

The Informer

February 2024

**DEACONS
VALENTINES
LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

**12:15 PM
FBC FELLOWSHIP HALL**



6:00 PM SERVICE

FBC SANCTUARY

**FASHION
WEDNESDAY**



Love is a Table Manner

*Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another,
but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or
hindrance in the way of another.*

Romans 14:13

Food is one of the most important and vulnerable

things we do, and it always has been. Consuming sustenance is, of course, a vital part of life, and we must do it regularly – usually several times a day. Since it is so regular and so important, we also often share meals together with other people: our families, our friends, our coworkers, our neighbors, and even strangers who happen to be in the same place at the same time.



It shouldn't be all that surprising, then, to note that food has been part of the Christian practice of faith from the very beginning. Jewish religious life included festivals at several points throughout the year, and those festivals included feasts, usually with prescribed menus. In the Gospels, we find Jesus enjoying, not just the festivals of his Jewish faith, but also everyday meals with his friends and even banquets with his opponents. On the night before his crucifixion, he shared a Passover meal with his disciples and urged them to continue the practice as a reminder of what he was doing and how that would affect their lives and the life of the world. And the disciples did just that, incorporating meals together as a central feature of the Church as they took the Gospel to new people in new places.

Such a core part of human life has the potential to create confusion or even complications, because people in different places and from different backgrounds eat different things and in different ways. What is enjoyable or satisfying for one person may be disgusting or dangerous for another, and that's before you factor in the ways that food was associated with religion before Christianity ever appeared on the scene; there were new Christians from Jewish backgrounds who held that certain foods were unclean, while new Christians from some Gentile backgrounds associated certain foods with the worship of other gods.

This issue was important in the life of the early church, showing up in the book of Acts and in several of Paul's letters. In some of those places, the fear is that differences over eating could even break the fellowship of the church, while uncritically embracing the practices of the culture around the church at the table could lead to neglect of the vulnerable and humiliation of the poor. This is why, even though Paul understood and taught a certain perspective on food – that all food is a gift from God and should be able to be enjoyed by everyone, and be used to feed rich and poor like – Paul also taught his congregations to eat together in a loving way. In Romans 14, he tells those who feel free to eat anything not to look down on or cause problems of conscience for those who feel a restricted is more godly, and those who do feel limited out of a sense of religious understanding to offer grace instead of judgment to those who felt free in Christ.

Of course, I have rarely known any food to be kept off the table at a Baptist meal – but we can learn something from the path Paul preached at the table and beyond. Do we offer grace to one another, recognizing that God deals with us all where we are at? Do we seek to be at peace with one another even when we differ? Is love our guiding principle in all things and at all times?

When we are together – especially when we are breaking bread together – may we be a people of grace and love. Those are the table manners Jesus cares about most.

In Christ,

Pastor Adam

FEBRUARY 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 28 9:45am-Sunday School 10am- College Bible Study 11am-Worship Service 6pm-FYC Gather at FUMC | 29 Happy Birthday Rick Chassey 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 30 Happy Birthday Doralease Jackson 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 5:45pm : Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm : Choir Rehearsal | 31 Happy Birthday Garrison Taney 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 7:00pm : Virtual Bible Study | 1 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 2 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 3 Happy Birthday Carter Chassey |
| 4 9:45am-Sunday School 10am- College Bible Study 11am-Worship Service 12:15pm-Deacon's Meeting 6pm-FYC Gather at FUMC | 5 FBC Church Office CLOSED 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 7:00pm : Virtual Personnel Committee Meeting via Zoom | 6 Happy Birthday Suzanne Towler & Sandy Yeatts 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 5:45pm : Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm : Choir Rehearsal | 7 7:00pm : Virtual Bible Study | 8 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 9 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 10 |
| 11 9:45am-Sunday School 10am- College Bible Study 11am-Worship Service 12:15pm-Deacon's Meeting 6pm-FYC Gather at FUMC | 12 | 13 | 14 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 7:00pm : Virtual Bible Study | 15 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:45am-Sunday School 10am- College Bible Study 11am-Worship Service 12:15pm-Deacon's Meeting 6pm-FYC Gather at FUMC | 19 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 20 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 5:45pm : Bell Choir Practice | 21 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 6:00pm : Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary | 22 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 23 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 24 11:00am-1:30pm : Mother & Daughter Day at Church Happy Birthday Terri Atkins Wilson |
| 25 9:45am-Sunday School 10am- College Bible Study 11am-Worship Service 6pm-FYC Gather at FUMC | 26 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 27 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 5:45pm : Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm : Choir Rehearsal | 28 7:00pm : Virtual Bible Study 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions 7:00pm : Virtual Bible Study | 29 12:15pm : Virtual Devotions | 1 Happy Birthday Bruce Dunn | 2 |

