

APRIL 2023

The Epistle

First Baptist Church of Vienna, Va. | "Fruit Bearing Disciples"

happy
EASTER



From
**Pastor
Walton's
Desk**

Grace and Peace from God our Father!

It is hard to believe that we are already through the first Quarter of the year. I have been tremendously blessed by the work and ministry we have been engaged in thus far. We have been intentional about implementing programming that is in line with our vision but also speaks to us holistically. This month marks the

end of the Lenten season with Resurrection Sunday. Our Lenten theme has been "Living in the Power of the Resurrection". As we think about what this season means, I want us to focus on what it looks like to live in resurrection power.

For many Easter is the ultimate High Holy Day. We get dressed, make sure our children look good, and celebrate with our families with morning worship being the center of it all. While this is a great way to celebrate, I believe there is more that we can do to honor Christ's resurrection. Living in the power of the resurrection suggests that we understand the event is not just momentary, but a lived experience. The celebration should go beyond Easter Sunday and permeate all aspects of our lives.

This resurrection power is, in fact, a gift to the believers and should have been seen as such. Gifts are given and recipients must receive. Christ's resurrection represents new life, new hope, and new possibilities.

As we look ahead and consider the gift we have been given, I want to challenge us to become better disciples through our work and our worship. Consider working with a new ministry, becoming involved in our service projects, or simply using our invitation cards to share Christ with someone in our community. If we are going to live in the power of the resurrection, we have a responsibility to ensure we find ways to honor the moment when morning worship concludes on Easter Sunday.

Easter Experience

Saturday, April 1, 2023

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Outdoor celebration for the whole family!

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 2, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Morning Worship @ First

In-Person & Online

Holy Monday Sunrise Worship

In-Person Worship at 6:00 AM

First Baptist Church of Vienna

Holy Tuesday Sunrise Worship

In-Person Worship at 6:00 AM

First Baptist Church of Vienna

Spy Wednesday Worship

In-Person Worship at 12:00 PM

First Baptist Church of Vienna

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 6, 2023 @ 7:30 PM

Church Outreach: Burke Presbyterian Church

5690 Oak Leather Dr | Burke, VA

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 7, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

Church Outreach: Little Union Baptist Church

17150 Batestown Rd | Dumfries, VA

Resurrection Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 9, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Morning Worship @ First

In-Person & Online

HOLY WEEK

Opposition



Join Us!

There are many opportunities to worship and fellowship during this season of Lent!

WWW.FBCV.ORG

Holy Monday

Sunrise Worship Service
Monday, April 3, 2023
@6:00 AM



On Holy Monday, Jesus cursed the fig tree, cleansed the temple, and responded to questioning of his authority.



Guest Preacher:
Dr. Paul A. Sheppard
Pastor, First Baptist Merrifield



MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Thursday, April 6, 2023
7:30 p.m.



Guest Preacher:
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Sr. Pastor
First Baptist Church of Vienna



Host Pastor:
Rev. Becca Messman

 **BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, Virginia

Spy Wednesday

Noonday Worship Service
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
@12:00 PM



Wednesday is known as Spy Wednesday because on this day Judas made a bargain with the high



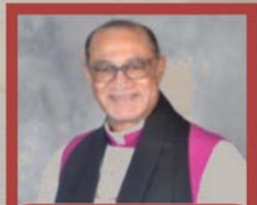
Guest Preacher:
Dr. Joe Turner

Holy Tuesday

Sunrise Worship Service
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
@6:00 AM



On Tuesday morning, Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. Jesus spoke to his companions about the importance of faith.



Guest Preacher:
Bishop Carroll A. Baltimore
Senior Pastor,
International Community Baptist Church



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

LITURGICAL DANCE & FLAG

EASTER REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
MARCH 30 @ 7:00 PM (ZOOM)
APRIL 1 @ 11 PM (IN-PERSON)
APRIL 6 @ 7:00 PM (ZOOM)
APRIL 8 @ 11:00 AM (IN-PERSON)

Email: melknight@fbcv.org www.fbcv.org

Seasons of Grief Workshops Continue

The Seasons of Grief Workshops conducted by Rev. Caffie Risher have been of great benefit to those who have attended. On March 16, Black Grief was the topic of her 4th workshop.

