



Auburn First Baptist Church

Volume 7 Issue 39

Building Community, Serving Community

April 15, 2020

WORSHIP

A Glad Surprise!

By: Tripp Martin

April 19th

Second Sunday of Easter
John 20:19-31
1 Peter 1:3-9

Words sound different depending on where we say them. If we stood next to the Grand Canyon, and we referred to how “big” the football stadium was it would not sound the same. If we walked into a one-room house in Guatemala, and we talked about how “small” our bedroom was it would sound different. Our context changes the way words sound!

April 26th

Third Sunday of Easter
Luke 24:13-35

Over the recent weeks, I have heard certain words differently. As we have been isolated and distant, thinking about the threat of a virus, which affects us all, familiar words have not sounded familiar.

Lay Worship Leader for April:
Benjamin Wilson

What does it sound like to say, “Calling,” “Community,” or “Compassion” right now? What do we hear when we say, “Hope,” “Faith,” and “Love?” When we long to gather as a church, or we feel the struggle of people around the world, how does it affect what we hear?

How do we hear the word, “Easter,” differently? Howard Thurman describes Easter, “It is the announcement that life cannot ultimately be conquered by death, that there is no road that is at last swallowed up in an ultimate darkness, that there is strength added when the labors increase, that multiplied peace matches multiplied trials, that life is bottomed by the glad surprise.”

REMINDERS

Worship

Our worship service is live streamed on the website each week.

[AuburnFBC.org/Live](https://www.auburnfbc.org/Live)

Easter reminds us that God’s love is stronger than death, hate, despair, or suffering. Underneath all of life, we find the “glad surprise” of this truth, which is proclaimed on Easter morning! It is what we need to hear when we say “Easter” during these days.

Gatherings

Activities such as Round Table, Connecting Faith and Families, Thursday Evening Activities, and others are to be determined until the concerns related to COVID-19 change.

The wonderful Baptist preacher, Bill Self, once pointed out that the story of Easter in the gospel of John, which we read in worship on Easter this year, begins, “While it was still dark . . .” Before Mary Magdalene ran to tell the others the good news, she started her journey walking towards the tomb that morning with spices in hand while it was still dark.

Easter begins while it is still dark! Underneath all of the heartache and struggle, we find the “glad surprise” of the love of God, which will never let us go. We look forward to the time when we can gather in person again and say such things together!

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Connect with us on Facebook @AuburnFirstBaptist

Our Mission: Believing the Spirit of God is alive in each one of us and in the world, we affirm that the mission of Auburn First Baptist Church is: to glorify God as the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of life; to call all people to God through Christ as Savior and Lord; to enable all people to be more like Jesus.

Sabbath Study Leave – Update

In conversation with the Personnel Committee, my Sabbath Study Leave, which was scheduled for this summer, will be postponed to the summer of 2021. Knowing that we will begin gathering as a church again in the future and understanding there will be lingering concerns related to the coronavirus, the time of my Sabbath Study Leave needs to be adjusted. As always, I am grateful for this opportunity, and I will look forward to it in a year. For the time being, we are looking forward to being able to gather as a congregation when the time is right and the health concerns are minimal. We are thankful for the community of faith, as we are bound to one another by the grace of God!

Tripp

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

During this time of social distancing, Sunday School classes are finding ways to remain connected. Teachers are sharing lessons, and classes are meeting virtually. We are thankful for these connections. The Seeker's Class is meeting through Zoom. If anyone is interested in joining them, please email Gerald Johnson, drj.gwj@gmail.com.

ONLINE GIVING

Our Stewardship Committee and Deacons have been working on an online giving option. It is now available on the website. The primary option is to give to the General Fund via credit card. One aspect of this option is a 3% transaction fee by the company, which handles the secure transaction. Each giver has the option to include the fee in his or her gift. If this option is not chosen, the church will need to cover the fee. The giver can also set up a recurring monthly gift if it is preferable. We hope this will be a helpful option for the congregation, especially during this time we are apart.

A giver can also give through an ACH, entering a bank account number and pertinent information.

This is only an additional option for giving! Everyone can continue to give as they have given in the past. Checks can be mailed to the church. If you have any questions about online giving, please email Kristina Hickman, kristina@auburnfbc.org.

AuburnFBC.org/Give

FELLOWSHIP

PrimeTimers on the Move

There will not be a meeting in April. Our schedule remains to be determined.

CBF General Assembly *Virtual Gathering*

CBF asks that you hold June 24-26 for a series of virtual gatherings of worship, inspiration, education, fellowship and business. In the coming weeks, CBF will announce a schedule and provide more information.

MISSIONS

Help our Brasil Mission Team!

Below is a *list of items* the mission team will need for the children of Brasil. Please place donations for this project in the bucket provided in the hallway outside the church office.

Items needed include: coloring books and crayons, pencils, small pencil sharpeners, ball point pens, six inch rulers, individually wrapped chewing gum, bubble gum and hard candy (no chocolate), baseball type caps, stickers (smiley faces, etc), quart size zipper storage bags, toothbrushes, toothpaste, t-shirts, and work gloves.

Loaves and Fishes Volunteers Needed

The Loaves and Fishes program ministers to people in our community by furnishing hot meals every Tuesday to recipients selected by the Salvation Army, our partner in this ministry. If you would be willing to take a week or two and prepare 16 meals for the Loaves and Fishes Ministry, please contact the church office. We currently need volunteers for **July 7, 14, 21, & 28**.

COLLEGE

Bible Study & Breakfast

Sundays, 10:15 a.m.

College Room (Activities Building)

Not Meeting

College Tuesday Night Bible Study

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Fellowship. Service. Special Activities.

YOUTH

Thursday Nights

5:15 p.m. Dinner
5:45 p.m. Youth Hang Out Time
Not Meeting

Youth Choir

Sundays, 5:00 p.m.
Choir Room
Not Meeting

Youth Sunday Nights

Sundays, 6:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Youth Sunday

We will reschedule Youth Sunday for when we can gather in person.

VBS

Vacation Bible School

“Renew”

Registration will begin May 1st

Join us June 1-4 (Monday - Thursday evenings) as we learn about Bible stories and about missions. Our Directors will be Cathy Summers and Sue Walker. *These plans will remain tentative as we monitor healthcare concerns.*

CHILDREN

Passport Kids Camp

July 21 - 24, 2020

Rock Eagle 4H Center in Eatonton, Georgia
Students 3rd-5th grade, Deposit: \$50
Total: \$300 (includes deposit)

Children's Choirs (3* year olds – 5th Grade)

Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Education Building
*We ask that all attendees be potty trained.
Not Meeting

Bible Encounter (1st – 5th graders)

Sundays, 6:00 p.m., Education Building
Not Meeting

Spark Adventure

Thursdays, 5:50 p.m., Education Building
Not Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Every Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Every Thursday

Brown Bag Dinner 5:15 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

We continue to practice social distancing until we are able to gather again. We will continue to send updates via email about our schedule, consulting with healthcare professionals and our lay leadership. Currently, the church office remains closed, as our staff is working from home. The email addresses for the staff are found in the newsletter and website. If you need to contact the ministerial staff, Tripp Martin (334-332-4100), Morris Driggers (864-981-0963), or Laura Edgar (334-233-2267).

Serving in April

Our Counters, Sound & Light, and Extended Session volunteers remain to be determined.

Ministerial Staff

Dr. Tripp Martin
Pastor
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Laura Edgar
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College and Young Adults
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Morris Driggers
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Support Staff

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Lakin Coulter & Soraya Gun
Administrative Assistants
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*Listen to the service Sunday mornings
at 11 am on WAUD 1230 AM*