

**Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord This Sunday, April 4!**

**Worship Service: 8:00 AM**

**Sunday School: 9:15 AM**

**Worship Service: 10:30 AM**

***The Pastor's Pen***

The article below is intended to inform some, and remind most, why we can never make too much of the significance of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was written by Adrian Warnock and is one of hundreds of helpful articles by many Christian writers on various subjects published by Crossway at [www.crossway.org/articles](http://www.crossway.org/articles).

**10 Things You Should Know about the Resurrection**

**1. The resurrection is the core of the Christian message and should never be neglected or assumed.**

Sometimes today, when we hear the gospel preached, the focus is on the cross. The resurrection is often ignored, assumed, or mentioned only in passing. In contrast, the preaching recorded in the book of Acts emphasized the resurrection of Jesus. . . . The apostles were preoccupied with the resurrection and emphasized it much more than the cross.

**2. Belief in Jesus's physical resurrection is the defining doctrine of Christianity.**

It is surely a remarkable thing that every Christian denomination . . . all believe one simple truth: the tomb was empty. There is very little else we all agree on! Only some liberals deny the physical resurrection of Jesus. Surely they thereby forfeit the right to call themselves Christians at all.

(Continued Inside)



# First Focus

A Weekly Newsletter for the Family and Friends of Pickens First Baptist

- All Church Members.....Ministers
- Fred Stone (859-5853).....Senior Pastor
- Bryan Hester (704-4802).....Worship & Associate Pastor
- Jeff Rafferty (607-8306).....Discipleship & Missions Pastor
- Mike Sterlachini (395-5880).....Student & Family Pastor
- Jennifer Hendrix (449-5381).....Preschool Director
- Katie Freeman.....Financial Secretary
- Tricia McJunkin.....Church Secretary

Church Phone: 864-878-6564      Website: [www.fbcpickens.org](http://www.fbcpickens.org)

Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Thursday

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday

## ***The Pastor's Pen Continued***

### **3. The resurrection demonstrated to the whole universe the deity of Jesus and God's love for him.**

Jesus was, "declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). It is the resurrection of Jesus that reveals his true nature to all who will see: "God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance . . . and forgiveness of sins" (Acts 5:30-31).

### **4. Without the resurrection, there would have been no church at all.**

After Jesus's arrest and death, the disciples were lost, helpless, and afraid. Peter denied Jesus, whilst the rest ran away. It is hard to conceive of anything other than the resurrection of Jesus that would have led to this rag-tail bunch of people sharing the message of Jesus in such a way that it grew into the largest religious movement ever known to man. People do die all the time for falsehoods that they themselves genuinely believe to be true. It is, however, impossible to believe that all of the disciples would die for something they knew to be a deliberate deception.

### **5. Our neglect of Jesus's resurrection may be one of the reasons our gospel preaching is so powerless.**

Spurgeon examined the preaching of his day and felt the reason for its lack of power was its lack of emphasis on the resurrection. Spurgeon determined to emphasize the message of the resurrection, and saw thousands of conversions as a result. If we choose to neglect the preaching of the resurrection, should we be surprised if we don't see similar results?

### **6. The resurrection purchased our justification.**

When you ask most Christians about justification, they move straight to the cross of Jesus paying the price for our sins. But if justification simply means an absence of guilt, then we have a blank slate and have to spend the rest of our lives worrying about if we will mess it up again. Paul tells us in the contrary: "He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25). What this means is that when Jesus rose again, he was declared to be righteous—not just lacking any sin, but embodying holiness. [Being credited with] Jesus's perfection [means] the Christian is counted as righteous.

### **7. The resurrection gives us the joy of knowing that Christ is with us today!**

He has promised that he will be with us to the end of time. This changes everything. A dead hero in the grave is no help to us. But a risen Savior in heaven gives us great confidence! Because the tomb is empty and Jesus is on the throne, we can know for sure that we will be victorious irrespective of what is happening in today's world.

### **8. The resurrection gives us hope that goes beyond the grave.**

Every Christian will at some point in their lives know the pain of grieving for a loved one. When Paul told us not to "grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Thess. 4:13), he did not mean that we would not experience sadness. But because Jesus conquered the grave, we have confidence that one day we too will rise, and so meet both Jesus and our believing loved ones again. This changes everything when we come face to face with death.

### **9. The resurrection unites every Christian with the life-giving force that raised Jesus from the dead.**

Paul tells us, "the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you" (Romans 8:11). This amazing power is available to transform, equip, and empower us.

### **10. Because of the resurrection, we can know that Jesus is personally coming back to judge and rule the world.**

Because of the resurrection, we can be sure that this same Jesus will return again: "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31)

## ***Discipleship and Missions from Jeff***

### **Returning To Sunday School**

We will be resuming Sunday School this Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>! The following classes, who have been using alternative classrooms due to better opportunities for Social Distancing, will be returning to their regular classrooms this Sunday: Hendricks-Eller Class (Clarkson/Hiott - room E107), Larry Davis Class (Fisher - E250), Hiott/Lanham Class (Judy Holder - E261), and the Helen Batson Class (Alexander – E150).

### **Mission Trip to Dakota Sonshine**

We are making plans for a mission trip to Dakota Sonshine from June 26<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The trip will consist of either working with the Native American children in camp, or small work projects such as painting, etc. Cost of the trip will be \$500 for church members. Please contact Jeff at either 878-6564 ext. 105 or [Jeff@fbcpickens.org](mailto:Jeff@fbcpickens.org) if interested in participating or with questions. The deadline is May 1, 2021 to turn in a deposit of \$100.00.

