

First Baptist Church
1600 S. Main Street
Lamar, Colorado 81052
(719) 336-4953

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 71

Visit us on the Internet: www.lamarfbc.org

Return Service Requested

Come join us Sundays!

8:45a Sunday School
10:00a Worship



The Messenger

Volume 55, Issue 6— June 2022

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday

- ◆ 8:45a Sunday School for all ages
- ◆ 10:00a Sunday Worship

Wednesday

- ◆ 11:30a Wednesday Ladies Bible Study
- ◆ 6:30p Wednesday Adult Bible Study

You can watch us live on
Sunday mornings at

lamarfbc.org

and click the link **Watch Live.**

We offer online & radio services



KLMR 920 AM
Sunday Mornings

@ 9:30



Lamar First
Baptist Church

lamarfbc.org

June Mission Emphasis One Great Hour of Sharing

When you give to One Great Hour, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to OGH, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, **Love Remains.**

***And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.***

1 Cor. 13:13

The only criteria needed is a request for funds from an American Baptist Church. No questions asked, no forms to fill out for approval.

Furthermore, 100% of the funds collected is used to help those in need, there are no administrative fees!



When I was growing up, we had a separate church service on Sunday nights. We'd come in the morning and do church. Then go home, and just when "The Wonderful World of Disney" was coming on the TV, we'd have to pack up and go back to church again. And those were the days when you couldn't record it or stream it later. I always carried just a bit of resentment for the Sunday night service—unless it was the last Sunday of the month. That Sunday was special. It was called the "Body Life" service. It was where people could pick any song out of the hymnal to sing and every so often, the pastor would ask if someone had a testimony to share. Some of those testimonies would give a turtle goosebumps. It was almost terrifying to hear how God could work and how God intervened. That was a good 75% of why I loved those Body Life Services. The other 25% was that anyone—I mean anyone—could pick a song and make the whole congregation sing it. My best friend, Steve, and I had a running contest to see who could get the pastor to call on us first to sing the song that we loved to sing and no one else did: "I Wish We'd All Been Ready." For those who don't know that song, well, you missed out. Perhaps you could YouTube it and see what it was like. I'd call it a hippy hymn. Here's the first stanza. I'm not exactly proud of the fact I can quote it from memory.

*Life was filled with guns and wars and everyone got trampled on the floor.
I wish we'd all been ready.
Children died. The days grew cold.
A piece of bread would buy a bag of gold.
I wish we'd all been ready.
There's no time to change your mind
The Son has come and you've been left behind.*

Part of wanting to sing that song for Steve and me was that we loved singing about bombs and that kind of stuff. We were boys. But I have to admit that part of the fun here was seeing the pastor roll his eyes when he had to call on us and when he'd say either, "OK Darren" or "OK Steve," you could hear this collective sigh throughout the church. Who knew that an 8 to 10-year-old kid could have that much power?!? I think people came to church with several songs to suggest ready just to see if they could keep us from asking for Hymn #245. I think the pastor asked my parents if they could take a couple of weeks, perhaps months, off from the evening service. My dad would have just smiled and said, "We'll talk to him...again."

For the longest time, I couldn't open up my Bible to the book of Revelation and not hear that song or see the images that it conjured up in my head. It's like the Old Testament showed a God of disappointment because, well...human beings. Repeatedly, I can hear God saying, "Come on, guys. Really?" in the Old Testament. Then Jesus comes and dies and now God is a God of love and relationship. He's a hugger for sure, right? But then comes Revelation and once you get past those 6 letters that Jesus dictates to the churches, God goes from a hugger to a God who has clearly had it up to here. He is a God who is done with it all. Famines. War. Asteroids. Pestilence (whatever that is, it cannot be good), scary creatures that fall from space and can torment, but no one dies. Mountains fall. Skies turn dark. Water sources spoiled. It's that song all over, except in real life, right? Well...

And then, the book opens itself up to a ton of speculation. Who exactly is the Antichrist? Remember when the entire world was certain that the Antichrist was Gorbachev? The strawberry stain on his head was kind of the giveaway, wasn't it? Some might even remember when it was Andropov? Read church history during World War 2. There was a huge fight in the American church over whether Hitler or Stalin was the Antichrist. What does the dragon represent? What is the Abomination of Desolation? Is it a computer? Is it an idol? And the gears keep turning and the more you read it, the more it becomes that certain scary that keeps you up at night, but it's that kind of scary that won't let you put it down either.

Let me suggest that Larry Norman (the author of that song I mentioned above) and anyone who looks at the book of Revelation the way I just portrayed it **got it all wrong**. The God of Revelation isn't the God who has had it. He is still a God who is and who defines love. The entire book of Revelation is about a God who is doing everything except mind control to get the attention of a human race that has turned their back and shakes their fist at Him. As 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, He is a God Who "is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

God turns up the heat under the sinful, rebellious people of Revelation's day because if they don't turn their lives over to Him, there is an eternity much hotter than what we see revealed in those last 7 years. Revelation is an act of love by a loving God, saying "If y'all don't open your eyes, what you are tasting now is just a sample of what eternity is going to be like." This is a love story, not a story of rage. It's the story of a parent doing his best to reach his wayward children—trying to keep them from the consequences that they don't understand and at the same time are demanding.

