Dear Church Family,

As we turn to the Lenten season this week and in the weeks to come, you may notice some changes in worship and around the church. Change in worship is always approached with great thought, prayer, and humility. Change can be scary for people who have been worshipping in the same way for years and years.

Fears about change are not a new innovation in church life. In fact, throughout Paul’s ministry he fields churches’ complaints and fears about changes in their communities. We hear about his response to people’s confusion about changes concerning spiritual gifts, circumcision, eating meat, washing hands, and so much more. In all of these responses, Paul encourages patience and giving others the benefit of the doubt. He reminds people that particular practices are for the glory of God, not necessarily always for people’s comfort. Our worship should comfort us, but it should also unsettle us. It is good when worship takes us by surprise because often that is an opportunity for a divine interruption.

This Lenten season, we are excited to implement some minor changes in worship that we believe will bring an opportunity for just that: a divine interruption. The first change you might notice is that we will be standing for the Gospel reading. This is not unfamiliar to many of you as there are several traditions that practice this. Standing for the Gospel is an ancient tradition that dates back as early as the Third Century. According to this tradition, Scripture both should be read and received from a higher position as a symbol of the goodness and majesty we receive with Scripture.

The next change will be immediately after the Gospel reading. We have moved the time for silence to provide a time for prayer and meditation between the Gospel reading and the sermon. We were inspired by the late Howard Thurman who masterfully integrated silence into his sermons. We felt there needed to be a moment to reflect on the power of the Gospel readings during this holy season.

Finally, we are changing the words of the Doxology back to what is familiar to most people here: “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye, Heavenly Host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.” We have listened to you all share about your struggles to memorize the Doxology we used for most of last year, so we felt the need to return to something that would offer comfort and familiarity.

Lutheran pastor, Peter Marty, said, “Authentic surprise in worship does not mean novelty for the sake of novelty. The goal is not activity where nothing can be counted on to build tradition or establish rhythm. It does not mean substituting gimmicks for theological sturdiness. But if the grace of God is as extraordinary as Jesus makes it out to be, we should not impoverish God with predictability. We should instead give genuine surprise a chance.”

We pledge to never make a change in worship just for the sake of making a change. However, as a congregation, we must be open to the call of God that comes to us by surprise and through divine interruptions. This Lenten season, after all, is about the divine interruption of life in death, meaning in emptiness, and depth in shallowness.

May you have a blessed Lent.

Katie
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CLASSICS
Tuesday, March 24
11:00 a.m.

Join us on Tuesday, March 24 at 11:00 a.m. in Lewis Hall to hear Joe Redding’s presentation of an Irish program, based on his heritage and travels to Ireland. Call the church office to make your reservations at 234-2671. Deadline for reservations is noon on Friday, March 20.

Pastor's Lenten Book Study

Join us each Monday during Lent at 11:00 a.m.—beginning March 2—to discuss Richard Rohr's book, *The Universal Christ*. Books can be purchased through the church office. Please contact Katie (katie@fbc-sav.org) with any questions.

Here are the chapters we will discuss during each book study during Lent:

- March 2 - Intro - Chapter 2
- March 9 - Chapter 3 - Chapter 5
- March 16 - Chapter 6 - Chapter 9
- March 23 - Chapter 10 - Chapter 12
- March 30 - Chapter 13 - Chapter 15
- April 6 - Chapter 16 - End

WOMEN’S RETREAT

This spring, we will offer a "get-away" to Saint Simon’s Island for the women of First Baptist to attend to those needs. We will focus on the theme, "Enough," unpacking what it means to be enough in our families, faith communities, and vocational pursuits. This will be a time of fellowship, rejuvenation, fun, and learning. We hope you will join us for our 2020 Women’s Retreat on May 1-3. Click here to register. Registration and a $35 deposit is required by March 8th for your spot to be guaranteed. Guests are absolutely welcome.

The Children and Youth Committee would like your help in collecting Easter eggs and candy for the Easter egg hunt. Please bring individually wrapped candy (no chocolate) and plastic eggs to the church before April 1st. Collection boxes will be placed in the vestibule of the sanctuary and in Lewis Hall.
The following persons have birthdays during the month of March:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Betsy Rabun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Florence Cawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Susan Sailer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Mari Claire Dyches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Don Marlar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Lee Heidel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Tricia Kilgore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Charlie Orne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Jake Dyches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Amir Ahmadi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Glenn Arnsdorff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Smith Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Jera Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Faye Redding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Payton Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Rollins Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Emilie Dyches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Marion Kennickell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>Story Brewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Landy New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Cole Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Kenneth Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Jack Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Thelma Browne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is with pure love and gratitude that I thank each and every person who made my Retirement Reception the most spectacular day for me. I couldn’t have asked for a better send-off and am looking forward to some free time soon. Please know that I will miss all of you and hope my replacement appreciates how lucky they are to have the best job in the world and the best people ever to work with.

With love,
Karen

**FOURTH SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**
Join your church family on the steps of the sanctuary to “catch-up” and renew old friendships with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following the worship service on March 22. The coffee fellowship will be held on the 4th Sunday of every month and is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

**Ushers Serving in March**
Charles Davis, captain
Reed Creaser
John Rabun

**Deacons Serving in March**
Rebecca Sutton, captain
Phil Campbell
Scot Pool
Heather Valentine
Rich Wheeler

**March Responsibilities**
Audio: Bill Wright
Ordinances: Faye Redding and Lynn Hadwin
Sanctuary: Dale Willhite

**Lay Readers in March**
March 1 - Libby McIntosh
March 8 - Jenni Halpin
March 15 - Scot Pool
March 22 - Molly Wright
March 29 - Trish Craig

**Nursery Workers in March**
March 1 - Rebecca Sutton
March 8 - Ashley Williams
March 15 - Fran Arnsdorff
March 22 - Libby McIntosh
March 29 - Rebecca Sutton

**Third Sunday Lunch**
March 15, 2020
The Third Sunday Lunch for March will be held following the worship service on Sunday, March 15. There will be short film presentation on “Thriving in Ministry”. Make your plans now to be here for this gathering.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Facing Chippewa Square
at 223 Bull Street
Offices located behind the sanctuary
at 102 West McDonough Street
Phone 912-234-2671
Fax 912-236-4493
Email office@fbc-sav.org
Website www.fbc-sav.org
Office hours Monday-Thursday 8:30-5:00
Friday 8:30-1:00

CHURCH STAFF
Katie Callaway - Co-Pastor
katie@fbc-sav.org
John Callaway - Co-Pastor
john@fbc-sav.org
James C. Richardson - Organist Emeritus
james@fbc-sav.org
Karen Jerald - Church Coordinator
karen@fbc-sav.org
Erika Bell - Custodian

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8 so you don’t miss Sunday School and Worship.

Schedule of Activities
March 2020

SUNDAY, March 1
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Morning Worship

MONDAY, March 2
11:00 Lenten Book Study

WEDNESDAY, March 4
5:00 Family Night Activities
6:00 Adult Study
6:00 Children & Youth Program
6:00 Handbells
7:00 Adult Choir

SUNDAY, March 8
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Morning Worship
12:15 Stewards of Children Training

MONDAY, March 9
11:00 Lenten Book Study
5:00 Budget and Stewardship
5:45 Diaconate

WEDNESDAY, March 11
5:00 Family Night Activities
6:00 Adult Study
6:00 Children & Youth Program
6:00 Handbells
7:00 Adult Choir

SUNDAY, March 15
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:15 Third Sunday Luncheon
4:00 Thriving in Ministry Training

MONDAY, March 16
11:00 Lenten Book Study

TUESDAY, March 17
Church Office Closed for St. Patrick’s Day

WEDNESDAY, March 18
5:00 Family Night Activities
6:00 Adult Study
6:00 Children & Youth Program
6:00 Handbells
7:00 Adult Choir

SUNDAY, March 22
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:15 Coffee Fellowship

Monday, March 23
11:00 Lenten Book Study

WEDNESDAY, March 25
5:00 Family Night Activities
6:00 Adult Study
6:00 Children & Youth Program
6:00 Handbells
7:00 Adult Choir

SUNDAY, March 29
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Morning Worship