

FIRST FOCUS

PALM SUNDAY

As we draw closer to our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, this week we will observe Palm Sunday. All four Gospels tell us that when Jesus entered Jerusalem that final Sunday before His crucifixion, He rode on a colt, and the crowd spread their robes and palm branches on the road before Him. Placing their robes beneath Jesus symbolized their recognition of Him as Messiah and King (see 2 Kings 9:12-13). The palm branches further symbolized prosperity and victory, as they hoped He would lead them to overthrow the rule of the Romans. This was made even clearer in the words the crowd shouted:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
He who comes in the name
of the Lord is the blessed One!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

(Matthew 21:9, HCSB)

With echoes of Psalm 118 (vv. 25-26), the people cried “Hosanna,” which literally means “we pray, save us.” Indeed, the One whose very name means salvation had come to save His people but not in the way they expected or even wanted. Within days, Jesus would be betrayed, tortured, and crucified—all to bring salvation and redemption to those who believe in Him.

Like the people of Jerusalem, those around us today can see how broken our world is and how desperate their lives are, and they cry out for rescue. Yet they so often want that to come on their terms and according to their timetable. Nevertheless, the same Savior who rode into Jerusalem that Sunday walked out of the tomb a week later, and in so doing, He has brought life to all who call on His name. As we remember the shouts of “Hosanna” on Palm Sunday and the

eventual call to “Crucify Him!” on Good Friday, may we be reminded of our mission as a church. We are called to go into a world that is hostile to Jesus and “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.”

We have the duty and the privilege to participate in God’s plan of redemption, and we can do so with hope, knowing that Jesus has secured victory through His work on the cross. Our task is simply to be obedient and faithful to the opportunities that God places before us individually as followers and collectively as a church. As we do so, we can look forward to another “Palm Sunday” to one day take place on streets of gold.

“After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were robed in white with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9-10, HCSB).



WHAT'S HAPPENING

FIRST STEP

Are you new to FBCTLH, or maybe you've been a regular attender for the past few months? If so, please join us for our next "First Step" to discuss what it means to be a member of our church family, and how to get plugged in here! We will meet **THIS SUNDAY** at 10:15AM in the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please contact Joy Stein (joy@fbctlh.org).

BUSINESS MEETING

On March 23, we will have a church business meeting to include a vote on the Minister of Community Missions.

REMEMBER - GOOD FRIDAY

Spend some time on Good Friday and remember what Jesus Christ did for you on this day. Our sanctuary is open from 11:00AM until 6:00PM, and all are welcome to drop in and stay as long as you need. We will provide a printed guide containing scripture, reflections, and prayer, and you will also have an opportunity to take the Lord's Supper.

TENEBRAE - A SERVICE OF SHADOWS

The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows." Hence, one of the most conspicuous features of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles until only a single candle, the Christ Candle, a symbol of our Lord, remains. As the sanctuary darkens, we are led through music and scripture to reflect not only upon the sacrificial death that Jesus suffered for us, but also on the transformational responses which these events must call forth in our own lives. Toward the end of the service, the Christ candle is extinguished, signifying Christ's death, the chimes are struck once for each year of Christ's life, and we all depart in silence to await the glory of the Resurrection morning.

Take part in Tenebrae on Friday, March 26 at 6:30PM.

FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION

Each year on the Saturday before Easter, we encourage families to consider the true meaning of Easter in a fun environment with a variety of crafts, games, and activities, including egg hunts, here at FBCTLH. Come Saturday, March 26TH to the CLC at 10:30AM, and make sure to invite your family and friends. For more information, contact Suzette Mason (suzette@fbctlh.org).

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

- 8:00AM Median Adult III Bible Study, Parlor
- 9:00AM Traditional Worship Service - Palm Sunday
- 9:00AM Pancake Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00AM Church-wide Bible Study Options
- 10:15AM First Step, Welcome Center
- 11:15AM Contemporary Worship - Palm Sunday
- 3:00PM Grief Share, Conference Room

MONDAY, MARCH 21

- 9:30AM Homebound Visitation, Conference Room
- 10:30AM First Joy, C-2201
- 5:00PM First Brass, A-200 Choir Room
- 6:00PM Bells of Praise, Adams 211
- 6:00PM Deacon's Meeting, Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

- 9:30AM Knitting Ministry, C-2201
- 6:00PM Childcare for Internationals, D-209
- 6:30PM Internationals English Classes, Adams 211
- 7:00PM Capital Bells, Adams 211

