



The Messenger

March 2023 Newsletter From

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

New Visions . . .

Last Sunday February 26 we celebrated the First Sunday of Lent. It was a great time of worship as we also shared the Observance of Communion. I thought that this might be a good time for a “refresher” on Lent, since it has been historically ignored by many Baptist churches – and still is!

We know Lent as a season of conversion: we acknowledge the ways we have turned away from God in our lives and we focus on turning our hearts and minds back toward Him, hence the three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These observances help us turn away from whatever has distracted or derailed us and to turn back to God. Giving up something for Lent is ultimately a form of fasting. We can deprive ourselves of some small pleasure or indulgence and offer that sacrifice up to God. Or we might “give up” a bad habit as a way of positively turning our life back towards what God wants for us

With that in mind, I’d like to offer some possible “give up’s” for Lent that were shared with me a few years ago. I think that if we all consider these questionable habits or traits, the impact will extend well past 40 days!

1. **Fear of Failure** – You don’t succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fail forward.
2. **Your Comfort Zone** – It’s outside our comfort zones where new discoveries are made.
3. **Feelings of Unworthiness** – You are fearfully and wonderfully made by your creator. (see [Psalm 139:14](#))
4. **Impatience** – God’s timing is the perfect timing.
5. **Retirement** – As long as you are still breathing, you are here for a reason. You have a purpose to influence others for Christ. Our work is not always tied to a paycheck, as we discussed on February 15!
6. **People Pleasing** – I can’t please everyone anyway. There is only One I need to strive to please.
7. **Comparison** – I have my own unique contribution to make and there is no one else like me.

8. **Blame** – I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.
9. **Guilt** – I am loved by Jesus and he has forgiven my sins. Today is a new day and the past is behind.
10. **Over commitment** – Do less well and accomplish more.
11. **Lack of Counsel** – Wise decisions are rarely made in a vacuum.
12. **Impurity** – Live lives pure and without blemish.
13. **Entitlement** – The world does not owe me anything. God does not owe me anything. I live in humility and grace.
14. **Apathy** – Life is too short not to care.
15. **Hatred** – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good ([Romans 12:21](#)).
16. **Negativity** – I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people. I will also minimize my contact with people who are negative and toxic.
17. **The Spirit of Poverty** – Believe that with God there is always more than enough and never a lack.
18. **Going Through the Motions** – The more you invest yourself, the more you will get back.
19. **Complaint** – Instead of contributing to the problem, be the solution.
20. **The Pursuit of Happiness** – God wants something greater and more lasting than happiness. It is called joy.
21. **Bitterness** – The only person I am hurting by holding on to this is myself.
22. **Distraction** – Life is filled with distractions that will take our eyes off the prize.
23. **Giving up** – God never gives up on us.
24. **Mediocrity** – If you are going to do something, then give it all you got.
25. **Destructive Speech** – Encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching (see [Hebrews 10:25](#)).
26. **Busyness** – It is a badge of honor to be busy. But that does not always translate to abundance.
27. **Loneliness** – With Jesus I am never alone. He is with me wherever I go.
28. **Disunity** – If two of you agree on earth about anything, it will be done for them by the Heavenly Father (see [Matthew 18:19-20](#)).
29. **The Quick Fix** – Rarely does true transformation does not happen overnight.
30. **Worry** – God is in control and worrying will not help.
31. **Idolizing** – Don’t assign anyone a standard they cannot live up to.
32. **Resistance to Change** – Change is certain. It is not if we will change, but how we will change.
33. **Pride** – Blessed are the humble.
34. **Small View of God** – Don’t tell God how big your problem is, tell your problem how big your God is.
35. **Envy** – I am blessed. My value is not found in my possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.
36. **Ungratefulness** – You have been blessed in a way greater than you realize.
37. **Selfish Ambition** – God has a mission for me that is bigger than me.
38. **Self-Sufficiency** – Jesus is my strength. I can do all things through him (see [Philippians 4:13](#))
39. **Sorrow** – Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning ([Psalm 30:5b](#))
40. **My Life** – Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life ([John 12:25](#)).

There’s one for each day of Lent and we’re already a week into to the season!! Time to catch up! May God be with each of you as we make the journey toward the Cross!!

