

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Someone recently asked me why we are having a stand-up comedian come to church on May 1. Great question. Scott Davis (scottdavis.com) actually prefers to be known as a Christian author, evangelist and humorist. Although I filled out a contact page on Scott's webpage, I confess that I was reluctant at first to respond to his phone calls. As you know, many of the events these past few years have been no laughing matter. Is this really a time that we should be... laughing?

Well, both No and Yes! To be sure, the current headlines are no laughing matter. The war in Ukraine, criminal activity amped-up in our cities, failing decisions by political leaders, CRT, Wokism, COVID, men competing (and winning) in woman's sports, soaring interest rates, inflation on the move, and gas at \$4.45 gallon, etc. Yet as people of faith we are reminded that although this world is broken, our God is sovereignly working all thing together for good (Romans 8:28). Even in great adversity and trials we are to consider these things as pure joy (James 1:2) as this testing produces by-products which lead to our completeness and maturity. Our hope ultimately resides not in this world, but it the Hope that has been ushered in through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Chuck Swindoll states that, "Laughter is the most beautiful and beneficial therapy that God ever granted humanity." And George RR Martin says that "Laughter is poison to fear." Jesus said, "Blessed are ye that weep now, for ye shall laugh." (Luke 6:21). Solomon said that, "A cheerful heart is good medicine" (Proverbs 17:22) and that there is both a "time to cry and a time to laugh." (Ecclesiastes 3:2-4). The Psalmist, in the midst of trials, noted that their faithful "mouths were filled with laughter and tongues with joy of songs" thus were "overjoyed" (126:2-3). I don't know about you, but all around me, in the groceries store, at Lowes, and even in church, I see heavy hearts and burdensome countenances.

Could this be a season where we allow our sorrows to be subjected to the cheerful medicine of laughter? As when God fulfilled his promise to Sarah and Abraham, they were moved to name their son "Laughter" (Isaac – Genesis 21:2-6) not because things were perfect or without trials and pain, but "Laughter" because God's faithfulness and promises moved Sarah to joyful laughter. The same God further fulfilled his promise to Sarah and Abraham by lovingly sending His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, so that by faith in Him, we may be forgiven, filled with the Holy Spirit and destined for eternity with Him! As sons and daughters of Christ, we can choose to live in his joy, moving our minds beyond this temporal and perishing world and focusing on the author and perfect of our faith and the kingdom being ushered in through him. In the storms and uncertainty of this this life, may we be likened to the goldy woman described in Proverbs (Proverbs 31:25-36) who was not only clothed in strength and dignity, but was able to "laugh without fear of the future." She was confident that God was with her. How much more is He surely with us!

Come and laugh a while with Scott Davis, Sunday, May 1 at 10am. Then return that evening at 7pm for a community outreach. Invite your friends!

Looking forward to a good laugh, Pastor Carl_



April Newsletter

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Easter is almost here and with that comes the need for gratitude and recognition of who God is, who Jesus is, what He did in rising from the dead, and the gift of forgiveness we now have for those who have accepted Jesus, AND for the Holy Spirit who lives in us! If those aren't reasons to be grateful I don't know what is! Read the devotion below to see gratitude from an even greater perspective.

March was a fun and encouraging month with the youth and we can't wait to see what God will continue to do in and through these students, and in us as leaders as well. We are looking forward to the church Easter egg hunt, and our Fusion youth retreat this month! Don't forget that May is the youth's Tender Care Supply Drive, and we will be collecting donations the entire month of May for the center.

GRACIOUS GRATITUDE

"Being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light." COLOSSIANS 1:11-12 (ESV)

Almost everyone appreciates a good gift. Family, freedom, leisure, a warm bed, and a refreshing drink all make for a grateful heart, and we're all naturally able to express at least some measure of gratitude for them. "Thank you" is a phrase we learn young.

