

# *Tidings*

FROM  
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF YORK



*May 2024*

Dear FBCOY, It is with great excitement that we look towards the upcoming days. A new sermon series will begin, a vision will be shared, meetings and times of fellowship



await. In all that happens may it be said that our God gave us the strength and patience to accomplish His will, for as 2 Timothy 1:9 says: **Who hath saved us,** Praise be to God for his great salvation! Praise be to the God of all creation that gives us the honor in representing his image in this world. May this be our greatest desire and most treasured identity. **and called us with an holy calling,** the last message I gave I spoke of God's calling and may I ask that whomever feels God moving in your life towards the accomplishment of His will in the area of service, teaching, administration, caring, giving, exhorting that you would step into it with full confidence that with God all things are possible. **not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace,** These hands, these lips, these feet can accomplish some without God. Without God this church can grow in numbers, without God we can sing and play an instrument and make people happy, without God we can serve food and visit the sick.... but may it not be said that First Baptist church of York accomplished much **without** God.... For all accomplished without submission to Christ and without love for his person is vain, it is filthy rags, it is hay and stubble, and when I stand in line along side you and my works are placed through the fire on judgement day the question stands, "Will my works burn because they were done in the flesh or will we see treasures of true faith come out of the fire for the glory and honor of Jesus Christ?"

Please know that Ruth and I are blessed to help you in your life journey. We both understand that there is a great need for true friendship and support in this life. We are praying that God would strengthen the unity of our church and that in the near future He would add to our church family others that seek His salvation and purpose.

May the Lord Jesus, our true King and friend, give you peace, love, mercy, and grace this day and the days to come.

In His service, Rey

Greetings! Last month, I discussed the progress I've made over the past year in going through the church's established musical repertoire. Now, I'd like to provide a list and brief description of the new songs that were introduced over the past year. Since all these songs (with the exception of one) came straight from the repertoire list I was originally given, there have actually been no new songs of my own choosing. Still, these songs were new to most of you at the time of their introduction in worship services. So, I thought it would be valuable to document them: (1) "Build My Life" – made popular by one of its songwriters, Pat Barrett, in a 2018 recording; currently sitting at #5 on the CCLI Top 100 chart, (2) "The Lion And The Lamb" – recorded by one of its songwriters, Brenton Brown, in 2017 but made popular by both Big Daddy Weave and Leeland in 2016; currently #46 on CCLI, (3) "Great Reward" – written by yours truly at the request of our education committee to assist in the memorization of Psalm 19, (4) "King Of Kings" – made popular through a 2019 recording by Hillsong Worship; currently #17 on CCLI, and (5) "O Praise The Name (Anastasis)" – made popular through a 2015 recording by Hillsong Worship; currently #37 on CCLI.



There were also a few traditional hymns that we did in the past year that could possibly be considered "new" because they seemed to be unfamiliar to many. Two of those, which we have repeated fairly recently, are "Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven" and "May The Mind Of Christ, My Savior." In addition, there were a few contemporary songs that were used only once in services, which were among those that I originally assumed were part of the established repertoire, and later realized were not: "God So Loved," "House Of The Lord," and "Always." We may return to them at some point. Any other songs that seemed like new songs were actually done before (many years ago in some cases). It is my hope and prayer that each of our worship songs is a source of blessing to you both on Sundays and throughout each week.

Grace and peace, Matt

# What's Happening??

## April 15th Council Meeting

- † A suggested new policy for dealing with inactive members was presented to the Council. They tabled further discussion of this topic until everyone had time to read and pray about the change.
- † Daryl has spoken with Dave L. about insurance and a waiver for participants when using the gym.
- † It was decided at this point to not renew the Zoom software for the church until it may be needed.
- † Church finances were discussed. Council members were asked to have their budget requests for next year to Justin by the end of April.
- † The Camp Hebron bill will be paid at the tier 3 level.
- † We will be holding Breaker Rock Beach VBS on August 8-10th.
- † Council would like to encourage people to participate in the Pennsylvania Bible Reading Marathon. A group plans to go to Harrisburg for a time of participation and fellowship.
- † The Women's Ministry group will be meeting on May 5th to discuss future events.
- † We will not be having a graduation Sunday this year as none of our congregation is graduating this year.
- † We are still waiting for a part to repair the HVAC unit for the sanctuary.
- † An estimate was gotten and approved to have the floor in the gymnasium reglued as needed, tape residue removed and the surface buffed.
- † Ilene has agreed to look at reupholstering the chair cushions in the Serenity Place.
- † The mowing crew has started mowing the church lawn. Mulch has been spread around the trees and flowerbeds on the church property.

- † There was discussion about the amount of work needed to adequately clean the church building. It was mentioned that members from our congregation and the Bhutanese congregation may be willing to regularly clean part of the building to allow more time for the custodian to do further cleaning.
- † Pastor Raju's laptop and Pastor Rey's phone have disappeared from the church building and the building was found unlocked. If these items are not located, the church will file a police report.
- † Sheryl H. was reinstated as a member.
- † Wendy S. has joined the Member Care Ministry Team.
- † Pastor Rey will pick up visitation and communion visits with shut-ins when he is able.
- † The Member Care Ministry Team is currently working with three families within our congregation to help them in various areas.
- † The Outreach Ministry Team would like to host Piercing the Word ministries in June. Mercedes and the pastor will look into this further.
- † The Mission Training Bible Study has been scheduled for June 8th with Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith.
- † We are still looking for a good way to translate the web site to Spanish.
- † The security team is planning to install security cameras in May.
- † There was discussion about moving ahead with the plan to rekey the church building.
- † Joel is considering changing the church's email over to google.
- † There was discussion on how to do further follow-up with visitors. The pastor and Outreach team will discuss this. There was also discussion about a need for more seats to be added back into the sanctuary and for ushers to help visitors find available seats.
- † Pastor Rey is in the church building on Wednesday through Sunday mornings from 9-12:00 noon.
- † The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for May 20th at 7:00pm.



## The Gospel in Miniature: John 3:16

**God:** The greatest lover.

**So loved:** The greatest degree

**The World:** The greatest company

**That he gave:** The greatest act.

**His only begotten Son:** The greatest gift.

**That whosoever:** The greatest opportunity

**Believeth:** The greatest simplicity.

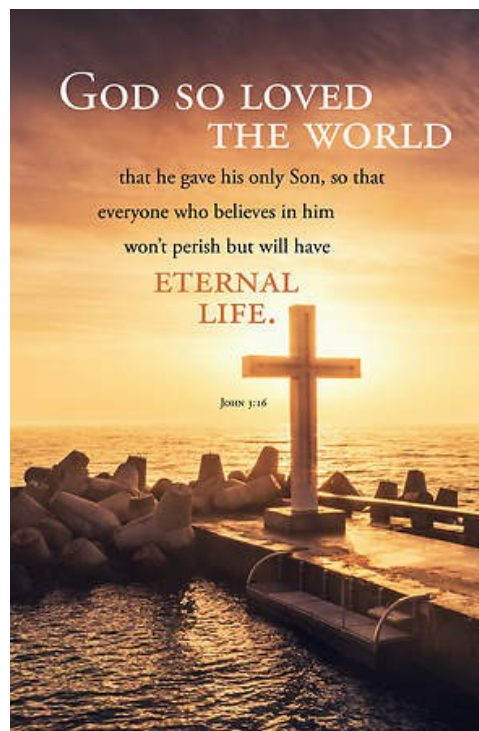
**In Him:** The greatest attraction.

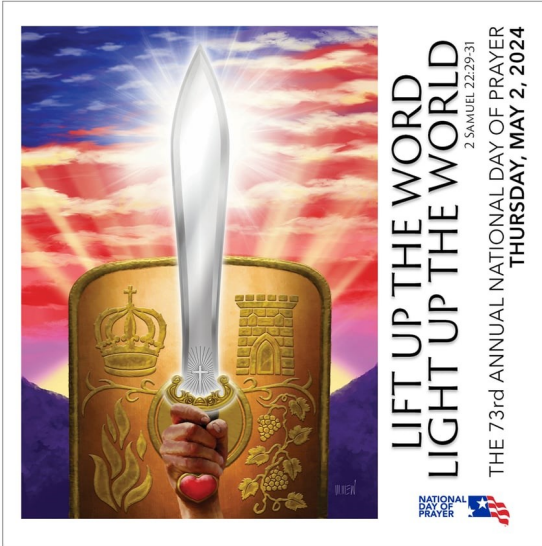
**Should not perish:** The greatest promise.

**But:** The greatest difference

**Have:** The greatest certainty.

**Everlasting life:** The greatest possession.





## Be a prayer warrior!

The National day of prayer is scheduled for May 2nd. We are hoping to pray continuously during this time. Pray for our church and our outreach. Pray for our new pastor and the congregation joining together in ministry. Pray for our building debt. Pray for church staff, leadership and individual members' spiritual growth.

## Bible Reading Marathon

Have you ever wondered how long it takes to read the Bible if you didn't have to stop to sleep? The answer- 90 hours!! You can be apart of an epic event where the Bible is read in its entirety without stopping for 4 days at our Capitol in Harrisburg. You won't want to miss this event! If you would like to participate but don't feel comfortable driving to the Capitol, please sign upon the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. We will coordinate a time to go together, and perhaps stop for ice cream if they are open! The event runs from May 18-22nd. The sign up is for the 20th and the 21st. This is a wonderful opportunity and a freedom in our country that we should take advantage of. If you want to learn more you can call/text Jen Hull at 717-384-8908 or check out their website for information and to sign up at <http://www.capitolbrm.org/pennsylvania.html>

www.capitolbrm.org  
 PENNSYLVANIA  
 BIBLE READING  
 MARATHON  
 May 18-22, 2024