Grace & Peace,
Rick



SPECIAL MUSIC AND LUNCH

MARCH 19

Calvin Carter will be bringing the Gospel Choir from Chowan to our Church on Sunday, March 19. The church will also have a covered dish lunch that day. As usual the church will provide the meat and beverages, and we ask that members bring side dishes and desserts.

SAVE THE DATES

HOLY WEEK






SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 6 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service
“Floating Personal Service”
Friday, April 7 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 9

EASTER LILIES

The deadline to place
Orders for Easter Lilies
Is Monday, March 27

Cost: **\$23.54** per lily
Please call the church office
398-3613
to place your order.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Easter Egg Hunt



Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00 pm.

Please pick up Easter eggs from the box in the connector and fill them with candy, money, stickers, small toys, etc. for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Return eggs by Wednesday, April 5 at 4 p.m. to the library.

NEW COMMUNION SCHEDULE

At the request of Dr. Bailey, we will be serving Communion on the following dates:

February 26 First Sunday in Lent
April 6 Maundy Thursday
June 4 Trinity Sunday
August 13
October 1 World Communion
November 26 Christ the King Sunday
December 24 Candlelight Christmas Service

If you had previously signed up to prepare Communion, your willingness to serve the church is greatly appreciated. The Deacons may be reaching out to individuals in the future to help prepare Communion based on the new schedule.

UPCOMING DATES IN MARCH

MARCH 1
Big Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 14
Deacons' Meeting 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 12
Daylight Saving Time Begins

MARCH 19
Calvin Carter & Chowan Gospel Choir Church Conference after Worship Covered Dish Lunch

MARCH 21
Food Bank of the Albemarle

March 29
Big Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

April 23
Quarterly Conference



REVIVAL SUNDAY

Save the Date for
May 7, 2023

Murfreesboro Baptist Church's Annual Revival has been scheduled for May 7. With the help of Dr. Bailey, our Revival pastor will be Dr. Larry Hovis, an Executive Director with CBF of North Carolina. Paula has scheduled special music and Mary Etta is doing her magic on a church pot luck dinner for the evening. There will be a morning and an evening service. Please mark your calendar for May 7.

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN MARCH

DEACON OF THE MONTH

T.K. Warren, III

OPENING OF THE CHURCH

Wayne Brown

USHERS

March

Jay Revelle, Ronnie Coltrain,
Charlie Aycock, Charles Gallop

April

David Farnham, Hal Thomas,
Lloyd Hill, Thomas Bird

RADIO MINISTRY SPONSOR

Wayne and Shirley Brown

CAREGIVERS

February 26-March 11 - Gertrude Revelle
and Daynelle Trent

March 12-March 25 - Colon and Jane Ballance

March 26-April 8 - T.K. Warren

NURSERY CAREGIVERS

March 5 - Mollie Madden

March 12 - Children's Church

March 19 - Children's Church

March 26- Ed Snyder



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

March 1	Susan Bass
March 1	Brice Burgess
March 6	Jenni Chao
March 7	Sarah Brown
March 8	Patti Llewellyn
March 8	William Myers
March 9	Danny Moore
March 10	Gene Flowers
March 15	Sandra Fowler
March 16	Mary Harris
March 20	Judy Clark
March 23	Jo Cimini
March 26	Claire Place

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

BLESSING MINISTRIES FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed Tuesday, March 21 by 1:30 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 15th of each month.

Any and all donations are welcome.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. R. Richard (Rick) Bailey
INTERIM PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....Organist & Choir Director

TOM CAULKINS.....Pastor Emeritus

TERESA MARTIN.....Administrative Asst.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 1:30

252-398-3613

www.murfbc.org

NOTICE

On March 10 the communication systems at the church will be down starting at approximately 11:00 as our internet is being upgraded. All systems should be back in operation at the end of the day.

Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for February 2023

	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$15,769.24	\$86,730.82
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$4,412.88	\$1,570.00	\$1,205.00	\$7096.00	\$14,283.88	\$108,695.07
Other Income						
Over (Under)	\$470.57	(\$2,372.31)	(\$2,737.31)	\$3,153.69	(\$1,485.36)	\$21,964.25



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

Return Service Requested