

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



**First Baptist Church of Oakville**  
*hello March!*  
 2021



### John's Jots

**March is an enigma month.**  
 The weather in March is just so “iffy”! March is a “**Get ready**” month—get ready for Easter, get ready for Spring, and get ready to leave Winter behind. God has a timetable for the changing seasons, just like His timetable for changes in our lives and in our Church. I sense God is telling us to “**get ready**” for changes He has in store. That reminds me of a poem by Louisa Fletcher, called *The Land of Beginning Again*.

*I wish that there were some wonderful place  
 Called the land of Beginning Again,  
 Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches  
 And all of our poor selfish grief  
 Could be dropped like an old coat at the door,  
 And never put on again.*

As we pray for the end of Covid, it will seem like **beginning again**. We can begin to rebuild how we do Church (Sunday School, Sunday night worship, and Wednesday night activities). We can begin again to dream about adding to our building, and restoring our *Koinonia*. We anticipate the next Pastor for FBCO **beginning** a new ministry here. And, of course, I anticipate making Barbara Laber my wife, and **beginning** a new life with her. Like the change from Winter to Spring, with the warm weather that brings new life, this is a time to think about **Beginning Again**.

**Our Quarterly Business Meeting** is Sunday evening, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Among our regular reports, we will address several important issues. We will hear a report and recommendation from the Vision Committee, we will learn who will serve on the Pastor Search Committee, and we will elect a new Nominating Committee for the coming year. The Lord’s business is important—help us do it well.

**Remember the Vision 2020 logo.** That logo reminds us that we are guided by a vision that God is calling us to fulfill. Over the past year, all of life has been on hold because of Covid-19, and our plans have been delayed. Our Vision Committee is **beginning again**, and will report at the March business meeting. I am reminded—**the power of a vision is not just what you achieve by fulfilling it, but what you become by working on it**. I pray that God will continue to guide us, and enable us to fulfill that vision.

**I will be gone two Sundays** in March. Rev. Andy Chulka will be preaching on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Andy is the nephew of Susan Lauer and Cindy Stack. Andy lives in Wentzville with his wife, Nanci, and two teenage children. Welcome Andy to FBCO as he preaches the Word. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Rich Townsend will be preaching. He needs no introduction to us—but he deserves our prayers and appreciation for standing with us so faithfully over the past 5 years. Thank you to both these Godly men for preaching in my absence.

**On a personal note, please ask God’s blessing** on my marriage to Barb Laber. She is stepping into a difficult role for any woman—being a Pastor’s wife, not to mention putting up with me! I thank God for the love we share, and for the joy we have found in being together.

**Thank you for your love, prayers, and support** through the past many months. This pandemic hasn’t been easy for anyone, and some have experienced pain and grief beyond words. Covid has cut through so much of life as we knew it. And I fear the wound will take months and months to heal, and will leave a scar on our world, our country, and our society. May God guide us as we face the future and a new normal, **BEGINNING AGAIN**.

**First Baptist Church of Oakville \* St. Louis, MO, 63129, \* 314 846-8511 \* [www.firstbco.net](http://www.firstbco.net)**



## March Birthdays

Madison Talley.....3  
 Marissa Talley.....6  
 Trevor and Trenton Moravec.....7  
 Kelli Lewis.....7  
 Jamie Donnelly, Mary Morton,  
 Mike McDermott.....9  
 Joey Lamping.....12  
 Jerry McLeod.....14  
 Ann Talley.....15  
 Ally Schellhase, Susie Thompson.....17  
 Don Stoddard, Madison Spencer.....18  
 Bettye Dohack.....21  
 Doris Cammarata.....23  
 Walter Dickerman, Alex Jacobi.....27

**God Bless You on Your Birthday!**

## March Calendar

Church Council Meeting...(Noon).....7  
 Deacon's Meeting...(5:00 pm).....7  
 Business Meeting.....(6:00 pm).....7  
**Daylight Savings Time begins**.....14  
 Rev. Andy Chulka preaching.....14  
 St. Patrick's Day.....17  
 Spring Begins.....20  
 Rich Townsend Preaching.....21  
 Palm Sunday.....28

**Live stream on our Facebook page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBCO/#>  
**FBCO YouTube Channel**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm5fCxZ6gPl4gE-ls1RDvA>  
**Citylink live stream and archive**  
<http://www.citylinktv.com/channel/baptist-church-of-oakville/>

# GWEN'S Gallery

## It's Okay Not To Be Okay by Sheila Walsh

When Sheila Walsh discovered “I’m not good enough and I’m good with what,” everything started to change. We’ve all experienced that moment when we wish we could start all over again. Failed marriages, lost friends, addictions, lost jobs. This is not the life we imagined. Yesterday can leave us stuck, sad, shamed, scared, and searching. Sheila wants you to face the pain head on and then start again, from right where you are.

