

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Prayer Meeting

*Sundays at 5:30 PM
College and Career Classroom*

MEETINGS IN April:

- Deacon Meeting—Thurs. April 17 @ 6:30 PM
- Finance Team Meeting—Sunday, April 27 @ 4:00 PM
- Cabinet Meeting—Sunday, April 27 @ 4:30 PM
- Business Meeting—Sunday, April 27 @ 6 PM

Weekly Budget Offering Required:
\$10,107.91

Online thru March 25 : \$3,221.57
Budget offering through March 23

Budget Offering: \$25,663.40

Designated: \$6,561.00

Total Offering: \$32,224.40

Bellview Baptist Church

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday, April 19 @ 9 AM

4875 OLD MAYFIELD ROAD, PADUCAH, KY

Periodical
POSTAGE PAID
Paducah, KY
42003

THE BELLVIEW VISION
(USPS 991660)
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Bellview Baptist Church, Inc.
4875 Old Mayfield Road
Paducah, KY 42003-9074

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Bob Whitter
(859) 962-0080
Travis Ellis, Family Pastor
(731) 636-1097
Sandy Leidecker,
Administrative Assistant
(270) 210-6960

SERVICE TIMES:

Sunday Bible Study – 9 AM
Sunday Worship Service – 10 AM
Sunday Evening Service – 6 PM
Wednesday Night Service &
Children's Activities – 6:30 PM
Meal – 6 PM



Where It's All About Jesus

Volume 53 April 2025 Volume #4
www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com



Message from Bro. Travis



Hello Church,
We will be studying three lessons this month leading up to Easter.

Lesson 1 A Humble King

Students are surrounded by examples of leaders who have made names for themselves through attention-seeking and putting others down. It's rare that they see an example of quiet humility from high-status people. In this lesson, students will read about Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the long-awaited King. They'll breakdown why the way Jesus entered was significant, and they'll understand how he subverted expectations. Then they'll look at two modern-day leaders and discuss how they do or do not display humble leadership. They'll learn that when someone holds a lot of power, it makes a big impact when that person acts humbly.

Read Matthew 21:1-11.

- What do you think the crowd expected a king's entrance to look like?
- How was Jesus' entrance different from what the crowd's expectations might have been?
- Can you think of a situation where you saw a leader give something up for one of his or her people? What was that like?

What are the leadership opportunities in your life?

What is a way you could lead humbly?

Lesson 2 Sacrificial Lamb

Jesus came to earth to pay the ultimate sacrifice: to die for humanity. Through this passage in Mark, students will be invited to listen in as Jesus tells his disciples what his heroic plan is. They'll learn about the first Passover and come to understand how it was a template for God's ultimate plan for the world. Students will learn that Jesus's life of sacrifice is an example of how they should live, and they'll talk about ways they may have sacrificed themselves for the people in their lives. Then they'll hear a modern-day story of sacrificial friendship and take a look at the stories of sacrifice they might have seen in their favorite movies. Finally, they'll talk about what the Passover story might mean to them as they take Communion and go about their lives.

Message from Bro Travis

Read Mark 14:12 – 25

- Why do you think Jesus chose this Passover supper to tell the disciples that he was going to be betrayed?
- Do you think the disciples understood what Jesus meant when he said that the bread and wine were his body and blood?
- Do you ever take communion? Why do you think we continue to do so as Christians?

Besides participating in communion, what other things can you do to remember and celebrate Christ's sacrifice for you?

Lesson 3 The Truth at the Tomb

The story of the Resurrection invites students to contemplate the greatest plot twist of all time, one so incredible that the world has tried to explain it away ever since. In this lesson, students will discuss their favorite plot twists and discuss how Jesus's resurrection changed everything. They'll read about Jesus's return from the dead and how he forever trampled sin and death. They'll consider how Satan spreads lies about Jesus in attempt to make us forget the truth—that in rising from the dead, Jesus was victorious. Then they'll look at a real-world example of an authority figure who was with his people all along, even when it didn't seem true, or at a fictional family with strong ties that bind them. Finally, they'll discuss what the truth of the resurrection means to them and how it can change everything.

Read Matthew 28:1-15

- Only two of Jesus's followers went back to visit Jesus's tomb. What do you think they were doing and thinking?
- Why do you think the chief priests were so quick to try to cover up the fact that Jesus rose from the dead?
- What do you think you would have done if you were with the group that the angel spoke to?

