

Good News Letter

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There are several customs associated with Lent that come to mind, even for those not practiced in the observances of the season. To me, the first one is, "giving something up." There are also Friday fish fries for those who observe the tradition of giving up meat on Lenten Fridays. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was new to me when I came to Delaware ten years ago.

Lest I forget, the observance of Ash Wednesday is common almost everywhere in some traditions. Also associated with Shrove Tuesday is the burning of the palms from last year's Palm Sunday. The ashes are used for those who participate in Ash Wednesday observances. I always wondered where they got the ashes.

Not having observed Lent while growing up and only partially since then, I experience some of these customs as odd, maybe a little forbidding, although in my branch of the Baptist movement we always had January Bible Studies that lasted well into Lent, making a bible study very comfortable. Ours this year in on the Corinthian Letters.



Recently I have been made aware of a custom about which up until now I had never heard. It is called, "Burying the Alleluias." One way or another the word Alleluia is written, perhaps on a banner, or slips of paper, and placed in a box, and then buried on Shrove Tuesday, literally buried outside in the church yard, or placed in a columbarium if the church has one, where it stays until Easter Sunday. During Lent the word is removed from worship in a kind of verbal fast, leading to a more reserved tone. The box is exhumed from its grave on Easter Sunday and the word is re-introduced into worship.

The spirit of the season is inspired by the forty days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted. It is a time of introspection, devoted to fasting and prayer. It is a thoughtful time meant to enhance the joy of Easter when it comes and is accompanied in nature by the gradual advance of spring.

This year we are going to have a hymn sing that focuses on the songs of faith that are appropriate for this time of the year. It will be at 4 p.m. on March 15th, I hope to see you there. Perhaps it will become a new custom for us.

I am not sure what your custom or experience has been. I hope the way we observe Lent is helpful. Whatever you do, even if it is not much or nothing at all, take some time to be aware of the approach of Holy Week, and the sacrifice of Christ, made for the world's redemption, and in that awareness may the celebration of Easter be richer and more meaningful.

Blessings, Mark

Lenten Bible Study

Lenten Bible Study began
Sunday, February 22nd
at 5:00pm and continues
March 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th.

Lenten Hymn Sing

Join us for a Lenten Hymn Sing
Sunday, March 15th
at 4:00pm
Followed by pizza in the
Fellowship Hall

March Panera Volunteers

Wed	Thur
Mar 4-Lee	Mar 5-Lovell / Remlinger
Mar 11-Faulk	Mar 12 -Faulk
Mar 18-Faulk	Mar 19-Faulk
Mar 25-Lee	Mar 26-Grubbs

Thanks to all who volunteer. Watch for a new sign-up sheet for the spring quarter in the Gathering Place.

PERSONALS

-Mary Sealey recently fell and injured her leg.

-Pat Lauver has moved to Sarah Moore.

-Tammy Ferguson's father passed away last month.

-The Turners have been vacationing in Florida.

-Candy Lee has recently been able to sell her house in Barberton.

-Ray Serviss has been at Delaware Court for rehab, but is home now. He misses church and would like visitors.

-Longtime member, Jeanne Ekelberry, passed away on January 25. There will probably be a memorial service in the spring.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 8. It is our tradition to bring all our loose change to church that day for an offering in order to effect change for local children who experience hunger. Our offering will go to Andrews House which oversees the Summer Lunch Program for Delaware Children.

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Because of the editor's vacation, the April newsletter will be published one week early on March 22. The deadline for articles will be on March 15.

American Baptist Women

Winter arrived as a long, cold and snowy season having us missing church and fellowship. For our February meeting we joined with Second Baptist Church on February 21st for a presentation by Pearls of Promise Ministry. On March 21st @ 11:30 we will have our meeting in the Private Dining Room at Willow Brook so we can celebrate spring and visit with Genevieve Peterson.

- Laura Brown

Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible Study began on Sunday, February 22nd at 5pm. A focus will be on the letters to the Corinthians. The study will continue on March 1st, 8th, 22nd, and 29th.

