

From front cover

The Promise of the Empty Tomb...He has risen: On Easter morning Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb; and angel greeted them and told them: “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!” The promise of the empty tomb is that Jesus has risen and is alive and living today. Because Jesus is alive, we know that we too will be raised after we die. Everything we as Christians hold as truth depends upon the resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:20) “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” The promise of the empty tomb is the promise of eternal life in heaven that awaits each one of us who are in Christ.

The Promise of the Empty Grave Clothes...you will see Him: The third empty promise reminds us that Jesus has not only risen and is alive but that He is here with us now and wants to meet with us. ***The significance of the folded cloth:*** According to Hebrew tradition, the folded napkin had to do with the master and the servant. If the master was finished eating, he would wad up the napkin and throw it on the table, this meant “I’m finished.” But if the master folded the napkin and laid it by his plate, meant, “I’m coming back!” In other words, Jesus was not only alive but they were going to see Him again. Jesus threw off the things of death that bound Him. The Bible tells us we are to do the same thing. We are to get rid of the things that bind us and cloth ourselves with righteousness. The three empty promises remind us: because Jesus has risen everything for us has changed. That’s a promise!

Have a blessed Easter,
Pastor Jim & Fran



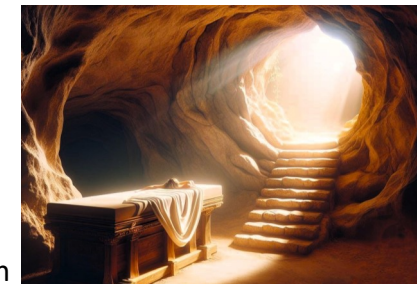
First Baptist Church
201 South Main St.
Benton, IL 62812
618-438-7661
bentonfirstbaptist.org

April 2026

The Herald

The Empty Promises of Easter

There is an old expression that says, “if something sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.” We are surrounded today by people trying to take advantage of us; many times, we are taken in by an “empty promise.” Instead of promises full of emptiness on Easter, God gives us emptiness that is full of promise.



The Promise of the Empty Cross...it is finished: We all understand the brutality of the cross; the death of Jesus was not an accident. When Jesus died in the cross, He was completing what it was that He had come to earth to accomplish. (Romans 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The promise of the empty cross is that Jesus died for you. (Romans 6:23) “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He has paid the punishment for your sins. He said “It is finished” because our debt had been once and for all erased. This is the promise of the empty cross.

Continued on the back cover

Prayer for Our Upcoming Revival Services

As we prepare for the *Opening the Door to Jesus Revival* on May 31 – June 1, we invite our church family to join together in prayer. Please pray for:

- Hearts to be open to the gospel
- A fresh move of the Holy Spirit
- Our community to be drawn to Christ through these services

Let's cover this Revival in prayer as we seek God's direction and blessing.

Blue Sunday Day of Prayer - April 26th, 2026

We encourage everyone to wear blue on April 26th as we join together in support and prayer for children and families in Foster Care.



April Offering Canned Fruit

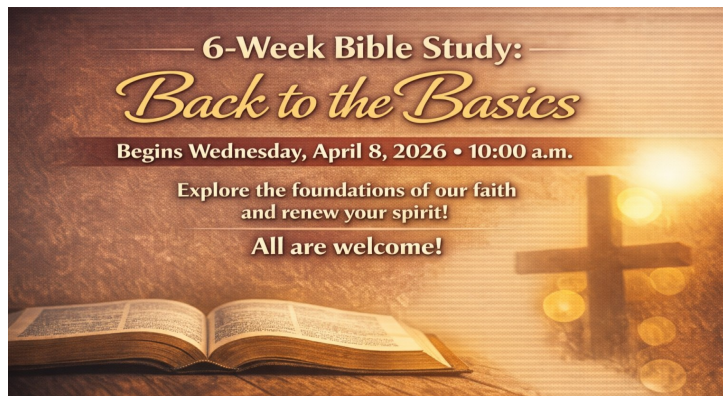


Please help support the Benton – West City Ministerial Alliance Summer Lunch Ministry! Every little bit helps! Send donations to:

BWCMA
c/o Summer Lunch
P.O. Box 934
Benton, IL 62812

Update From the Trustees

- ❖ Tabor Pest Control has completed the treatments for roaches. The problem is solved.
- ❖ The Church has received a termination of insurance from Pekin Insurance Company. Bob Rea is working on getting a new insurance carrier.
- ❖ Carl will now handle lawn care instead of an outside contractor.
- ❖ A Committee has been set up to oversee the church Facebook page.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 1st Pastor Jim Jenkel
- 4th Carmen Lynch
- 9th David McCollum
- 12th Steven Sanders
- 18th Barbara Whittington



Our Ministry Team will take the Good News to **Heritage Woods and Helia** this month. Join us!

LADIES INVITED TO COFFEE

All ladies are invited to 1st Wednesday Coffee at The Buzz on **April 1st** at **9:30a.m.** Bring your prayer requests and a friend.



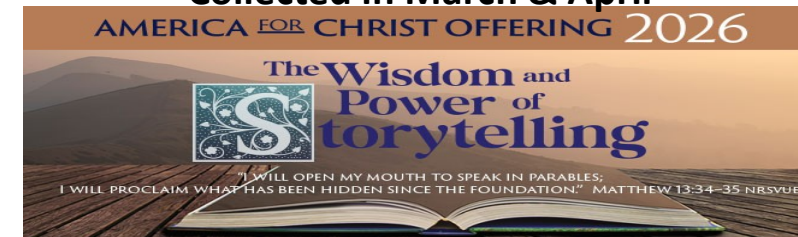
THIS MONTH

April	1st	9:30 A.M.	Ladies' Coffee at The Buzz
April	3rd	11:30 A.M.	Lenten Luncheon @ 1st Christian Church
April	5th		Easter Sunday
April	8th	10:00 A.M.	Bible Study
April	10th	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Heritage Woods
April	14th	9:00 A.M.	Trustee Board Meeting
April	15th	10:00 A.M.	Bible Study
April	15th	2:00 P.M.	Deacon Board Meeting
April	17th	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Helia
April	22nd	10:00 A.M.	Bible Study
April	26th		Blue Sunday Day of Prayer
April	29th	10:00 A.M.	Bible Study

WEEKLY

Sun.		9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
		10:30 A.M.	Worship Service

Collected in March & April



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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