

**First Baptist Church of Oakville**  
 6741 Telegraph Road,  
 St. Louis, MO, 63129




**American Red Cross**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
 Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Give Blood • Give Life

Our Blood Drive was the last on-site function of our Church before we were shut down by the Coronavirus pandemic. Members and neighbors who participated were able to donate 35 pints of life saving blood. **That's a record high for FBCO!!** THANK YOU to all our donors, and to our WMU volunteers who worked in the blood drive.

# He is Not Here . . . He is Risen!

**APRIL Birthdays**



Jo Sitzes.....	1
Jesse Emmons.....	6
Mary Ann Bennett.....	8
Rich Townsend, Noah Jacobi.....	9
Victoria Allen.....	11
Forrest Buchanan, Sheila Parker.....	12
Brandon Cockrill.....	13
Jo Ann Cornish.....	14
Bernice Westrich.....	17
Sam Gacem.....	21
Lucas Parshall.....	24
Teresa Farrow.....	25
Helen Cook, Dean Goodman.....	29

**God Bless You on Your Birthday!**

**Happening In April**

Palm Sunday.....	5
Maunday Thursday.....	9
Good Friday.....	10
Easter Sunday.....	12

**Next Sunday, April 5th, is Palm Sunday**

I will begin a series of **Passion Week Devotionals** that I wrote in 2018 and Tony Pezzo videod last year. These short messages will focus on the events of each day in that week leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

I will share these messages by e-mail, or you can view them on the Church's Facebook page.



**JOHN'S JOIS**

*Easter is a time of such HOPE.* And hope is so needed in our world today. As we navigate these uncharted waters of Covid-19 and *shelter in place*, we are hearing daily of more cases, more deaths, and more uncertainty. That uncertainty is very uncomfortable because we are anxious about where we go, who we see, and *social distance*. Forced isolation is so contrary to our experience in the family of God, and we miss the ability to come together, be together, and worship together. I really miss the comfort of loving hugs and shaking hands!! But God demonstrated His power over death and the grave on that first Easter morning. And we find HOPE in His power over this pandemic, as well.

*Each year at Easter, we joyfully celebrate the reality that Jesus IS alive—I like to call that perpetual present tense.* What a blessed assurance! That means His love is just as strong today, His grace is just as sufficient today, His presence is just as real today—because HE IS ALIVE. Of course, we celebrate that our Lord Jesus IS alive every week (that is why we worship on Sunday instead of the Sabbath on Saturday), but Easter Sunday is a very special time of reflecting and rejoicing. Our celebration of Easter abounds in the wonderful discovery that **HE IS RISEN--RISEN INDEED!!**

*Plan to join us on Easter Sunday morning* as we reflect and rejoice. And you may literally be able to do that. With the assistance of Jim Boxx and Tony Pezzo, we have been able to broadcast our worship each Sunday morning through our website and Facebook. Last Sunday, we had over 60 log-ins on our Church's Facebook page. Many of those were families, not just individuals. An that

number does not include many who watched the live feed through our website, and those who were in *watch parties* through our Facebook live stream. Each Sunday, we are able to minister in worship to a host of folks. Thank you to Jim and Tony, and all the others who are making our weekly worship broadcast possible. We will continue doing that as long as necessary, until we can be physically at Church together.

**But what about being together on Easter?** With Jim and Tony giving technical support, we may celebrate Easter together by having a **Drive-In Worship Service**. Weather permitting, you can come to Church and remain in your cars on the parking lot. You can then tune your radio to a FM station in your car. Our praise team will perform on the front porch, and I will preach from the sidewalk. You will be able to share in the entire service on your radio. *(Can I get a honking AMEN?!)* We still won't be able to shake hands or hug, but by remaining in your car, you will be safely and socially distant. We are still working out the logistics, but hopefully, we can be together for that wonderful worship celebration.

**Our Maundy Thursday service** was to be on April 9<sup>th</sup> in our Worship Center. It is the symbolic memorial meal that Jesus shared with His disciples in the Upper Room the night before He was crucified for our sinful condition. That night, Jesus gave the Passover symbols a whole new meaning and offered the cup of the **New Covenant** with us. We will try to share that experience with you by live stream. **Let us eat that bread and drink that cup in remembrance of Him.**

*Be safe, stay well, and love each other,* knowing that God loves us all. May God bless you.

**Pastor John**

## GWEN'S Gallery

### Looking Into You by Chris Fabry

Every day, Paige Redwine is haunted by a choice she made when she was only seventeen. Now, just past forty, still single, she lives a tidy, controlled life as a well-respected English professor at a college in Nashville. Nothing could prepare her for the day Treha Langsam—the daughter she secretly placed for adoption—walks into her classroom as a student, unknowingly confronting Paige with both her greatest longing and her greatest fear.

