

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



JOHN'S JOIS

I enjoy a CELEBRATION.
 We celebrate in worship every Sunday—our faith in a Living Savior, and being the body of Christ. But special celebrations are on the calendar in May. These special emphases

give us opportunities to recognize people we love and remember people we miss. You can enjoy these celebrations of the body of Christ at FBCO by joining us or tuning in each Sunday morning. Sharing about our worship with family and friends.

Thank you for your faithful giving. Your tithes and offerings continue to support the work of our Church and Kingdom work. Through this past year, with all of its challenges, you have proven faithful. Your generous spirit helped us exceed our Annie Armstrong goal for North American missions. And your financial and prayer support will help Jessie Emmons minister in Zambia this Summer. Please continue to pray for and support the ministry of FBCO. There is much work to be done.

Thursday, May 6th, is the National Day of Prayer. The Day of Prayer was first declared by President Harry Truman, and made a national observance the first Thursday in May by President Ronald Reagan. Remember to pause in prayer next Thursday to thank God for our country, to ask God for His blessing, and to seek God for our future.

Sunday, May 9th, we will honor our mothers, present and remembered on *Mothers Day*. God's only begotten Son honored His mother—even from the cross. Even with social distancing, I hope you can honor them and celebrate the day. Whether you love your Mother or remember your Mother, plan to mark the day!

Sunday, May 23rd, is Pentecost Sunday. Fifty days after Passover, Pentecost marks the miraculous indwelling of the young Church by the Holy Spirit. We mark that day because, without the empowering and enabling of God's Holy Spirit, our Church would be just a social club with good intentions. And we really need a fresh movement of God's Spirit across this land.

Sunday, May 30th, we will celebrate *Memorial Day*, (formerly, *Decoration Day*) as we pause to remember loved ones that death has taken from our families and from our church family. Remembering becomes more important as we get older, because we are reminded of those who are gone from us but not forgotten. I thank God for giving us the ability to remember them.

I celebrate that our Phase I building effort is approved and underway. This is an exciting next step to improve our facilities and welcome new families to our Church. Pray for the Vision Team as they continue to finetune the design and work out important details with the architect and contractor. Pray for our Pastor Search Committee also. They are meeting weekly to help us find God's man for the next step (No, the next chapter) of our Church's ministry. I am grateful for the diligent work of both of these groups, and what their work means for the future of FBCO. Indeed, *It is Well*.

On a personal note, thank you for praying for Barb and me, and for embracing her in her new role as *Pastor's wife*. She brings joy to my heart. I thank God for grace overcoming grief and love overcoming loss. I thank God for Barbara. And I thank God for all of you!

Gratefully, Your Pastor
John Hessel

May Birthdays 

Barbara Mays.....	4
Iain Bennett.....	7
Allen Schulte.....	10
Angie Camden.....	12
Emily Cockrill.....	13
Dennis Amelung, Tammy Harper.....	14
Aniston Boxx, Jan Morris.....	15
Donny and Doyle Robbins.....	17
Mark Johnston.....	19
Rick Massie.....	20
Don Olmsted.....	22
Sarah Willoughby, Drew Juhlin.....	27
Ann Knight.....	29
Jim Boxx.....	30

God Bless You on Your Birthday!

Coming In May

Church Council Luncheon (Noon).....	2
National Day of Prayer.....	6
Mothers Day.....	9
Electronics and Recycling Day.....	15
(9 A.M. - 3 P.M.)	
Pentecost Sunday.....	23
Red Cross Blood Drive.....	24
(2 - 6 P.M.)	
Memorial Day.....	31

When will we resume Sunday School?

The Church Council will address this this Sunday. Last year, we asked when we could worship together again. We long for the day when we can gather without fear of Covid to worship, pray, and study God's Word. Please pray that day will come soon.

GWEN'S Gallery

The church library will reopen on
Sunday, May 2, 2021, 10—10:45 am

THANK YOU, PASTOR JOHN!

Pastor John has donated books from Brenda's library to our church library. They have been processed and ready to be checked out. Please come by the library and view the display of books that Brenda enjoyed reading—Women's ministry, prayer, and spiritual growth. These two books are from Brenda's library:

Fresh-Brewed Life by Nicole Johnson

With wit and wisdom, Nicole Johnson leads you on a journey of awakenings—first, to God as you respond to His tender, passionate love for you; second, to yourself as you embrace your identity as a woman, your gifts, and your dreams; and finally, to others as you learn to love and communicate in ways that bring joy and closeness. Challenging and immensely practical, *Fresh-Brewed Life* is a heartwarming book that's good to the last drop—good enough to change your life and help you touch the lives of others.

