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Issue 88
March 2024

First Baptist Church @ Attica Newsletter

Pastor's Pen



fbc@a Stay Connected

Hey Church,

Do you remember we talked about February holidays last month? Valentine's Day this year overlapped with another church holiday, **Ash Wednesday**. That celebration of confession for sins begins the 6-week season leading up to Easter. This 40–46-day anticipation of Easter is called Lent in the liturgical calendar. **But what is Lent all about?**

“Lent is **the solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year commemorating the 40 days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan**, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, before beginning his public ministry. Lent is usually observed in the Catholic, Lutheran, Moravian, Anglican, United Protestant and Orthodox Christian traditions, among others. Some Anabaptist, Baptist, Methodist, Reformed, Presbyterian and Congregationalist churches also observe Lent, although many churches in these traditions do not.

... Lent is described as lasting for a total duration of 40 days, the number of days Jesus, as well as Moses and Elijah, went without food in their respective fasts. Lent is a period of grief that necessarily ends with a great celebration of Easter. ...**The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, simple living, and self-denial.** In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in imitation of Jesus Christ's sacrifice during his journey into the desert for 40 days; this is known as one's Lenten sacrifice.

Many Lent-observing Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, **to draw themselves near to God.** Often observed are the stations of the cross, a devotional commemoration of Christ's carrying the cross and crucifixion.” [source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lent>]

In a conversation with a friend in the community, I was asked, “**Do Baptists celebrate Lent?**” Many of our neighbors are ‘religious’ and practice these patterns as a matter of seasonal traditions. It is really helpful for us to know what these traditions include. Oftentimes, these patterns are opportunities for us to **ask them about their faith.** You can discern fairly quickly whether these activities are meaningful to them and their relationship with Christ or whether they are simply going through the motions.

My answer to my friend was “**We, at FBC@A don't, but we probably should!**” As we have been observing in Ezra and Nehemiah, confession, fasting and mourning over sin is a big part of revival. We even found that Jesus prescribed hungering and thirsting for righteousness and mourning over sin as preconditions to experiencing true happiness and blessing. So, even though John Calvin renounced Lenten observations as “superstitious”, we might want to consider **adding some Lenten activities** to our worship this season.

- FASTING – MT 4:1-11; 6:16-18; 1COR 7:1-5; <https://www.gotquestions.org/fasting-Christian.html>
- PRAYER – MT 6:5-15; JN 17:6-26; LK 21:39-46; <https://www.gotquestions.org/purpose-of-prayer.html>
- ALMSGIVING – MT 6:1-4; 2COR 9:6-15; JAS 2:14-17; <https://www.gotquestions.org/alms-almsgiving.html>
- DAILY DEVOTIONAL READING – PS 119:1-16; MRK 11-16; <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans>
- CONFESSION – MT 7:1-5; 1JN 1:8-10; PS 51; <https://www.gotquestions.org/confession-forgiveness.html>

- SABBATH/SERVICE ATTENDANCE – HEB 10:19-25; COL 2:16-23; MK 2:23-28;
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Sabbath-keeping.html>

Here are some warnings. A) As with all traditions, the Lenten practices, can become dull and empty of meaning. Be able to discuss your reason for practicing each element. A good test is whether you can explain it to a 3rd grader or not. (They are pretty literal in their thinking and aren't afraid to hurt your feelings by telling you they don't get it) B) Religious practices and spiritual disciplines can also take on a meaning not originally intended. We can sometimes use these activities as "leverage" with God. We begin to believe that he has to listen to us more because we have performed these ceremonies. C) We can also use them as "merit badges" and try to outperform others in our congregations. We can become modern day Pharisees pretty quickly, thinking that we are more valuable because of what we do.

The point is, make **Christ central** to your celebrations, allow the **Spirit to control** and direct your choices, and seek opportunities to worship in **connections with your faith community.** As we walk through this season, let's all agree that "whatever we do in word or deed, we do all to the glory of God." (COL 3:17)

Happy Eastertide Blessings!

Pastor Mike → pastormike33@yahoo.com, 607.220.9911, 99 East Ave, Attica NY 14011



For Teens in 7th-12th grade
 Join us for Games, Snack, Bible
 Study, & Small Groups
 Thursdays from 6:15-8:30pm



Coming Events

Praise Banquet
 Saturday, April 20th 5-10pm

Camp RECHARGE
 May 3-4 \$60 per student More details to come soon!!