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

- 11:00AM Senior Ladies' Bible Study, Large Meeting Room
- 4:45PM Fellowship Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00PM Childcare, Duval 1st Floor
- 6:00PM Children's Music & Missions, Duval 2nd Floor
- 6:00PM Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00PM Business Meeting, Sanctuary
- 6:00PM Youth Collide, CLC Quad
- 6:00PM DivorceCare, Adams, 315
- 6:00PM Mom's Connect, Adams Basement, Room 1, 2, 3
- 6:30PM Praise Team Singers, C-2203
- 7:00PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Chason 2201
- 7:00PM Chamber Players Rehearsal, Adams 200
- 7:15PM Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

- 9:00AM Childcare for Internationals, D-209
- 9:00AM International English Classes, C2201
- 5:00PM Easter Musical Rehearsal, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

GOOD FRIDAY

- 11:00AM Remember - Communion & Personal Reflection
- 6:30PM Tenebrae - Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

- 9:00AM CLC Open
- 10:30AM Family Easter Celebration, CLC Gym

COMING SOON

SPRINGTIME TALLAHASSEE - APRIL 2

We're excited to be able to #IMPACTthecity once again during Springtime Tallahassee! As we open our doors to welcome guest on our campus, we want FBCTLH to be a warm heart and smiling face for visitors to use the restroom, rest their children, and feed or change their babies. Volunteer for a 1 hour time slot by visiting:

<http://vols.pt/Lbc9Bi>

If you have questions or would like additional information about volunteering for Springtime Tallahassee contact Becky Liner at beckyliner@comcast.net or (850) 591-3654.

BUILDERS FOR CHRIST MEETING

Learn more about this year's Builders For Christ construction project on Sunday, April 3rd, at 5:00PM in room C-2201. This year's project will be based outside of Milwaukee, in Greenfield, Wisconsin from July 16th – 22nd, assisting the Layton Avenue Baptist Church with construction of its new building. For more information or if you have questions, contact Richard Tudor at (850) 385 - 5424.

FLORIDA BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

When hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other disasters hit, volunteers need to be trained and ready to hit the ground running. That training will be available in Tallahassee at Thomasville Road Baptist Church on Saturday, April 16. Registration is at 8:30 am and training lasts until 3:00 pm.

Training is available in mass feeding, cleanup & recovery, emergency response, logistics, administration, child care, and spiritual care. A background check is a required part of the registration process. More information is available at www.flbaptistdisaster.org.

If you would like to place one or more lilies in our sanctuary this Easter season in memory or in honor of a loved one, the cost is \$11 per plant. Please return this form with your payment to the front desk. *Contact Lenoir (le noir@fbctlh.org or x201) for more information.*

I would like _____ (number) plants:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Your Name (giving the Easter lilies) _____

Your Phone Number _____

SERVE

FLORIDA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

For the month of March, we will join the Children's Home in providing cleaning supplies for glass, bathroom, kitchen, and wood. Collection bins are in the College Avenue foyer, the Welcome Center, by the elevator on the first floor of the Adams building, and in the main office.

Check out the fbctlh.org/Serve page for more ways to get involved now in serving in and through FBCTLH.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TALLAHASSEE

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PERIODICALS
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THE VISION NEWSLETTER

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For submissions, address corrections, or to unsubscribe, contact x132 or hello@fbctlh.org.

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SERVICE RECORDINGS

fbctlh.org/sermons

Our Traditional Worship service is broadcast on Comcast Channel 21 at 11:00AM each Sunday.

Contact hello@fbctlh.org with questions.

If you are homebound and would like to be on our mailing list to receive a free DVD of our worship services each week, please contact x201 or leinoir@fbctlh.org. All other requests are \$5, and can be made at the front desk or online at fbctlh.org/contact.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

March 23 – Baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad bar, rolls, dessert

Kid's Corner – hot dog or hamburger

FINANCIALS

YTD budget: \$539,848

Receipts 3/13: \$65,516

YTD receipts: \$427,617

Spring Missions Offering: \$2,805

DEACON SCHEDULE

Deacon of the Day – Eric Palm

Deacons of the Week

- 9AM James Craig
- 10AM Paul Lambert
- 11AM Mark Milner

SECURITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 20

- 8AM Tim Barry
- 10AM Jim Croushorn
- 11AM Art Pitts

Wednesday, March 23

- 6PM Roy Story

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY

10:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11:15AM

GIVE THANKS IN EVERYTHING

1 Thessalonians 5:18