

Up to this point, one thing we can say about this winter is that it has been mild. We had a couple of surprise snowfalls, but this was by no means a traditional Ohio winter season. Being someone who doesn't like to shovel or scrape ice, I have been pretty content with what we have and hope that it continues right into summer. My sister, Mary, does send me pictures of the snow they got in New Hampshire, which is usually measured in "feet" rather than inches. It always makes me glad that I live a little farther south. My sister, Barb, lives in Florida, where snow isn't an issue (*but the summer hurricane season can be.*) In either case, the weather is a reminder that nature is always active and God is in control of all of it.

That is something we need to keep in mind when life has seasons that are either better than we thought or harder than we expected. We can be uncertain if the life situation we face is related to something we did or is just because we live in an imperfect world and we all face both good times and hard situations. Sometimes, it is neither of those. Sometimes things just happen. But, even when they do, God always has a plan.

During the days around Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the disciples found themselves going from celebration to desperation in one week's time. One the first Palm Sunday, they were with Jesus in the midst of an excited crowd of people celebrating the Lord's arrival back in Jerusalem. Five days later, they watched it become an angry mob that turned on Him and demand that he be put to death. The went from "a day at the beach" to hiding so they would not get "hammered." However, Jesus was in the middle of all of it, following God's plan, doing what needed done so we can be freed from sin. He could have walked away from it and let us deal with sin on our own. But he didn't. He took the punishment on the cross for us – He shed His blood for us – He paid the price for our sins so we do not have to pay it ourselves. In other words, He gave His life so we can spend eternity in Heaven with Him instead of spending eternity separated from Him.

Now that we are past Easter 2024 and headed toward summer, take some time to think about how much God loves you. Think about what Jesus did for you. Think about what the Holy Spirit would like to do in and through your life. As you do, remember that even when a day seems to be going downhill fast, God always has a plan for your good for both today and eternity.



Pastor David

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD



Katherine & Wayne Niles

KATHERINE and WAYNE serve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Wayne works with IMA World Health assisting in the management of health, development, and relief projects. The health projects strive to provide integrated, holistic and sustainable interventions that increase access to quality health care, with an emphasis on vulnerable people. Katherine is medical coordinator for the network of rural Baptist Hospitals staffed entirely by Christian Congolese professionals. They appreciate her efforts to assist them in obtaining quality medicines and needed medical equipment such as ultrasound machines. Katherine manages the distribution of much

appreciated White Cross supplies to the member hospitals. Together with Wayne they organize the installation of solar power and computerized management systems.

How Many People Does It Take to Install An X-Ray?

We embark on 2024 with gratitude for the host of individuals (such as yourself) who work with us to build God's Kingdom in Congo. We are also blessed to partner with many Congolese of faith, sacrificially serving beside us in God's work here.

Imagine an area half the size of North Carolina, without an x-ray machine in any hospital. In one region of Congo, that changed in 2023. This story began when a US-based Congolese brought a pastor friend to Sala, his village in Congo. Sala, is in the 'heart-land' of the Yanzi people. Eager to further the translation work of the Bible into the Yanzi language, this pastor also met Dr. Heritier Ngandu, director to the Sala Evangelical Hospital, and very active member of the Baptist church there. Dr. Heritier shared how 7 years previously, then newly-arrived as hospital director to Sala, he invited the hospital staff to form a choir – to combat spiritual lethargy, awaken a vision of being salt and light in their workplace, and encourage church attendance. (The lead photo shows Dr. Ngandu in the back center with the Sala Hospital staff and choir.)



The need for an x-ray in remote Sala became a burden for this pastor; then a commitment in faith; then a miracle of funding. Katherine learned from a missionary colleague of the availability

of a 'digital' x-ray costing under \$15,000; considerably more affordable than the \$75,000 units available in Congo. With the funds raised by this pastor she ordered one for Sala.

"Normally", one would import an x-ray machine to Congo by 'air freight', but that increasingly involves a tangle of customs brokers, weeks of delays, and arbitrary taxes even up to \$4,000. The unit weighed hardly over 50 pounds, so Katherine ordered it sent to Baltimore, where Wayne's long-suffering brother and his wife have become accustomed to an onslaught of packages preceding our every visit. An extra piece of luggage costs \$200. We often return to Congo with up to four extra pieces packed with vital and unobtainable "treasures": ophthalmology equipment, glucometers and test strips, nursing scrubs, OR gowns, and solar system circuit breakers. To those treasures, we added the x-ray. Upon arrival in Kinshasa, we announced to customs officials in Lingala, 'personnel effects and medical equipment for hospitals.', and they looked no further!



