

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

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Return Service Requested

Come join us Sundays!

8:45a Sunday School
10:00a Worship



The Messenger

Volume 55, Issue 5 — May 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

May Mission Emphasis Vacation Bible School

Summer is just around the corner and this means it will soon be time for Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness. The dates are June 27 thru July 1st. Each day starts with a nutritious dinner at 4:30 followed by games, fun, and most of all learning about Jesus! We plan to participate in the Lamar Days Parade on May 21st and will be handing out flyers to invite the community to come. VBS is the perfect opportunity to reach unchurched kids with the Gospel of Christ!





“He has risen.” “He has risen indeed.”

One thing that I find most profound about Easter is how drastically different it makes Christianity than any other religion out there. Religion is following a bunch of rules. The word religion actually comes from a Latin word meaning “to tie up or bind.” You would religae a donkey or a horse to a post so it wouldn’t wander away. You would religae a dog with a chain to his doghouse. It means to tie down or to restrict. I can’t eat pork if I follow religion X. If I follow religion Y, I cannot dance. If I follow Religion W, I *must* do this or that. It’s based upon rules.

Christ died, yes. He did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17). But He was raised from the dead. Jesus was and is the “Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12::2, NIV)” He’s seated because his mission is done. But he’s alive to help us through our mission.

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way—just as we are—yet was without sin. (Hebrews 4:14-15, NIV)”

This is good news and uncomfortable news. The good news is that we are invited into a relationship with God—not on our own merits but on Christ’s. Christ paid for our sins. He became our sins so that we might become his righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). The good news is that when the Father sees us, he sees Christ’s perfection instead of our sin. We have been justified—made just as if we had never sinned. But then, there is the uncomfortable news. A religion is so much easier to follow than nurturing a relationship.

Relationships are hard. Studies show that which way the toilet paper rolls off the roll is a genuine struggle for couples, not to mention where to squeeze the toothpaste tube. Relationships mean couples have to talk about finances and goals and make sacrifices for things that really aren’t that important to them but important to the other. Relationships are hard because sometimes we have to admit we made a mistake and we have to let go of the power we have over someone else’s mistake when they ask for forgiveness. We get out of ourselves when we are in a relationship. Now consider that God will always be right and we will always need Him. We never get to say, “I told you so,” to God, yet He always can say it to us. That makes us even more vulnerable in our relationship with God. Religion is so much easier because it’s all based upon the notion that if I just try harder, I can do it all by myself. My relationship with God only points to the fact that I need Him more and more and more, and there is no DIY formula.

Many have worked hard to turn Christianity into a religion because it’s easier. But easier doesn’t make it right-er. And look at the God we serve. Even when we find ourselves amid a royal mess of our own making, He encourages us with these words from Hebrews 4: “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16, NIV)”

It is my hope and prayer that as we reflect on the amazing gift of the life, the death, the resurrection and the ascension of Christ, that we put aside our compulsion to do it ourselves and we seek the Rescuer sent not only to save us, but to walk with us into the adventure he has planned for us—together, and hand in hand—in relationship, not religion.

In Christ,

Pastor Dave

Transit and mobility services now being offered in Southeast Colorado.

Website: www.ridebustang.com/lamar-pueblo-schedule

Contact Info: 719-545-8900

Serves: Lamar to Colorado Springs with designated stops on Hwy 50 & I-25, 7 days a week

God Moments— Last month I asked for you to submit your stories of times you just knew God was moving in your life. I am pleased to share the following story I received.

God is still moving!

I had been employed as a maintenance supervisor at a large manufacturing company for over 20 years. As rumors of a plant closure began to circulate, I became concerned for what this would mean for my family and our community. The plant closure would leave 250 people unemployed. Worried this might mean relocating, I began praying for direction and guidance. Thoughts of leaving our home or changing professions, were things that laid heavy on my heart. The plant finally made the official announcement; it would be closing the doors in 6 weeks. Thankfully, unemployment would be available as I sought other employment. This was comforting, knowing that at least the kids could finish the school year before we needed to make any major decisions. I began scanning the help wanted ads and continued praying that God would show us what we needed to do.

