

MARCH  
2023

# FBCC NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROFTON

## Pastor Matt's Notes

### Preparation

At this point my bookshelf is littered with catalogs: two or three of them for chicks and other poultry, and a half dozen more for seeds. As the transition from winter to spring begins, most of us start to look for signs of new life. Many may even be making a little new life of their own in small pots or seed trays packed with soil and laid up by the brightest windows in the house. However, before new flowers and green grass can be enjoyed a great deal of preparation has to occur.

February 22nd - this past Wednesday - was the beginning of Lent. While we Baptists don't tend to make much of the traditional church calendar, this is a wonderful chance to make a different kind of preparation. It is good to set aside a little extra time every day to get our hearts and minds ready for Easter and the ultimate hope of new life in Jesus' resurrection. Easter is not a day we want to let come and go.

Just a few weeks ago I came across a phrase in Ephesians that I didn't mention from the pulpit but it did grab my attention. The phrase was "that you, being rooted and grounded in love" (Ephesians 3:17). Perhaps it is the mild winter we are in that made the phrase jump out, but I couldn't help but get the image of people with roots anchored in and nourished by the soil of Jesus' love. Our roots in His soil. There is no better way to live. A solid root structure is needed to draw water and nutrients from the soil. Without it even the richest earth cannot feed and grow a plant. Good roots take time.

Let us then use the next weeks well, so that we can make the most of this and every Easter.



### Verse of the Month:

"... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge." Ephesians 3:17–19

## Ministry Updates

### Terrific Teens

Last weekend our teens attended River Valley Ranch's Winter Meltdown! This was a high octane 40 hours for all involved, complete with horseback riding, rock climbing, ziplining, paintball, dodgeball, and the list goes on... Our students worshiped alongside 200 or so of their peers, glorifying God and reinforcing a sense of Christian community within their generation. We look forward to returning next year and bringing along even more students!



### Welcome, Megan McHale

#### Our new Nursery/Toddlers Director

Megan has been a committed member of our church and now steps up to fill this important position. After spending several weeks in prayer, she agreed to be considered for this ministry. She brings much experience in early childhood from being a preschool teacher to being the head of a child development center. She is certified by the MSDE as a child care director, preschool, infant and toddler director. She has a heart for serving children and sharing Jesus with them. Supporting her with her new ministry is her husband, John and their two young girls. We are happy to have Megan become part of our church staff and bring her talents to serve our church and our Lord.



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Palm Sunday, following the church service. Let's come together and plan, prepare, and deliver some upcoming hoppy (or happy 😊) memories for our families. Sign up in the commons to help. Join Pam Gerolstein and her team! In the meantime, let the adult hunt begin for items to place in children Easter Treat Bags including all kinds of candy, lollipops, healthy snacks, little treats. Donations can be dropped off in the commons until March 19th.

## MARCH EVENTS

### Tuesday, March 14

7:00 pm

Mission & Ministry Meeting

### Friday, March 17

6:30 pm

Prayer Group Meeting

### Sunday, March 19

Family Sunday & Children's Worship Service

### Sunday, March 19

Sandwich Making for Light House

### Tuesday, March 21

7:00 pm

Admin Group Meeting

### Tuesday, March 28

7:00 PM

Men's Bible & BBQ

## WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

### Sundays

10:00 am

Worship Service and Children's Classes

11:00 am Fellowship

11:15 am

Bible Classes for Adults and Kids  
Teens Bible Study

4:30 - 6:30 pm AWANA

### Wednesdays

8:30 am Ladies' Breakfast

9:00 am Men's Breakfast

7:00 pm Choir Practice

## Mission Updates

### • Light House Shelter

Many hands helped make 100 sandwiches in February. The kids class made some Valentine treat bags with snacks and candy. All these were delivered with 100 bottles of water. You can help on March 19 with this mission.

### • Food Pantry

Thanks for all the soup! We collected 152 cans. It will be greatly used as the food pantry served 934 people in November and 861 in December. This month we will collect boxes of cereal.