Excited, Dr. Heritier came the 500 miles from Sala to Kinshasa to receive the x-ray. Contacting an experienced technician friend, they escorted the machine to Sala. Three months of "hand-to-hand combat" ensued, against numerous odds. They scavenged for a missing cord. They exchanged multiple email/social media messages with the supplier – issues of passwords, missing software, new files, and installation questions. These exchanges required the technician to ride a distance by motorcycle to where phone signal was strong enough for internet connectivity.

The technician eventually brought the computer back to Kinshasa for better connectivity and to get assistance from other technicians already using similar machines. Katherine despaired that she had wasted a generous gift and betrayed valued colleagues.

But, in early August, an image (WhatsApp) came from Sala. The first x-ray! The machine worked. Triumphant Dr. Heritier treated the patient with fractured femur right there in Sala, sparing her the 75-mile motorcycle ride to the Vanga hospital, the closest point of care for this type of injury.



Fractures are now routinely repaired in Sala, through a God-ordained partnership: a pastor and his flock in the US, Katherine's facilitation, and a persistent Dr. Heritier, his technician friend Lunda, and a determined team at Sala. Dr. Heritier trained in the medical residency program at Vanga, where doctors of faith willing to serve the underserved continue to receive training in a rigorous 4-year program. Because of teams like the ones at Sala and Vanga, and folks like you, we eagerly wait to see what God will do in 2024. Thank you for building God's Kingdom in this world with us.

Katherine and Wayne Niles



Your Deacons have been working on the following project:

Deacons have created a pulpit supply calendar in preparation for Pastor David's upcoming retirement. We anticipate pulpit fills beginning the first Sunday in July and continuing until an interim/permanent pastor is called. Please continue uplifting the pastoral search process in prayers.

Thank you for your prayers for the opportunities God has given us to help share His love through Jesus with our community.

Rod Van Allen, Pastor Reg Martin, Tom Alexander

UPDATE:

There will be an Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 8:00am on March 31st, with a breakfast to follow until 9:30am.



APRIL EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- 6thWork day at the church
- 7thCommunion
- 9thLeadership Meeting at 7pm
- 10th...Quarterly Business Meeting-7:30pm
- 13thChrist's Table
- 26thFresh Produce Market

First Baptist Church Virtual Services

Time:– 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)
 Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88503895277>

or
 Dial by your location
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 885 0389 5277
(You will be notified of any changes)

Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd9AZfLJKf>



EVERY WEEK...

- Adult Sunday School.....9:00am
- Morning Worship.....10:00am
- Children's Classes.....10:00am
- Nursery.....10:00am



NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?
 Call the church office by 11am on Thursdays.
740-452-1620



Our Next **FREE** Fresh Produce Markets will be on **Friday, March 22nd**. There will be **NO** produce market during the months of *July, August, November, or December.*

In conjunction with Eastside Community Ministry, Mideast-Ohio Food Bank & First Baptist Church of S. Zanesville

FBCSZ helps Christ's Table serve warm meals to those in need on every second Saturday of the month. Sign up in the church entryway.

All are welcome to join us!



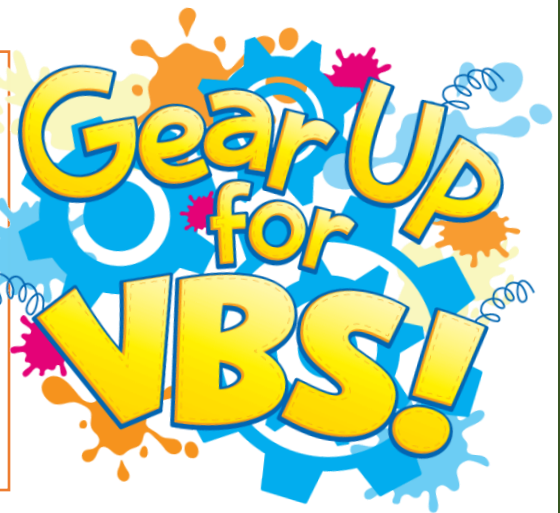
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On Saturday, April 6th at 9am, we will be sorting and cleaning at the church. This will include organizing items, sorting out and disposing of any unwanted items, and cleaning different areas in and around the premises. Please plan to come and fellowship while doing the Lord's work.

Lunch will be provided! In His service, your Trustee Board.

The FBCSZ Christian Education Team is planning a **Vacation Bible School** this year! It will be a two-day event with Saturday as an all-day event including Bible stories, crafts, games, music and dancing, etc. Sunday after the worship service will be a closing event with lunch for the kids and their families.

Specific dates and times will be provided soon!



Eastside Community Ministries will be collecting most needed items for each month. The items they will be needing for the month of **April** will be:

Spring & Summer Clothing

Eastside accepts monetary donations or any other donations and these are always greatly appreciated!