Lenten Hymn Sing

On Sunday, March 15th at 4pm, all are invited to join in the sanctuary for a Lenten Hymn Sing. After the hymn sing, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for pizza.

THE WISDOM AND POWER OF STORYTELLING

As we consider this year's America for Christ (AFC) offering, we are called to reflect on this powerful theme: "The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling." The scriptures reveal how God's truth and love are passed down through generations often through

the simple yet profound gift of storytelling. Stories have always been God's way of shaping faith, identity, and vision. Jesus chose stories (parables) to reach people's hearts. Matthew 13:34-35 reminds us that His words were not just lessons but living testimonies that have connected listeners across time, culture, and experience. Similarly, we are called to share our faith, our history, and our vision for the future with those who come after us. This year's focus encourages us to celebrate storytelling as a form of ministry. Sharing the stories of our churches, families, and faith communities helps strengthen the present and sow seeds of hope for the future. Watch for stories each Sunday in the bulletin inserts. Remember that our goal for the AFC is \$1000. Together, we can make this a season of storytelling that bridges generations, deepens faith, and advances God's mission of love and justice.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



March

- 5 Mike Showalter
Ben Turner
- 8 Mike Reynolds
- 9 Rolf Remlinger
- 10 Connie Roberts
- 11 Rick & Sandy VanBrimmer
- 12 Evan Trigg
- 14 Darlene Caulkins
- 18 Dave Lovell
- 24 Cameron Turner
Richard & Laura Brown

Please report any errors.



Jeanne Ekelberry

Jeanne Ekelberry passed away unexpectedly on January 25th. Jeanne was a lifelong member of FBC, She was active in the church throughout her life, serving in many roles including Sunday School, choir, church offices, and American Baptist Women. Jeanne served in a leadership role in the Piece Makers, a sewing group that met in our church, producing quilts and other items for service and charity. Sewing was a dedicated passion for Jeanne. We have been blessed over the years with the banners and seasonal hangings that she shared in our sanctuary. A Memorial Service is expected in the spring when family from West Virginia can attend.

Spark Award

During the Ohio Wesleyan University Staff Awards Ceremony (Shine On!) on January 19, 2026, Deb Lovell was presented with the Spark Award. President Vandenberg said that Deb, working as an Academic Assistant, earned the 2025 SPARK Award (given annually) to recognize a Bishop staff member who “beams with Bishop Pride, is hard-working, supportive, positive, and always on their A-game.” Eight colleagues nominated her for the award. You can view a picture and more about the ceremony on the Ohio Wesleyan website.

Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.
Please send changes to Larry Faulk (lfaulk01@aol.com).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Dr. Allison’s sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Jenni Pedzinski and family	Father's stroke
Bill & Ann Clemmer	Safety
Tim Lee	Health Issues
David Salyer	Health Issues
Connie Roberts	Health Issues
Rev. Tim Chesser	Health Issues
Ray Serviss	Health Issues
Mark & Cindy Faulk	Health Issues
Condolences to the Ferguson family on the death of Tammy’s father	
Condolences to the Ekelberry family on the death of Jeanne	

Remember daily all the men and women in the military — Those stationed in the USA and those deployed throughout the world. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is March 6. Please set aside some time in your day to pray for our church, our community, our country, and our world.

Mission/Outreach News

Our Missionaries

We continue to be in prayer for Ann and Bill Clemmer for the work they are doing in Goma. There are pictures of those they work with on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place.

Turning Point

Thanks to all who donated items for Turning Point. Turning Point is a center for those who need a place to stay and help to relocate because of domestic violence. All donations are very appreciated.

Panera Pick Up Continues

Thanks to all who continue to pick up unsold bread and pastries from Panera on Wed. /Thurs. nights. The items are distributed to those in the community in need and used at Willis School for the after school program and as supplies for their food pantry. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Place. New volunteers are welcome. If you are interested talk to Larry or Pam Faulk.

