



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

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Together

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The Way

REV. DR. RANDY L. HYDE, INTERIM PASTOR

The theme of our Lenten-Easter season, as we hope you know by now, is The Way. As we enter the month of March, we have just gotten started. As we journey, my reflections of late have been on that pivotal passage in Mark, chapter 8, where we are told that Jesus began teaching his disciples.

Began to teach them? That seems odd, does it not? Jesus has been performing miracle after miracle, and yes, teaching. . .teaching people about the kingdom of heaven.

Story after story tells us that Jesus has been dutifully and consistently conducting his public ministry. So why does Mark, right here in the middle of his gospel (and I do mean right in the exact middle), begin this story by saying that Jesus began to teach them? Hasn't he been teaching them all along?

Of course, he has. Fred Craddock says this phrase—"Then he began to teach them..."—is a signal. Mark is trying to get our attention, to let us know that Jesus is shifting gears and taking his disciples into places of the mind and heart they've never been before. What places? Well, I'll tell you this much: they will find out soon enough that they're places they don't want to go.

We might not either. Still, if we are to follow Jesus, Mark is telling us, we must follow the way of the cross.

And it isn't something that happens to us. Bearing one's cross does not mean carrying the burden that comes our way, as difficult

as it may be, even if we do it with great faith. Traveling The Way is an intentional act of discipleship. Your illness, as bad as it may be, is not your cross. Your arthritis, as inconvenient and troublesome as it may be, is not your cross. Your recalcitrant son-in-law is not your cross. That piece of jewelry around your neck is not your cross. Your cross doesn't happen to you, you happen to it.

Mark makes it very clear: taking up your cross means you will follow Jesus, wherever the journey takes you. You won't find any loopholes here. There are no options, no ways around the demands of the cross.

To give yourself to Jesus is to give yourself unreservedly to Jesus. But, little by little, day by day, as you get up in the morning, pick up your cross and follow the pilgrim road, you will find in front of you the bloody footsteps of Jesus showing you the way to life eternal.

Randy



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week

MARCH 28-APRIL 4

Palm Sunday, March 28:

For our Palm Sunday worship, Pastor Randy will preach on *Mark 11:1-11* in his sermon *Looking, Just Looking*. Join us for in-person worship in the Sanctuary, live-stream of worship on the church's Facebook page, or on the radio via stations ESPN 92.9 FM or 680 AM at 11 am.

Maundy Thursday, April 1:

On Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm, we will reflect on the last supper and the way to the cross. Join for this reflective service and communion in the Sanctuary.

Good Friday, April 2:

In keeping with tradition, we have extended an invitation to our sister churches to worship with us on Good Friday. We will gather in the Sanctuary at noon and end around the cross on the front lawn.

Easter Egg Hunt, April 3:

This year, families will be assigned a time slot (the first letter of your last name: 10:30 am A-L; 11:30 am M-Z) to come hear the Easter Story, make a craft, and hunt for eggs. We will ask for candy and empty egg donations from the congregation, and your Children's Committee will meet to personally fill all of the eggs.

Flower Cross, April 3:

On Holy Saturday, families can pick a time slot to cover the cross in flowers for Easter. This tradition is close to many of our hearts, and is a wonderful time of fellowship together as we anticipate Easter. This is a very meaningful symbol of life, hope and transformation at the corner of Poplar and Parkway—both for our church family and for our community. Contact Holly Hatton if you are interested in volunteering to decorate the flower cross.



Easter, April 4:

Alleluia! He is risen! For our Easter worship, Pastor Randy will preach on *Acts 10:34-43* in his sermon *We are Witnesses*.

Easter Egg Hunt

Candy and Plastic Eggs Needed

Holly is collecting candy and plastic eggs for our Annual Egg Hunt.

Please purchase individually wrapped pieces of candy—NO NUTS, and please **DO NOT** fill the eggs. The Children’s Committee will meet to make sure eggs are clean and filled safely.

Empty eggs and candy can be dropped off in the Welcome Center or please coordinate with Holly to drop them off. Thank you!

Interim Update

Music Ministry Update

First Baptist Family, we wanted to share with you an update on our Interim Music Ministry.

Rev. Dennis McDuffie’s last Sunday with us as Music Ministry Interim is February 28. Dennis has served in this role since May of 2019. We are grateful for his leadership and ministry these past 22 months.

We are excited to announce that Rev. Ray Hatton will step into the Music Ministry Interim role. Ray previously served First Baptist Church as Minister of Music and Minister of Administration and Senior Adults before his retirement at the end of 2017.

Please continue to keep your church, ministers, and the pastor search committee in your prayers.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Margaret Jordan by Jim & Mary Ann Rogers Edith Myrick Lester Mr. & Mrs. Ray Brandon Nancy Burch Gayla Foscue Willena Highsmith Ann Powell Mark & Sally Smith Kelton & Barbara Morris Anonymous David & Sara Cunningham	In memory of Bob & Iva Lou Flowers by Gayla Foscue
In memory of Polly Bristow by Nancy Burch	In memory of Kathleen Feaster by Nancy Burch Willena Highsmith Ann Powell Jim & Mary Ann Rogers Mark & Sally Smith David & Sara Cunningham
In memory of Vera Hankins by Mark & Sally Smith	In memory of Andy Simmons by Nancy Burch
	In memory of Charles Cameron by Robert & Lydia Burton

Pastor Search

Update from Your Pastor Search Committee

Please pray for the one God has prepared for us. Please pray for the entire search process, the committee as a whole and as individuals, “that in all things God may be glorified.” (1 Peter 4:11)

The committee will continue to meet on a regular basis and update the church as the search progresses. After committee training on January 17 and 24, the committee met via Zoom on January 31, February 14 and 28. We are setting the groundwork for our search as directed by Rev. Laura Stephens-Reed. As we were so eloquently reminded by Holly Hatton and Randy Hyde on Sunday, February 7, it is best not to rush but rather to find our pace and talk with others as we go. (Isaiah 40:31)

Thank you for your prayers and your loving support of our church.

—Your Pastor Search Committee

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GIVING

Giving Options

FBC has several ways for you to keep up with your giving schedule.

You can mail your offering to the church: First Baptist Church, 200 E Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112.

You can donate online via our website: www.fbcmemphis.org/giving

Or, you can email Lisa Butts to learn how to set up automatic recurring offering withdrawals set up from either your bank account or credit card. Recurring payments can be set up weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. This system gives you several options for setting up your gifts to FBC, and the best part is that with automatic withdrawal, there is no more worry with remembering to write the check or submit the payment through your bank or credit card.

For more information about any of the available giving options, contact Lisa via her email lbutts@fbcmemphis.org. She'll explain the process and help you get started.