Continued...

But the freaky part for those of us that have turned our lives over to Jesus is that He gives us a glimpse of those final days and...yes, as much as I try to paint this as a love story, there are some pretty gruesome and scary parts to it. There are a lot of holes in it as well. Holes that those of us who like things nice and orderly become very irritated with. It doesn't give us all the answers and we want all the answers!

Yet, Jesus says clearly at the beginning of this book this: "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (Rev. 1:3)" Some have tried to make John's words here say is that everyone needs to study your Bible to be blessed as this verse says. That's not exactly true. The Holy Spirit tells John to tell you and me that studying the book of Revelation is a blessing. The rest is too. But this blessing is specific to the book of Revelation.

So why am I going on about this right here? Well, over the summer, our Wednesday Night Bible Study is going to be going through the book of Revelation. And I wanted to do two things: (1) set the tone for the study and (2) invite you all to be a part of it. The study is on Wednesday night from 6:30-7:30. If there are people that are getting this newsletter and would like to study the book of Revelation but cannot get to church and you have internet access, I'd be more than willing to set up a separate study on a different night via Zoom. But here's the tone-setting stuff:

God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7). We will not get freaked out about what could happen. Jesus also told us to not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:34)

We're going to hold on to God's promises. Jesus promised his children, which includes you and me, "Surely, I am with you always, even to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:20) Paul tells the church in Thessalonica, "God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 5:9). Even the believers who live through the Tribulation will not be alone. God will be real to them in a way that we cannot imagine today. It will be a good thing for them. Not a bad thing.

We will not get all the answers. Prophecy is best understood through the rearview mirror. When it happens, we sit back and go, "Oh, that's what that meant." Remember that the Pharisees and teachers of the law had the Old Testament and all the prophecies of the Messiah memorized. Yet with all those verses swimming around in their heads, they still looked and Jesus and called him a servant of Satan. Who are we to look at what God said about the last days and say, "Oh, we can do better than them with interpreting prophecy!"

What we are going to do is see the character of God. What we are going to see is how bad humanity can get. And when we put it together, we are going to see just how much God loves every person. Now, don't get me wrong. I've never studied the book of Revelation without learning something new about what's going to happen and why. We do get some answers. But overall, we see God in the light He deserves and we see just how unworthy we are to know Him and serve Him and be with Him for eternity.

I'd love to have you join us for this study. I will never preach through the book of Revelation. But I will study it in small groups like this. Here's your chance. Join us or let us know you are interested in a Zoom study.

God bless,

To Pastor Darren and our Church Family,
We appreciate all of the visits and cards we have received. What a blessing to have a church so caring and kind.
Larry and Betty

Darren and the good people at FBC Lamar!
It was an honor to be with you last Sunday! Such a blessing. Thank you for your warm welcome and for the beautiful, thoughtful gift basket. WOW! All those gifts and a Texas Road House card too! I am grateful.
Blessings & Love
Kim Skattum
Pastor to Pastor

To All of You With Warmest Thanks,
I had so much fun opening by basket. I shared everything with Chris except the chocolate almonds.
Mike Oldham

First Baptist Church,
Just a note to let you know prayers to all who need them. I'm tired of the wind and no moisture. Guess we could be worse with dust storms, tornadoes, floods, or something.
Love to all,
Patsy Carter



May 1
 Sunday School.....40

In Person Worship.....99
 Radio.....6
 Online.....53
Total 160

May 8
 Sunday School.....42

In Person Worship.....101
 Radio.....4
 Online.....45
Total 150

May 15
 Sunday School.....31

10:00am Worship.....82
 Radio.....5
 Online.....24
Total 111

May 22
 Sunday School.....31

In Person Worship.....96
 Radio.....9
 Online.....41
Total 146

May 29
No count at time of publication.



Join Us
 Sunday, June 5th for
 Promotion Sunday!

Associates Degree: Cailey Reid
 High School Graduate: Grace Pendleton
 3rd Grade: Adee Gersick & Michael Mendenhall



Celebrating all of the men in our lives.
 June 19, 2022.

Vacation Bible School

June 27th –July 1st

4:30p to 7:30p

for ages 4-6th grade

You can find a registration form by clicking the link on our web page at lamarfbc.org. Please submit your form by email to fbclamar@hotmail.com or by fax 719-336-3555. You can mail them or drop your forms by the church as well. We are encouraging early registration!

We ask that you keep our VBS leaders and kids in your prayers. Here is a list of more specific prayer concerns.