The American revivalist Jonathan Edwards helpfully distinguished between what he referred to as "natural gratitude" and "gracious gratitude." Natural gratitude starts with the things we're given and the benefits which accompany them. Anybody is capable of natural gratitude. Gracious gratitude, though, is very different, and only God's children can experience and express it. Gracious gratitude recognizes the character, goodness, love, power, and excellencies of God, regardless of any gifts or enjoyments He has given. It knows we have reason to be grateful to God whether it's a good day or a bad day, whether we're employed or unemployed, whether the daily news is upbeat or overwhelming, whether we're completely healthy or facing a terminal diagnosis. Such gratitude is only discovered by grace, and it is a true mark of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. Gracious gratitude enables us to face all things with the awareness that God is profoundly involved in our lives and circumstances, for He has made us special objects of His love.

When Jonathan Edwards died as a result of a smallpox vaccination, Sarah, his wife, wrote to their daughter, "What shall I say? A holy and good God has covered us with a dark cloud." Notice the honesty in that. There's no superficial triumphalism. But her husband was not taken out by chance; it was the overruling sovereignty of God that determined the right time to bring Jonathan home to his eternal reward. And so Sarah continued, "But my God lives; and he has my heart ... We are all given to God: and there I am, and love to be."

Amid grief, we will never be able to speak words like these from natural gratitude, which cannot help us in loss. Such reflection can only flow from gracious gratitude. You may be facing difficult or even heartbreaking circumstances at the moment; and if you are not, then that day will come, for this is a fallen world. But in those moments, you can cling to God's love and choose to trust God's goodness, expressed most clearly at the cross. Then, even in the darkest hours, you will know the joy of His presence and always have cause to give thanks to Him. There is strength, dignity, and worship in being able to say, "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21).

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. Colossians 1:11-12 NLT

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen. Romans 11:33-36 NLT

For information about Fusion events please find us on Facebook at Fusion Youth Ministry, email us at fusionfbcg@gmail.com, or you can call or text Faith or me.

GREENLIGHT OPERATION SUMMARY NOTES

PO BOX 229 Lemoyne, Pa. 17043

www.greenlightoperation.org

On Friday night March 11, 2022 Greenlight Operation from Lemoyne, Pa. came to our church to speak about the human trafficking going on not only in South Central Pennsylvania but across our nation and around the world.

Jordan Pine, the CEO and Ben Byler gave the presentation over a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour period. I thought for those of you who were unable to attend I would share some of the 3 pages of notes I took because it is good information we should all know. I'll share in bullet points what they told us.

- 1. Human Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery where traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to control their victims engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his / her will.
- 2. A minor is defined as anyone less than 18 years of age. The average age of a victim in America is 15 years of age with most of that being in the sex industry. It is estimated there are 40.3 million victims worldwide of which approximately only 1% are ever rescued.
- 3. Pennsylvania is 12th in the nation for the most reported cases. It is a 150 billion dollar industry and is the fastest growing criminal business.
- 4. In 2020 there were 354 victims involved in 221 cases in Pennsylvania. In 2019 there were 543 victims in 273 cases.
- 5. What I found fascinating is that A VICTIM CAN BE ANYONE!. It doesn't make any difference if you are rich or poor, male or female, young or old.
- 6. Why is Pennsylvania such a hot spot for this kind of activity (mainly sex)? It is because of our interstate system (I-80, I-81, Pa. Turnpike, Interstate 15, I-95, etc.), the big trucking industry, and we are close to major cities like Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Washington D.C.) They shared that 70% of America is within a day's drive of Pennsylvania.
- 7. Three risk factors in the foster care system are 1) substance abuse, 2) immigration and 3) sexual or physical abuse.
- 8. When the Covid pandemic hit there was an increase in human trafficking, the reporting channels decreased and so did the groups helping to combat the trafficking. They told us 55% of this recruitment is done online.
- 9. 90% of prostitutes in Las Vegas are controlled by pimps. 39% of victims were recruited through a relationship, marriage or family member.
- 10. Possible signs of Human Trafficking include:

Live with an employer Transportation provided by employer

Over crowding conditions Inability to speak to anyone alone

Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed Paid very little

Signs of physical abuse Employer holding identity documents

Submissive or fearful Signs of neglect

Sexually explicit posts Disoriented or using illicit drugs

Sudden changes in appearance Signs of physical restraint, confinement or torture

Unable to leave location without an escort Minor romantically involved with an escort

11. There are more slaves today than any other point in history.

- 12. Recruitment methods include: (1) false job advertisements, (2) sold by relatives, (30 have a loverboy, (4) abduction, (5) trafficked by a friend, (6) false immigration, (7) internet
- 13. Worldwide labor trafficking is the most common, but here in Pennsylvania and the U.S.A. it is sex trafficking. This issue thrives in darkness. That is why it needs to be brought to light.
- 14. What prevents victims from seeking help? Dependence on somebody, threats and abuse, distrust of police and authority figures (like teachers, church leaders, coaches of sports teams, Boy Scout leaders, etc.), disorientation and loss of identity.
- 15. The average life expectancy of someone involved in sex trafficking is 7 years.
- 16. Solutions to Help include (1) giving talks on prevention of human trafficking, collaborating with police, lawyers and other organizations, work to restore the victims through human trafficking seminars, establish a restoration home and develop a mentorship program with the Institute for Shelter Care.
- 17. PHONE NUMBERS TO KNOW:

Immediate danger call 911

Child Hot line - call 1-800-932-0313

Human Trafficking call 1-888-373-7888

Text Help to 233733

Keep Looking Up!!!

Mark Punchard



What is your favorite Hymn or Worship song?

We will be compiling a new booklet for **Easter** 2022.

It will be a collection of your favorite hymns and worship songs. Booklets should be ready by Easter. Please submit (email to Kathy) the name of your favorite hymn or worship song and a <u>few words</u> about why it's your favorite. We look forward to another special "keepsake" booklet.

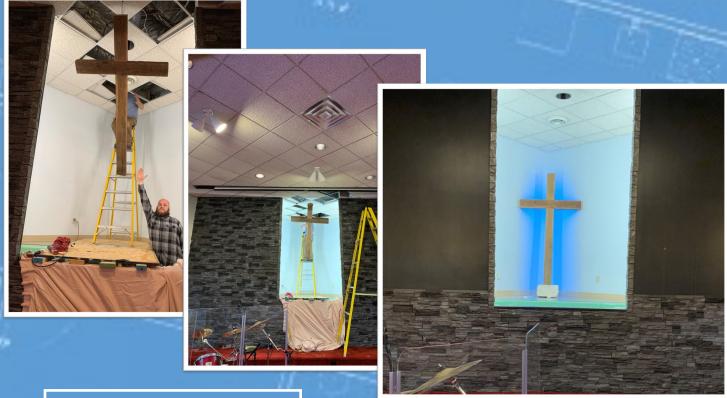


TRUSTEES PROJECTS



Pastor Sean's Office





Baptismal Cross

TRUSTEES PROJECTS



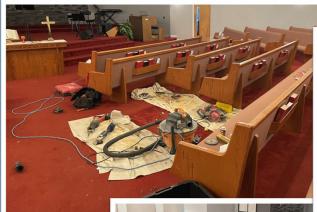
The Pavilion





Pastor Matt's Office

TRUSTEES PROJECTS







Sanctuary Pews





Church Grounds



Saturday, April 9th @ 11:00 am
Bring the kids out for some fun!
Thousands of eggs! Prizes and a
free hot dog lunch!

We need many volunteers for this important outreach. If you can help, please contact Jen Harris.



DO YOU HAVE A KNACK (AND A HEART) FOR BUILDING OR REPAIRING?

JOIN THE FBC RELIEF TEAM

SEE JIM STOCKMAN FOR MORE DETAILS



Shoebox News!



God is at work. People around the world are giving their lives to the Lord and growing spiritually. Churches are being planted. All because people like you cared enough to send their child (ren) a shoebox filled with gifts. Even a toy, a stuffed animal, or a toothbrush can bring rejoicing from children who have so little materially. Eyes and hearts can be opened to the gospel message.

If you are able to contribute to the 2022 shoebox gifts, please consider any of the following gifts:

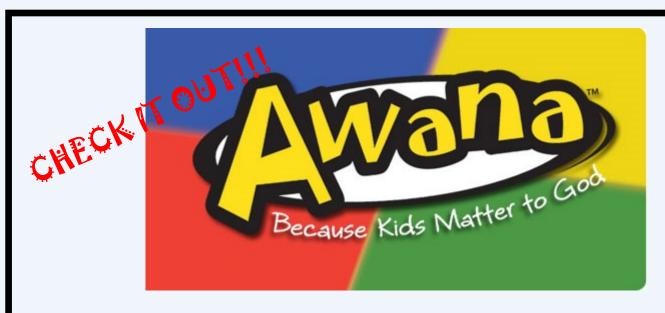
- play dough
- small toys/dolls/stuffed animals
- soap/washcloths/toothbrushes/combs
- blunt tipped scissors (for younger children)
- · large scissors for teen girls to sew with
- bouncy balls
- used T-shirts to make jump ropes
- place mats (2 matching mats make a skirt)
- marbles

Please place donated items in the box under the mailboxes at church. Thank you for your prayers and your generosity.

The Shoebox Team







LAST AWANA APRIL 13

6-7:30 PM

DINNER @ 5:00-5:50



This group of Widows and Widowers meet on the last Sunday of each month following the second service to support and love each other.

The next W2 will be a Women's Tea on April 24th hosted by Cynthia Taylor. Please sign up with Nancy McGlaughlin @ 717-321-3099 if you would like to attend.

In October, the W2 Group will attend the show "David" at Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster. Anyone interested should sign up with Linda Kump @ 717-253-3163.

