

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

REMEMBER

*If you can't join us in person, you are always welcome
to join us via our broadcast.*

Live stream on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBCO/#>

FBCO YouTube Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm5fCxZ6gPl4gE-lls1RDvA>

Citylink live stream and archive
<http://www.citylinktv.com/channel/baptist-church-of-oakville/>

He is Not Here . . . He is Risen!

APRIL Birthdays



Jo Sitzes.....1
Jesse Emmons.....6
Mary Ann Bennett, &
Karen Barrett.....8
Rich Townsend, Noah Jacobi.....9
Victoria Allen.....11
Forrest Buchanan, Sheila Parker...12
Brandon Cockrill.....13
Jo Ann Cornish.....14
Ed Mohr, Bernice Westrich.....17
Sam Gacem.....21
Teresa Farrow.....25
Linda Mohr.....26
Sue Berger, Helen Cook, &
Dean Goodman.....29

God Bless You on Your Birthday!

Happening In April

Maunday Thursday Service.....1
Good Friday.....2
Building and Grounds Meeting.....3
Easter Sunday.....4
W.M.U Meeting.....10
Emmons Family Concert.....11
Called Business Meeting.....18

Please remember to pray for our
Pastor Search Committee.
They are meeting on most
Monday evenings to begin
their search for a new
pastor for FBCO.



JOHN'S JOIS

Easter is a time of such HOPE. And hope is so needed in our world today. As we are still navigating these uncharted waters of Covid-19 and all it has taken from us. We are still hearing of more cases, more deaths, and more uncertainty. That uncertainty is very uncomfortable for us, because forced isolation is so contrary to our experience in the family of God. I have really missed over the past 13 months the comfort of loving hugs and shaking hands with some of you!! 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. Our celebration of Easter abounds in the wonderful discovery that
HE IS RISEN--RISEN INDEED!!

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. I hope you can join us at 9:00 or 10:45 this Sunday to share in the Easter celebration.

Our Maundy Thursday service is this Thursday, April 1st, at 7:00 pm. It is that symbolic memorial meal that Jesus shared with His disciples in the Upper Room the night before He was crucified. That night, Jesus gave the Passover symbols a whole new meaning and offered the cup of the

New Covenant with us. If you possibly can, come to this service, wear a mask, sit apart, but let us be together for this Lord's Supper in *Koinonia* fellowship. If you cannot or choose not to attend, we will try to share that experience with you through our live stream, as we do each Sunday.. *Let us eat that bread and drink that cup in remembrance of Him.*

Palm Sunday evening, our WMU led us in a virtual prayer service for *The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*. We sent out Prayer Guides to those of you who were not in Church last Sunday. The theme is year is *Moving the Mission Forward*, and the national goal for North American missions is \$70 million dollars. Our FBCO goal is \$2500. By giving a special offering this Easter, we are supporting the work of over 5000 missionaries, some right here in St. Louis. Please join us in praying for our mission witness in North America, and please, give as generously as you can—special offering envelopes are available in the sanctuary.

Speaking of missions, on Sunday evening, April 11th, at 6:00 pm, the J Band (the Emmons family) will present a concert and serve refreshments for the Church family. This concert is to raise money to help Jessie Emmons minister in Zambia, Africa for two months this Summer. Please support Jessie with your prayers, and give as you are able. But come and enjoy the concert.

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

Pastor John

*First Baptist Church of Oakville * St. Louis, MO, 63129, * 314 846-8511 * www.firstbco.net*

GWEN’S Gallery

The Robin’s Greeting by Wanda E. Brunstetter

For the past two years Belinda King has been struggling to keep the family greenhouse running. Despite disconcerting events that have threatened to put them out of business, they have survived two growing seasons. And now Belinda can focus on the two suitors vying for her attention. Herschel Fisher, a new acquaintance, makes her feel relaxed, and Monroe Esh, an admirer from her past, reminds her of her youth.

But just when Belinda thinks she can choose between her suitors, life throws more trials her way. Her teenage son, Henry, becomes bitter about the idea of her dating anyone and attacks on the greenhouse start again.

