



# The Messenger

A Newsletter of the

## Murfreesboro Baptist Church

April 2021

### WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

One of the interesting things that I have discovered about being a pastor is that I often find myself straddling the line between two seasons. What I mean by this is that, in December, for example, I'm thinking about Advent and Christmas at the same time. Even as I write about Isaiah's prophecies and the importance of hope and waiting, I am also thinking about and planning for Christmas Eve and the fulfillment of those promises we were hoping in and waiting for.

But never is the tension that comes with straddling seasons greater than during Holy Week. The eight days from Palm Sunday to Easter invite Christians to remember and reflect upon the most important week in the history of the world. During this week we move from joy to sorrow and back to joy. We lament death and then we celebrate in life. We mourn the crucifixion and then we rejoice at the resurrection.

But this tension is not unique to ministers who plan and lead worship services during Holy Week. The tension between crucifixion and resurrection - between death and life - is a tension that is inherent to our lives as Christians in this world. Every Spring, on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the good and world changing news that Jesus Christ was resurrected. And with his resurrection we confess that God's Kingdom has arrived and that God's victory over death has been finished.

We believe these things deep in our bones and we place the fulness of our hope in these things, and yet, we continue to see death and sin all around us and even in our own lives. It is a tremendous tension that would seem to require something to be false. That is to say that either sin and death aren't really a part of our lives or that God hasn't really won the victory over death.

Now, I hope that you're not willing to make either one of those statements. To do so would be to ignore the very real pain and suffering around us or to make the good news of the gospel ineffective and meaningless. But, there is a third way. A way that affirms the reality of a still fallen world and the reality of God's victory over death.

This third way is to affirm what we find in scripture - to affirm that

our salvation is past, present, and future - that we have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved. Even though this doesn't necessarily resolve the tension, it does give us a way to understand and live with the tension. So, let us go forward from Easter not seeking to do away with this tension, but to recognize that this tension means that there is still work to be done.

For although God's Kingdom is surely already here, it is not yet here fully. So let us go and live faithful lives that seek to grow God's Kingdom.

Grace and peace,  
Lane



Thanks be to God  
For the Life of  
Lynn Whitley Gray

November 13, 1942 - March 4, 2021



Thanks be to God  
For the Life of  
Priscilla Jennifer  
Galbraith Moore

August 30, 1923 - March 17, 2021



Come out and join the youth group for a movie night on Friday, April 9th! We have been meeting every Wednesday night since church opened back up and we are having a great year so far. Our movie night will consist of pizza, snacks, and Monsters Inc. It will be a great opportunity for fellowship and fun for any youth in the community! We will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:30 and begin the movie around 7. Feel free to invite anyone that might be interested. We look forward to seeing you there!



### HAPPY EASTER

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Maundy Thursday Service**

Thursday, April 1  
7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Service**

Friday, April 2  
7:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday**

April 4

### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES



Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Murfreesboro Baptist Church  
Will Hold  
Two Worship Services

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

If you are planning to attend and have not registered with the church office, please consider attending the 8:30 a.m. service. The registration for the 11:00 is nearing the capacity limit. We want to accommodate all who desire to safely worship our Lord on the day that he rose victorious from the grave.

## BLESSING MINISTRIES

### FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, April 20 by 2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

### MBC FOOD PANTRY

If you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church before the last Monday of each month.

*Any and all donations are welcome.*

## COMMUNION



We will receive the Lord's on Maundy Thursday and again on Sunday, April 11. On Sunday the 11th, we will receive communion as we have done for the past several months. For those who worship with us in the sanctuary, the prepackaged elements will be waiting for you in your pews. For those who continue to worship at home, you may celebrate the meal with elements you have at home, or you are welcome to stop by the office to pick up the prepackaged bread and juice.

On Maundy Thursday, we will do things a little differently. Instead of using the prepackaged elements, the cracker and juice will be served with our normal silver trays. One cup will have a piece of the cracker and one cup will have the juice. Additionally, instead of coming forward as we typically do on Maundy Thursday, I will deliver the elements to everyone as they are seated. However, if you are still more comfortable using the prepackaged elements, those will be available as well.



## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

April	1	Hugh Vincent
April	2	Colon Ballance
April	2	Gibson Hill
April	4	Jane Ballance
April	5	Lynne Moore
April	7	Hunter Brown
April	10	Karen Cavin
April	10	Joe Murray
April	11	Molly Brown
April	11	Sarah Davis
April	12	Liz Brown
April	13	Susan Benthall
April	13	Ben McLean
April	14	Elizabeth Brown
April	14	Thomas Hill
April	18	Clifton Joyner
April	22	Lauren McCormick
April	22	Lou Vann
April	22	Lynn Miles
April	24	Grace Harders
April	28	Lori Harders
April	29	Mariah Gallop

*Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.*

## USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN APRIL

**Deacon of the Month**  
Charlie Gallop

**Opening of the Church**  
Steve Fowler

**Ushers**  
April

David Farnham, Hal Thomas,  
Lloyd Hill, Thomas Bird  
May

Steve Fowler, T.K. Warren, Mike  
Alston, Kirk Peterson

**Radio Ministry Sponsor**  
Raymond and Susan Benthall

**Caregivers**  
*March 28-April 10*  
Gertrude Revelle and Daynelle Trent  
*April 11-April 24*  
Colon and Jane Ballance  
*April 25-May 8*  
Aldeen Gatewood

## UPCOMING DATES IN APRIL

April 11  
Communion

April 13  
Deacons' Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

April 20  
Food Bank of the Albemarle  
Volunteers Needed 2:30 p.m.

## CHURCH STAFF REV. LANE BASS PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....Organist & Choir  
Director  
JORDAN BROWN....Youth Ministry Intern  
  
CORBIN ROBERTSON.....Youth Ministry  
Intern  
TOM CAULKINS.....Pastor Emeritus  
TERESA MARTIN.....Administrative Asst.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 1:30  
252-398-3613 [www.murfbc.org](http://www.murfbc.org)

The financial statement for March was unavailable when the Messenger went to press. Information shown is from weekly tithes and offerings. When completed, the report will be published in the church bulletin and copies will be available in the church office.

### Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for March 2021

	Mar. 7	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28	Monthly Total	For the Year
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$15,769.24	\$102,500.06
<b>Weekly Tithes &amp; Offerings</b>	\$8,775.00	\$4,388.26	2,078.69	\$2,655.00	\$17,896.85	\$99,404.57
<b>Other Income</b>						\$52.86
<b>Over (Under)</b>	<b>\$4,832.69</b>	<b>\$445.95</b>	<b>(\$1,863.62)</b>	<b>(1,287.31)</b>	<b>\$2,127.61</b>	<b>(\$3,042.63)</b>



**Murfreesboro Baptist Church**  
200 West Main Street  
Murfreesboro, N. C. 27855

Return Service Requested