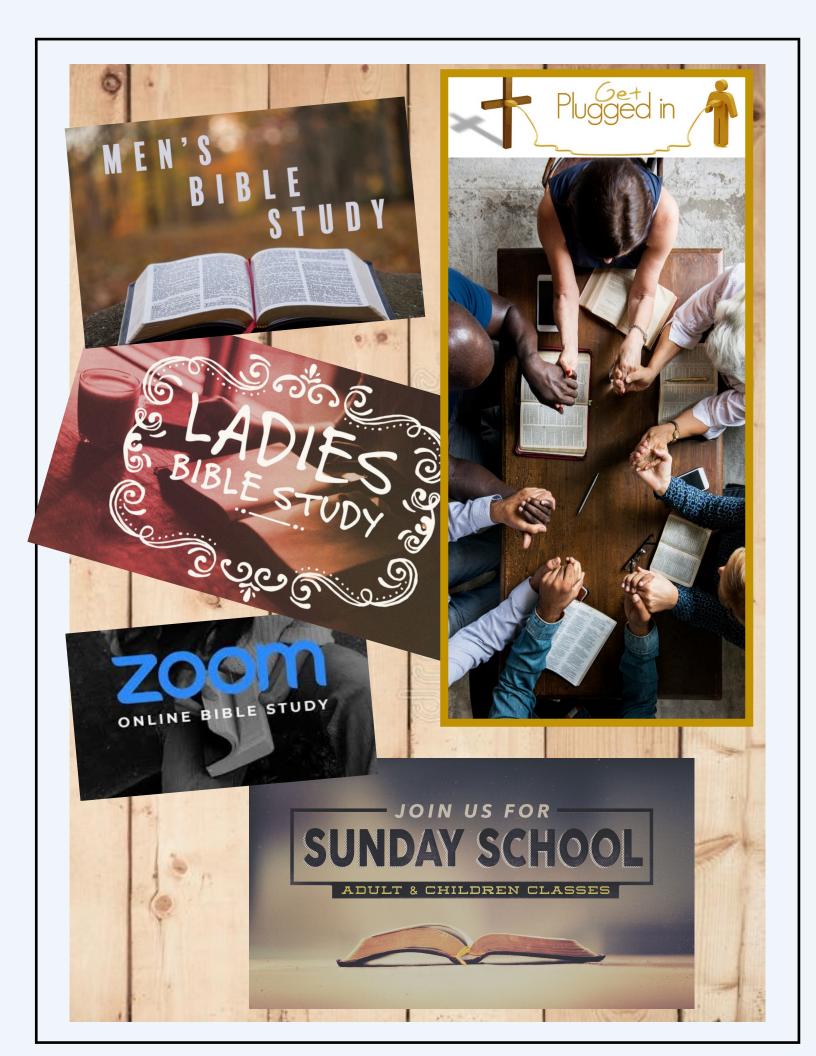


Deeper Still

ladies Bible Study
Meets every other Thursday
@ FBC

ESTHER





Easter

We thank Thee for the beauty of this day, for the glorious message that all nature proclaims: The Easter lilies with their waxen throats eloquently singing the good news; the birds, so early this morning, impatient to begin their song; every flowering tree, shrub, and flaming bush, a living proclamation from Thee. Open our hearts that we may hear it too! Lead us, we pray Thee, to the grave that is empty, into the garden of Resurrection where we may meet our risen Lord. May we never again live as if Thou were dead! In Thy presence restore our faith, our hope, our joy. Grant to our spirits refreshment, rest and peace. Maintain within our hearts an unruffled calm, an unspoken serenity that no storms of life shall ever be able to take from us. From this moment, O living Christ, we ask Thee to go with us wherever we go; be our companion in all that we do. And for this greatest of all gifts, we offer Thee our sacrifices of thanksgiving. Amen.

elder's corner

How Should We Pray For Ukraine? - Elder's Corner

Someone recently made the statement that they, "did not know how to pray for Ukraine." That's actually not a bad question and one that I have been giving some thought to. I know that there is long history between Russia and the Ukraine, and one argument might be (from President Putin) that Russia has a right to annex Russia back into its boarders. But I think that it's a weak argument.

As I understand it, those living in Ukraine have chosen to live there by choice. They have spent energy, resources and their lives building a country that is uniquely beautiful and fruitful. It is their home and I would suggest that they have a right to continue to prosper there as they deem best.

As followers of Christ we are called, "to good, seek justice and correct oppression" (Isaiah 1:17) and to "rescue the weak and the needy and to deliver them from the hand of the wicked" (Psalm 82:4). While it might be hard to physically do something substantial, King Solomon implores us to "open our mouths" for those who are destitute, and James reminds us that the "prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective" (James 5:16). There might be multiple ideas and avenues to help those in Ukraine (like taking up an offering as we did on March 20), but for many of us, perhaps our best response is to continually lift them up to the Lord who hears our prayers and cries of intervention. Below is a power prayer that I found (from the Methodist Church) and I have added some additional suggestions of prayers under it:

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

- 1. Ask God to redeem this oppression and war by drawing many people to Himself. May Ukrainians (and Russians) discover that Jesus is the only true source of peace, safety, comfort, truth and freedom.
- 2. For the opening of corridors both for evacuation and humanitarian aid around cities under attack in Ukraine. Many people in these cities are without heat and electricity. Also, for churches offering help.
- 3. For protection of children and parents who are in shelters, metro stations or on the roads seeking safer places.
- 4. That organized crime, human trafficking, fleshly exploitations and moves of Satan be crushed by God and His people.
- 5. Prayer for the brave volunteers, firefighters, hospitalists and all the logistics of getting humanitarian & military aid. For Ukrainian pastors and Missionaries.
- 6. That Russian citizens would rise up against this war. For leaders around the world to respond in wisdom.
- 7. For the Lord to cause the opposing army to lose the will to fight, be afraid, be confused.
- 8. For many believers to stay strong, continue trusting the Lord and not to give in to panic, fear and desperation. That all with Trust Jesus as Lord! That the Lord will pour out his Spirit.
- 9. That God will put an end to this war and Russia will retreat, allowing the Ukrainians to rebuild and prosper.