Meet Our Family: Getting to Know the Farmville Baptist Congregation

College Sunday School Class

WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHAT SORT OF CHURCH BACKGROUND DO YOU HAVE?

Zoë: I'm a pastor's kid and grew up in a couple of churches; I help with our children's ministry and sing with our praise team – I like helping wherever I'm needed and going on mission trips.

Elijah: I attended Glen Allen Baptist Church back home, and I've been involved with church life from when I was young. I remember helping with community service projects through the church.

Eli: I'm from Crozet and grew up in church. My senior year of high school I did a lot of work for the church as an operational intern, and I love Jesus!

Nora: I go to Summit Church of the Brethren back home; my mom is the children's director, so I help out a lot with the children and other ministries. I've also been active with the youth group – conferences, mission trips, stuff like that. I've attended the same church my whole life.



ELI THORNTON, ZOË MAXWELL, NORA SHANK, ELIJAH TONELLO

WHAT DREW YOU TO FARMVILLE BAPTIST AND WHAT MAKES IT 'YOUR' CHURCH?

Nora: I wanted to join a church in Farmville that was like the community I felt back in my home church.

Zoë: I'd say the same as Nora; I did a little church shopping when I got here, but I found FBC first semester and came back here because I felt very welcomed by all the church family, not just the pastors, which was incredibly important to me.

Eli: I think the help of the BCM and the way Candace and Adam have been very kind to me, and the community in the church, has helped me want to come back. It is hard to find a church like your home church, but sometimes you find one that you want to keep coming back!

Elijah: The church feels comfortable and familiar. It's not going to be like home, but it's pretty close!

IS THERE ANY MINISTRY OR MISSION ABOUT FBC THAT HAS REALLY HELPED OR INTERESTED YOU?

Zoë: The messages are very similar to my dad's, and that's comforting. I've also never been to a church with hymnals before, but I've really enjoyed having the hymnal. It helps me think about the words rather than how anyone sounds and connects me with God. I also like getting to know members of the church and the good church meals!

Nora: I've connected really well with Sunday School; I remember bringing it up, because it was part of my church back home, and its been a big thing for me is being able to connect with other people before the message.

Elijah: I really enjoy the hymns; always have! I'm not the greatest singer, but I enjoy them. And it's really nice during Sunday School to get to know people closer to your age.

WHY SHOULD SOMEONE INVEST THEMSELVES IN FBC AND PLUG IN HERE?

Eli: It's very important to be part of a church, and for college students the convenience of this location is hard to beat!

Elijah: For me, I always know there is someone here (or at the BCM) that will support me, on easy days and tough days.

Nora: The folks here are so supportive and caring, people coming up to talk with me and ask about my week, and it makes me want to keep coming back. It makes me feel better if I'm going through something.

Zoë: I would agree with all of that, because you can obviously see this church is a family. While it's a smaller congregation, sometimes that bodes well because you get to know people. It helps you know you are valued! There's a lot of support here and it means a lot. I have friends my age at the church, but also people to look up to as role models, like Chuck (when he was here) who made me laugh and reminds me of my grandpa! It's comforting to have people who are like your parents, your grandparents – family. That's one of the things I look for anywhere I go.



