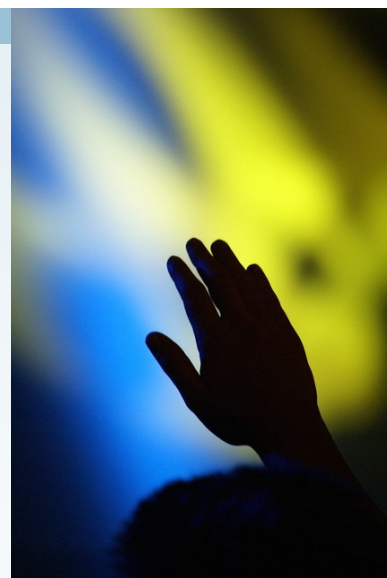




April 2021



Fox River Life



"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you:

'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. -John 15:18-21

As promised in last month's newsletter (which is available online for those who have not read it yet) I am going to give some practical actions we can take to ready ourselves for the inevitable future of continued and increased persecution. This list will certainly not be exhaustive, but I hope will be helpful as we encounter and endure persecution. One of the first things that I feel that we must do is get a right understanding of what persecution is and the benefits that come from it.

In America today we talk a lot about the church being persecuted and yet what we are currently experiencing is the lowest form of persecution that there is. We may be yelled at, marginalized, scoffed at, and disliked; however most of us have not experienced the loss of employment, imprisonment, or bodily harm due to our faith in Christ. I certainly can see the possibility of the latter in my lifetime, but for right now I am not experiencing real persecution at all. This is a blessing of God in many ways. Certainly it is a blessing as we do not have to experience what many of our brothers and sisters are experiencing around the world. Secondly it is a blessing as we are given the time and freedom to get ourselves prepared for the future. Like a physician who tells us that unless we want to lose a limb or suffer a major heart attack we need to make some changes to our diet and exercise; Christ is telling us that we need to change what we take into our minds and souls and to truly exercise our faith so that when the real persecution comes we are ready for it. What we are experiencing now are 'birth pangs' and the real pain and labor will soon be upon us.

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In His Service

"And Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.' ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."

- John 12:23-26

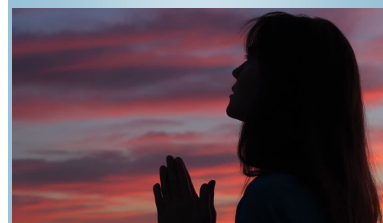
From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

So, what are the benefits of persecution? First of all persecution helps to separate the true worshippers of God from those who are not. When things get difficult in any area of life, those who are committed to that thing do not give up, they dig their heels in deeper. They determine that this area of their life demands their all and they have made the decision that they will persevere until the end...so help them God! Those who are not committed or are on the fringe will soon find themselves running away from the difficult times and will fall back like the soldiers of Israel who were fighting alongside Uriah. Persecution quickly separates the "wheat from the chaff." Secondly, persecution helps us to go deeper in our faith. Whenever we have challenges in our faith, it forces us to send forth our roots deeper into the ground that we might find what we need to be sustained and also to grow in our faith. Finally persecution helps us to see more clearly and to remove the distractions of our life that often keeps us from going deeper. When Christians are faced with real persecution, it helps them to see that the things that they held as so dear and important are not so dear and important when compared to the realities of eternity.

With that right understanding in place, what are some practical things we can do to help ourselves prepare for persecution? First of all, quit feeling and acting so entitled. Many Christians today have bought into some form of the health, wealth, and prosperity gospel. They might dislike the charlatans on late night TV who on their religious-ecized infomercials sell 'another gospel', and yet they live as those who, because they are believers and especially American believers, somehow deserve to be treated favorably. Carried through the streets on the backs of heathens being worshipped for their morality, patriotism, and self-righteousness. Secondly, avail yourselves of **both** the private and public means of grace. It is important to make sure that we are privately engaged in the study of the Word and in prayer, and just as important is the involvement in the public forms of prayer and Bible study. We need each other desperately to help build one another up, to challenge and sharpen each other and strengthen and deepen our relationships, so that when difficult times come we are not out on a limb or in a ditch by ourselves... 'It is not good for man to be alone.' Finally, read, pray, think, and meditate on and about persecution. We cannot be properly prepared for something if we continue to ignore it or pretend that it does not exist. We would benefit greatly from reading accounts of Christians down through the ages who endured persecution, our hearts would be stirred with compassion as we pray for others who are experiencing persecution and asking God to give them strength to endure and persevere. Doing these three things and a many more will help us when true persecution comes to the church in America.

