

THE BANNER

A PUBLICATION OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MIDLAND, TEXAS

MARCH 31, 2021
VOL. 41 - NO. 30

The HOPE *of* EASTER

APRIL 4TH

8:15 AM &
11 AM



Dear Beloved First Family



Dr. Darin Wood - Senior Pastor

Grace, Peace and Happy Easter! When I stepped up to the platform for Sunday morning, I was overwhelmed at how many of our first family gathered with us this past weekend! Quite literally, I had forgotten what it looked like to be full. To all of us, I'd like to say "IT WAS GOOD TO BE IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!"

#FBCFINDHOPE

THIS SUNDAY is my favorite day of the year! We've worked hard to prepare well for this Sunday and I want YOU to be there for it! In addition, I want you to invite someone to come with you! Take a picture and post it to your social media page with the hashtag #FBCFindHope to let people know you're coming!

For those of you who haven't been back yet, we long to see you back in the building! While there's no one speaking critically of anyone acting to protect themselves, we aren't where we were a year ago with COVID. As things begin to edge back toward normal, we want you back.

THE EQUALITY ACT

Several of you have asked me about the Equality Act currently being debated in the US Senate. While I haven't spoken with you about it, my beloved First Family, understand that we are keeping a close eye on this Act as it would redefine religious liberty forever and make criminals out of anyone who dares disagree. For those who are not familiar with this legislation, I encourage you to understand that while our media is portraying this Act as a civil rights correction long overdue, it is, in fact, something far different. It seeks to advance the cause of the LGBTQ to a protected class and seek punitive measures to insure compliance. There is no religious conscience provision nor is there intended to be. That's exactly what this bill seeks to destroy. In a recent article, Newsweek Magazine (no man's conservative publication) says it best. "The Equality Act doesn't seek to end discrimination. It bans dissent."

So what can you do? Feel free to call Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz to register your desire they vote against this, but understand they already stand opposed to it. Pray for truth and the religious freedom we've always enjoyed to continue unabated.



A CURIOUS EMAIL

About three weeks ago, I got another one of those curious emails. This one from Mrs. Debra Summers, step-daughter of our own Dr. L.L. Morris. She was writing to ask if we would be interested in having a painting done by our church for Dr. Morris upon his retirement. This beautiful painting (see picture) is of Dr. Morris' first church he pastored and the last church he pastored (ours). Both churches are standing in a field of bluebonnets. Would we like to have it back? Of course I said yes and promised to display it proudly as a reminder of God's blessings through our longest tenured pastor. She shipped it to us and it's hanging in our church office suite. If you'd like to drop by and see it in the pastor's office, you're always welcome!

Your pastor,
Darin

Sunday

8:15 AM Easter Service* (extended care 8:15 only)
 9:30 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Easter Service*
 Overflow (Chapel),
 Family Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)
 FBC en Español (Student Worship Area)

*Both Worship Services are live streamed on our website at [Church Online](#) as well as [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), & [Vimeo](#).

Monday April 5th

11:30 AM WMU Ladies Prayer Luncheon in room D101-102 (\$6 lunch optional).

Missionary James O Fraser said, "I believe it will only be known the Last Day how much has been accomplished in missionary work by the prayers of earnest believers at home."

Join us as we pray for missionaries who partner with our church.

11:45 AM Brotherhood luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.
 Cost: \$6 and must RSVP by Sunday.
 Call Carl Brown if questions, 432-557-6810

Wednesday April 7th

SCHEDULE

4:45 PM Wednesday Family Meal in the Fellowship Hall
 RSVP each week, online, at fbc-midland.org/events in the Wednesday Family Meals tab or at:
myfirstfamily.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/163/responses/new

6 PM Orchestra
 WEBS (room E114)
 Women's Ministry WEBS (room E102)
 Preschool & Children's Choirs
 Student Ministry Pizza (Activities Building)
 Student Ministry Midpoint Bible Study (E-Hall)
 6:30 PM
 6:45 PM R.A.s, G.A.s, & Mission Friends
 7 PM Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY FAMILY MEAL

The meal includes one dessert and a beverage. Credit/Debit cards are accepted.