We live in a world that, for the most part, denies that Jesus rose from the dead. How does this change the way you live out your faith?

Bro Travis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Ministry
Spring Fling
Testimony from Julie Robertson
Tuesday, April 1 – 6 PM
In the Fellowship Hall
Light meal provided
Sign-up sheet in the lobby

Deadline for the Easter candy is Sunday, April 6!

Easter Egg Hunt

We Need Candy!

Bellview Baptist Church
4875 Old Mayfield Rd
Paducah KY, 42003

Easter Egg Hunt

April 19th 1PM - 3PM

Come join us for lunch and our Easter Egg Hunt. We will have different age divisions and a basket of goodies for the one who finds the "GOLDEN EGG"

JESUS HAS RISEN



Message from Pastor Bob

The Easter Bunny? Remembering the Real Reason for Easter

Easter is a time of year filled with vibrant colors, family gatherings, and, for many, the excitement of Easter egg hunts and the anticipation of a visit from the Easter Bunny. As we prepare for this joyous season, it is vital, as believers, that we maintain focus on the core reason for the celebration: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter "is the most sacred holiday in the Christian faith," so how did bunnies and eggs become so intertwined with the Christian observance of the resurrection? How did "Peter Cottontail Hoppin' Down the Bunny Trail" become such a prominent figure in our cultural understanding of Easter?

The Pagan Roots of Spring

The traditions we associate with Easter have a mix of Christian and pre-Christian origins, something that might cause some to moan, "Christian, we have a problem!" The name "Easter" itself is thought to have derived from "Ēostre," a Saxon goddess of spring. The celebration of spring, with its themes of new life and fertility, predates Christianity, with eggs often serving as symbols of new beginnings in various ancient cultures. As Christianity spread, it encountered these existing traditions, and some were woven into the celebration of Christ's resurrection. Just like Christmas, Easter has picked up traditions from folklore.

The Easter bunny as we know it today can be traced back to German folklore, where the "Easter hare, or Osterhase," is found in writings from the 1500s. Richard Ploch states "the tradition of an egg-laying hare who would judge children's behavior and leave eggs in the nests of well-behaved children was brought to America by German settlers in the 1700s." The integration of the Easter Bunny into American culture was further solidified in the 20th century, with "the cartoon version of the Easter bunny" becoming increasingly popular due to "marketing campaigns" and stories such as Thornton Burgess's The Adventures of Peter Cottontail (Here Comes Peter Cottontail). By the end of the 19th century, rabbit-shaped candies inhabited all sweet shops on the East Coast, later developing into the chocolate bunnies that are found in stores nationwide today." By 1917, then, "Peter Cottontail" was a popular name for a fictional, anthropomorphic rabbit."

As these traditions grew and changed, Easter evolved into the celebration we know today, complete with "Easter eggs, the bunny's gift.

Message from Pastor Bob

The cultural phenomenon of "Peter Cottontail" took another leap forward with the song "Here Comes Peter Cottontail," written in 1949. This song further cemented the image of Peter Cottontail as a key part of the Easter celebration, helping to merge the rabbit figure with the holiday itself. It is important to understand that, in truth, the Easter Bunny has no direct Biblical connection. Aside from Judeo-Christian connotations, Easter is also a celebration of Spring and renewal, so eggs, flowers and even bunnies were" incorporated.

Keeping the Focus on Jesus

While these secular traditions can be enjoyable, it is essential to remember the true meaning of Easter. As the Bible reminds us in Romans 10:9, "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Easter is, above all, a celebration of Jesus' victory over death and the hope of eternal life that He offers to all who believe. We can incorporate fun activities and traditions, but we must also intentionally communicate the real meaning of Easter through sacred traditions. We must ensure that those activities keep Easter centered on Jesus Christ.

Make Easter About Jesus

So how can we keep the focus on Jesus during Easter? One way is to attend church services together as a family, taking time to reflect on the message and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. Many churches meet at a special sunrise service time to celebrate the risen savior. Another is to read Scripture together, focusing on the accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection found in the Gospels. Consider making "resurrection rolls" with children, a visual way to learn about the empty tomb. We can also use Easter eggs as a tool to share the Gospel, explaining how the colors and symbols relate to Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection. By intentionally focusing on Jesus, we can ensure that Easter remains a celebration of His love, grace, and victory over death. Though "the words 'Easter' or 'Easter celebrations' are not found in the Bible," the message of the risen Savior is found throughout its pages.