The Daniel Prayer by Anne Graham Lotz

Many people today find that their prayers don't "work." And like a broken cell phone, prayer gets thrown out as unnecessary "clutter" in most people's lives. Anne Granham Lotz has found that while prayer does work, sometimes the "pray-ers" don't. So she turned to the prophet Daniel for help.

The Daniel Prayer is not an everyday type of prayer. It's a prayer birthed under pressure, heartache, grief, and desperation. Or it can be triggered by a sudden revelation of hope, an answer to prayer, a promise freshly received or a miracle that lies just over the horizon. But whether you pray out of triumph or tragedy, *The Daniel Prayer* works!

This book, based on Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9, will help you pray effectively for your nation, for your family, and for yourself.

Join Anne as she leads you into a greater dimension of prayer than you ever thought possible.



Thursday, May 6th

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Kids Praise . . .



During May, Kids Praise is learning about the Ten Commandments. We are first focusing on the two that Jesus said are the most important (Matthew 22:36-40): love God and love your neighbor as yourself. We will take a moment and talk about Memorial Day at the end of the month.

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,

I hope everyone is doing well. Have you ever used an excuse? Im thinking we all have. Webster defines an excuse as: verb, an attempt to lessen the blame attaching to (a fault or offense); seek to defend or justify.

One of the most famous excuses for why one doesn't have their homework done is "My dog ate my homework." One attempts to blame the house pet for their failure to do the work they were assigned. I'm sure teachers Melcena Nappier, Helen Cook, JoAnn Cornish and Ronda Brown have all heard more than their share of excuses of why a student didn't have their homework finished. For some reason it always feels better to make an excuse and blame something or someone rather than take responsibility for an action or inaction.

Excuses aren't a new phenomenon. They have been around since the very beginning with Adam and Eve when Adam blamed Eve and God for why he ate of the fruit of the tree of Good and Evil. Here is a humorous list of 10 excuses in the Bible I found online. 10 Jesse - *David? That little squirt's off tending sheep.* 1 Samuel 16:11 9. The Rich Young Man *What! You want me to sell all my stuff??* Matthew 19:22 8. Zechariah- *That sounds like a pretty crazy plan Elizabeth and I are a little old to be starting a family* Luke 1:18 7. The Real Estate investor *Hey, I just got a sweet deal on some prime farmland. I'll get back to you just as soon as I check it out.* Luke 14:18 6. Jonah - *I don't feel like it. Besides, I wouldn't lift a finger to help those Ninnies.* Jonah 1:3 5 the Bridegroom- *Dude! I'm on my honeymoon! I'll be back in touch in a few days.* Luke 14:20 4. Jeremiah- *But I'm just a kid!* Jeremiah 1:6 3. Gideon- *Me? Are you sure you don't want someone from a better family?* Judges 6:15 2 Sarai- *Don't make me laugh! I'm too old to have kids.* Genesis 18:12 And #1 Moses- *Well I'm not much of a public speaker.* Exodus 4:10.

God has heard virtually every excuse we can come up with. He is pleased with only one response to His call. Isaiah said: *Here I am! I'll go! Send me!!* Over the next few months our nominating committee will be doing its work to fill positions in the church and, sometimes, when people are approached, its a lot easier to make an excuse rather than prayerfully seeking Gods Will. Through the years I have heard countless excuses why people don't join the choir or be part of the Praise Band or just sing out in church. I have found that God can do a lot more with our weaknesses than what we think we are capable of. On that note, I would like to invite those that have musical abilities to join the Holy Ghost Band. We are always looking for people to help with the sound and tech team. No excuses. See you in the services in person and online.

May God Bless Abundantly and I LOVE YOU ALL,

John

Red Cross Blood Drive—Monday, May 24th



You can sign up on the Red Cross website, or contact Beth Boxx for an appointment or if you have questions. Donating blood is not painful, takes only about an hour, and truly saves lives. Mark it on you calendar and plan to be a blood donor and a life giver this month.