HOPE WALKS

First Baptist will soon have the opportunity to discover the ministry of Hope Walks during our upcoming world mission conference. Listed below are some of the things they accomplish as they serve families with children born with clubfoot deformity in 64 countries around the world:

Educate and support the parents

Promote early referrals for best results

Train local Doctors and mentors

Treat children throughout the healing process over a 5 year period with counseling, home visits and phone calls.

Expose God's love to families giving freedom from clubfoot disability

The long term impact is that God is glorified and families place their hope in Christ.

Follow Hope Walks on Facebook for more information.



SAT 7

SAT 7 ministry is one of the fastest growing outreaches in the Middle East and with each dollar we give we are reaching one family or one community with the Good News of Jesus Christ for one year. This is what is meant by supporting ministries with lower investments for larger returns.

Twenty-five years ago, American Baptist International Ministries (IM) was a founding partner with SAT 7. Today IM is collaborating with SAT 7 once again to produce virtual "you are there" type mission trips to the Middle East to learn first hand how SAT 7 media programming reaches over 25 million viewers a year. The first of these mission trips will be available in September. If this sounds interesting to you *please contact Wanda Gallimore for more information*.

For more than 200 years, IM has been sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ holistically with both words and actions in cross-cultural Christian mission that addresses the needs and inequities present in the communities they serve. Drawing from two centuries of cross-cultural experience, they have learned how to be resilient and innovative while remaining faithful to scripture.

A CHRISTIAN VOICE IN TROUBLED TUNISIA

Christians in Tunisia are witnessing to their country through a new Sat7 program filled with testimonies sharing Christ's hope as their homeland, once energized by the potential for change faces a political crisis and an uncertain future.

The Gathering launches at a moment of heightened tension in Tunisia amid worsening eco-conditions, protests and a lack of political freedoms.



The All for One World Mission Conference is coming to FBC at the end of April and first week of May. Our one purpose is to reach people for Christ using innovative methods to show people our love and reach out to them with the love of Jesus. On April 24th, in both of the morning services you will be hearing how one gift, one bible, one shoe brace and one phone can reach millions of people for Christ every year. In this conference we are emphasizing smaller investments for larger returns. As you listen to these presenters you will understand not only what your mission dollar can do, but you will also learn small things that you can do beyond giving.

At the Sunday evening family night, we will introduce a ministry that offers healing and the love of God to families in 64 countries who have children born with clubfoot. That is where Hope Walks comes into play. With early treatment, these babies can be spared a lifetime of rejection and loss. In 2021 alone 6,566 new clients came through Hope Walks clinics and 4,204 of those families have been connected to local churches. FBC does not give monetary support to Hope Walks at this time, however it is our hope that you would be interested in knowing how you can become aware of and involved in this world ministry located in nearby York Springs. Hope Walks director, Scott Reichenbach will be the featured speaker with stories of success and ways you can volunteer, pray and in small ways be a part of this growing ministry.

The youth will be joining us in the sanctuary and Pam Blankenship along with two of our own youth will have a CEF program for the children in Lewis Hall. April 24th is family night at FBC, bring your family and see where God is working.

SUNDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CLASSES

DAVID JEREMIAH - DVD study (McBeth) 9:00am Lewis Hall

ROMANS (Punchard) 10:30am Lewis Hall

PARABLES (Blair) 9:00am Kitchen

MIDDLE/HIGHSCHOOL CLASS 9:00am Youth Room

NURSERY 10:30am

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (ages K-5th grade) 10:30am Lewis Hall

KID'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP 9:00am

Focused Learners: (ages K-5th grade) Lewis Hall

Active Learners: (nursery/preschool) Lewis Hall

LIFE GROUPS

TUESDAY

GOSPEL OF LUKE (J. Harris) **ZOOM** 6:30-7:45pm 2nd/4th Tuesday - Ladies Only!