Claire Andersen.....April 8th
 Dexter Taylor.....April 9th
 Paulette Nuhfer.....April 26th



Danny & Tammy Wiseman
 April 17th



The FBCSZ Finance Committee met on February 27, 2024 and made the following allocations of the **2023/2024 William Perry Estate Tithe of \$2,472.63:**

2023/2024 William Perry Estate Tithe:

- MVC American Red Cross \$100.00
- Transition Women’s Shelter \$100.00
- Eastside Community Ministry (Escrow) \$122.63
- Eastside Community Ministry (General Fund) \$150.00
- Salvation Army (S.O.S. Project) \$100.00
- Christ’s Table (General Fund) \$300.00
- South Zanesville Food Pantry \$150.00
- Living Word Outdoor Drama (2024 Sponsorship) \$200.00
- OBES – Lamb Memorial Scholarship \$100.00
- OBES – Ernst Memorial Scholarship \$100.00
- Heartbeat Family Center \$150.00
- Bethel Community Center \$150.00
- Trulight Ministries \$100.00
- Forever Dads \$100.00
- Homeless Hands of Zanesville \$150.00
- Naomi’s House (Duncan Falls) \$100.00
- Avondale Youth Center \$100.00
- Heavenly Road Camp \$100.00
- The Carr Center \$100.00

2023/2024

TOTAL \$2,472.63

Recipe For: Southwest Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 Head Cabbage
- 2 Carrots
- ¼ c Chopped Onion (or Shallots)
- ¼ c Grated Cheddar
- ½ c Tortilla Chip Bits
- ½ c Chipotle Dressing
- 2 tbsp. French Dressing
- 1 c Cooked Chicken (optional)

Directions:

Shred cabbage and carrots. Mix chipotle and French dressing together. Add all ingredients together and stir well. Serve immediately or chilled.

Great way to use leftover grilled chicken!

www.createingustimpartice.com

April

Scripture Writing Plan

He is Risen!

- Day 1: Genesis 3:14-15
- Day 2: Genesis 12:1-3
- Day 3: Numbers 24:17
- Day 4: Psalm 22:16-18
- Day 5: 2 Samuel 7:12-13
- Day 6: Isaiah 9:6-7
- Day 7: Isaiah 35:3-4
- Day 8: Isaiah 35:5-6
- Day 9: Isaiah 53:4-5
- Day 10: Isaiah 53:6-7
- Day 11: Isaiah 53: 8-9
- Day 12: Isaiah 53:10-11
- Day 13: Isaiah 53:12
- Day 14: Matthew 26:31-32
- Day 15: Matthew 26:38-39
- Day 16: Matthew 26:53-54
- Day 17: Matthew 27: 45-46
- Day 18: Matthew 27: 50-51
- Day 19: Mark 15:46
- Day 20: Luke 24:1-2
- Day 21: Luke 24:3-4
- Day 22: Luke 24:5-7
- Day 23: John 20:11-14
- Day 24: John 20:15-17
- Day 25: John 20:26-27
- Day 26: John 20:28-29
- Day 27: John 20:30-31
- Day 28: Romans 8:33-34
- Day 29: 2 Corinthians 5:17-18
- Day 30: Revelation 5:11-13

Commit 10 minutes each day to read each verse, write it out in your journal, meditate on it, and reflect on what it means to you.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Luke 1-3

Monday: Deuteronomy 23-25

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 26-28

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 29-31

Thursday: Deuteronomy 32-34

Friday: Joshua 1-3

Saturday: Psalm 33

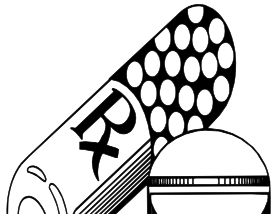


Verse to Remember

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night.

A Taste of Your Own Medicine

You take a pill every half hour. You have three pills to take. How long will the pills last?



Scramble Fun!

Unscramble the following words and then use the letters in the circles to reveal the hidden word.

ROSSC

MTOB

GANLE

TNEOS

Hidden word:



Answers to A Taste ... : One hour. Take the first at 4 p.m., the second at 4:30 p.m., and the third at 5 p.m. **Answers to Scramble Fun:** cross, tomb, angel, stone. **Hidden word:** Easter. **Answers to Double Up:** SPARK, ALIKE, SPOIL, OFFER. **Answers to Your Guess ...:** 1. b; 2. c; 3. a.

Your Guess Is as Good as Mine!

1. America's first automobile parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City in

a) 1835, b) 1935, c) 1899, d) 1765.

2. The world's first postage stamp was issued in the U.K. in

a) 1653, b) 1753, c) 1840, d) 1904

DOUBLE UP

This puzzle consists of four 5-letter words that use 10 different letters exactly twice. Since there are already two S's, you cannot use another S. But there is only one F. Try to think of a word that has an F in it.

1. S ___ A ___ K

2. ___ L ___ K ___

3. S ___ O ___ L

4. ___ F ___ E ___