Pastor Bob

Announcements

VBS June 23rd - 27th



Please sign up to help and order shirts
in the foyer at the Welcome Center!

Any Questions see Bro. Travis

Mission Trip
July 13–19

\$75 per person/\$125
per family



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SPOTLIGHT.....

The Horrors of the Cross and the Triumph of the Resurrection

This month's Spotlight will focus on the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The crucifixion a pivotal event in human history, stands as a stark reminder of the brutal reality of sin and the immense love of God. It's crucial to understand the depths of suffering Jesus endured to truly grasp the significance of His subsequent resurrection. As we approach this topic, we must remember that, as Paul says, we preach Christ crucified. It is this paradoxical image, the suffering servant and conquering king, that defines our faith.

The Physical Ordeal of Crucifixion

The journey to Calvary was paved with unimaginable torment. Before even reaching the cross, Jesus was subjected to a brutal flogging. Roman whips, often embedded with metal and bone, tore into the flesh, causing excruciating pain and potentially inducing hypovolemic shock due to significant blood loss. This beating alone could have led to nausea, dizziness, and loss of consciousness. Adding insult to injury, a crown of thorns was forced upon His head, causing further lacerations and impairing His vision as blood flowed into His eyes. The humiliation was complete as soldiers mocked and spat upon Him. As if this wasn't enough, Jesus was forced to carry the heavy wooden beam of the cross to the site of His execution. The rough, splintered wood would have further aggravated His already lacerated back with every step. Imagine, if you will, the annoyance we feel with a simple splinter, magnified exponentially across a body ravaged by scourging.

The act of crucifixion itself was designed for maximum suffering and prolonged death. Nails were driven through the wrists, severing major nerves and causing intense, recurring pain with every movement. The weight of the body, hanging from the cross, dislocated the shoulders and forced the chest cavity into an unnatural position, making it incredibly difficult to exhale. This resulted in increased carbon dioxide levels and acidosis, leading to failure of the central nervous system. Every breath became an agonizing effort, requiring Jesus to push up with His legs, putting immense pressure on the nail wounds in His feet. This is precisely the kind of death the Romans wanted to show everyone; a deterrent. As Cicero said, it was simply unbearable. It's easy to see why crucifixion was reserved for the worst criminals; it was a rejection by God.

The Empty Tomb and the Power of Resurrection

While the crucifixion highlights the depths of human cruelty and the severity of sin, the resurrection proclaims the ultimate victory of God's love and power. As the angel proclaimed, "He is not here, but has risen." Paul emphasizes in 1 Corinthians that Christ's resurrection is not merely a historical event

SPOTLIGHT.....

but the cornerstone of our faith. He writes, "²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:20. The resurrection validates Jesus' claims, proves His authority over death, and offers the promise of eternal life to all who believe.

Paul received and delivered the gospel; that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures. Christ was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once. Seeing Jesus after His death is the proof, the history, that Paul then passes down.

A Hope Beyond the Grave

The resurrection is not just about Jesus; it's about us. Because Christ rose from the dead, we too have the hope of resurrection. Paul explains that "²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead." (1 Corinthians 15:21). Jesus, as the "firstfruits," guarantees a future harvest of resurrected believers. We are simply waiting to rise to everlasting glory. Though our earthly bodies are perishable, they will be raised imperishable, sown in dishonor, they will be raised in glory, sown in weakness, they will be raised in power.

This hope transforms our perspective on death. As Paul triumphantly declares, "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55.) Because we know death is defeated and we have an eternal, resurrected destiny with Jesus Christ, we should stand firm and unshakable all the more for Him right. The ugliness of Good Friday opened the gates to our healing from sin. It is a gift, freely given. So let us run to Him and be healed. The story of the cross and the empty tomb isn't just a historical account; it's a living reality that shapes our present and secures our future.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Youth Events

Yes Conference - Feb 7th-8th

Youth Sunday - March 30th
(Lunch & Skating to fellow AM service. Bring \$25)

Glow Bowling @ Superbowl - May 2nd
(7PM-10PM Cost is \$7.50 Per Person)

Summer Swim Parties
(Look for information last week of May)

Centrifuge Camp - June 9th-13th

Youth Sunday - June 29th

Youth Sunday - August 31st

Hearts on Fire - November 21-23



HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY Sunday, April 13
Goal for Sunday School: 175
Goal for Worship Service: 250

