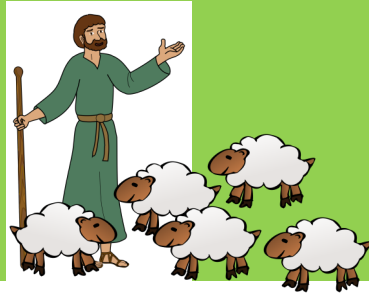


March
2018

FLOCK TALK



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Pastor's Ponderings: What Does It Mean to Forgive?

Have you ever been wronged or hurt by anyone before? Of course, we all have. The question is what do we do then? We have a couple of options. The main two, I believe, are to hold the wrong doing over the other person's head and use it as a way to look down on them or to even withhold our love to them. We commonly call this "holding a grudge." We remember what that person has done or said and we use it to build a wall in our relationship with them. Sadly, we do this over and over again. I've been recognizing the ways in my own life that I do this, and it's very troubling.

The other main option is to forgive. Now, the issue of forgiveness has been coming up several times in conversations I've had lately, so I think God must want me to understand it better. In Matthew 18, Peter came to Jesus wanting to make himself look good, regarding the issue of forgiveness. He questions if it would be good enough to go so far as to forgive someone 7 times – an extraordinary amount in his mind. Jesus saw through his question and said, "not 7 times, but 77 times." And what Jesus is saying is not

to put a limit on forgiveness, but rather to show Peter, and us, that our response is to keep on forgiving; 77 representing a number that meant continuing on. For the sake of the relationships in our lives and our heart's condition before God, we need forgiveness and we need to offer forgiveness.

Now, there are sometimes consequences for our words and actions and that even in forgiving, we or someone else may still have to face the consequences for what was done. Or, say someone is in an abusive or neglectful relationship, even if there is forgiveness, it doesn't mean that you have to keep subjecting yourself to that hurt, there may have to be a separation. But forgiveness puts things in perspective. It puts our hearts in a right place with God. We recognize the shortcomings in others, yes, but as Jesus reminds us in the Lord's Prayer, we have sinned against God and since we have been forgiven, we have the responsibility to offer that to those who have hurt us.

Forgiveness may be one of the most difficult and sometimes confusing things we can do. But by God's strength, we can understand how we have been forgiven, and then offer that same love and forgiveness to those in our own lives.

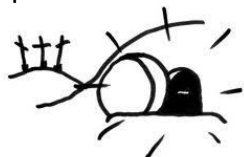


- Sunday March 25: Palm Sunday
- Thur March 29: Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm
- Friday March 30: Good Friday TBA
- Saturday March 31:
Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm



Sunday April 1:

- Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am
- Deacon's Breakfast following Sunrise Service
- Easter Worship Service 9:30 am



*He is not here;
he has Risen!*
Luke 24:6

Lenten Services and Dinners

A meal will be provided before each service.
Wednesdays at 6:00pm
Feb 28, March 7, 14, 21

Join us for a study in the Word of God.

America For Christ

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2018, which seeks to raise \$1,250,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The offering is distributed in three parts:

- 29% supports regional ministries (ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with American Baptist Churches USA regions);
 - 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS; and
 - 12% supports the offering's promotional and deputation costs.



You are invited to attend the
 Wedding Ceremony of
Marilyn Black & Kevin Riley
 on Saturday March 24, 2018
 1:00 in the afternoon
 First Baptist Church

Reception following in the fellowship hall.

CLEAN UP DAY

Sunday March 18, following Sunday School, the property board has planned a clean up day for the church. Help will be needed for both the inside and outside of the building. Listen to announcements for more details.



ABC Club: Thursdays March 8 & 22 @ 6:30 pm
 (Chpts. 10-12) (Chpts. 13-15)

Carry-In: Sunday March 11 @ 11:30 am

BINGO: Wednesday March 14 @ 2:30 pm
 Monticello Health Care

ABW: Wednesday March 21 @ 1:00 pm

March Birthdays

- 1st Kamrin Bick
- 4th Donna Bush
- 5th Ramon Dotson
- 11th Dick Ostheimer
- 17th Patti Tolley
- 19th Dorene Bick
- 21st Don Tatlock
- 24th Bob Wolf
- 27th Barb Staley
- 28th Ian McMillan
- 31st Joyce Jenkins



March Anniversaries

- 24th Bob & Sharon Tolley
- 26th Jay & Gloria Squires

Verse 3 of 100

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3 NKJV

Verse 4 of 100

After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven,
 Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.
 Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory, for ever. Amen

Matthew 6:9-13 KJV



Financials

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Income</u>
December 2017	\$9,078.41	\$9,052.05	\$26.36
January 2018	\$10,926.85	\$7,515.87	\$3,410.98