



The Voice

April 2025

WELCOME

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day arise again.’” Luke 24:5b-7

Message from our Pastor Dr. Shawn

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*The item for the
Bland Ministry Cen-
ter for April
Mac & Cheese*

*Good Friday Service
April 18th,
7:00pm*

*Children's Easter Egg
Hunt Saturday
April 19th,
10:00am*

*Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 20th
9:45-10:45am
Easter Sunday Morning
Service
11:00am*

*Church Work Day
Saturday, April 26th
8am to 12pm*

The Christmas Season may be the “most wonderful time of the year,” but the follower of Christ knows that Christmas is not truly celebrated without seeing it through the lens of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, we are reminded that all roads, the joyful and the sorrowful, lead to hope through the victory that is Jesus’ resurrection from the dead!

As is our Southern Baptist tradition, in this month of Easter we also highlight the inspiring legacy of Annie Armstrong, a devoted servant of God who championed the spread of the Good News through missions. Her dedication continues today through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, which supports church planting and outreach efforts. I am grateful for your generosity toward missions, and pray this year will be no different as we seek to meet our goal of \$3000.

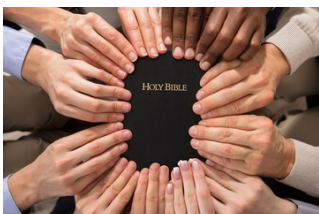
We invite you to celebrate with us at our special Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday (April 20) from 9:45-10:30 AM. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for food and fellowship as we prepare for a meaningful Easter service together. We will have some yard signs available for you to remind your neighbors of the invitation.

As always, be sure to check our calendar of events for upcoming services, Bible studies, and fellowship gatherings. And don't forget to celebrate with those in our congregation by looking at this month's birthdays and anniversaries section.

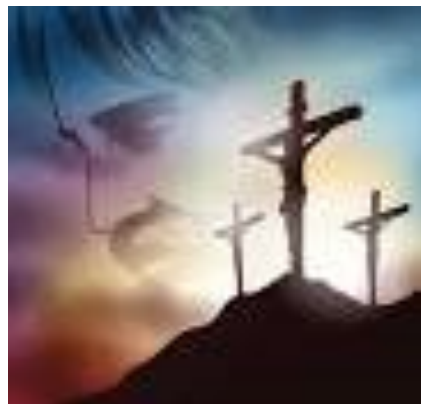
Mission and Ministry Opportunities

The Betsy West Circle

**Meeting on the 2nd
Thursday
at 10:30 am**



**Ruby J.
Louthan
Circle
Meeting
3rd Tuesday
at
6:00 pm**



**April 26th
Saturday
Game Day
4:00pm**

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 TeamKID & Youth 5pm	7	8	9 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:20pm	10 Betsy West Circle 10:30am	11	12
13 Palm Sunday TeamKID & Youth 5pm	14 Craft Morning 10:00am CLC Meeting 6:30pm	15 Ruby Jane Louthan Meeting 6:00pm	16 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:20pm	17	18 Good Friday Service 7pm	19 Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10am
20 EASTER breakfast 9:45-10:45am 	21 Deacon's Meeting 6:30pm	22	23 Church Supper 5:45pm Business Mtg. 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:20pm	24	25	26 Church Work Day 8am-12pm OASIS Game Day 4pm
27 TeamKID & Youth 5pm	28 Craft Morning 10:00am	29	30 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Choir Practice 7:20pm			

April Birthdays

April 02 Linda Hamann
April 04 Nathanael Shumate
April 07 Beverly White
April 09 Natalie Burgess

April 10 Will Parsell
April 11 Martha Gordon
Gene Thurmer
April 23 Lois White

April 24 David Donithan
April 25 Charles Toney
Shirley Vest
April 27 Erick Burgess

April Anniversaries

April 10 David & Brenda Scruggs
April 18 Wally & Theresa Parsell



MANY WAYS TO BLESS

Because of your generous giving, First Baptist Church was able to provide residents in McDowell County with much needed cleaning supplies, fans, dehumidifiers and other things. Your expressions of love and compassion for others does not go unnoticed. Please continue to lift those who have been effected by flooding in your prayers. May you be richly blessed as you continue to bless others.



The Blessing Box is at the Augusta Street entrance of the church. At the moment, it is being filled with non-perishable foods and snacks. When the temperature rises above freezing, it will also contain canned foods. This is a blessing to our community.

