

First Word

RFBC Mission Statement: To glorify God by loving Him with our whole heart, telling others the good news about Jesus, loving our neighbors as ourselves, growing to become like Christ, and obeying all He taught.



"The fruit of the Spirit is...joy"

Galatians 5:22



It's tempting to think about things we can do in our quest for joy in life. Many pursue joy through wealth, possessions, power, and pleasure - despite ample evidence that those pursuits don't reliably produce lasting joy. Recognizing the fleeting nature of such efforts, some more observant folks seek joy by counting their blessings, spending time with people they love, and engaging in wholesome activities that bring happiness. Those are good things no doubt, but even those efforts are secondary. The real source of joy is God Himself.

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First Baptist Church
Ringgold

HOMEBOUND MEMBER
OF THE MONTH

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This is hard for some people to imagine. They see God as a cosmic killjoy, forbidding everything fun and accumulating wrath for those who fall short. Or they view God as coldly impersonal, more a force or power than a person. For others, God is often thought to be old and fearsome, the Ancient of Days seated on His terrifying throne with thunder and lightning flashing all around.

These ideas contain kernels of truth: God does reveal His wrath against ungodliness and unrighteousness (Romans 1:18); He is great in power (Psalm 66:3); and He does rule and reign from His holy throne (Psalm 47:8). But what's often missing from our conception of God is His innate joy. Everything good come from God who is perfectly and infinitely good! King David worshipped God precisely for His joy: "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is **fulness of joy**; at your right hand are **pleasures forevermore**" (Psalm 16:11).

So our source of joy isn't so much what we do, it's who we know. And we know God through His Son Jesus who came to show us the Father, the same Jesus who told His disciples, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). Imagine that - Christ's joy *in me*! This is why Paul reminds us that joy is the fruit of the Spirit rather than a work of the flesh. True joy comes in knowing Jesus and living in Him, so that the most important thing that I do in my quest for joy is just to abide in Christ who abides in me (John 15:15). We can busy ourselves with many things in our quest for joy, but until Christ's joy is born in me, nothing else will satisfy.

Foundational to the joy of Christ in me is the love of Christ in me: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love" (John 15:9). As we approach Easter and our celebration of God's love so great that He gave His only Son for us, let us be filled with joy! He is risen, He loves us, and He abides in us! There is no greater joy.

In His love and His joy, *Pastor Eric*

Sunday, March 17th
4:00 PM

Deacon Meeting
Sanctuary

Ladies' Prayer Time
Ruth Classroom



A Word on Worship from Eric...

The Psalms address a variety of topics, but several psalms specifically geared toward worship of God. I have recently read Psalm 105 and observed how it reads like a worship service. Verses 1-6 are a call to worship that lists actions that we in worship of God – Giving thanks, calling upon Him, Making known His deeds, singing to Him, Telling of His wondrous works, Glorifying in His name, Seeking Him and His strength, Rejoicing, Remembering. I will come back to this at the end.

Verses 7-11 briefly describe the why of worship beginning by listing some of God's attributes – He is LORD, He judges, He remembers and keeps His word. Verses 12-45 then detail how He benefited the nation of Israel – particularly during the exodus from Egypt. He demonstrated His love for them so they might demonstrate their love to Him through obedience. Praise the LORD!

Likewise, when we worship, we remember Who He is, why we worship Him, and how He benefits us. He is a holy God who is holy, omniscient, omnipotent, vast and yet personal. He is the same God now as He was then. His works are many; He brings us together as Christians because He humbled himself and came to earth to experience life as a human showing us what it means to live life for Him. While free from sin, He bore our sins and suffered death on the cross so we might be justified before Him. We love Him because He first loved us and out of that love for Him we seek to be obedient. We anticipate His eternal kingdom which He has promised. Praise the LORD!

Returning to verses 1-6, while some of the actions can be done privately, all of them can be done publicly. When we have the why, we can understand the list better and, hopefully, find ourselves compelled to be public with our worship. Public declaration of His attributes and His goodness and declaring our thanks is what we strive to do each and every worship service through our music, our prayers, our giving, and our reading and hearing of the word. We strive to tell of His wondrous work at the cross and the resurrection (as well as others). We seek His face and His strength. While we benefit, it's all about Him! We do all this so that at the end, we might declare together, "Praise the Lord."



Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week Service

Wednesday, March 27th at 6:30PM
In the Sanctuary

March 31st at 7:15AM

RFBC Parking Lot

Easter Sunrise Service
















Easter BREAKFAST


March 31st at 8:00AM

Fellowship Hall



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*Sunday Services Schedule: 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:10 AM Contemporary Worship		**Wednesday Regular Schedule: 5:30 PM Supper 6:00 PM Prayer/Bible Study; Kid's Choir; Student Activities 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir			1	2 Shorter Chorale Concert
3 *Regular Sunday Services 	4	5 11 AM  JUST OLDER YOUTH 1:00PM at Caffeine Addicts 	6 **Regular Activities	7 6:00PM Praise Team	8	9
10 *Regular Sunday Services 	11	12 11 AM  JUST OLDER YOUTH 6PM Building & Grounds 7PM Finance Committee	13 **Regular Activities	14 6:00PM Praise Team	15 16 DNOW WEEKEND	
17 *Regular Sunday Services 4PM Deacons Meet/ Ladies' Prayer 	18	19 11 AM  JUST OLDER YOUTH 12PM 	20 **Regular Activities	21 6:00PM Praise Team	22	23 
24  *Regular Sunday Services 	25	26	27  Holy Week Service	28 6:00PM Praise Team	29	30
						



HAPPY 31st EASTER SUNDAY

7:15 Sunrise Service
 8:00 Churchwide Breakfast
 9:45 Sunday School
 11:00 Traditional Service
 11:10 Contemporary Service
 (No afternoon Activities or Practices)



If we are missing someone, please call the church office to update information.

1st	Gloria Martin	14th	Byron Ball	21st	Buddy McLendon
3rd	Sue Long		Ray Land	22nd	Deborah Goolsby
6th	Leland Davis	16th	Barrett Lowry	23rd	Rick Gray
7th	Jeff Hight		Bear McConnell	24th	Sue Lane Helton
8th	Nancy Albritton		Sawyer Olivarri	25th	Cody Eason
	Glenn Cheek	17th	Ty Edwards		Janet Eaton
9th	Missy Hannah		Sherri Ledford	26th	Linda Carabo
10th	Norah Martin	19th	Jim Parks	28th	Nathan Campbell
11th	Lynn McAmis		Mary Anne Riddle	29th	Charlotte Greer
13th	Charlie Painter	20th	Audrey Brackley		Amy White
	Vickie Pitts		Amy Mueller	30th	Jimmy Hatcher

First Baptist Church Ringgold

www.ringgoldfbc.org

7611 Nashville Street
Ringgold, GA 30736

Non - Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE - PAID

Ringgold, GA

Permit No. 34

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

MARCH 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Pray that people see Jesus in our interactions	Pray for the online streaming of our services
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pray for our church family as we share communion today	Pray for spirit of gentleness	Pray for the Annie Armstrong Offering and the important work in North American missions which it funds	Pray for a heart of compassion	Pray for James Densmore, his family, and the families he serves as deacon	Pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit	Pray for our Pre-K staff & director Lynndi Fountain and their service to children of our community
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pray for Brant Olivarri, his family, and his ministry	Pray for Lakeview High School	Pray for the Finance Committee	Pray for open hearts and receptive spirits	Pray for a heart of generosity	Pray for John Green as he teaches the Seeker's Sunday School Class	Pray for the fulfillment of God's purposes
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pray for today's worship and for the invitation time specifically	Pray for outreach & evangelism	Pray for Ron McKelvey, his family, and the families he serves as deacon	Pray for the new building committee	Pray for other Ringgold churches as we all prepare for holy week	Pray for the handbell choir	Pray for the Jamaican mission team as they head to Jamaica for the week
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Pray for our Palm Sunday worship and for the holy week ahead	Pray for Oakwood Christian Academy	Pray by Byron Ball as he teaches the Pioneer Sunday School class	Pray for our church family as we gather tonight for a special holy week service	Pray that we will understand Christ's love for us	On this Good Friday, pray that we'll be mindful of Christ's sacrifice & suffering for us	Pray to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength
31						
He is risen! Pray for our Church and Church Family as we celebrate Easter						