

The Home Visitor Newsletter



APRIL 2019

North Platte First Baptist Church
100 McDonald Road
North Platte, NE 69101
Worship Hours
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.



Pastor Clint Walker

Office Hours
M-Th 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday -Closed
308-532-6772
cwalker@fbcnorthplatte.org
www.fbcnorthplatte.org

Resurrection Day Traditions

Easter is the name of the day that we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. For some, it is a time together. In North Platte Public Schools, it is a holiday that allows for one of two mini spring breaks. It is often the high-water mark for attendance in worship at First Baptist. And throughout Church history, it is the holiest of days.

Yet, like Christmas, Easter is also a day that incorporates a lot of strange symbols and traditions that predate the church that have been adopted by believers. Things like Easter eggs, sunrise gatherings, bunny rabbits, and even the name "Easter" have also come to symbolize the season. Where do they come from, and what are we to do with them today?

I think it is helpful to understand that, outside of the empty tomb, most symbols of the Easter holiday are not unique to Christendom. Many cultures that predate Christianity had festivals in the spring to celebrate the lengthening of days, the beginning of spring, and the new life springing up from the ground. Sunrise services come from the celebration of the spring equinox and the worship of God's related to the sun. Bunnies are symbols of fertility. Eggs are symbols of new life. How bunnies came to lay eggs, I have no idea.

What the early church did, and I believe in doing so they set a good missionary example for us today, is they took celebrations and festivals that people already engaged in, eliminated many of the immoral elements of such gatherings, and repurposed pre-Christian traditions and imbued them with Christian symbolism. Instead of completely

reinventing the culture, they transformed cultural traditions and practices with the gospel. So, what once was a celebration of new life and fertility became a celebration of new life we can have through the resurrection of Christ.

Christian teachers began to do object lessons with eggs around the time the resurrection was celebrated. As we crack open hard-boiled eggs, it is like opening the empty tomb. Sunrise services came to remind us that the Son of God rose early in the morning. The flowers also came to symbolize new life that believers can find through faith in Christ, and flowers that grow in the dark but thrive in the early spring became symbols of Christ being in the darkness in the tomb until Easter morning. The bunnies, well, I still don't get those, but I know that tradition was first practiced in America by the Pennsylvania Dutch.

So, I say, enjoy the Resurrection Day traditions you love, even if some of the traditions of Easter predate the church. Take time to briefly remind friends and family how these traditions can reflect the gospel of Christ and his victory over sin and death. Have a joyous Easter. In all of this, allow love of Christ and love of others to be the center of your thoughts and time on this day, including your worshipping, your feasting, and your celebrating the (hopefully) end of a long winter.

God Bless,

Clint

Pastor Clint



There will be a spring cleaning of First Baptist on Saturday, April 13th At 4 p.m. Let's make our spiritual home SHINE!!



Deacon Meeting	Monday April 8 th 7 p.m.
Executive Board	Tuesday, April 23 rd 7 p.m.

*****Sunday morning greeters are needed for May. Please call Pat at 308-539-3614 or sign up on the sheet on the clipboard at the east entrance of the church.**

What's Happening

At FBC



- April 14 Palm Sunday
- April 15 Prayer Stations (12-3 p.m.)
- April 16 Prayer Stations (4-7 p.m.)
- April 17 Prayer Stations (9 a.m.-12)
- April 18 Maundy Thursday Service (7 p.m.)
- April 19 Home-bound Communions

FBC's annual Easter breakfast will be on Sunday, April 21st from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. and as usual will be served by our menfolk!! Plan to attend.
All are welcome!



Sunday, April 28th, FBC will be having two special guests in our congregation...Larry Stanton and Caleb Cornelius.

Larry and his wife Becky are global servants and are International Ministries partners with Hungarian Baptist Aid and the Baptist Union of Hungary. Larry will be providing the Sunday message.

Caleb is the Program Director for Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center in Linwood, Nebraska. Caleb will be discussing a mission moment.



MIDDLERS

Let's celebrate the coming of Spring! You are invited to a "Cornhole Tournament" and an evening of games on **Friday, April 12** at 7p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist. All refreshments will be provided, so come and enjoy the food, friends and fun.