Rev. Risher enlightened the viewers on the following aspects:

- **Black Bereavement Crisis**—“Black deaths have come in back-to-back blows from the coronavirus, police brutality, and the natural deaths of those we look up to the most.”

- **What’s Going On!?**—“Over 50 years since passing the Civil Rights Act, America still doesn’t value Black lives as much as their White counterparts. For over 400 years African Americans have had to navigate a system that is stacked against people of color.”

- **Black Grief, defined**—“Black grief is compounded by historic trauma and ongoing loss and inequities.”

- **Generational Trauma, defined**—“Generational trauma . . . is passed down through generations in families.”

- **Black folks are the barometers of Black Grief!**—“The place Black folk go when they feel or experience Black Grief, Racial Grief, Unresolved Grief, Common Grief or is just Grief-Ridden is the Black Church!”

- **Cultural Grief**—“Grief connected to racist oppression experienced by self, the deceased, the family, and all African Americans.”

- **Black Pain: Black Grief Matters**—“Black communities have been underfunded and exploited for decades.”

- **Prolonged Grief Disorder**—“A medical condition in which grief symptoms last longer than 12 months.”

- **Remaining Safe and Distance**—There are times when African Americans have chosen to hide their grief, distance their feelings, and remain

private so that potential White oppressors would not get satisfaction from hearing the pain of the feelings that are revealed.

- **How Can I Help!?**—In order to support a bereaved African American, become attentive and informed about racism and discrimination in the U.S. and value important elements of the African American culture, rituals, and customs that help people with the grieving process.

- **Distinctive Features of African American Grief**—“Continuing bonds, change in self-identity, kinship, professional/post social support, religious coping.”

- **Five Stages of Black Grief**—“Despair, self-blame, move to action, endurance, survival.”

- **Practices of Black/African Africans** have traditions concerning death that draw from many cultures, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

- **Gathering of the family at the time of death**—“Prayer vigils, last rites, goodbyes/farewells/Make peace!”

The Seasons of Grief workshops are part of the Therapeutic Thursdays Wellness Workshop series. On Thursday, Apr. 20 at 7 p.m., Rev. Risher will address the grieving process that widows and widowers experience and how to offer support. Access information: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvseasons Meeting ID 838 3956 5207 Passcode: 082446. The FBCV Stephen Ministry is pleased to sponsor Seasons of Grief Workshops and encourage all interested persons to attend. To contact the Stephen Ministry, call Stephen Leaders Ann Devoe (571-261-5088) and Pat Jackson (757-935-5562)

~Sylvia Taylor



Marriage Ministry

Hi FBCV, The marriage ministry was blessed to have an informative, fun and lively Marriage Workshop in February. We were taught that the marriage process does not ever become complete. We are always becoming and like the seasons, we are always changing.

As the beautiful season of spring kicks off, did you know that the month of April has many “awareness” celebrations? One celebration in the month of April is National Couple Appreciation month. National Couple Appreciation Month reminds us to keep the flames of romance alive and well all year long.

We’ve listed a few ideas below to help you celebrate this month. Enjoy!

1. Surprise your spouse
 2. Put together a puzzle with your spouse
 3. Recreate your first date
 4. Make a family tree together
 5. Spend the night at a local Bed and Breakfast
 6. Take a fitness class together
 7. Do their least favorite chore for them
 8. Make a bucket list together
 9. Read the same book and have a discussion about it
 10. Write a love note to your spouse
- Natalie M. Ruffin

Women's Ministry Kickoff 2023, Celebrating a Brand New Year

The Women's Ministry kicked off 2023 with a new revised theme of "Sowing While Serving, We Rise by Lifting Others," based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Our goal is to revitalize, renew and re-energize the ministry as we grow spiritually. We show compassion for those in both our church and community who are less fortunate or just may need a helping hand. The women also want to demonstrate unconditional love for the saved and unsaved and be create a safe and inclusive space for women of all ages.

As Women of God, we want to continue to be a branch of support to our church-wide theme of being Fruit bearing disciples" (John 15:5).

