

The Baptist Beacon ~ April 2023 ~

Pastor's Message

Happy Easter, Church Family! Another celebration of our Lord's Resurrection comes on us so quickly this year, I hope that you managed to carve out some time to read the Gospel stories slowly and prayerfully. In your mind's eye, it's a real benefit to picture the story of Jesus from the viewpoint of all those He loved, those He touched, and even those who made themselves His enemies. Because whoever they were and whatever motivated them, they were the same kinds of broken human beings as you and I are. Those stories are the stories of who we are, and the Redeemer who came to save us as well as them.

Jesus is God, so He knew the depth of our brokenness even before He came. He knew that though He came on a mission to rescue us from the curse of sin and eternal death, multitudes would reject Him. As stated in John 1:10-11, "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." (NIV) This caused Jesus great sorrow, because He wanted to gather them as a hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings, but they wouldn't have it. He saw the time, approaching quickly, when Jerusalem would be destroyed and vast numbers of them put to death, "because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you" (Luke 19:44).

Even though He taught with heart-stirring authority and backed up His divine claims with unprecedented miracles, people still turned away. Even though His was crucified and buried, He defeated the invincible power of death itself by emerging from the tomb alive. He showed Himself openly before not just a few, but hundreds of witnesses, to demonstrate that He had broken the power of sin and death for *all* who believed on Him. But even then, people still turned away. And they still turn away today. So many people dismiss the mere historical existence of Jesus, though the fact of His life is well-attested by many ancient sources—even His enemies. And they certainly reject the historicity of His resurrection, though there is solid, logical evidence to attest that His death and resurrection really happened. I want you to experience the joy that comes from knowing the Gospel accounts are true, so let me offer you just a sample of the reasons why we can rest assured that we have solid ground for our faith in the crucified and risen Christ.

First, there is no doubt that Jesus died. Before Joseph of Arimathea was allowed to take His body away, four Roman executioners inspected Christ's body. These men dealt in death all day, every day. They knew a corpse when they saw it. Jesus died relatively early compared to others executed in that way, so they made sure of His death by piercing His side with a spear. More on that soon. But when their commander certified Jesus' death to Pontius Pilate, he was absolutely sure about it. That was politically necessary, because the Jewish leaders were putting such pressure on Pilate that there could be no doubt on that score. In Matthew 27, starting with verse 62, we read that Jesus' enemies among the chief priests and Pharisees wanted to make sure that no one stole the body of Jesus from the tomb to claim that he was alive. They were granted the request from Pilate that Christ's tomb be kept under guard. So it was in the Jewish leaders' interests to make sure that Jesus was dead and known to all that He was dead beyond doubt. If His enemies were sure of Jesus' death, that gives us more reason to be confident of it.

Pastor's Message (continued)

There is even a medical reason for certainty that Jesus really died—a reason that people of the time could never have known with the primitive state of medical science at the time. Scripture records that when the soldier pierced Jesus' side, blood flowed followed by water. This is important, because medically it shows that Jesus died due to cardiac rupture. No eye-witness of that time could have fabricated the account with details that were so medically-accurate. The conclusion: Christ's death was genuine.

But was Jesus' resurrection genuine? Let me mention a few points that give me the most assurance in my belief. First, there was an abundance of eye-witnesses who saw Jesus alive and interacted with Him. They testified that He was physically present: they could touch Him, embrace Him and feel the scars where the nails and spear went. Jesus ate food in their presence as well. And, who were the first people to encounter the resurrected Christ? The Gospels clearly see the earliest witnesses were women. That is highly significant, because at that time, the testimony of women was not respected by legal or religious authorities. If the resurrection account was fabricated by Jesus' disciples, they would have claimed that *men* were the first witnesses of the risen Jesus to make a bid for greater credibility.