As Treha sets aside the search for her birth mother to concentrate on her education, Paige summons the courage to reach out to her daughter, never dreaming her actions will transform them both as she faces a past she thought she'd laid to rest.

### Things Left Unsaid by Courtney Walsh

Lyndie St. James is thrilled that her best friend, Elle, is getting married but is unprepared for the emotional storm of the wedding week and returning to her childhood summer home of Sweethaven. The idyllic cottage community harbors some of her best—and worst—memories. It's not only the tragic death of her childhood friend, Cassie, that has haunted her for ten years, it's the other secrets she's buried that have kept her from moving on.

But Lyndie isn't the only one with secrets.

Cassie's mother, father and brother, still struggling with the loss, have been drifting further and further apart. And Elle herself, the last to see Cassie alive, carries an impossible burden of guilt. Now reunited, each of them has a choice: to reveal the truths of that night or continue to live in its shadow. That means embarking on a personal journey of the heart—to escape the darkness and all its regrets and to finally come to terms with the past and, especially, with each other.



## Kidz Kollege

Well, Kidz Kollege was going strong until a certain virus came along. We had our largest group (19 kids) of the 2019/2020 school year on last Wednesday, March 11.

Hopefully, we'll be able to reconvene before the end of the school year, but if not, we'll start up again next school year.

Keep the faith - this too shall pass!

*Pauline and Ed Maness*

## Kidz Praise . . .

I have to say, I have missed hanging out with the kids. It prompted me to look at other ways to touch base with them. So, coming soon....Kids Praise is going digital. I will be putting modified lessons on our YouTube channel at least until we can get back to our classroom. With that said, we will continue learning about why it's important to read and study the Bible. I look forward to seeing you all again.

We praise God by loving one another and we show that love through RESPECT.

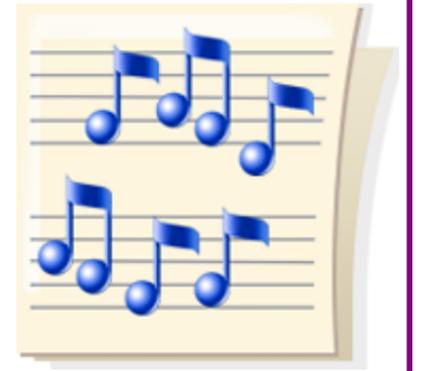
*Cyndi Harmon*



## A Note from John

### Minister of Worship

*John Gorse*



Greetings Everyone,

Wow! What a difference a month makes. Who would have thought an invisible virus could virtually shut our nation and economy down, put a halt to all of our major and minor and high school and college sports, turn our schools into vacant buildings, turn virtually every restaurant into a carry out or drive thru, shutter our movie theaters and concert halls and limit gatherings to less than 10 and change the way we interact with each other and teach us a new phrase: **Social Distancing**. I'm thinking that God is the only one that saw this coming.

This virus is indeed very serious with how quickly and easily it can spread. It is very challenging to detect, and has already claimed many lives and, as of now, there isn't a cure. At FBCO, with the help of some audio and video and computer technical gurus named Tony Pezzo, Jim Boxx, Ronda Brown and Sean McGinnis, we have been able to broadcast on Facebook Live, YouTube Live, and the church website a live Worship Service. I am thankful to the members of the Holy Ghost Praise Band for playing their instruments and singing and leading in worship in song in the services, along with several deacons that have read scripture and led in prayers, and Pastor John delivering God's message for the church during these difficult times.

In some ways, this reminds me of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian church that was forced to meet in homes. I am thankful that, as of now, we are still able to provide a worship experience and keep our church connected through these online services. As bad as this virus is, it has made me think about so many things that we as Americans take for granted: first of all, our health and all the many venues and buildings and stadiums and forms of entertainment that we have in this country; also the freedom that we have to go anywhere we would like; and being able to hug and handshake and interact with our family and friends. One learns quickly how much they mean to you when you are restricted from them. I encourage you to spread the word about our online worship services, and feel free to send along any suggestions you may have to improve them, as this is a work in progress. I pray that America will seek God during these fearful times and the Church will grow.

On a personal note, I first would like to thank God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and this church for the many prayers offered through the years for the salvation of my son, Justin, and his baptism in February. Thanks to his Sunday School teachers, and in particular Jerry Smith, where he learned the books of the Bible in her class at an early age. Proverbs 22:6 states **Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it**. Thanks to my parents and family and Pastor John and Pastor Tim and all who have been instrumental in his decision. I would encourage us all to continue to pray without ceasing, as prayers do make a difference.

God is Good All The Time and I LOVE YOU ALL,

*John*