"God has given each of you a gift." (1 Peter 4:10 NLT)

The Bible says: 'God has given each of you a gift from his great variety ... Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God! God is looking for a few good women who are willing to share their gifts, their time, talents and personal testimonies of the Goodness of God. Each woman here adds value and plays an important part in ministry. **SIMPLY PUT, WE NEED YOU!**

During Women's Emphasis Month and leading up to the Annual Women's Day weekend, we have fervently prayed for the women serving and the women who would be a part of the annual day and for those who would see our services on various platforms.

We kicked the weekend off with an online prayer service with selected intercessors lifting concerns to God. Our Facilitator was our beloved Deaconess Jeanne Taylor. Gospel and spiritual playlist by Robin Williams with instrumentals played softly during the service. Only the intercessor's photograph (not her face) appeared on

screen as she offered the prayer for a designated topic or concern. All viewers/attendees were asked to turn off their cameras and to mute their microphones at the beginning of the service. It was our desire to create a space for individual reflection and worship as we brought our collective needs before our Heavenly Father. It was a sweet way to begin our weekend! Thank you again for the leadership and vision, Deaconess Taylor.

More than 20 women attended Wings and a Word on March 18, led by Pastor Walton. With our busy schedules we were delighted with the turnout. The time to share and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. We look forward to doing this again in the next quarter.

The Sunday service was such a sweet spirit. The Women's choir was lead and directed by Sister Kim Gordon and Worship and Arts Director Brother Kwan McKnight. The choir was made up of women who sang previously and a few new members who joined in to be a part of the worshipful experience. The sisterhood and fellowship were awesome. The Word from Rev. Sanetta Ponton was powerful and a sweet spirit filled the entire sanctuary. Finally, we were able to honor Sandra Graham, Co-servant leader 2022, for her service by doing what we do best "Sisters lifting other Sisters."

We look forward to serving with you again in 2023, and if you so desire to be a part of the Women's Ministry please email the church office, please include your contact information so that we so we can welcome you personally.

Please sign up and be a part of the upcoming Church activities. The next event for the Women's Ministry is the "Sewing Fruit" project on Saturday, May 6 at 11 a.m. at the church There will also be games and fun/fellowship, and a Spiritual Gifts presentation. The signup will be sent out separately.

—Blessings, Women's Ministry
Servant Leadership Team.



Valarie Dargan, Markay Chichester,
Sandra Graham and Collette Winston
on Women's Day

"Sewing" Fruit

The Women's Ministry is planning an evening of fun, fellowship and sewing! We will be sewing "Fruit of the Spirit" pillows! Mark your calendars now for this activity. Join the Women's Ministry at the church on Saturday, May 6, at 11 a.m. to sew "Fruit of the Spirit" pillows and other fun-filled activities. You do not need to have any sewing skills and you do not need to bring a sewing machine! Everything that you will need is being provided for this activity; however, we are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the materials. Volunteers will be available to guide you every step of the way if you are a novice or experienced sewer. So Save the Date and look for additional announcements to follow in the weeks ahead. We are looking forward to a Fruitful Fellowship with you!

There is limited availability for this activity.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23

SWAP (Seniors with a Purpose) History of Service for Seniors

The SWAP ministry was started in 2018 and it continues to thrive! All of their activities are too numerous but some are listed below.

The Ministry has lots of activities planned for 2023. SWAP is planning a trip to Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery in June; publishing a book with stories of seniors in our church; a movie outing; and picking peaches in July. Also, in 2023 cards are being sent to the sick and shut-in and the Bible Games occur each fourth Thursday on Zoom. A Fellowship Luncheon Hour is also being planned for seniors.

All seniors are welcome to join us both at FBCV and from the community. Oftentimes there are seniors from different states and they can assess some activities on Zoom.