*RSVP if you are attending.
Virgil and Sue French
532-9246*





Upcoming Event!!!

**You are invited to the ABC NE Region Expo 2019
First Baptist Church of North Platte, April 26-27**

An Expo is an event where ideas, resources, and practices are exchanged. Join us for the 2019 Region Expo. We will exchange resources with one another as ABC/NE Churches and Leaders share their best ministry stories and resources with one another in a variety of break-out sessions. We will share best practices for mission and ministry with one another through our exhibits, conversations, and fellowship.

See you at the 2019 Region Expo!

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*Circle of Grace--Child Safety
Preferred Path--Conflict Mediation
Welcome to the Family Table
Church Safety
Fresh Expressions--Ministry
Worship
NE Mission Network
Church Treasurers
Youth Ministry
Teacher Training
Hill Tribe Stories--Burmese Church*

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**International Missionary
Larry Stanton** is scheduled to be our keynote speaker to the 2019 Region Expo.



FREE FREE FREE



Provided on Friday!!

*Free to all
North Platte FBC Members*

To Register: Go online www.abcnebraska.com, call 402-556-4730 or fill out the form given to you on Sunday and turn into the office.

Join us for a great time of music, food, fellowship, worship, workshops, sharing and exploring ministry in Nebraska and beyond!!



The Evening ABW group stuffed "crazy socks" with a variety of items at the March 5 meeting. The socks were filled with personal-use sized items, including toothpaste, chap stick, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, hand sanitizer, and gum, candies, etc.

The filled socks were donated to the youth at the high school who are without permanent housing.

The Evening ABW will meet at 7 p.m. April 2 in the Agape Room and is open to anyone who would like to attend.

souper Time!!

The annual Epicenter Soup Cookoff was held on Wednesday, March 27th. There were 12 different kinds of soup which to everyone's amazement Scott King actually tried ALL of the them and Sadie Dannatt tried NINE of them! Isaac Holmes (clam chowder) and Drullingers (potato hamburger) tied for first. Honorable mentions went to Brand Brown's chicken and noodles and Sam McDaniel's cream cheese chicken chili. The three hundred dollars raised will go towards a mission in Oklahoma. Thanks to everyone to participated!



April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	2 7 p.m. ABW 9:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	3 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 3:45 p.m. Dis Kids 5:30 p.m. Wed Sup 6:15 p.m. Small Group	4 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8 a.m. Men's B-fast 9 a.m. Ladies B-fast 1 p.m. Mission Quilt 6:30 p.m.	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 Communion Sunday 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 5 p.m. Small Groups 6:30 p.m. Small Groups 6:30 p.m. Epicenter	8 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:00 Deacon Meeting	9 9:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	10 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 3:45 p.m. Dis Kids 5:30 p.m. Wed Supper 6:15 p.m. Small Groups	11 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8 a.m. Men's B-fast 1 p.m. Mission Quilt 6:30 p.m. Adult Night	12 7 p.m. Middlers Fellowship Hall	13 4 p.m. FBC Spring Cleaning
14 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 Worship 5 p.m. Small Groups 6:30 Small Groups 6:30 p.m. Epicenter	15 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 12-3 p.m. Prayer Stations 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	16 4 -7 p.m. Prayer Stations 9:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study	17 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 9-12 Prayer Stations 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 3:45 p.m. Dis Kids 5:30 p.m. Wed Supper 6:15 p.m. Small Groups	18 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8 a.m. Men's B-fast 1 p.m. ABW 6:30 p.m. Adult Night 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 8:00 a.m. Easter B-fast 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 3 p.m. Centennial 5 p.m. Small Groups 6:30 Small Groups 6:30 p.m. Epicenter	22 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	23 9:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Executive Board	24 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 3:45 p.m. Dis Kids 5:30 p.m. Wed Supper 6:15 p.m. Small Groups	25 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8 a.m. Men's B-fast 6:30 p.m. Adult Night	26 <i>American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Mission Expo</i>	27 <i>American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Mission Expo</i>
28 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:00 Small Groups 6:30 p.m. Small Groups 6:30 p.m. Epicenter	29 8:15 a.m. Prayer Walk 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts	30 9:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study				