Any Questions please text Tim (595)591-0120 or Shell (585)813-5970







WE ♥ Teachers



FREE COFFEE & PASTRY

Tuesday,
 March 5th @ 7:30am

The school has given us permission to set up inside! So... we will need extra baked goods each month!! Please see Shell or Pastor Mike if you can help bake or serve

fb@ca
 SCHOLARSHIP
 Fund



Consider donating to our Scholarship Fund. Funds are running low and Scholarships are only possible with your donations!



fb@a
March
Volunteer
Schedule



Jr. Church Schedule:

March 3 – Kamie & Rebekah Clark
 March 10 – Trina George & Macie Parton
 March 17 – Melanie Parton & Beth Russell
 March 24 – Sandy Dolph & Mary Bruce
 March 31 – Easter Sunday No Jr. Church

Nursery Schedule:

March 3 – Lauren Paris & Rebekah Hess
 March 10 – Beth Russell & Mary Merle
 March 17 – Debbie Olivieri & Rebekah Clark
 March 24 – Trina George & Hope Bell
 March 31 – Lauren Paris & Mallory Parton

Check out our Church App!

Access sermons, online giving, prayer requests, events, and more!



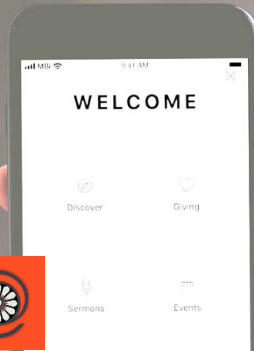
1. Download Church by MinistryOne in App store



2. Search for Our Church



3. Select & Explore!



Once the app is downloaded, find our church as FBC@Attica. You should see our LOGO:



fb@a Country Dance Group

Saturday, March 2nd @ 7pm

Saturday, March 16th @ 7pm



No experience needed! All ages are welcome. Wear comfortable shoes & bring a water bottle.

We will meet the 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday of each month

R12 Bible Study

Friday, March 15th at 6:30pm @ Church. Please see Ashley Merle if you have questions.

Pasta @ the Paris'

Sunday, March 3rd @ Pastor Mike and Sue's house at 5:30pm.

Bring something to go with pasta or a dessert!!



Couples Night Out



Saturday, March 23rd 6:00pm @ Main St. Pizza Company 206 E Main St; Batavia

Pay for your own meal but enjoy getting together!

Attica's Blessing Box

Don't forget to add some pantry items to the Blessing Box.

Help us bless our community!!



FOOD 4 KIDS BACKPACK PROGRAM



We are partnering with the Elementary School in providing Snack Backpacks to needy families. We need some food donations and some people to help pack backpacks. Here's the idea list!

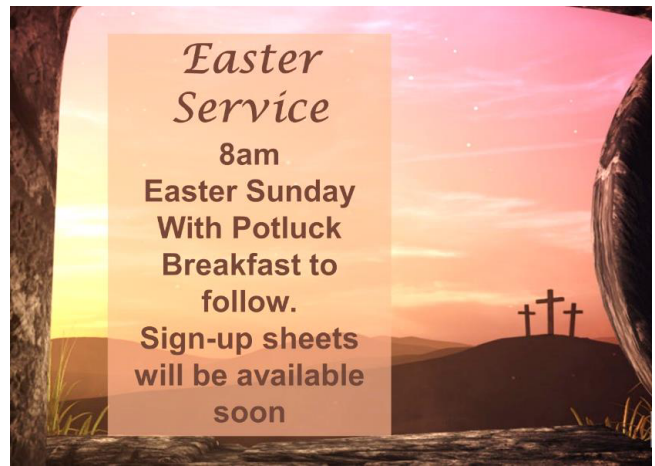
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| easy mac (cups) | fruit cups |
| peanut butter | applesauce |
| jelly | pudding |
| soup | cheese crackers |
| ravioli-cans | graham crackers |
| juice boxes | fruit snacks |
| box cereal | goldfish crackers |
| oatmeal | rice krispy treats |
| pop-tarts | mini muffins |
| cereal bars | small bags chips |

Think easy to prepare, individual portion snacks. We will meet at church each week to pack the backpacks. Bring your donations and put them in the church kitchen labeled "Backpacks."