Change for Change

Get ready to empty your pockets of loose change. When we set our clocks forward on March 8th, bring your change to church and place it in the container in the front of the sanctuary. The change really adds up when everyone brings their change. The change is given to Andrews House to support the Delaware City Schools Lunch Program.

America for Christ Offering

The America for Christ offering will be collected each Sunday in March. The offering is used to develop church leaders, aid children in poverty, support chaplains, and rebuild churches.

People In Need

This has been a cold and snowy winter in which it is harder for some people to go to stores. Thanks to all who have been out to do their grocery shopping and remembered those in our community by filling up the basket in the Welcome Center of the church. Thanks to Peter White for delivering the goods to People In Need, as well as Family Promise, and Turning Point.

Tower Repair Completed Project Fully Funded

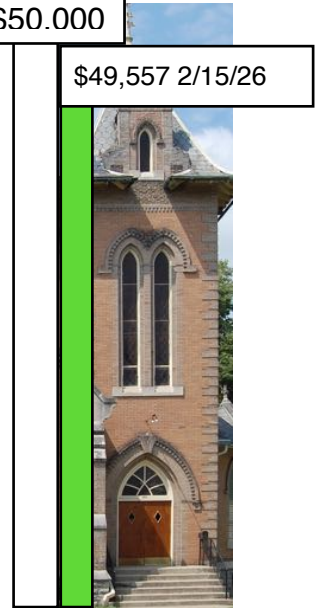
On October 22, 2025, (one day short of one year since it was approved by the congregation) Durable Slate completed the tower repair project, replacing any missing or damaged slates on the upper tower roof and repairing the roof overhang. The slate over the lower portion of the roof was replaced along with new gutters and some painting.

The cost of the project was \$49,550. As of February 15th, we have received \$25,490 in Capital Improvement donations, \$21,757 in Memorial contributions, and \$2,310 in savings account interest for a total of \$49,557 for the project. This means that we have received the funding necessary to pay for the project and replace the Capital Improvement funds.

Continued contributions to our Capital Improvements Fund are appreciated as well as offerings for missions and our General Fund to cover operating expenses. You can always contribute online by selecting "donate" on our website: fbcdelaware.org.

Goal \$50,000

\$49,557 2/15/26



First Baptist Church







101 North Franklin Street
Delaware, Ohio 43015

March

2026

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor

Office Hours: by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Second Sunday of Lent 1 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Holy Communion 5:00 pm Lenten Bible Study America for Christ Offering	2	3	4 8:45 Panera Pickup - Lee	5 8:45 Panera Pickup - Lovell / Remlinger	World Day of Prayer 6 	 7 Set clocks forward one hour tonight
Third Sunday of Lent International Women's Day 8 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 5:00 pm Lenten Bible Study Daylight Saving Time Begins Change for Change/America for Christ Offerings 	9 5:30 Deacons	10	11 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	12 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	13	14
Fourth Sunday of Lent Women's Ministry Sunday 15 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 4:00 pm Lenten Hymn Sing 5:00 pm Pizza America for Christ Offering continues April newsletter deadline	16	St. Patrick's Day 17 	18 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	19 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk	Spring Begins 20 	21 8 am Men's Breakfast-Bob Evans 11:30 am Women's Lunch at Willow Brook
Fifth Sunday of Lent 22 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 5:00 pm Lenten Bible Study America for Christ Offering continues April newsletter available	23	24	25 8:45 Panera Pickup - Lee	26 7 pm Parish Council 8:45 Panera Pickup - Grubbs	27	28
Palm Sunday Sixth Sunday of Lent 29 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 5:00 pm Lenten Bible Study America for Christ Offering ends 	30	31	April 1 April Fool's Day  8:45 Panera Pickup - Volunteer Needed	Maundy Thursday 2 7 pm Candlelight Communion Service  8:45 Panera Pickup - Volunteer Needed	March Mission Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> America for Christ Change for Change (summer lunch program) 	