—Submitted by Esther McCullough

2015:

- Dr. Vernon C. Walton organized the SWAP Ministry
- Cellphone management workshop
- Made dolls for Girls in Haiti
- Sick and shut in cards
- Wrapped gifts projects were held

2016:

- Quarterly birthday celebrations
- A trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster, Pa. to see “Joseph”
- Raised more than \$10,175 to benefit Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

2017:

- Sent cards to sick and shut-in
- Held Second Anniversary Celebration
- Made 71 dolls for Girls in Haiti
- Bus trip to NY to see ‘Alive!’
- 55 and Kickin’ Jazz Christmas luncheon
- Shepherd Center luncheon, movie attendance
- Sent birthday cards
- Attended Senior Revival at Mt. Pleasant Church
- Fall Kickoff Lunch and Learn
- Arts and crafts each month
- Recipe cookbook
- Presented Area-D awards to Rev. Evelyn Thomas, Esther McCullough, Rev. Emma Valentine and Deaconess Margie Duncan
- Attended Alfred Street Concert benefit
- Vienna policeman spoke on preventing scams
- Donated painted tiles to nursing home
- Wellness Community Celebration
- Donated basket of toiletries, gift certificates and spa items to Women’s Ministry for silent auction.

2018:

- Jazz Christmas Luncheon
- Created silk flower arrangements
- Barbara Taylor received Area-D award
- Heart Healing event
- Trip to Museum of African American Art and Culture
- Sessions with personal trainer Robin Williams
- Fellowship at Mt. Pleasant
- Fellowship at “Forget Me Not” about dementia and Alzheimer’s at First Mt. Zion Baptist in Dumfries
- Trip to Bible Museum
- Fruit picking
- Jazz Anniversary Luncheon.

2019:

- Sight and Sound trip
- Heart Healthy session
- Trip to Cape Cod

2020:

- Book review, *The Book of Addis* by Ms. Brooke Obie
- Dr. and Ms. Cheeks Shiloh Baptist Church family celebration
- Movie “The Clark Sisters” and discussion,
- Dr. Emma Valentine received Women’s Ministry award from Northern Virginia Baptist Association
- Dine and Learn with Ms. Hilda Valentine
- Book review *The Nothing*

2021:

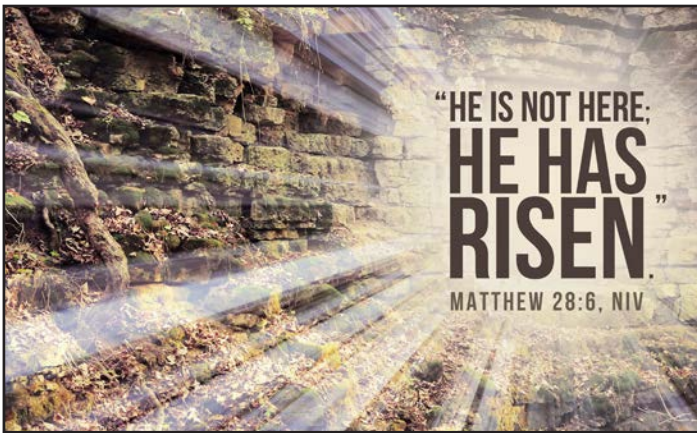
- Trunk or Treat “Woman at the Well”
- Technology for Seniors by Vernessa Samuels
- Christmas Zoom Celebration
- Black History Month Celebration.

2022:

- “Finding Joy In and Through the Scriptures” by Dr. Victorie Kelley,
- “Ministering to Others Who Need Support” by Minister Terri Reeves
- Chat and Chew, exercise by Mrs. Joyce Lansdown, personal trainer
- Bible Bingo, “Dementia presented by Dr. Dave Gordon
- Apple picking
- Grief discussion by Dr. James Johnson
- Trunk or Treat, “Moses Down the Nile” and candy donations
- Jazz Christmas Gospel Brunch.

2023:

- Bible Games each fourth Tuesday
- Handmade cards hand delivered to 75 seniors with a rose from AARP
- Lunch fellowship and a movie.



Deacon Charles and Deaconess Armeata Basil
in loving memory of their son, Anthony R. Basil.

Harriet Carter and daughter Jennifer to
commemorate the 101st birthday of their
mother and grandmother, Catherine Carter.

BobE Pearson and Normajean Eleazar to
commemorate the 102nd birthday of their mother,
Naomi P. Pearson.

Normajean Eleazar in celebration of the birthday of
her husband, Reginald "Reggie" Eleazar.

Linda Duncan to commemorate the birthday of her
father, Wilbur Duncan, and her uncles, Lloyd "Teddy"
and Peter Paul Morarity. Also, in loving memory of
her cousins, Edwin Morarity
and Craig Little.