FBC@A Missionaries

The following is a list of Missionaries that we support here at FBC@A Please be praying for them!
If you would like to write to them, please see Mary Merle for contact information.

- Wayne & Darlene Burroughs MIM – New York
- Chris & Barb Deemer Missions Door – New York
- Phil & Gale Fields Pioneer Bible – Indonesia & Arkansas
- Rachel Fields Pioneer Bible Finance Office – Dallas TX
- Jeff & Cindy Hackett Mission GO Short Term Trips
- Kaarina Ham Hope Armenia – Massachusetts
- Matt & Alyssa Harris MAF – Indonesia
- Andy & Bethany Maier Crossworld – Black Forest Germany
- Daniel & Kerry Morrisett Pioneers – Chad
- Anthony & Nancy Petrillo – Sim NY & TEN3 Africa
- Erica Simone SonSet Solutions – Worldwide & Indiana
- Don & Karen Stauffer Crossworld – Canada USA The World
- Jim & Karen Szymanski – SIM NY & TEN3 Africa
- Rod & Jamie Whitney Word of Life – New York
- Northeast Fellowship



Easter Service
8am
Easter Sunday
With Potluck
Breakfast to
follow.
Sign-up sheets
will be available
soon



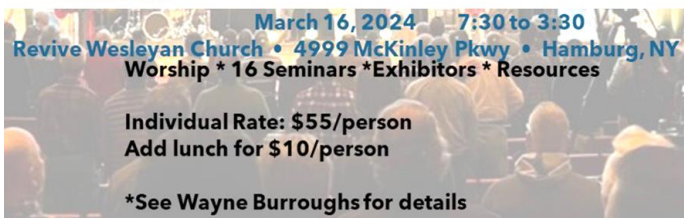
Good Friday Service
Join us at 7:00pm
March 29th
This is a joint
service with
Cowlesville and
West Middlebury

fbc@

**Easter Flower Order Forms are available
Please give to Michelle Bell by
March 17th.**



Buffalo Men's Equipping Conference



March 16, 2024 7:30 to 3:30
Revive Wesleyan Church • 4999 McKinley Pkwy • Hamburg, NY
Worship * 16 Seminars * Exhibitors * Resources

**Individual Rate: \$55/person
Add lunch for \$10/person**

*See Wayne Burroughs for details

Mission Moment *By Mary Merle*

Kaarina Ham

- Visited Attica in January and enjoyed her time.
 - Purchased her plane tickets for going back to Armenia May – August.
 - Released 2 books
 - “Witness to History 1979-2019” – 1 full of pictures and 1 written history of her life and serving.
- She gifted one of each book to Attica First Baptist

Pray for safety in traveling

Rachel Fields

- The finance office at Pioneer Bible Translators has been busy the past few months.
- Health – she has been working from home more often. She has been given permission to possibly move elsewhere and continue to work remotely.
- Rent continues to rise in the Dallas area. She is looking for something more affordable.
- Progress – she enjoys seeing the progress in Bible translation being made.

Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance. Health. Decisions on finding a new less expensive place to live.

Daniel & Kerri Morrisett

- Went on vacation to Switzerland and to the Swiss Alps. Have returned to Chad.

Pray for them as they get back into life and work in Chad. They say “God is at work, but so is our enemy. So, we covet everyone’s prayers.”

Phil & Gale Fields

- Phil is returning to Indonesia April 9th – May 28th.
- They hope to complete the TSI Bible by mid-2025, but support from an Indonesian foundation may stop as soon as April.
- God has done wonderful things with translation and getting it into the hands of many people.
- Gale has been teaching a Bible Study at their home church in Arkansas, they are studying 1 Peter and 12 ladies have been coming.

Pray for safety in travel and for encouragement for the team in Indonesia. Also that the Lord will bring the support needed to pay the ALBATA employees and be able to complete the TSI Old Testament.