VBS Prayer Requests

1. That our gracious God would bless our preparations for VBS.
2. That our VBS gives God the glory!
3. For kids who don't know Jesus would come to VBS and learn of Him.
4. Thankfulness for parents who register their kids early, on time, and even late!
5. That we would have the right number of Crew Leaders for all the kids.
6. For those planning and preparing to lead the various stations.
7. For no problems with the facility or technology.
8. For good weather for every day of VBS.
9. For safety and a fun time for the people setting up and running VBS.
10. For extra stamina for the leaders and kids in VBS.

We also still need volunteers for registration, kitchen help and crew leaders. Please pray we are able to fill those needs as well.



2022 Schedule

June 8-10 Oct. 12-14
 July 13-15 Nov. 9-11
 Aug. 10-12 Dec. 7-9
 Sept. 7-9

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southeast Colorado

“Mothers hold their children’s hand for a while, but their hearts forever.” unknown

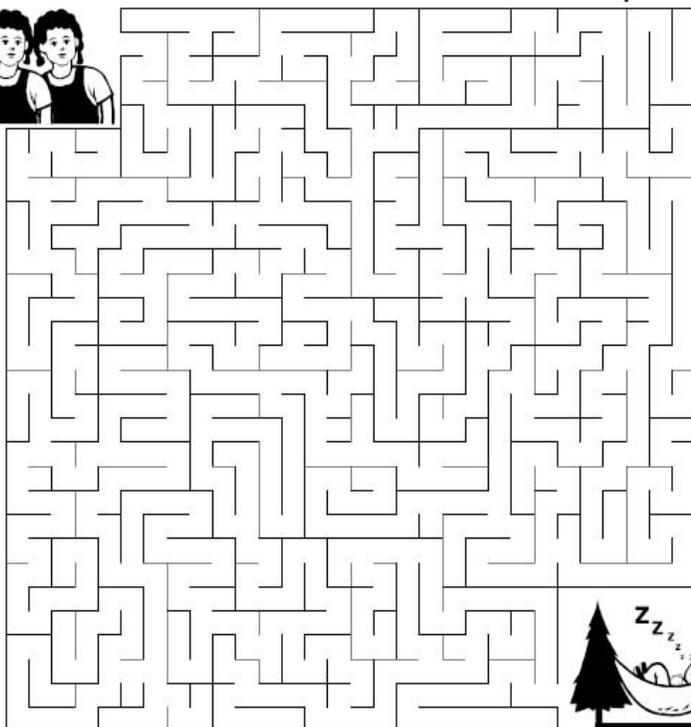
“There is no influence so powerful as that of the mother.” Sara Josepha Hale

Our “Board of Directors,” along with Debbie, guides this ministry in prayer as well as directing the procedures and provide oversight for the center. “Pastors and Churches” support our ministry with donations and baby showers or “Drop Boxes” where supplies for the center can be dropped off. Some Prowers County churches give money donation as well. We also have “Community Givers” who support the center throughout the year with donations of money or supplies. Our “Church Representatives” are the bridge between the center and the church. These representatives share information with the churches to update our activities, and share what is happening at the center. Sometimes they help us out by supplying cookies for our activities in the community. It really is a blessing to have so many people helping with this ministry!

We know that these last few years with the Covid have been different, and we have not been able to get as involved in the community as we would have liked. We have not called on our church representatives as we have done in the past. We hope to call on you more in the future. -Debbie Widener-Director

Happy Father's Day

It's Father's Day and the kids are all trying to find Dad so they can give him a snazzy tie! But where is he?



Dad Word Scramble

1. HERAFT _____
2. ADD _____
3. YIMFAL _____
4. FHIGNSI _____
5. TPEARL _____
6. TSSPRO _____
7. LEOV _____
8. NSGORT _____
9. GINCRA _____
10. LOER EMLDO _____
11. HOYALD _____
12. RHALGTUE _____
13. CTPORET _____
14. CLAIESP _____
15. YNUNF _____

B R C D F R N T J N V E B
 L O P O E L K A H E F S B
 L B I H M N A E U V Q O X
 Q E T X J P N C K A Z R C
 A A N O S Y A I L E G A E
 F L Q Q H Q S S S H R B M
 F E I T S S U A S I L E B
 J C R V E M K I N I I G R
 F O F D E E G G C B O A A
 W S E R V A N T S K G N C
 E W N C C S E O H S L A E
 F A T T E N E D R O E Y D
 M G L J L O N G D Y T Y W

Luke 15:20-24

And he **arose** and came to his **father**. But while he was still a **long** way off, his father saw him and felt **compassion**, and ran and **embraced** him and **kissed** him. And the **son** said to him, ‘Father, I have **sinned** against **heaven** and before you. I am no longer **worthy** to be called your son.’ But the father said to his **servants**, ‘Bring **quickly** the best **robe**, and put it on him, and put a **ring** on his hand, and **shoes** on his feet. And bring the **fattened calf** and kill it, and let us **eat** and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is **alive** again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they **began** to celebrate.