Compiled by Ceola Allen

★ COLLEGE CONNECTION ★

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS...
Who's Been Accepted? We Want to Know?

Send the College Connection a note letting us know where
you have been accepted and which college or university you
plan to attend in the fall. All information can be sent to Ar-
nitra Duckett (arnitrad@mac.com)

NEED MONEY (for SCHOOL, that is...)? Scholarship/
Internship/Fellowship Opportunities

- Did you know that the U.S. Department of Labor has a
scholarship toolkit that searched over 8,000 scholarships
across the country? Who needs money for school? Check
out these opportunities nationwide by visiting CareerOne-
Stop Scholarship Toolkit
- There's still time to apply for the Congressional Black
Caucus Foundation scholarships. Visit <https://www.cbccfinc.org/programs/scholarships/> to apply now.

SHARE A SCHOLARSHIP/INTERNSHIP

If you have information that you are willing to share about
scholarships or internships that could benefit our high
school and college scholars, please email that information to
Arnitra Duckett (arnitrad@mac.com). We will forward that
information to our scholars to assist them in finding funding
for school and gaining valuable professional experiences.

INCENTIVE CHECKS are being processed. All under-
graduate College Connection Students should be on the
lookout for their arrival soon.

THE COLLEGE CONNECTION MINISTRY WELCOMES YOU. JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING.

The Ministry meeting for this month is scheduled for April
18th at 7 p.m. We have been meeting virtually. Please send
Arnitra Duckett an email (arnitrad@mac.com) to request
the contact information for our next meeting.

Youth and Young Adult Update

Greetings FBCV family!

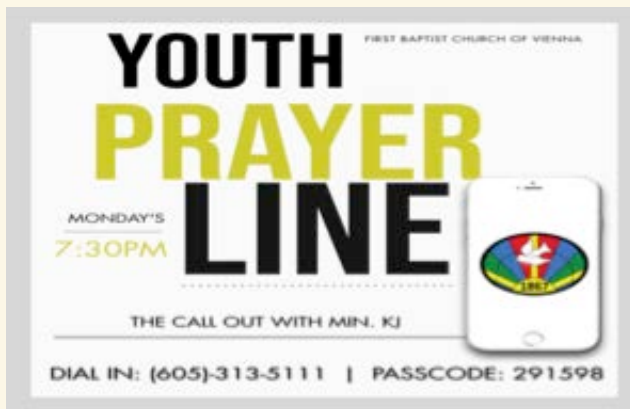
In our youth connection group we have been discussing God's design for our life. The reality is that we don't know what the future will hold, but we know that God is good and will bring what he began to completion (Philippians 1:6). I am excited for you to read a reflective short writing from one of our FBCV youth on reasons for what God's design means to him.

God's design for your life

God's design means a lot to me because I believe that it is also what God is planning for me. I think that God's design for me is for me to use my talents and gifts. I believe this is God's design because God has given me many talents, and I know that God would want me to use the talents that he has given me. I believe God has given me different talents to use to benefit this world. One reason It is important for me to follow God's design is because if I don't, I won't have a purpose on this earth nor would I do what God put me here to do. This is God's design for me and why it is important to follow God's design. —Preston Ruffin

The Call Out

The Call Out Prayer Call begins at 7:30pm. Be sure to have your prayer journal during our devotional time. This is going to allow us to journey together during our prayer call. If you do not have a prayer journal, you can still join the prayer call!



Excellence Academy

The First Baptist Church of Vienna Excellence Academy provides individualized attention and group assistance for students. Tutors participate in a collaborative training to understand best practices and plan effectively for students. Tutors help to motivate students' participation and engage-



ment in the classroom, as well as help to provide additional support for students that will aid them in the learning experience. We also have our Purpose Academy music enrichment program which allows students to utilize their musical gifts and talents through the arts. Excellence Academy assists students in grades K-6 to identify strategies to support learning and enhancing academic performance. Tutoring and music enrichment is conducted in a constructive atmosphere of learning using a variety of learning techniques tailored to each student's individual learning style. Excellence Academy's main goal is to inspire students to become confident, independent learners prepared to meet academic and personal challenges. Be sure to register at www.tinyurl.com/fbcvacademy.