Let me finish with a word of encouragement. The Church of Jesus Christ has always experienced exponential growth during times of horrendous persecution. Tertullian stated that: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Or to put it even better: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* No one in their right mind would desire or wish for persecution, however no one spiritually mature does not see the inevitability and benefit of it. When our time comes, may we dig our heels not into "sinking sand" but into "the rock that shall not move, grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love."

In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim



Easter with Brewster Village

We would like to thank all that donated candy and your time to help us bless Brewster Village this Easter. Our ministry to Brewster Village is serving to bless so many that are not able to join regular church services or other activities due to physical limitations as well as Covid restrictions. This is just one way that we can be a blessing to those less fortunate than ourselves.

There is no better example of love in action than Jesus' death on the Cross. The Bible contains beautiful truths and practical knowledge for daily living. But without the sacrificial love of the Cross, the rest of it doesn't really matter, does it?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whomever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Women's Craft & Lunch

We had a wonderful afternoon of crafting and lunching on Sunday, March 14th!

(pictured: Ellen Rudzinski, Carol Smith, Nancy Wildenberg, Becky Godfrey, & Linda Hoffman.
Not pictured:
Hannah & Lily Hoffman)



Deaconess Ministry Update



The Deaconess' are holding an *All Church Birthday Party* on April 24th at 5:00 pm. More details coming soon!

Deaconess of the Month—Laura Bressler

For His Glory

"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

- 1 Peter 4: 7-11



Sunday Evening Services Schedule

April 4—No Evening Service

April 11—Prayer at 5 pm

April 18—Five Solas - Sola Christos at 5 pm

April 25—Prayer at 5 pm

SUNDAY



Men's Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study
Saturdays at 8am
& Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer
Wednesdays at 9:30am

Connect
WITH OUR
CHURCH FAMILY



Financial Update—February 7-28, 2021

Budget needed weekly: \$ 2606.00

Received: \$ 1,996.00

Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



April 4

Jay Hoffman

April 11

Howard Schimke

April 18

Bob Abitz

April 25

Scott Smith

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items.

Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address:

prayer@foxriverbaptist.com

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Renee Brown
eener654@gmail.com — (920) 428-5306

Missions Update

In the month of May we have in years past had a month dedicated to Missions. Last year because of COVID-19 and my need to be home for the last few weeks of my mom's life on earth, we decided to not have a May Missions month. This year because things are just now beginning to open up in the US and in the world we are yet again not going to be doing our typical May Missions Month. However, Nancy Wildenberg came up with a great idea to do a Virtual Missions Mont, whereby we obtain from some of our missionaries videos/pictures to keep us up to date on what they are doing in their respective mission fields. At the end of the month on May 30th, we will be having the Citac's share with us during the morning Worship. There will be no pot-luck or Sunday School speakers, but at least we can honor our missionaries and their work. Please continue to be in prayer for our missionaries and the Missions Board as we do our best to be good stewards and partners of those we support.



Missions

*"Go Ye into all the World, and preach
the Gospel to every creature."
Mark 16:15*



"A church library is a storehouse of materials that reinforces a church's message or aids people who want to dig deeper. "

I found the above quote while perusing the web for ideas on how to express how I feel about our church library. If you've popped your head in the library lately, you will see that it needs some attention! Stay tuned for updates over the next few months...I'm working on making it a more user friendly space that will embody the above quote. In the meantime...it IS still OPEN for "business"!

Jesus Calls us to be His Disciples

"And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

- Mark 8:34

Intentional Discipleship Update

The year 2021 has seen our Men and Women's Bible Study attendance increase. We have benefitted from three additions from outside of our church who drove by and saw the studies on the sign. Our Sunday School continues to be going strong and is led by four committed men who are leading the Youth and Adults. We are grateful to God that those who call FRBC home and those

who do not, are being ministered to by the Word of God.



FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



- 6—Jan Jourdan
- 10—Don Wynkoop
- 12—Gaylord VanLoo
- 13—Carolyn Krauss
- 14—Bob Abitz
- 20—Steve Krauss
- 21—Scott Dohms



- 13—Gary & Connie Snortum



Fox River Baptist Church

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Website: foxriverbaptist.com

Office Hours: Wednesday &
Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm