

**FLORENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Call or text Peggy Williamson at 803 260-5624 to be added to our mailing list.  
 We're on the web: [www.fbcpelion.com](http://www.fbcpelion.com)



The College & Career Sunday School Class went on an outing to the Escape Room in Lexington last month. They had a great time! The class meets every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. If you haven't attended Sunday School lately, come and join us! There are classes for all ages!

April/May 2023

**Florence Baptist Church News**

**Easter Is More Than Eggs & Bunnies!**



Dates to Remember
<b>April</b>
April 2 <b>Palm Sunday</b>
April 9 <b>Easter SonRise Service at 7 a.m.</b> followed by Breakfast by Men's Ministry
April 10 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 p.m.
April 12 Ladies' Outreach 10 a.m. in the Family Life Center
April 19 Family Night Supper 6 p.m. Bible Study at 7 p.m. Business Meeting 7:45 p.m.
April 23 <b>Spring Fling</b> after Morning Worship Service
<b>May</b>
May 6 <b>Mother/Daughter Banquet</b> at noon
May 7 Men's Ministry 6 p.m..
May 8 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 p.m.
May 10 Church Council 7:45 after Bible Study
May 14 <b>Mother's Day</b>
May 17 Ladies' Outreach 10 a.m. Family Night Supper 6 p.m. followed by Bible Study and Business Meeting

Easter is upon us, and Christians all over the world will celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead and the fulfillment of God's promise for eternal life. But, do we really think about the meaning and why we celebrate this season?

Most Americans delight in the Easter bunny, games and egg hunting on Easter day. For many, it's their one day of attending services at churches. But, without Jesus' journey to the cross, Easter doesn't really exist.

The Bible gives us the reason why Jesus came to us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Jesus' true motivation was to fulfill God's love for the world and to offer eternal life to humankind. And God's manifestation of extreme love was to offer his Son as the sacrifice for the world. Jesus' birth was an indication that his journey would be arduous and demanding. Indeed, Jesus' life during his time of ministry was not considered to be a journey of comfort and pleasure: especially, his final journey to Jerusalem. Although even his followers didn't understand the true purpose of his final journey, Jesus was certain of his mission.

In fact, his followers and a great crowd welcomed Jesus as the next Messiah, the superhero for their people. They greeted him with shouts of 'Hosanna!' which was equal to 'Praise God and his Messiah, we are saved!' But the journey didn't end as they hoped. Jesus, their expected Messiah, was helplessly arrested by the Roman authority, beaten, and crucified on the cross, the most humiliating and torturous means of capital punishment.

Why did Jesus make the journey to Jerusalem? His journey was completely and truly about his mission stated in John 3:16. His journey was to fulfill God's love for the world and to offer humankind a chance for a new life. On the cross, he completed his journey, and on the third day, he showed the world there is the new life of eternal peace and blessing.

Therefore, the journey to the cross and thus to the Easter morning is not about the rituals, festivities, or programs, but a reflection of our own life seeking to overcome the bondage of greed and selfishness that leads to sin and death in our world.

On this holy week and Easter, let us meditate on the heart of Jesus as he journeyed to Jerusalem. Jesus made the way; He paid the price for our eternal life. "Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe."

Published on the internet by Rev. Edward Kim

**Easter at our church:**

SonRise service will be held at 7 a.m. on April 9. We will gather near the cemetery for a short service. A full breakfast will be provided by the men following the service. Sunday School and Morning Worship will continue at the regular times.



**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions**

This special offering is being received now through Easter Sunday, April 9. We do not have an active Women on Mission group, so no specific goal has been set for our church. Please give as the Lord leads you. Checks should be payable to the church with Annie Armstrong designated on the check. The Missions option on the regular offering envelopes may also be used. This offering should be over and above your normal church giving.

The North American Mission Board serves a diverse and complex region comprised of the United States and Canada, in addition to the US Territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.



Annie Armstrong

**Mother/Daughter Banquet**

The Ladies' Outreach is restarting our Mother/Daughter banquet. It will be held in the Family Life Center on Saturday, May 6 at noon.

There will be food, music, games, and door prizes. All ladies in the church are invited to attend and bring your mothers, daughters, and granddaughters (or all). A sign-up sheet will be available beginning Easter Sunday to help the ladies plan enough food. Please sign up if you plan to attend.



Mother's Day Banquet 2012



Mother's Day Banquet 2014



Mother's Day Banquet 2016



Mother's Day Banquet 2012



Mother's Day Banquet 2014



Mother's Day Banquet 2012



Mother's Day Banquet 2012



**Spring Fling BBQ!**

Come celebrate the change of seasons April 23rd after 11am worship. The BBQ meal will be provided but feel free to bring your favorite sweet to share!

**Operation Christmas Child—2022 Statistics**

Samaritan's Purse began sending shoeboxes for Christmas via Operation Christmas Child in 1993. This year marks the 30th year for this ministry. A record of 200,000,000+ shoeboxes were collected as of the 2022 project. The 200 millionth shoebox was delivered to an 8-year-old orphan girl in the Ukraine



The United States and 7-8 other countries participate in Operation Christmas Child. The worldwide total of shoeboxes received during 2022 is 10,599,907. Included in this total is 9,303,130 shoeboxes collected in the United States. The US total also includes a total of 342,000 shoeboxes that were ordered online using the "build a box" option.

Our church prepared 56 shoeboxes in 2022. That number may seem small compared to the numbers above, but our support helped Operation Christmas Child reach a large number of children for the 2022 project. We appreciate everyone who took time to prepare these shoeboxes.

More news will be shared in the fall for the 2023 project. The official date for the 2023 collection week for dropping off completed shoeboxes is November 13-20.

**Family Night Suppers**

Menus have been planned for the suppers in April and May. The meals begin at 6:00 to allow time for clean-up prior to Bible Study and prayer meeting.

On April 19, we will have hot dogs and/or hamburgers (or both). Anyone attending should bring toppings for the hot dogs or hamburgers, side dishes, dessert, and/or drinks.



On May 17, the menu will be barbeque. The barbeque will be available as a meal with side dishes or as a barbeque sandwich. The meat and buns will be provided by the church. Please bring side dishes, dessert, and/or drinks.