Summer Camp

The camp offers students the chance to study singing, dancing and acting while rehearsing for a theatrical production. Students will also enjoy theater games, arts & crafts, and much more.

We are in need of summer camp counselors! If you have a passion working with students and the arts, or know someone who is interested in being a summer camp counselor. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at kjones@fbcv.org.

Be sure to register now!

FBCV's Bowles Inducted into Wodson HS Hall of Fame

By Ann Marie Williams
Epistle Staff Writer

FBCV member Eric Bowles Jr. became the youngest person to be inducted into the W.T. Woodson High School Hall of Fame on March 18. Bowles, who is very humble, stated in his acceptance speech “he wasn’t sure if he should be there with the other inductees.” But his impressive record speaks for itself.

In his acceptance speech, Bowles made sure to thank his father, mother and sister April for always being there for him, for attending all the games and practices and traveling with the team. About 20 people, including his fiancé Natalie, family and friends attended the ceremony.

Woodson High School Principal Dr. Carlyn Floyd wrote, “Our athletes and coaches are a tremendous part of our history which deserves recognition and celebration. It is my hope our young Cavaliers look to the previous generations as role models and strive for the greatness achieved by so many. We appreciate the legacy left by this class and hope we continue to learn from their example.”

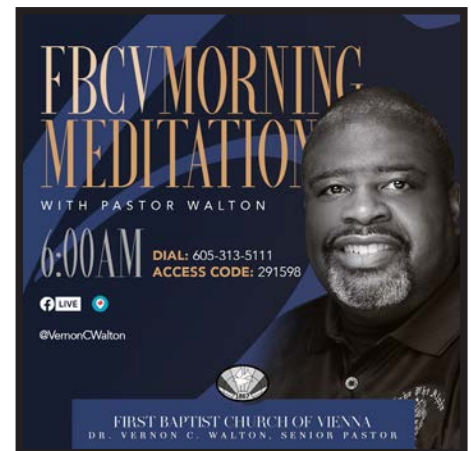
Eric Bowles Jr. was a four-year starting point guard for the Cavaliers basketball team. He was selected All-Met in 2014 and 2015, and All-State from 2013-2015. In addition to earning multiple All-District (4 times) and All-Region (3 times) honors, Bowles was selected Virginia Player of the Year in 2015, Regional Player of the Year in 2014 and 2015, and Patriot District Player of the Year in 2013, 2014, and 2015. While a Cavalier, Bowles led Woodson to an 84-28 record and the Cavaliers were 3-time regional finalists and district champions, 2-time regional champions, and 3-time state semifinalists. Bowles earned a scholarship to Central Connecticut State where he was a 3-year starter (2015-2018). He transferred to Virginia Union for his final year where he also was a starter and played in the renowned CIAA Tournament.

After earning his degree in Information Technology, Eric is now an IT professional who spends his spare time training youth and playing in corporate basketball leagues.

Bowles is the son of Eric Bowles, Sr. and Trina Denny, the grandson of Betty Denny, the great-grandson of Jean Denny, and the great nephew of Peggy Williams.



Eric Bowles with Wodson High School Mascot



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

450 Orchard St. N.W.,
Vienna, Virginia 22180
(703) 938-8525 • www.fbcv.org
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Pastor

// Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with our resurrection. //



How Jesus Says Your Name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her—not by name, just "Woman ..."—and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then—"Mary"—this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Newsletternewsletter.com

Vibrant belief

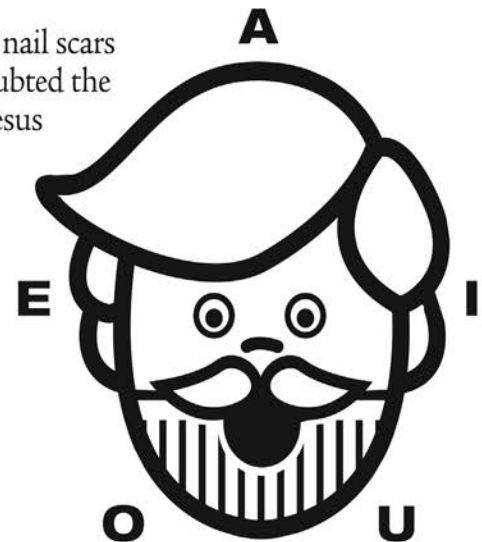
The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid. —Newsletternewsletter.com



SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete
John 20:29, NIV.