In *It's Okay Not To Be Okay*, she helps you overcome the same old rut of struggles and pain by changing the way you think about God, yourself, and your everyday life. She shares practical, doable, daily strategies that will help you move forward one step at a time, knowing God will never let you down.

It’s never too late to start again . . . and there is healing and freedom in just taking the first step.

## Mind Games by Nancy Mehl

FBI Behavioral Analyst Kaely Quinn’s methods may be highly unorthodox, but her talent is undeniable. She’s done her best to establish a new life for herself after being demoted and transferred to St. Louis when a reporter revealed she’s the daughter of an infamous serial killer. But when that same reporter claims to have received an anonymous poem predicting a string of murders, ending with Kaely’s, it seems her old life has followed her.

When a body is found that fits the poem’s morbid predictions, Kaely and her new partner, Special Agent Noah Hunter, are forced to move past his skepticism of her approach and work together to unravel the deadly riddle.

With a brazen serial killer who breaks all the normal patterns on the loose, Noah and Kaely must race to catch the murderer before anyone else, including Kaely, is killed.



# John's Notes

Greetings Everyone,

WOW!!! Was that a cold spell or what? 14 days or so below freezing in a row. Hopefully the worst of winter is behind us and we are on to better days. And with that I am in high hopes that our church is on to better days as well (at least in comparison to 2020). It is great to be able meet for services in the sanctuary and our Vision Committee and Harvest Festival Committee are meeting to see how we can move forward and my prayer is that there will be a positive outcome and be able to have our Harvest Festival this year and resume our endeavor to expand the building at FBCO. Along with that I look forward to the day when we can have Bible Study on Sunday mornings and be able to have God's Choir at Oakville back in the choir loft and resume our very special Sunday Evening Dining/Bible Study/Worship/Fellowship Service. I think that described it accurately.

The new technology with online capability is a wonderful thing to stream our services into homes and has enabled us to stay connected during these unprecedented times of Covid-19 but I truly have missed seeing everyone in person and that wonderful human to human and face to face communication and interaction. I really hope that we will be able to return to that soon. With that said we do have to take the strongest measures possible to attempt to keep everyone safe. I so much appreciate the work that Tony Pezzo and the Building and Grounds Committee have done to ensure a safe environment at FBCO by installing units on each of our furnaces that kill viruses as the air circulates through and the extra precautions that are done by Jeff Bennett to spray all the pews each week and the cleaning team to sanitize surfaces. With the vaccine becoming more available we have hope that we will be able to resume a more normal schedule of activities and services at FBCO. I sure hope so.

On a different note, I was thinking recently that I have been doing these newsletter articles for some 15 to 20 yrs and at 12 articles a year that is probably close to 200 articles or so. To tell you the truth I am out of ideas. We have broached a wide amount of topics through the years from Biblical Lessons to informative topics to teaching to musical insights to inspirational to humorous to uplifting to real life stories and sobering sad reflections to the borderline absurd. If you have some suggestions at what might be a good topic to write an article about or something you found interesting feel free to let me know. And as a verification that anyone out there is even reading this article I would like for you to do something for me that only you and I will know. If you are in the service physically (and hopefully mentally as well) as the service is about to begin just give a thumbs up sign. For those of you that watch on Facebook Live or YouTube Live use the thumbs up emoji or just type in thumbs up in the dialogue box. Remember this is just between you and me. Heres to a great new year at FBCO as we seek to do Gods Will. I am inspired by the words of the prophet Jeremiah in his book chapter 29 and verse 11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." May we always keep our faith and hope in Jesus Christ and his plans for us. And as the Police Sgt used to say on the Hill Street Blues tv show "Be safe out there."

May God Bless Abundantly and I LOVE YOU ALL,

John Gorse

P.S. Don't forget our little secret just between us. Thumbs up everyone.

Coming in April

April 1<sup>st</sup> Maunday Thursday Lord's Supper  
April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Worship Celebration

Vision  
2020



for the future

PRAYING, TRUSTING, GIVING

Remember this Logo?!  
The Vision Committee  
will share a report and  
a recommendation in our  
March Business Meeting.



## Kidz Praise

During March, Kids' Praise will continue our trek through the Bible. We are reading through some of the Psalms and learning about being in the comfort of God. We are also learning about what it means to give comfort to others.

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

Cyndi Harmon