Adult Meal \$6 / Hamburger \$4 / Salad Bar \$3.50 / Family Plan \$23

Menu:

- Brisket
- Baked Potato
- Broccoli
- Tossed Green Salad
- Honey Wheat Roll
- Apple Cobbler

Also, you have your choice of Chick-fil-a Sandwich with Waffle Potato Fries and a cookie or the menu listed above. The Chick-fil-a meal is in limited amounts and is available to first come first serve.

Thursday April 8th

6:30 AM: Iron Men
 9:00 AM Ladies Precept Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
 10:30 AM Joyful Sound Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 12:00 PM Prayer (Chapel)

Acknowledgments

THANK YOU

We are so grateful for your generous donation to Buckner Children & Family Services in memory of Don. Although he never had children of his own, he did love children especially his nieces and nephews. This would please him greatly. We treasure the compassion you have shown to our family.

Love,
 Lynn & Darryl James

Thank you so much for the kind donation to Buckner Children & Family Services in memory of my father, Frank D. Norwood Jr. He would be pleased with the special remembrance of such a wonderful organization in his honor. I'm grateful for all the prayers, kindness and support I received from the church during this difficult time.

Blessings,
 John & D'Ann Norwood and family

Thank you so much for the gift given to Buckner Children & Family Services in memory of my dad, David Rodawalt. I cannot think of a more appropriate way to honor his life and legacy. My dad loved children and had a heart for children in need. From coaching every type of little league sports team to volunteering for the Boys Club and to adopting a little girl who needed a loving home, my father was a great example of how to love children less fortunate. Thank you for this gift. It is such a privilege to belong to a church who gives faithfully to such wonderful ministries.

Shauna Madden

My family and I are grateful to you about the plumbing issue you fixed at our place last time. Thank you so much. May God Bless First Baptist Church and their members.

M.L.

BEREAVEMENT

Our deepest sympathy, prayers, and love go out to the family members in the loss of their loved ones.

- Shirley Campbell in the loss of her father, Russell Maxwell

NEW MEMBERS

The First Baptist Family welcomes these new members. We are delighted you chose FBC as your church family and we look forward to serving with you and growing together in faith.

- Jody Ormsby
- Jaden Ormsby
- Guillermo Ortiz
- Karla Montoya
- Jonathan and Bethany Teffeteller
- Anais Miguel

INTERESTED IN FBCM EVENTS?

VISIT:

fbc-midland.org/events

TALL CITY DATE NIGHT

April 2 • 6 - 8 PM
Centennial Park

Bring your spouse, a blanket, and enjoy a spring evening at the new Centennial Park. There will be food trucks, games, date night package give-a-ways, and fun quality time with your special someone.

This would also be a great opportunity to invite another couple or meet new friends in our community and get to know them. Share the love of Christ through hospitality, conversation, and laughs, and then offer an invitation to our Easter services on Sunday.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021



Press Play VBS is coming June 7-10th! It will look and feel very different from any VBS we've ever done before, and we're excited about how God can use us to reach families for Christ this summer!

A quick overview:

- Press Play is a hybrid VBS. That means that families who aren't getting out yet can still fully participate using digital materials at home! (It also means that, unlike last year, we can still move forward with VBS even if our situation changes!)
- Each grade level will be assigned a day to be on-campus and in person! PreK/K will attend on Monday, 1st/2nd graders on Tuesday, 3rd/4th graders on Wednesday, and 5th/6th graders on Thursday. This means fewer people in the building with classes spread out to allow for safety and cleanliness.
- While on-campus, kids will engage with Bible study, worship, missions, a craft, recreation, and of course, a snack!
- On their 'at-home' days, kids and parents can access high-quality videos with Bible stories and worship songs, as well as other hands-on activities that help families learn more about what it means to follow Jesus.
- Volunteers' kids will have on-campus activities every day! That means that if you sign up to help, your kids get the full VBS experience, with special activities just for them!
- Volunteers are asked to serve all week, either in the same room with a different grade level each day, with preschoolers (volunteers' kids only, so the same group all week), as a greeter, or helping in registration! Everything will be prepared for you and the main teaching time happens in large groups, so you don't even have to teach! We just need folks to love on kids and point them to Jesus!
- We'll offer a big 'kick-off' event Sunday night prior to VBS and then an exciting Family Night with EPIC Entertainment to engage kids and parents on both ends of the week! It'll be a great way to generate some excitement and help parents understand the heart of FBC for families!