"B _ c _ _ s _ _ y _ _ h _ v _ s _ _ n m _ ,
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

y _ _ h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ;
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

bl _ ss _ d _ r _ th _ s _ wh _ h _ v _ n _ t
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

s _ _ n _ nd y _ t h _ v _ b _ l _ _ v _ d ."
oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

Money Matters: Are Social Security Benefits (Income) Taxable?

Your Social Security benefits could be taxable, depending on your situation. According to the IRS, the best way to see if you'll owe taxes on your Social Security income is to take half of your Social Security benefits and add that amount to all your other income. This includes tax-exempt interest. This number is known as your combined income, and this is how it's calculated:

Combined Income = Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) + Non-taxable Interest + 1/2 of Social Security benefits

If your combined income is above a certain limit (the IRS calls this limit the base amount), you will need to pay at least some tax. The limit for 2023 is \$25,000 if you are a single filer, head of household or qualifying widow or widower with a dependent child. The 2023 limit for joint filers is \$32,000. However, if you're married and file separately, you'll likely have to pay taxes on your Social Security income.

How to Calculate Your Social Security Income Taxes

If your Social Security income is taxable, the amount you pay will depend on your total combined retirement income. However, you will never pay taxes on more than 85% of your Social Security income, though the income brackets will vary by filing status.

If you file your income tax return as an individual with

a total income of less than \$25,000, you won't have to pay taxes on your Social Security benefits. Single filers with a combined income of \$25,000 to \$34,000 must pay income taxes on up to 50% of their Social Security benefits. If your combined income is more than \$34,000, you will pay taxes on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits.

For married couples filing a joint return, you will pay taxes on up to 50% of your Social Security income if you have a combined income of \$32,000 to \$44,000. If you have a combined income of more than \$44,000, you can expect to pay taxes on up to 85% of your Social Security payments.

Fifty percent of your benefits are subject to tax, the exact amount you include in your taxable income (meaning on your Form 1040) will be the lesser of either:

- half of your annual Social Security benefits OR
- half of the difference between your combined income and the IRS base amount

State Taxes on Social Security Benefits

Depending on where you live, you may also have to pay state income taxes as defined in the table:

If you have any questions about this tax information, please feel free to contact your First Baptist Church Federal Credit Union

—Submitted by Willie Boykin base on the article “Is Social Security Taxable?” by Amelia Josephson for USA Today March 25, 2023.

State Taxes on Social Security Benefits	
Taxed According to Federal Rules	Minnesota, Utah
Partially Taxed (Exemptions for Income and Age)	Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia
No State Tax on Social Security Benefits	Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

April 2023

Fruit Bearing
Disciples:
FRAngelism
Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 1:00 pm Easter Extravaganza
2 Palm Sunday 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	3 6:00 am Holy Monday Worship 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer	4 6:00 am Holy Tuesday Worship 12:00 pm Prayer Call	5 12:00 pm Spy Wednesday Worship Worship	6 Maundy Thursday 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 worship @ Burke Presbyterian Church	7 Good Friday 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 worship @ Little Union Baptist Church	8 9:00 am Food Distribution
9 Easter 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	10 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer	11 12:00 pm Prayer Call	12 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call	13 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Therapeutic Thursdays: Mental Health	14 12:00 pm Prayer Call	15
16 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm – Community Justice Worship	17 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer	18 12:00 pm Prayer Call	19 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship	20 12:00 pm Prayer Call 5:30 pm Excellence Academy 7:00 pm Therapeutic Thursdays: Grief	21 12:00 pm Prayer Call	22
23 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	24 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer	25 12:00 pm Prayer Call	26 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship	27 12:00 pm Prayer Call 5:30 pm Excellence Academy	28 12:00 pm Prayer Call	29
30 Spirit Sunday 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship						

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. - John 15:5