The group of those willing to testify to Christ's resurrection went far beyond the number of Jesus' disciples and closest supporters, as well. In 1 Corinthians 15:6, Paul cited that Jesus appeared to over 500 people after His resurrection. Most of those witnesses were still alive at the time Paul wrote the letter. That account is in the remote past for you and me, but we have to remember that when Paul wrote that letter, over 500 *living* eyewitnesses was *conclusive* proof of Jesus' resurrection. If the Corinthian Christians had wanted to verify the stories, doubtless Paul could have given them many names as well as where they lived! Those people would have been glad to tell their stories—and they did! They obviously shared the news widely, because the church saw explosive growth in its earliest years, *despite opposition*, *threats and persecution* from Roman officials and Jewish leaders. Paul used to be one of those persecutors, remember? If the resurrection eyewitnesses persisted in their witness, they were told by authorities that they would be fined, thrown out of synagogues, their homes confiscated, they would imprisoned, beaten, or executed. They kept testifying despite the price they often paid.

And that, for me, is the most convincing proof that Jesus really did resurrect from the dead. No so -called eyewitness continues to spread a false story when they know they will suffer for doing so. Under pressure, they will recant their story so that they will be spared the consequences. But these witnesses never recanted. They continued to spread the Good News even though many of them died for it.

Also, notice that Jesus' enemies could never prove that Jesus had remained dead. As the church continued to expand, they could have killed the whole movement on the vine by simply producing a

¹ McDowell, Josh. Evidence that Demands a Verdict. San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, 1979. Kindle edition, loc. 5709-5737

Pastor's Message (continued)

dead body. But they couldn't do that. Jesus' own enemies could not deny that the Tomb was empty—all they could do was fabricate alternate tales of *how* it was empty, and do their best to try and *silence* those who claimed that Jesus had risen. Their strong-arm tactics failed miserably; early Romans who were dead-set against the Christian movement wrote with dismay about emergence and rapid growth of the church—people like Trajan, Pliny the Younger, Suetonius, Tacitus and others. Enemy testimony is compelling when they are forced to admit facts that work in favor of those they oppose.

Speaking of ancient sources outside the Bible, did you know that some of the earliest accounts about historical figures were actually written *centuries* after those people lived? For instance, take Alexander the Great. The earliest accounts we have about him were written around 300 years after he died! I have a copy of the most complete, earliest record of Alexander, called *The Campaigns of Alexander*. It was written by a Roman commander named Arrian, 400 years *after* Alexander's death. And yet, his account is considered to be a thoroughly reliable source of information on Alexander the Great. Or, how about Homer, author of *The Illiad* and *The Odyssey*? He authored those poems in the 8th century B.C., or the 7th at the earliest. And yet, the earliest manuscript fragments we have from those poems come from the 3rd century B.C. And those are just fragments! But again, we have at least four or five centuries' distance between our earliest sources and when the works were originally written. But still, the copies of *The Illiad* and *The Odyssey* we have today are considered reliable by academics everywhere.

How about our sources for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? The first 3 Gospels were written from the *late 50's to early 60's* A.D. That's just *30-40 years after the events of Christ's life*. And this is amazing: in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul quotes a creed that was repeated in Christian churches beginning around 35 A.D. – just 2-5 years after Christ's resurrection! I could also write about the abundance of early manuscripts we have of the New Testament books if I had space here, but let me sum up with: the historical accounts we have of Jesus' life, death and resurrection are *far earlier*, and more numerous, than other sources on historical people and events that scholars consider to be reliable.

The evidence I've listed is just a *fragment* of what's available to establish that we have solid reasons to have *full* assurance of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. I hope that this Easter, you will rejoice in your confidence that our Savior lives, and that His sacrifice is more than sufficient to give you victory of sin and death as you place your faith in Him. Because He lives, we can face tomorrow!

Your Brother and Servant, Pastor Scott.

² I'm in the camp that reckons John's Gospel was written in the early 80's.

Church News

Mark your calendars!!!

