

## VITAL SIGNS

Budget Gifts Sunday.....	\$9,908.00
Budget Gifts to Date.....	\$9,908.00
Annie Armstrong to Date.....	\$836.00

*Celebrate*  
**EASTER**  
with FBC Garden City

**Sunday, April 12**  
**11:00 am**

As we approach Resurrection Day, remember that no matter how we're meeting, this is the biggest day of the year for us as Christ followers. To that end, here are a few ways you can prepare for a powerful Easter:

- **PRAY FOR A BREAKTHROUGH**
- **PREPARE YOUR HEART**
- **PICK A FEW PEOPLE & INVITE THEM**
- **PARTICIPATE FULLY IN EASTER AT FBC**

*"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said."*  
- Matthew 28:6

## **Sympathy**

As a church family we express our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of Harold Holland. Mr. Harold went to be with his Lord on Monday, April 6, 2020. Please keep his family in your prayers.

## NEW ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday 11am and Wednesday 7pm

Join us at

[www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchGardenCity](http://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchGardenCity)

### Past Services

\*You can now go to the website (fbcgc.net) and watch previous services under the **WORSHIP SERVICES** tab

### Online Giving

\*You can now give online by going to the website (fbcgc.net) and click on the **ONLINE GIVING** tab



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[www.fbcgc.net](http://www.fbcgc.net)  
Office Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm Monday - Thursday  
Closed on Fridays

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## *Celebrating Easter*

At a time like this a lot of people are looking for comfort and/or any type of normalcy. We also tend to do a lot of reminiscing. We would normally surround ourselves with friends and family but that is kind of hard right now. We have found creative ways to keep in touch and it helps but it isn't the same. We still search for ways to help us cope.

Many years ago I was having a very difficult time in ministry and things were very busy and crazy. Right in the middle of this time we had a World Changer trip planned. So in spite of all that was going on I lead the group to serve God and others. God spoke to me through the leaders that week. God gave them insight and spoke encouragement and healing at a time that I needed it the most. Even though it was still a tough time, I think about all that God did and it brings me great comfort of how He cares. This is the point of the story that may sound a little strange so hang with me for a minute. That first morning we were on site, they served the most amazing coffee. It was so good that I found out what kind it was so when I got home I could get some. Come to find out it was only a regional item and we could not buy it in the store. Thankfully Walmart online carries it. I now have it every morning first thing when I get up. It has become a constant reminder of that week with God. So each morning I am reminded of my great God while I enjoy my coffee.

This week in Christianity it's all about celebrating the path to the cross and the empty tomb. During the period in the disciple's lives they experienced some great highs and some incredible lows and even isolation. They felt abandoned and all their hopes and dreams were dashed. All of that changed when two women found an empty tomb and the world has never been the same. We want to celebrate Easter with great celebration with lots of people yet the very first celebration of the risen Savior was these two women. So this Sunday don't be discouraged that we aren't all together but rather rejoice like the first time the tomb was found to be empty and Jesus meets us face to face.

Randall

## *EASTER - Like No Other Day*

This Sunday is the most important day on our Christian calendar each year, Easter Sunday. In fact, the resurrection marks the turning point of all human history. It gives us an opportunity to celebrate God's fulfilled promise to redeem us from our sins and give us a new life in Christ!

With that in mind – and understanding the unique circumstances surrounding Easter this year – I want to share with you a few recommendations to help prepare to make the most of Easter Sunday 2020.

### **Pray Daily**

I want to encourage you to set aside time each day this week to pray specifically in preparation for Easter.

- Pray to thank the Lord for His sacrifice on Easter. Thank God for sending His Son to die for you and for overcoming the grave.
- Pray for God's peace for His people during this challenging time.
- Pray for those who are far from God during this difficult season. Ask Him to draw them near and allow them to hear and respond to the message of Jesus Christ this weekend.
- Pray for opportunities this week to scatter seeds of the Gospel to those you interact with this week.

### **Reflect on Holy Week**

While we are limited on how we can walk through Holy Week together this year, this is a great time to remember and reflect on what took place in Jesus' life in the days leading up to Easter Sunday.

- Read through each of the accounts of these days in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Visit the following website that outlines what took place each day of Holy Week:

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/easter-week-in-real-time/>

### **Confess, Repent & Reconcile**

As we approach this most powerful day of the year, ask for God's direction to take a spiritual inventory of your life and act with His help to "clean house" to be sure you're ready to fully celebrate the Resurrection.

- Confess and ask forgiveness from God for any lingering sin in your life. Remember that Christ died to set you free from the grip of sin.
- Repent of any ongoing, habitual sins that you've been struggling with. Remember, repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change in behavior, turning away from sin and back to the Lord.
- Consider whether there's anything you need to do to reconcile with the people in your life. Scripture guides us to live at peace with everyone, as much as it depends on us.

### **Worship Freely**

By taking these steps and aligning our hearts again with Christ's redeeming work on the cross, you'll be better prepared to fully participate in our online, corporate worship service on Sunday.

- Devote the time and attention to joining us for Easter Worship this Sunday at 11:00am on Facebook Live
- Sing along with the songs you can and focus your attention on Jesus.
- Allow the Lord to speak to you.
- Follow through on what God reveals to you!

Praying for you,  
Tommy