If you are interested in volunteering, you can talk to Sarah, Amy, or Allison, or call the church at 432-683-0600. Any of us can get you connected or answer any questions you may have. We are thankful for the chance to reach our community for Christ this summer and sure hope you'll join us!

Registration begins April 1st

myfirstfamily.cbcchurch.com/goto/forms/159/responses/new

GIRLS IN ACTION

Mission Action Project
"Muffins for Missions"

Sunday, April 11th
 9:15 AM – 10:00 AM



Our Girls in Action are inviting you to join them in supporting the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. There will be 6 tables set up around the church. Please stop by and take a muffin or treat.

Donations for the mission will be accepted, but not required.



Opportunities to Serve

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

FOR MIDLAND BAPTIST CRISIS CENTER TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING

1. PEANUT BUTTER
2. JELLY (NO GLASS JARS)
3. CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE (NO GLASS JARS)
4. CANNED SOUP

DETAILS AT:

FBC-MIDLAND.ORG/EVENTS



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Midland Baptist Crisis Center would like for FBC Midland to partner with them by providing food items that are not provided in their food pantry boxes from the Food Bank. They are requesting that we focus on the following 4 food items:

1. Peanut Butter
2. Jelly (NO glass jars)
3. Canned Spaghetti Sauce (NO glass jars)
4. Canned Soup

Please bring your food items on April 4th (1st Sunday of the month) and place them in the blue food bins located around the church property.



Hello, My name is Chris Kejr and I serve as First Baptist Church's Music Ministry Assistant. This means that I work behind the scenes assisting Pastor Aaron Hodges prepare for each service by making sure that each singer and instrumentalist has their music, ordering and filing music, accounting for our expenses, and anything else that Aaron needs for the Worship Ministry. While I sing as a volunteer in our choir, my work is administrative and supportive, not musical. In addition to Pastor Hodges, I absolutely love working with the entire staff and volunteers who have become dear friends of mine.

You will also find me along with my husband, John Kejr, serving as directors of the Stephen Department Sunday School Class. We work as a team taking care of "our kids" - the members of this class who have adopted us as "their kids" and have shown us so much love and kindness. Some of the ladies will also know me from The Precepts Bible Study, led by Katy Little. Before the music ministry, I worked as the Youth Department Ministry Assistant.

Jesus Christ saved me as an adult in my mid thirties through my dear friend Dana who shared the Gospel with me, gave me my first Bible, and invited me to Rocky Mountain Bible Church (RMBC) in Frisco, Colorado where I was saved and baptized. Through sound Bible teaching, my eyes opened to my need to be forgiven of my sins which was only possible through accepting Christ's precious gift of salvation paid for on the cross.

At RMBC, I met my husband John - the new single guy who had just moved to the community and had joined the Church Choir where we met. A year and a half later, we were married. Through different opportunities, we moved to Englewood, New Jersey then Taos, New Mexico, and then



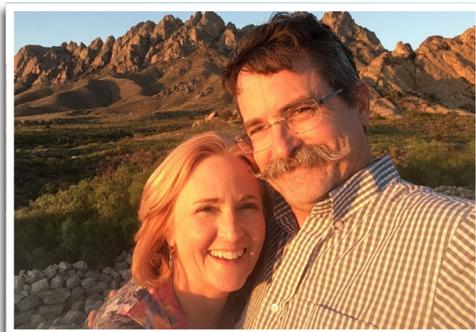
to Midland where I have been for the last three years.