MEN'S BREAKFAST with Pastor Scott

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 @ 9AM, Café Italiano, 417 Clay Avenue, Jeannette

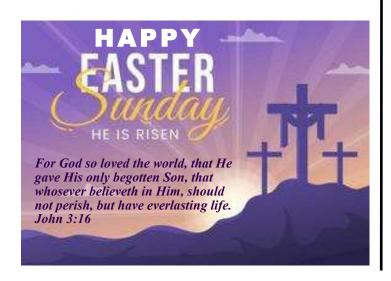


LADIES LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 4 at 11:45 am Applebee's Rt. 30 @ the Mall Greensburg











THURSDAY, APRIL 13 AT 6:30 PM

April 20 @ 12 noon Fellowship Hall

Program: The Jobe Family Band
"On Our Way Home"
Christian-Country Music



<u>Menu</u>

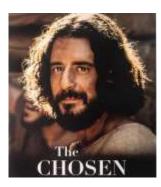
Rigatoni with Ragu Sauce & Meatballs Tossed Salad with Dressing, Italian Bread Dessert: Cream Puffs in a Pan

"THE CHOSEN"

FILM

Free movie nights - here at First Baptist!





Thursday, April 20, after which will be the first and third Thursdays beginning at 6:30 pm. We will watch two episodes less than one hour each serving popcorn or light refreshment between episodes.

INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

(check your bulletin inserts for descriptions of each episode)

Church News

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 2023

- > <u>Pastor's Report</u>: Website progressing; Pastor has Jury Duty April 14; Gideons International would like to join our church in reaching out to the students at the University of Pitt, Greensburg
- > Membership Care Board: Trash & Treasure will be May 1-6
- > <u>Mission Board</u>: **FBC and another church donated enough cans of soup for "Souper" Bowl Sunday, that Meals on Wheels had** enough for recipients for two weeks; Pastor Mark McCallion will present a mission moment on the AFC Offering; would like to have someone speak at Young-at-Heart from the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry
- > Education & Youth Board: Kids & adults will play handbells for Easter Sunday
- > Property Board: Will build the shed on the tree-side of the pavilion; digital sign still in process
- > 150th Anniversary Committee: continues to work on the details for the celebration

			NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH		
SECTION	ID	#	TITLE	AUTHOR	
07	JERE	4529	THE WORLD OF THE END	JEREMIAH, DR.DAVID	02-24
07	YOUS	4530	IS THE END NEAR?	YOUSSEF, MICHAEL	02-24
08	GRAY	4531	STORIES FOR A MAN'S HEART	GRAY, AL & ALICE	02-24
09	BARN	4532	5 MINUTE BIBLE WORKOUTS FOR MEN	BARNES, BOB	02-24
30	EVAN	4533	NOEL STREET	EVANS, RICHARD PAUL	02-24
30	EVAN	4534	THE NOEL DIARY	EVANS, RICHARD PAUL	02-24
30	EVAN	4535	THE NOEL STRANGER	EVANS, RICHARD PAUL	02-24
30	EVAN	4536	THE BROKEN ROAD (series 1)	EVANS, RICHARD PAUL	02-24
30	EVAN	4537	THE FORGOTTEN ROAD (series 2)	EVANS, RICHARD PAUL	02-24
30	EVAN	4538	THE ROAD HOME (series 3)	EVANS, RICHARD PAUL	02-24



New Baby Ministry March 2023 Update

On March 2, 2023 we delivered a baby girl's dresser to Lifeway Pregnancy Center in Latrobe, PA. Thank you to all who donated items, either handmade or purchased, or donated money to this dresser for the New Baby Ministry.

Donations to this dresser included 3 warm blankets, 3 pair handmade booties, 3 handmade burp cloths, a handmade bib, a package of disposable diapers, a beautiful backpack diaper bag, a baby dress, a pair of pants, a pair of socks, an activity mat, 3 sleepers, a sweater with cap, a wonderful baby video monitor, a teething toy, a onesie, a bath towel, 5 baby washcloths, and Q-tips.