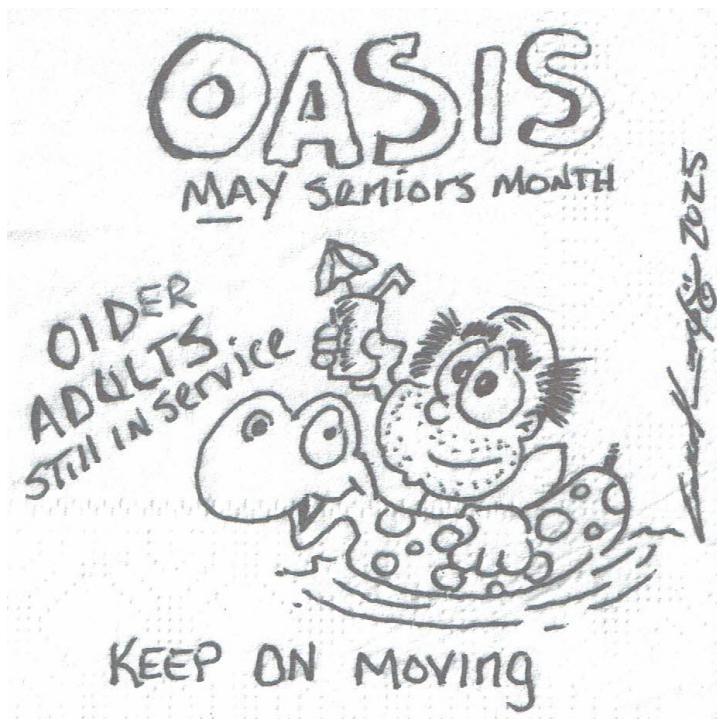


Youth Spotlight of the month.

This month, we had Elias Stout sharing about all the cool things happening in his life. Keep Elias in your prayers as he is getting ready to make a transition to college in this next season of his life.

"The main thing that has been going on in my life is a lot of music related things like, going to All County Band. Music is something I am very thankful for so I'm very excited to experience this! Another important thing happening relatively soon is college. College is a huge step in my music career. So being able to continue my passion after high school is very exciting, but also very nerve-racking."

Elias Stout



By Erik Kramer, our local church artist

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

Emerson

Oh, God, when I have food help me to remember the hungry;

When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless;

When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer;

And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion.

Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Samuel F. Pugh

OASIS—Senior Adult Ministry

May 4th is Senior Adult Sunday in all Southern Baptist Churches that celebrate their Senior Adult Ministries on this day.

I want to offer my congratulations and recognition of the service the Senior Adults at First Baptist Church are doing. They are prayer warriors, providers of meals, a leaning shoulder, cab service, a visitor, and just a friend you can count on to be there.

Keep up the good work because its all done in the name of Jesus. Thank you for your faithfulness in serving. You have taken what it means to serve others seriously and God will continue to bless you through this ministry.

OASIS (Older Adults Still in Service) meets monthly on the 4th Saturday. We have Seniors from ages 60 to early 90's. One of our primary goals is to fellowship with one another at a regularly scheduled time. We will enjoy a meal at church or one of the local restaurants. Come and join us in this ministry. Age is just a number!

Have a great day in the Lord.

Peter West

OASIS Coordinator

First Baptist Church

WHY IS THE EASTER OFFERING NAMED FOR ANNIE ARMSTRONG?

In 1895, an offering was first collected for the work of the Home Missions Board. In 1934, this offering was renamed the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions to honor the work of Annie Armstrong as a tireless advocate for giving, praying, and going to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who did not know him.

10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ANNIE ARMSTRONG:

1. Annie Armstrong was born on July 11, 1850, in Baltimore, Maryland.
2. From a young age, she went with her mother to the missionary meetings of Woman's Mission to Woman. It was there she developed a heart for missions.
3. Annie helped plant churches.
4. Although her family was very wealthy, she had a heart to serve those who lived in poverty and addiction, especially the impoverished who lived in rural areas.
5. Annie mobilized women to reach beyond the bounds of race by organizing missions to African Americans and Native Americans.
6. In 1882, Annie helped organize and became the first president of the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland.
7. On May 14, 1888, Annie helped women from 12 states form the Executive Committee of Woman's Missions Societies, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. This organization would officially be named Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1890. She was elected as corresponding secretary.
8. In 1888, Annie was elected corresponding secretary of the organization and her motto, "Go Forward" was chosen. Annie wrote 100s of letter to raise awareness and promote giving to missions. It was in this year that a foreign missions offering was established to send a missionary to China to relieve Lottie Moon.
9. Annie Armstrong served WMU until 1906. During that time she never took a salary.
10. Annie died on December 20, 1938, the year of WMU's 50 anniversary.

THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING TODAY

Today, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes to train, resource, and send more than 2,400 missionary families across the United States and Canada. One hundred percent of gifts given to this offering goes directly to the missionaries for their use in the field. None goes to administration.

Our church goal is \$3,000.00, please pray toward your contribution for this offering.



First Baptist Church
1325 Augusta Street
Bluefield, WV 24701

Phone: 304-327-2495

E-mail: church@fbcblue.comcastbiz.net

“Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you.” – Walt Whitman



First Baptist Church
of Bluefield

