood, so drink it."
The future looked dark, they didn't want to think it.
After the meal, Jesus prayed.
Shortly before he was betrayed.
Judas kissed him and Jesus was arrested.
He was taken to Pilate where he was tested.
Pilate thought Jesus had done no wrong.



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So he sent him to Herod before too long.
Herod was pleased to see Jesus and questioned him.
But he would not respond, so he was returned to Pilate again.
Pilate knew this case couldn't wait.
He had a crowd decide Jesus' fate.
Pilate said he would release Barabbas or Jesus.
The crowd cried out, "Set Barabbas free for us!"
"Should Jesus be free?" He asked the crowd again.
They shouted back angrily, "Crucify him!"
Jesus was condemned, forced to walk to his death.
The crowds mocked him as he walked by and left.
On the way, the soldiers seized a man named Simon.
They forced him to carry the cross behind them.
They nailed his hands and he was crucified.
He was with two criminals until they died.
One robber on his right and another on his left.
They were crucified with Jesus and suffered until death.
Above his head was written, "Here is the King of the Jews."
The people below him mocked Jesus for his views.
He said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."
The soldiers divided up his cloths by lots they drew.
One of the robbers turned and said to Jesus.
"If you are the Messiah, then save yourself and us."
The other one rebuked him, saying, "We are guilty men."
But he doesn't deserve this, he lived without sin."
Jesus turned to him and looked into his eyes.
And said, "Today you will be with me in paradise."
"Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit," he said.
That was his last breath and then he was dead.
The centurion praised God and Jesus on that day.
Witnesses beat their breasts and then walked away.
His body was taken down, wrapped in cloths, and entombed.
For him, women prepared spices and perfume.
They did not get back to his body anyway
Since they went to observe the Sabbath day.
The women took their spirits and went to the tomb.
But the entrance stone was moved. He was not in the room.
They saw two men of light standing around.
The women bowed in fear with faces toward the ground.
"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"
"He is not here, he is risen," the men said.
"The Son of Man delivered into the hands of evil men,
Jesus was crucified, laid to rest, and arose again."
When the men appeared, they were seen by Mary Magdalene.
She told his disciples, but they had not seen the men.
Jesus appeared before the disciples as they dined.
He said, "Why are you troubled? Why are doubts in your mind?"



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He told his disciples to touch his hand and feet.
When they were amazed, he asked, “Anything to eat?”
He said, “This is what I told you, when I was still with you.”
“Everything foretold about me will come true.”
“Understand the scriptures as they were written,” he said.
“The Christ will suffer, then arise from the dead.”
He lifted their hands and they were blessed by him.
He went to Heaven and then left them.
His disciples rejoiced and spread his message round the earth.
They told of his life, death, and rebirth.



Neil Sowards is compiling a book titled, “When God Was Most Real to Me”. He is asking people who are willing to share about one time God was real in their lives with the next generation. The piece should be about 1/2 to 2 pages long. If you want to see samples of what others have written, please see him or contact him by email at neildianasowards@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Barb’s friend’s daughter—hit by a car, awake from a coma, broken leg/back
- Daniel (Barb Ramsey’s friend)—multiple forms of cancer
- Pat (Don Schaab’s sister) —cancer
- Julie Robinson—home from hospital, C. Diff.
- Brian (Brenda R’s cousin)—needs liver transplant or 6 months to live
- Cindy (Janet’s friend)—broke her femur very close to her recent new knee right after Christmas, not healing properly
- Sandra (Susan Elser’s friend)—breast cancer & ovarian cancer
- Brenda Edwards—continued prayers
- Diana (Brenda Routhier’s sister)—continued prayers, in hospital
- Seth (Vaunetta’s grandson) and Vaunetta—continued prayers



First Baptist Church

April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Communion Coffee Hour— Alicia Ellis	3	4 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DICK STONER!!	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Noisy Offering EASTER BRUNCH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TODD QUINN!!	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour— Brenda R/Vicki D	17	18	19	20 HAPPY BIRTHDAY BARB RAMSEY!!	21	22 HAPPY BIRTHDAY CEC PLUMB!!
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour— The Noaks HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRENDA EDWARDS!!	24	25 6:00 PM Council Meeting	26	27	28	29
30 :00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. SALAD SUNDAY						