### • Operation Christmas Child

Idea: The stores are full of Easter fun. Be on the look out for small items that would fit in a shoe box. People are filling Easter baskets, let's fill some shoeboxes! Put your donations in the red bin in the commons.

### • Clothing donations

Thank you for your generous donations of men's clothing. It really helped that clothes closet. Thanks to AWANA kids for the hats and gloves. These were take to Light House shelter along with our sandwiches.

### • From Pat Lackey, CEF of PG & AA Counties

Praise the Lord that the Greenbelt Good News Club began in February at the elementary school. Pray for the teachers and for the children who attend. The Calverton Good News Club has 75 children enrolled! Our church would like to host and teach a club in Crofton Woods. Who wants to help get this going?



## Easter Events

- **Sunday, April 2** Palm Sunday
  - Worship Service 10:00 am
  - Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 am
- **Thursday, April 6** Last Supper Remembrance
  - 6:30 pm Soup & Testimonies
- **Friday, April 7** Good Friday Service
  - 7:00 pm
- **Sunday, April 9** Easter/Resurrection Sunday
  - Sunrise Service 7:00 am
  - Worship Service 10:00 am
  - Kids Easter Worship 10:00 am

### Join the Team

Help is needed in these areas:

- Children's Director for Grades K-5 (paid position)
- Volunteers for Grass cutting & Landscaping, Nursery Workers, AWANA Game Director, VBS Director, Easter Egg hunt helpers



## Meet the Friends



Dan, Theresa, Wolfgang, and Bernhardt Friend came to FBC during the pandemic. They were looking for a church that was still holding activities for children, and they heard about FBC through their homeschooling group. "We never planned on going to a Baptist church," Theresa says, "but everybody was so nice and welcoming." The Friend family especially loved the outdoor events and meals during the summers. Dan and Theresa met in Ocean City. She was on vacation and he was a lifeguard, and after they started talking, they realized they were both attending AACC. That was 11 years ago, and now they have two sweet boys who love being outdoors. They regularly go hiking and enjoy going to the beach near Dan's parents' home. The boys love the water and take swimming lessons. Wolfgang is part of "Trail Life," a Christian scouting organization, and Dan serves as one of the leaders. Bernhardt isn't old enough to join yet but is looking forward to it. The family has a new puppy, Merlin, who loves playing with them in the yard. Dan structures his work week with early, long hours so that he can be home early and take Fridays off to spend with the kids. The Friends have been homeschooling with a faith-based curriculum, and in addition they also read the boys Bible stories and a kid-friendly devotional book. Bernhardt says that his favorite Bible story is David and Goliath. One of Wolfgang's favorites is Jonah and the whale. Theresa grew up in Germany and has always read the Bible in German, so Bible reading in English has been different and sometimes a challenge. She says one of her favorite passages is Galatians 5:22-23, that the Spirit's presence in your life is shown when you have "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

## SERMONS FOR MARCH

### March 5

Ephesians 5:1-14

### March 12

Ephesians 5:15-21

### March 19

Ephesians 5:22-6:9

### March 26

Ephesians 6:10-24



## MARCH

- 1 - Megan McHale
- 2 - Dave Grimm
- 3 - Ian Allred
- 3 - Paula Rodman
- 4 - Finn MacCredie
- 8 - Kaitlyn Sharo
- 9 - Johnna Wowkanyyn
- 10 - Walt Lindberg
- 15 - Angela Reisler
- 16 - Noah Benjamin
- 16 - Emmy Conaway
- 17 - John Ortiz
- 19 - Dan Friend
- 20 - Emily Benjamin
- 20 - Joanne Horton
- 20 - Sophia Toward
- 22 - Christine Chalgren
- 22 - Ben Earp
- 23 - Connie Hickman
- 25 - Jewel Capps
- 27 - Landon Addleman

1690 Crofton Parkway, Crofton, MD

410-721-2790 Email: church.office@fbccrofton.org Website: fbccrofton.org