After growing up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but before meeting John, I worked as a district manager for factory outlet retail stores where I moved around from Colorado, to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, to the Phoenix, Arizona area. Strangely, John and I were neighbors in Phoenix, but never met until years later in Colorado.

I enjoy knitting - especially baby sweaters - which I often give to new moms as gifts. Any yarn store can expect me to drop by for a visit when I am in the area. Teaching girls and women how to knit brings me real joy.

John and I enjoy taking adventures together. When living in the New York City area, we were in the city almost every weekend, exploring its museums, restaurants, and yarn stores. In Colorado and New Mexico, we climbed mountains, and cross country and downhill skied. Since moving to Midland, we have attended the symphony and Rockhounds games, visited the Hill Country, and explored the Lower Cave of Carlsbad Caverns in an off-trail ranger-led tour accessed by ropes and ladders wearing headlamps and cave exploring gear. When possible we visit John's mom in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

God has certainly been gracious to us by bringing us into the First Baptist family. You have blessed and ministered to us in so many ways. We love you all and are thankful to have you as part of our lives. I look forward to continuing to serve this church both as an employee and with my husband John as volunteers as long as Christ wants us here or chooses to call us home.



Team FBC is a Banner feature to better acquaint you, our 1st Family, with the men and women who serve you every week. You can look forward to learning more about these individuals in weeks to come.

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Church Midland



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PRAYER PARTNER



PRAYER
FOR OUR MISSIONARY:
**CALEB & COURTNEY
GROTELUSCHEN**
CAPSTONE CHURCH
HELENA, MT

- Pray for our Second Service, that it would be a great avenue for our church to further minister to our community
- Pray for more contacts in schools to develop. Though great effort has been made to develop relationships, very little progress has been made with our schools
- Pray that our Leadership team would continue to grow. We need leadership for our Kids Ministry as well as our First Impressions Ministry



Choir Rehearsal

Thursday at 10:30 AM
Choir Room

**All Singers
in our community
age 55+
are invited to join us!**

Call James Ervin for more information
432-683-0600

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands." Joyful Sound is a choir for adults 55+ who love to sing praises to our God. We rehearse each Thursday at 10:30 am in the choir room of FBC, Midland.

This ministry is open to all adults in our community regardless of church membership. We will focus on using our musical gifts and talents to minister to our community as "we serve the Lord with gladness."

STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

March 28, 2021

Offering	Weekly	Year to Date
FBC Offering	\$ 114,975	\$ 3,591,656
Budget Requirement	\$ 127,000	\$ 3,800,382
Over/Under Budget	\$ -12,025	\$ -208,726
Hope 1:8	\$ 0	\$ 514,056
Annie Armstrong	\$ 14,827	\$ 24,436

FBC DIRECTORY

www.fbc-midland.org

Main Phone - 432.683.0600 Main Fax - 432.683.0660

Prayer Line - 432.683.0683

Pastoral Ministry	683.0604
Missions Ministry	683.0623
Music & Worship Ministry	683.0618
Administrative Office	683.0604
Activities Ministry	683.0647
Business Office	683.0615
Children's Ministry	683.0609
Preschool Ministry	683.0611
Child Development Center	683.0638
Children's Day Out	683.0632
Student Ministry	683.0606
Family Ministry	683.0612
55+ Ministry	683.0612
Media Ministry	683.0622
Membership	683.0612
Duplication Services	683.0626
Library	683.0625

Sunday

Worship Services at 8:15 AM & 11:00 AM • Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Worship Services Online

• fbc-midland.org • facebook.com/fbcmidland • vimeo.com/fbcmidland

Sunday Service Televised at

7:00 a.m. on KOSA (CBS) Channel 7

10:00 a.m. on MyTV, Channel 16 (or DirectTV Channel 40)

Televised services are on a one-week tape delay

How to Give Online

Click the round button link located on the bottom right side of the website and follow the steps for online giving.

GIVE