### **Mission Focus:**

#### **Praying for Pastor Juan in Peru!**

Juan Pacheco is Pastor of the Belén Baptist Church in Collique, Peru. PFBC has had a partnership with Pastor Juan since 2017. Collique is located on the outskirts of Lima, and is a place where social problems such as gangs, consumption and illegal sale of drugs abound in the midst of extreme poverty. For these reasons, Juan developed social assistance programs, such as being a Compassion International Church, aimed at supporting children and needy families in the community. As a result, many of these families have come to know the Lord and have become a part of the church. Pastor Juan has been married to his wife, Yesica for 28 years, and they have three children. In Collique many people have died from Covid. Most of the church families have been affected by Covid through sickness, death of family members, and deeply impacted financially. Pray for Pastor Juan and his wife so that they may continue to serve the Lord and that the church continues to grow stronger.



## **PRE-SCHOOL NEWS From Jennifer**



Nursery Workers Needed

### **Nursery Workers for 2021**

We need your help! If you would like to volunteer on a rotation schedule to work with our preschoolers (birth through kindergarten) during the 10:30 a.m. service, please let me know. You may call or text me at 864-449-5381 or email me at [jennifer@fbcpickens.org](mailto:jennifer@fbcpickens.org). All volunteers must have a background check completed through the church and have been a member of our church for at least 6 months.

## **Preschool Worship Volunteers, 10:30 a.m. Service**

**April 4:** Babies & 1's, Kim, Riley, & Tara Ann Rogers; 2's & 3's, Doug & Jeanine Hayes; K4's & K5's, Jennifer Hendrix

**April 11:** Babies & 1's, Sheila Dunn & Denise Day; 2's & 3's, Amy Sargent & LeAnne Sargent; K4's & K5's, Philip & Cheryl Aguero

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### **Safety Team Rotation Assignment**

#### **The Month Of April**

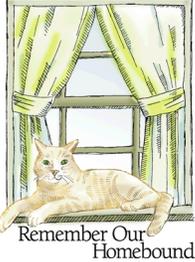
**4th** - Team B  
**11th** - Team C  
**18th** - Team D  
**25th** - Team A

## Student Ministry News from Mike



### Graduate Recognition Service

Graduation is right around the corner! If your high school or college student (associate, bachelor, or graduate degree) is graduating, please let Mike know. Also, please email him five pictures of your graduate in a JPEG format. These photos should be a mix of baby, child, and graduation pictures. We will use these pictures at our *Graduation Recognition Service* on Sunday, May 16 at 10:30am. All pictures need to be emailed by Tuesday, May 4 to [mike@fbcpickens.org](mailto:mike@fbcpickens.org).



### Please Remember To Pray For Our Homebound

Please notify the church office if you or a family member would like to be added to our homebound or in-care facility lists.



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions

2021 theme is "The Mission Moves Forward"

Church Goal: \$7,500.00

Given To Date: \$1,985.00

Prayer guides are available in the vestibule and the Welcome Center along with extra envelopes if needed.

#### IN BRIEF

*I want to thank you for the memorial that you gave in memory of my son, Kevin C. Adams, and for the cards, food, and prayers for us. Thank you also to the ones that called.*

*Please keep praying for us.*

*I love my church and members.*

*Shirley Adams,*

*Danny, Randy Adams & Family*



#### Disaster Relief Training

There will be a *Disaster Relief* training session at Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Easley on April 17. Space will be limited so if you need your credentials updated, you might want to register early. This is about as close to home as DR training is going to get.

If you know anyone that is interested in becoming a volunteer please pass this on to them.

## Pickens First Baptist Church Schedule

### Sunday, April 4

8:00 a.m. - 1st Worship Service

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - 2nd Worship Service

## FACTS & FIGURES

March 28, 2021

Building Fund: \$562,154.61

Offering - \$24,520.69

Offering to Date - \$263,749.59

Goal to Date - \$283,881.78

### To Give Online:

1. Go to [www.fbcpickens.org](http://www.fbcpickens.org)
2. Click on the "MyPFBC" Icon
3. Click on "Give"
4. Choose "Create an Account" or "Give Without A Login" and follow the directions

If you have any questions, you may call Katie in the church office at 878-6564.

### Year-End Contribution Statements

If you have a MyPFBC account, your 2020 contribution statement is now available to view/print. To print your contribution statement, please do the following:

- Log-in to your account
- Select the *Giving History* tab
- Click the gray *PDF Tax Statement* button

\*\*\*Please call or email Katie if you have any questions or if you would like your statement mailed, emailed, or printed for pick-up. 878-6564 / [katie@fbcpickens.org](mailto:katie@fbcpickens.org)



*Year-End  
Contribution  
Statements*

## CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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	<a href="http://fbcpickens.org/instagram">fbcpickens.org/instagram</a>
	<a href="http://fbcpickens.org/twitter">fbcpickens.org/twitter</a>

# Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

April 4, 2021

Opening Song *Living Hope*.....PFBC Choir

Scripture

[Matthew 28:6](#)

*He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.*

Congregational Songs

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

*Christ Our Hope In Life and Death*

Welcome and Prayer

Message In Song *Upon Him*.....Brett Satterfield

*Message From God's Word*.....Pastor Fred Stone

Song Of Commitment

*Just As I Am*

Closing Prayer

8:00 a.m. - Lynn Fisher

10:30 a.m. - Brett Garrison

Closing Song

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*



Pickens First Baptist Church exists to be a Worshiping, Evangelizing, Learning, and Loving (W.E.L.L.) family of faith to the glory of God. (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 10:31).

## Online Worship Service Available

\* On YouTube: On your smart TV, smartphone, iPad, or computer go to:

[fbcpickens.org/youtube](https://fbcpickens.org/youtube)

\* On Pickens FBC Website: On your smartphone, iPad, or computer,

go to: [www.fbcpickens.org](http://www.fbcpickens.org)