With the money we bought 2 bibles, a warm blanket, 2 receiving blankets, 3 baby bottles, a pair of booties, 2 burp cloths, 2 bibs, 3 crib sheets, a pram suit, 11 outfits, 2 pacifiers, a pacifier holder, a

bottle brush, 8 pair of socks, a fruit feeder, a "Children Learn What They Live" poster, a sleep sac, 9 sleepers, 3 sweaters or sweatshirts, a teether, a teething bunny, a bathing suit, 13 onesies, 7 washcloths, baby shampoo, Desitin ointment, cotton balls, baby hairbrush/comb set, a baby thermometer, baby wipes, baby body wash, a picture cube and the dresser itself.

Thank you again for all you do for New Baby Ministry. If you would like to volunteer or know someone in need of Lifeway's services call Lifeway at 1-866-549-6636 or 1-866-54-WOMEN. If you would like to donate to New Baby Ministry call Roxanna McBride at 724-523-3084.

As you may have seen, there is a new dresser in the church foyer awaiting donations for a baby boy. Check the supply list on top of the dresser to see what is needed.

ABCOPAD News

REGIONAL VISION

Desiring to Honor the LORD in all we do

To build Healthy Partnerships with Churches, Pastoral Leaders, and our wider ABC Family, to fulfill Christ's Mission in our world.

Our Scriptural Foundation: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

All three of the components are dependent on each other.

None can exist in a vacuum
and the region can hold a strategic place in tying them all together.



To Build Healthy Partnerships with Local Congregations...

As we look around us, it's pretty clear that people are different. The same thing is true of churches. Certainly, the buildings that house their ministries are different; but more than that, they have different cultures to which they relate and different sets of gifts that make up the membership.

But we all have a common mission: to reach people for the Kingdom of God, and build reproducing disciples who, in turn, will bring others into God's Kingdom. To do that, congregations need to be strong and vital, equipped to carry out this life-saving and life-changing mission. As a regional family, we want to partner with local congregations to help them grow and mature, and to be effective in mission.















To Build Healthy Partnerships with Pastoral Leaders...

In the book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul wrote:

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

As pastors, godly men and women are called to come alongside the flock to be encouragers, teachers, admonishers, comforters, and models of what it means to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ. The challenges and stresses of ministry today are manifold, and the pastors of our regional family find themselves with a variety of needs that press on them both professionally and personally.

ABCOPAD News

As a regional family, we want to come alongside those shepherds that God has raised up. We want to build healthy/vital partnerships that support them through resourcing and caring ministries. We want to touch their lives, not only as pastors of the flock, but as men and women, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and most of all, children of God.



To Build Healthy Partnerships with our wider ABC Family...

One of the phrases that defines Baptists is this: "they have mission in their DNA".

It's true! At the foundation of our history was a desire to associate with one another for the cause of mission here in the United States and around the world. We are people of mission, with a passion for mission.

ABCOPAD has always been about "family". We join with our sisters and brothers to support our wider ABC mission efforts with National and International Ministries. We strive to enhance our existing partnerships with sister regions, as well as explore new avenues of partnership.

In the past, we have shared in mission with other regions in a variety of ways, a few of those being:

- Fanning the Flame: A National Pastors Conference at Green Lake
- The Clergy Ethics Course
- Face-To-Face

<u>In the future</u>, we want to enhance our partnerships to be strategic and effective in the common mission we share:

- Multi-region participation in the Online Youth Training Course
- Resource-sharing with other regional ministries
- Regional World Mission Conferences
- Joint mission trips with other regional bodies

The ABCOPAD Regional Web Update Click here to see the latest updates The ABCOPAD Regional Newsletter
NOTES & NEWS,
THOUGHTS & VIEWS
March 2023 edition

Community News

. . . THRIFT STORE SHOPPERS. . .

Click on > Christian Layman Facebook page and you will be amazed at the appealing merchandise!

Apr	1	Sat	ladies blue tops 50% off	Na Na Na Na Na Na Na
Apr	3	Mon	men's bottoms 50% off	*****
Apr	5	Wed	infants clothing 50% off	※ COOD CTUEE ※
Apr	8	Sat	all pjs 50% off	
Apr	10	Mon	buy a bottom, get a free top	不,,即以不
Apr	12	Wed	dresses 50% off	* AT A PRICE *
Apr	15	Sat	men's tops and bottoms 50% off	* YOU CAN *
Apr	17	Mon	jeans \$1.00	
Apr	19	Wed	high end purses 50% off	★ AFFORD! ※
Apr	22	Sat	purses and shoes 50% off	* ALLOKO! *
Apr	24	Mon	all tops 50% off	*****
Apr	26	Wed	men's jackets 50% off	アドドドイド
Apr	29	Sat	women and children's jackets and coats 50% off	

YWCA THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

Apr	7	Fri	Closed Good Friday	Hours: Mon-Sat 10-4pm	Thurs 10-7pm	Closed Sunday
Apr 2	2.2.	Sat	Spring Consignment Starts	Call to make sure the Consi	gnment Program is	s open and what
		Sut	spring consignment starts	clothing they are accepting	724-834-4339)

Irwin Male Chorus Spring Performance Schedule

April 16 @ 6:00 pm Emmanuel Reformed Church of the United Church of Christ, 3618 Hills Church Road, Export

April 23 @ 7:00 pm Harrold Zion Lutheran Church, 671 Baltzer Meyer Pike, Greensburg

April 29 @ 6:00 pm Central Highlands Community United Methodist Church 100 Timothy Drive, Elizabeth

May 7 @ 3:00 pm First Presbyterian Church, 3202 North Hills Road, Murrysville

May 13 - 6:00 pm Norvelt Union Church, 2339 Mt. Pleasant Road, Norvelt

> May 21 - 7:00 pm Community United Presbyterian Church 1640 Keystone Park, New Alexandria

Will also take part in the Memorial Day Service in Irwin on May 29



Dear Pastor Scott and F.B.C.,

Thank you so much for your prayers and thoughts which I have been at home with this last event.

I'm looking forward to attending Bible Study soon. Right now it's just day by day. God is so good! Praise His name!

Last week's meal was unexpected and delicious.

Thank you and the members for your care.

Mary Lou Zimmerman... Serving a loving, healing, patient God

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah [references are in brackets]

(Answers are at the bottom of this page — no cheating!)

- 1. "That bitter and hasty nation," so termed by the Lord, was the . . . [Habakkuk 1:6]
 - (a) Assyrians (b) Israelites (c) Chaldeans (d) Egyptians
- 2. The proud man, who "enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death," also . . . [Habakkuk 2:5]
 - (a) "cannot be satisfied"
 - (b) "is always with us"
 - (c) "sows sorrow and suffering"
 - (d) "demands more than he gives"
- 3. Zephaniah was a descendant of . . . [Zephaniah 1:1]
 - (a) Habakkuk (b) Nahum (c) Micah (d) Hizkiah
- 4. The Lord declared He will punish those who say in their heart that the Lord will do . . .

[Zephaniah 1:12]

- (a) neither good nor evil
- (b) good, but not evil
- (c) evil, but not good
- (d) both good and evil
- 5. "I will bring distress upon men," said the Lord, "because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as . . . [Zephaniah 1:17]
 - (a) water" (b) dust" (c) wine" (d) pitch"
- 6. Not listed for destruction by the Lord is Zephaniah 2 is . . . [Zephaniah 2:1-15]
 - (a) Assyria (b) Babylon (c) Ethiopia (d) Nineveh
- 7. You will have noticed, said the Lord, through the Prophet Haggai, that "he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes," and the cause for this is . . . [Haggai 1:3-6, 9]
 - (a) inflation
 - (b) tribute levied by Darius
 - (c) your delay in rebuilding my house
 - (d) the extortionate practices of the money lenders of Judah
- 8. The word of the Lord came to the Prophets Haggai and Zechariah . . . [Zechariah 1:1; Haggai 1:1]
 - (a) simultaneously
 - (b) in that order
 - (c) in the reverse order
 - (d) in what order, it is not known
- 9. The Lord reveals to Zechariah that He is "sore displeased" with "the heathen that are at ease" because, seeing His anger at Jerusalem, they had . . . [Zechariah 1:15-16]
 - (a) overreacted
 - (b) underreacted
 - (c) reacted in the wrong direction
 - (d) not reacted at all
- **10.** Zechariah reports that, "I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying . . . [Zechariah 5:1]
 - (a) object" (b) horse" (c) lamp" (d) roll"