When can Belinda hope to experience the peace and love her weary heart longs for?

Trial and Error by Robert Whitlow

Buddy Smith built his law practice around tracking down missing children. After all, he knows the agony of being separated from a child. Not long after his daughter’s birth, her mother ran away and Buddy never saw either one again.

Gracie Blaylock has known Buddy her entire life, and now that she is clerk of court for the country, their paths cross frequently. When Gracie hears that a teenager in town has gone missing, she knows Buddy is the one for the case.

Together with Gracie and Mayleah—the new detective in town—Buddy chases all leads, hoping to reach the missing teen before it’s too late. And as he pursues one girl, he uncovers clues that could bring him closer to the girl he thought he’d lost forever: his own daughter.

Master legal writer Robert Whitlow will keep you guessing in this gripping legal drama while reminding you of the power of God’s restoration.



Called Business Meeting
Sunday, April 18th, 6:00 pm
To vote on Phase 1 of our
new building project.
Please be praying about this
important decision


Kidz Praise . . .

Happy spring! Kids Praise will be having our annual Easter party and talk about the crucifixion and resurrection.

We will then continue our journey through the Bible learning about the different divisions and key passages. During this journey, we are learning about forgiveness and the comfort that God offers us.

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

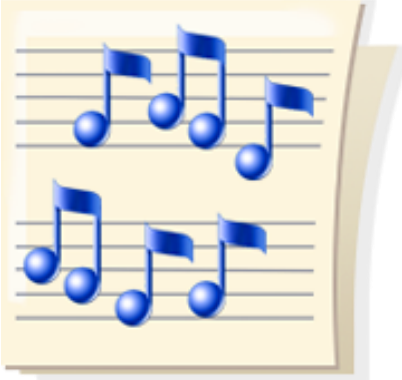
Cyndi Harmon



A Note from John

Minister of Worship

John Gorse



Greetings Everyone,

We recently had a Meal and Meeting for all of the members of the Holy Ghost Praise Band and those that work with the Sound and Video and Computer needs for the services. It was great to get together and thank those that are so faithful and use their talents for FBCO in our services and preparation for them.

We also were able to address any issues that have come up and brainstorm thoughts on how we could improve services in the future. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to attend but at last count we have about 19 people that make up the Praise Band and Tech group. I thank God for all our volunteers and for how He has blessed our church over the last 10 years with the development of the Praise Band and then the start of the video streaming several years ago that was first on our website and then expanded to Facebook Live and Youtube Live that vastly increased our outreach to those in our community and our church that couldn't come to the services in person.

This was very forward thinking and unique as most churches our size at that time did not have online capabilities. We were ready for the challenges of the Covid 19 shutdown as God had prepared us and we were able to continue having services and reaching our members and a much larger audience through the technology of the internet during the last year of uncertainty. Under the leadership of Jim Boxx and Tony Pezzo and your giving we were blessed to be able to upgrade our cameras to state of the art video quality along with a new projector and a new digital mixer board that moved the control of audio out into the sanctuary to improve our sound. We have a new computer and a personal monitor system and wireless guitars and a multitude of upgrades that have greatly enhanced our capabilities and improved our services.

I would like to give a shout out to Francis Lavall that makes welcome messages and other great slides for our online church and Ronda Brown for the wonderful screen backgrounds she prepares in the Powerpoint presentations for the in person services. It is truly amazing how far we have come and much of it within the last 2 years. Which brings me to my next thought and that is we are always looking for new people to be part of the Holy Ghost Band or to work with sound or video or computer.

As you can see with currently having two services on Sunday morning it takes a lot of people to make those services happen and we are willing to train you to be able to make you part of the team. I know there are many of you that have talents that can be used for the Lord at FBCO and I know you will receive a blessing for using them here. Please feel free to contact me or Jim Boxx or Tony Pezzo if you are interested. Thanks again to all that use their talents at FBCO. You are truly a blessing for the church body. Hope to see you in the services or online.

God is Great ALL THE TIME and I LOVE YOU ALL,

John