FARMVILLE AREA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Lenten Services

12:00PM SERVICES & 12:30PM LUNCHES AT EACH LOCATION & TIME

FEB 21 | FARMVILLE PRESBYTERIAN

FEB 28 | ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

MAR 6 | ST. THERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAR 13 | HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

MAR 20 | JERICHO BAPTIST CHURCH

MAR 27 | FARMVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

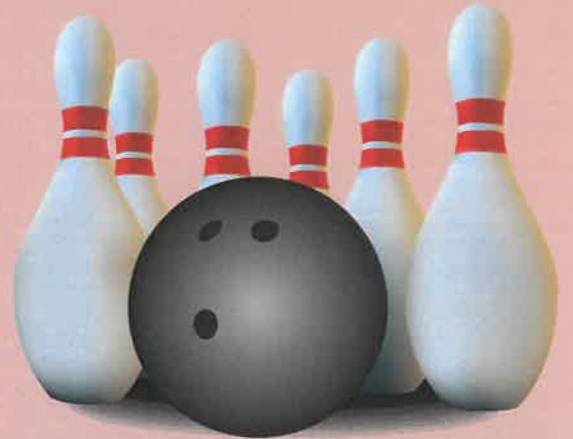
MAR 29 | FARMVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Youth Bowling Event

Saturday, January 27, 2024

On Saturday, January 17, 2024 the FBC Youth went to Main Street Lanes bowling alley in Farmville. There were 10 youth in attendance, with an additional 4 little youth and their families in attendance. Throughout their time at the alley, there was 1 lane designated for the little youth children and their families with an additional 2 lanes designated for the older youth. To add to their fun, they enjoyed ice cream, pizza and sodas! All enjoyed their time, had fun and can't wait to visit the alley again soon!



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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|-------------|----------|--|
| February 4 | 9:45 AM | Adult Bible Study in the Church Parlor |
| February 4 | 10:00 AM | College Bible Study in the 3rd Floor Conference Room |
| February 4 | 11:00 AM | In-Person and Virtual Worship Service via Zoom Mtg. #626-833-551 with code 592659 |
| February 4 | 6:00 PM | FYC gathering at FBC—All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome! |
| February 6 | 5:30 PM | Bell Choir Practice in the Church Sanctuary |
| February 6 | 6:45 PM | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room |
| February 7 | 7:00 PM | Virtual Adult Bible Study via Zoom Mtg. #271-659-616 with code 688863 |
| February 11 | 9:45 AM | Adult Bible Study in the Church Parlor |
| February 11 | 10:00 AM | College Bible Study in the 3rd Floor Conference Room |
| February 11 | 11:00 AM | In-Person and Virtual Worship Service via Zoom Mtg. #626-833-551 with code 592659 |
| February 11 | 12:15 PM | Deacon's Meeting in the Church Parlor directly following Worship |
| February 11 | 6:00 PM | FYC gathering at FBC—All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome! |
| February 13 | 5:30 PM | Bell Choir Practice in the Church Sanctuary |
| February 13 | 6:45 PM | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room |
| February 14 | All Day | Happy Valentine's Day! |
| February 14 | 6:00 PM | In-Person & Virtual Ash Wednesday Service in the Church Sanctuary |
| February 18 | 9:45 AM | Adult Bible Study in the Church Parlor |
| February 18 | 10:00 AM | College Bible Study in the 3rd Floor Conference Room |
| February 18 | 11:00 AM | In-Person and Virtual Worship Service via Zoom Mtg. #626-833-551 with code 592659 |
| February 18 | 12:15 PM | Valentine's Luncheon hosted by the Deacons directly following Worship |
| February 18 | 6:00 PM | FYC gathering at FBC—All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome! |
| February 19 | All Day | Happy Presidents' Day — FBC Church Office & Preschool CLOSED |
| February 20 | 5:30 PM | Bell Choir Practice in the Church Sanctuary |
| February 20 | 6:45 PM | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room |
| February 20 | 12:00 PM | Lenten Service and Lunch at Farmville Presbyterian Church in Farmville |
| February 21 | 7:00 PM | Virtual Adult Bible Study via Zoom Mtg. #271-659-616 with code 688863 |
| February 25 | 9:45 AM | Adult Bible Study in the Church Parlor |
| February 25 | 11:00 AM | In-Person and Virtual Worship Service via Zoom Mtg. #626-833-551 with code 592659 |
| February 25 | 6:00 PM | FYC gathering at FBC—Students, and their families, in grades 6 through 12 welcome! |
| February 27 | 5:30 PM | Bell Choir Practice in the Church Sanctuary |
| February 27 | 6:45 PM | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room |
| February 28 | 12:00 PM | Lenten Service and Lunch at St. John's Lutheran Church in Farmville |
| February 28 | 7:00 PM | Virtual Adult Bible Study via Zoom Mtg. #271-659-616 with code 688863 |