THURSDAY

BOOK OF ACTS (P. Carl) @ FBC 5:30am Men Only!

BOOK OF COLOSSIANS (P. Carl) @ FBC 9:30am All Welcome!

HARMONIZING THE GOSPEL (Weber home) 6:30pm

DEEPER STILL (Gallimore) @FBC 1:00pm Every other week

FRIDAY (every other)

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (Pastor Sean's home) 7:30pm Men Only!





Youth Bonfire Sunday, April 3 6-8pm

BOOK REVIEW

ZOOM

MAY 17TH @ 6:30pm
"The Pursuit of
Holiness"
by Jerry Bridges need
link? See Pastor Carl

Can You Guess The Hymn?

Is the life you're living filled with sorrow and despair?
Does the future press you with its worry and its care?
Are you tired and friendless, have you almost lost your way?
Jesus will help you, just come to him today 24

**** 15 Questions** 3 Fruit of the Vine

- 1. What did Paul recommend as a substitute for wine?
- 2. Who was called a glutton and a wine guzzler?
- 3. What prophet spoke of God putting Israel in a winepress?
- 4. What part of the body did Paul recommend wine for?
- 5. Where was the one place the priest could not enter after drinking wine?
- 6. What group of Israelites was never suppose to drink wine?
- 7. According to Paul's advice, what church official must not be a wine drinker?
- 8. What was mingled with the wine Jesus was offered on the cross?
- 9. What judge threshed wheat by his winepress to hide it from the Midianites?
- 10. According to Jesus, what do people prefer, old wine or new wine?
- 11. What kind of person, according to Proverbs, should be given wine?
- 12. According to what Jesus said at the Last Supper, when would he drink wine again with his disciples?
- 13. Who murdered the Midianite Zeeb at his winepress?
- 14. How many jars of water did Jesus turn into wine?
- 15. What, according to Jesus, happens when new wine is put into old wineskins?

Our Ministry Team

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CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

www.fbcgettysburg.net

Answers for MARCH

Fasts, and Breaking of Fasts

- What did Jesus eat after his resurrection to prove he was not a mere phantom? FISH (LUKE 24:38-43)
- 2. Who fasted for 40 days on Mount Sinai? MOSES (EXODUS 34:27-28)
- Who had a Passover meal with his followers in the upper room? JESUS (MATTHEW 26:1-30)
- Who received meals at the hands of birds?
 ELIJAH, FED BY RAVENS (1 KINGS 17:3-6)
- Who was raped after bringing a meal to her supposedly sick brother?
 TAMAR (2 SAMUEL 13:1-14)
- What meat was eaten at the Passover meal? LAMB (EXODUS 12:1-20)
- 7. Who sold his birthright for a bowl of soup? ESAU (GENESIS 25:29-34)
- Who humbled himself and fasted when accused of Naboth's murder? AHAB (1 KINGS 21:27)
- Who fasted after his child by Bathsheba died?
 DAVID (2 SAMUEL 12:15-16)
- 10. How many men had bound themselves by an oath to fast until they had killed Paul? 40 (ACTS 23:20-21)
- Who prepared a meal for two angels in Sodom?
 LOT (GENESIS 19:1-3)
- 12. Who obtained his father's blessing by preparing him a meal and pretending to be his brother?

 JACOB (GENESIS 27:1-29)
- 13. What was the first sinful meal?
 THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT (GENESIS 3:6)
- 14. Who fasted for 40 days after his baptism? JESUS (MATTHEW 4:1-2)
- 15. Who was on a ship with 275 passengers who fasted for 14 days? PAUL (ACTS 27:33)

ANSWER TO HYMN: Reach Out to Jesus Hymn #430

All articles for the newsletter must be submitted by the 20th of the previous month.