DILLY BARS www.hermodernkitchen.com

Ingredients

- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1½ cups extra crunchy peanut butter
- 16 ounces marshmallows, large or small
- 4-5 cups Rice Krispie cereal
- ½ teaspoon sea salt

Using butter, lightly grease the bottom, edges, and corners of a 9x13 pan then it set aside

In a large glass mixing bowl (that fits in your microwave!) melt the remaining butter, ~1 minute on high

Into the melted butter, add the chocolate chips. Place the melted butter and chocolate chips into the microwave and heat for 20-seconds on power level 7-8 Remove the bowl and stir vigorously for 10 seconds

Repeat the 20-second heat followed by stirring until your chocolate chips are melted (~2 minutes total)

When most of the chocolate is melted, you should be able to stir the remaining chips until they too melt into the rest of the chocolate Once the butter and chocolate are fully melted, stir in the peanut butter. On top of the chocolate peanut butter mixture, add all of the marshmallows. Heat the marshmallows in the microwave for 20-seconds on power level 7-8 Remove the bowl and stir vigorously for 10 seconds. Repeat the 20-second heat followed by stirring until your marshmallows are melted (~2 minutes) Add in 4 cups Rice Krispie cereal (and salt if using) and stir until combined -- you may have to use your hands and massage the mixture to ensure all of the cereal is fully coated. If the mixture looks a little wet, add in the additional cup of Rice Krispie cereal (I prefer 4.5 cups when making these) Turn the mixture out into the prepared pan Using a spatula, smooth the mixture into the corners of the pans, ensuring an even, flat layer across the bars

Refrigerate the bars for at least 1 hour Let bars sit at room temperature for 5 minutes before slicing



Prayer Request & Praise Corner

If you have a request or praise to share please contact Michelle Bell (585)813-5970 or email fbcatticany@gmail.com

Jenna Burroughs EDS instability on her spine has progressed. She appreciates prayers.

Teens Alive students and Leaders, **Marsha List** (Ashley M's mom) Saw the Epilepsy specialist and she is scheduled for a hospital stay at Strong to monitor her and her episodes 24/7 from March 11-16 to hopefully figure out what is going on

Brian Beebe Had heart surgery then a stroke & was just moved to a rehab facility. Pray for healing

Lynn Griffith Health concerns & has colonoscopy on April 25

Backpacks Packing backpacks weekly for elementary families who are in need. Snack donations are gratefully accepted.

Children's Ministry looking into the possibility of doing a children's ministry for kids in 6th grade and below pray volunteers step up.

Blessing Box In front of church Pray we can be a light to our community



To receive Prayer Chain Text Updates, follow these instructions:
Send a text to: 81010 Text this message: @fattic



First Baptist Church @ Attica Important Information

Service Information

Sunday School 2.0 for all ages 8:45am
Morning Worship Service is at 10am
Jr. Church is available for kids in pre-k – 4th grade
Nursery is available for young children.

If you are in need of assistance with getting groceries or have another need please call one of our Church Leaders.

Daily Bread For Mar/April/May are available at church or contact Shell and she will get one to you!

Newsletter Submissions can be sent to Michelle at the church email address, fbcatticany@gmail.com please send all submissions by Wednesday, March 27th. Please share greetings, pictures or encouraging notes for others in our congregation. The next issue is March 29th.

Please feel free to mail your offering to:
First Baptist Church of Attica
3 Prospect St.
Attica, NY 14011



Online

Giving →

Click or scan



Nursing Home Residents and Shut-ins Need Church Fellowship too!!

Go visit and Fellowship with one of our Church Family that live in a Nursing Home or are Home Bound. They would love to see you!!

Leroy Village Green – Jeanne Harder
East Side Nursing Home, Warsaw – Joanne Harder Wert

Warsaw Extended Care, WCCH
Judy Owczarzak
Shirley Midkiff
Arnie Sprague
Ray Caryl

Manor Oak, Batavia – Janet Paine
The Manor House, Batavia
Beverly Shaw

At Home:
Jim Kemerrer (716)462-7785
Pat Keene

Word of Life Quiet Time Schedule

- Week 26** – March 3-9
1 Samuel 1-9
- Week 27** – March 10-16
1 Samuel 10-17
- Week 28** – March 17-23
1 Samuel 17-20
- Week 29** – March 24-30
2 Samuel 5-15
- Week 30** – March 31-April 6
2 Samuel 18-24

Contact Info:

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pastormike33@yahoo.com

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WWW.FBCATTICA.ORG