	1228 Bri	First Baptist Church inkerton Road, Greensburg, F	24	April 2023 <i>15601 (724) 837-1080</i>		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Office Hours 9am-2pm Tues-Thurs *Birthday **Anniversary FY (Foyer) FH (Fellowship Hall) S (Sanctuary) N (Narthex) MOW (Meals On Wheels) P (Pavilion) L (Library) C (Conference Room)		March 5 6 12 13 19 20 26 27	7 8 9 10 14 15 16 17 21 22 23 24 28 29 30 31	May 1 2 7 8 9 14 15 16 21 22 23 28 29 30	2023 3 4 5 6 10 11 12 13 17 18 19 20 24 25 26 27 31	MEN'S BREAKFAST with Pastor Scott Cafe Italiano @ 9 am QUARTLEY QUILTERS 9:30 am - 3:30 pm FH 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH
2 PALM SUNDAY SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:45 am Worship Service COMMUNION SUNDAY	3 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 6:30 pm Sis of Light Rm 121 7 pm IMC Rehearsal S	4 11 am NA (mtg@12) FH LADIES LUNCHEON Applebee's @ Westmoreland Mall 11:45 am	5 11:30 am Out-To-Lunch Bunch Bible Study FH 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 7 pm Praise Team S	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY **Bram & Carol Kjellgren	7 GOOD FRIDAY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 6:30 PM	8 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH
9 EASTER 10:45 am Worship Service Egg Hunt & Party for kids Weatherwood Worship Service, Pastor Scott	10 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 6:30 pm Sis of Light Rm 121 7 pm IMC Rehearsal S	11 am NA (mtg@12) FH	12 11:30 am Out-To-Lunch Bunch Bible Study FH 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 7 pm Praise Team S	COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 pm FH	14 *Dean E McBride	15 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH
16 10:45 am Worship Service COOKIES for MOW IMC @ EMMANUEL REFORMED UCC, Export 6 pm	17 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 6:30 pm Sis of Light Rm 121 7 pm IMC Rehearsal S	18 11 am NA (mtg@12) FH *Mark McCallion *Nova Sharrock	19 11:30 am Out-To-Lunch Bunch Bible Study FH 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 7 pm Praise Team S *Brian Smith (Missionary)	20 YOUNG AT HEART "Spring is Sprung" 12 noon FH "THE CHOSEN" Movie Night 6:30 pm "Jean Cousins	21	22 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH *Don Moyer
23 10:45 am Worship Service Weatherwood Worship Service, Pastor Scott IMC @ HARROLD ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, Greensburg 7 pm 30 10:45 am Worship Service **Alex Kozinko	24 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 6:30 pm Sis of Light Rm 121 7 pm IMC Rehearsal S	25 11 am NA (mtg@12) FH	26 11:30 am Out-To-Lunch Bunch Bible Study FH 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 7 pm Praise Team S	27	28 *Simeon Jones	29 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH IMC @ CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COMM: UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Elizabeth 6 pm
AICA MUGHINU						

First Baptist Church 1228 Brinkerton Road Greensburg, PA 15601

COME JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10:45 AM

Adult Sunday School is postponed for now Kids Connection has resumed

Church Phone: (724) 837-1080

Email: gbgbapt@comcast.net

Website: https://fbcgreensburg.com

Secretary's Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-2pm

Tues thru Sat - Morning Devotions with Pastor Scott Jones