*Because the Bible is at the heart of America's founding principles, it should be voiced at the "Crossroads of America" exhorting our state to return to God's precepts.*

a ministry of  
 Ceedline  
 International

**SAVE THE  
DATE!**

June 9th  
Following Worship  
Annual Business Meeting



**Save a Life, Give Blood**

Blood Drive—June 25th



CARD SHOWER: Many of you know Jenn Bailey's parents. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on May 18th. If you would like to send them a card, their address is:

Terry & Patty Blankley  
1727 Treasure Lake  
DuBois, PA 15801





**First  
Baptist  
Church**

*The greatest of these is love.*

# Prayers for our church

We desire to be pure and obedient so our love for each other will be sincere and from the heart. Give us a spirit of unity so we glorify You with one heart and voice. Help us accept one another in love (1 Peter 1:22; Romans 15:5-7; Colossians 3:14).

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your Word. In the beginning You created all things and the Bible. Your written Word, tells us it was very good. But You knew sin would enter your creation, and from the very beginning You had a plan. Your plan was Jesus. Thank you for Jesus, the Word made flesh, who paid the debt our sin created.

We are so blessed to have your written Word, the Bible, to show us your heart, to teach us, to rebuke us, to correct us, and to train us (2 Timothy 3:16). May we treasure your Word.

In Jesus' Name,  
Amen.





As our church's lawn mowing crew is starting a new season, they want you to know that they would love new people to help mow. The church provides the equipment needed. We just need people willing to help maintain our large church property. If you are available, contact Rick S.

The Property Ministry Team is also looking for people who will occasionally take care of somethings that may need done around the church building and grounds.



VBS coming  
August 8-10th  
Contact Tracy Coyle if you are willing to volunteer!

# Prayer

It is prayer that restores to us the ability to feel, to see, and to appreciate.

*Reuven Hammer*

We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Next to the wonder of seeing my Savior will be, I think, the wonder that I made so little use of the power of prayer.

*D. L. Moody*

God's voice is often still and quiet and easily buried under an avalanche of clamor.

*Charles Stanley*

Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life.

*Jonathan Edwards*

Only eternity will show how our fainthearted prayers changed the destinies of people on our prayer list.

*Joni Eareckson Tada*

The primary object of prayer is to know God better; we and our needs should come second.

*Florence Allshorn*

Prayer can assume very different forms, from quiet, blessed contemplation of God, in which eye meets eye in restful meditation, to deep sighs or sudden exclamations of wonder, joy, gratitude or adoration.

*Ole Hallesby*

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
General Fund Giving	\$16,484	\$140,809
General Fund Expenses	<u>\$13,649</u>	<u>\$117,324</u>
	\$2,835	\$23,485

Phase 2 - \$2,054

## Balances

General Fund Balance - \$132,512

Phase 2 Loan Balance -  
(\$291,652)

Roof Loan Balance -  
(\$38,544)

## Cash Position 3/31/24

Reconciled Cash -  
\$132,512

Restricted Funds - \$60,186

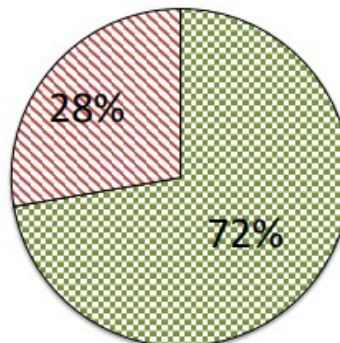
Unrestricted Funds - \$72,326

## The Gathering Place Status

As of March 31, 2024

■ Collected

■ Bank Debt



Monthly Pledges

\$4,357

Average Payment

(6 Month)

\$5,142

**Estimated  
Payoff**

February 2030



### **May Birthdays**

2 Shane C.  
4 Joan K.  
4 Leigh Ann G.  
9 Owen C.  
9 Vera K.  
9 Levi G.  
10 Katie G.  
12 Dustin H.  
18 Sara K.

### **May Missionary Birthdays**

2 Sarah Nash - Bolivia  
7 Nora Kalkman - Regional Consultant  
10 Jill Lowery - Democratic Republic of  
the Congo  
12 Nzunga Mabudiga - Haiti  
18 Laura Freeman - Middle East  
20 Hermelinda Damasceno - United  
Kingdom  
21 Lee Ann Hwang - Japan  
26 Wayne Niles - Democratic Republic of  
the Congo  
28 Lynette Smith - Haiti  
28 Kyle Williams - Thailand  
29 Noah Woodring—Dominican Republic



### **May Anniversary**

11 John & Judy E.



First Baptist Church of York  
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# THE TIDINGS

**MAY 2024**

## **Church Staff**

Pastor:	Rev. Reynaldo Villarreal	fbcoy_pastor@comcast.net
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Custodian:	Noel Alcántara	alcantara_noel@hotmail.com
Ministers:	Every Member	

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-Noon

This is a monthly publication for members and friends of First Baptist Church.

***If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, kindly notify the church office.***