Shortly after the company's announcement, and probably much sooner than I realized, God's plan started to unfold. My uncle had been ill for a couple of weeks, he was diagnosed with cancer 3 days after the closing of the plant. He and my aunt owned a small mom and pop store in the town my wife and I had grown up in. I worked at that store off and on through high school and during the summers when I was home from college. We still had family there and visited every couple of years. Devastated as to what this would mean to their livelihood, I called offering my help. Knowing I was unemployed, they gladly accepted. So, a plan began to form. I would run the shop while my uncle underwent treatment and was able to return to work. I began packing and would leave that next weekend. My wife and kids would stay behind until school was out and then join me for the summer. We would let God handle what came next. Boy did he work fast! An elderly lady that frequented my uncle's shop heard of the circumstances that had developed. She was waiting outside the store that first morning I arrived. With a sparkle in her eye and a key in her hand, she opened her large country home to us for as long as we needed. This providing her with the perfect opportunity to travel and visit her grandchildren, two of which she had never met. With strict instructions to feed, water, and gather the eggs daily, she boarded the train. With an eager wave she was off entrusting us with more chickens than you could count. (Looking back, I realized that God had used us to answer her prayers as well.) The kids were so excited to be living on a farm and to be near their cousins. We found a church that welcomed us with open arms and everything seemed to fall into place. After about 6 months my uncle was considered cancer free. He had regained his strength and was eager to return to work. We were once again facing a life decision as my unemployment funds were coming to an end. We had become good friends with an elder of our church. He owned several store fronts and rental properties around the county. This man stopped by the house one evening and offered me the head maintenance and ground keepers position over all of his investment properties. There was no doubt, God was still moving in our lives. We eventually purchased that beautiful farm house, chickens and all, and spent the next 18 years of our life there. Our grandson now lives in that home and owns the little mom and pop store we were so fond of. With precise timing, God worked in many ways throughout our time there, and we will be forever grateful.

Please submit your stories to the church office or email them to fbclamar@hotmail.com. You can submit them anonymously, like the above story, or add your name.



April 3

Sunday School.....	39
In Person Worship.....	88
Radio.....	2
Online.....	52
Total	142

April 10

Sunday School.....	38
In Person Worship.....	102
Radio.....	4
Online.....	27
Total	133

April 17

No Sunday School	
Sunrise Service.....	45
10:00am Worship.....	114
Radio	4
Online.....	75
Total	238

April 24

Sunday School.....	22
In Person Worship.....	89
Radio.....	10
Online.....	8
Total	107



GRACE PENDLETON

Grace is a senior at Wiley High School. She will be attending the pre-veterinarian medicine program at West Texas A&M this fall.

Congratulations Grace!
We are proud of you!

To: FBC Congregation,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continual support to Care Net. Because of your thoughtfulness, many families will be blessed with opportunities. We offer Bible studies, financial classes, parenting classes and lots of items that will benefit them and give them hope! Thanks again and an again!
Care Net Pregnancy Center



FBC will have a float in the upcoming Lamar Days Parade.

We will be handing out flyers with our Vacation Bible School information, along with our available church

programs. We need friendly faces to fill the Tram and help oversee the kids that will be walking handing out flyers. We also need individually wrap candy to pass out along the route.

Please come and join us!

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MEALS ON WHEELS

2022 Schedule

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

Holy Humor

Sunday after church a mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

THANK YOU!

to all of our AWANA teachers and volunteers!



We couldn't do it without you!

Our year ended much like it began, filled with organized chaos and excitement. Bringing children to Jesus through scripture and song, and watching as they personally grow in Christ is so rewarding. As we break for the summer, join us as we lift these kids up in prayer, asking God to protect them and bring them back in the fall with eager hearts for Jesus.



Sparrow House News & Gratitude

The list of spring to-do's is endless it seems, but today I am stopping to get this to you! A long overdue Thank You cannot get away from me any longer! We hope you never feel like your support is unappreciated, as you truly are part of the army that keeps the pantry going! Words are so small to express the gratitude we feel and the impact you are making in our community.

Most of you have heard, but we are in the midst of building a community benefit garden. Back in October, we applied for the Colorado Garden Foundation's major grant, in which they give one per year. Much to our surprise, out of hundreds across the state, Sparrow House was selected to receive that award! Part of that was due to the fact that they see how much local support we have and the chances of sustainability are high. But we also know that God looks out for these families we are serving. He loves them so and it has been such a testament of His faithfulness. The garden will be located behind the pantry in the old playground area. We have groups and individuals who will help build and maintain it, and the produce will go directly to the families served at the pantry. This will be a raised bed garden with approximately 3000 sq. foot of growing space. It will also serve as a learning garden for students, and hopefully will eventually include a greenhouse to grow year-round. Please keep this in your prayers as the next month includes a lot of work to get it completed! And if you, or anyone you know has a green thumb and would like to be involved, please contact us! If you have any questions, or would like to visit or come see the pantry sometime, please call us at 719-468-6999.

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Proverbs 6:20-23

My **child**, keep your **father's** commandment, and do not **forsake** your **mother's** teaching. **Bind** them upon your **heart** always; tie them around your **neck**. When you **walk**, they will lead **you**; when you **lie down**, they will **watch** over you; and when you **awake**, they will **talk** with you. For the **commandment** is a **lamp** and the **teaching** a light, and the **reproofs** of discipline are the **way** of **life**...