



Grove Park
BAPTIST CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS: MON.-THURS.

8:30am-3:30am

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The Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GROVE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH | APRIL 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sundays	5:00 p.m.	Family Night
Mon., Wed., Thurs.		Devotional on Facebook Live
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Study Gospel of John
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Facebook Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Prayer Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, April 2	12:00 p.m.	ROMEOS
Saturday, April 12	10:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 13		Palm Sunday
Monday, April 14		Leaving GPBC for Kentucky
Tuesday, April 15		Hope Box delivery
Wednesday, April 16	9:00 a.m.	Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, April 17	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 18	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
Sunday, April 20		Easter Sunday
Monday, April 21		Office Closed

Our nation begins celebrating its sescentennial this month with commemorations centered on the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19th. We all know the story of Paul Revere's midnight ride thanks to its memorialization in verse by Emerson and Longfellow. Revere's ability to successfully sound the alarm throughout the countryside enabled the Minute Men to arrive in Lexington and ultimately fire "the shot heard around the world." To be sure, the nature of Revere's alarm allowed for some of his success. Malcolm Gladwell however, offers another opinion. Gladwell asserts that Revere's success stems from the wide number of relationships he had, relationships that became important as he knew which doors to knock on during his midnight ride. In turn, these individuals spread the word and kept rousing others until by 9 AM on the day of battle, word had already reached Ashby, Massachusetts some 57 miles northwest of Boston.

Revere was not alone in his ride that dark night. Another rider, William Dawes, took out on a more southwesterly route in order to reach Lexington. He was successful in alerting those gathered in Lexington, but did not arouse any one in the other towns which he passed. The noted historian David Hackett Fischer writes "Along Paul Revere's northern route, the town leaders and company captains instantly triggered the alarm. On the southerly circuit of William Dawes, that did not happen until later. In at least one town it did not happen at all. Dawes did not awaken the town fathers or militia commanders in the towns of Roxbury, Brookline, Watertown, or Waltham." Gladwell asserts that the reason he failed to do so was because he did not know anyone there, but I disagree. I cannot help but wonder if he was so consumed with his mission to Lexington that he failed to address the equally urgent need to get the militia to Lexington.

I wonder if the same is true for us. Are we so consumed with our mission to get to Heaven that we fail to stop and address the equally urgent need to get others there as well? More importantly, are we pausing along the way to tell those we are in relationship with, thereby mimicking Revere's ride, the urgent news with which we ride. Easter falls one day after Lexington and Concord this year. I encourage you to go on your own midnight rides. Bang on the doors of all those with whom you have a relationship and who are asleep in this dark night. Tell them, "Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed and He's coming again!" Invite them to come join you at Grove Park on April 20 so that we all may celebrate not the shot heard around the world, but the rolling stone which opened our opportunity to enter eternity with God.

I was reviewing some of my files recently and ran across my newsletter article from a couple of years ago. It's a message that is worth repeating, so please forgive me for being repetitive.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. - John 3:17

In my devotion today (March 27, 2023, Daily Refresh in The Bible App), I was confronted with the following words. They are so meaningful that I want to share them with you verbatim.

"It can be easy to feel condemned or guilty because we don't often see ourselves as worthy of God's love. But this verse tells us something important - regardless of who you are or what you've done, you are loved by God.

"God is not trying to fill you with guilt or make your life difficult. He wants the best for you and desires a relationship with you. He loved us so much that He sent His only Son to the earth to give us grace and life that we did not deserve."

This is such a common thought in Christianity that it loses its impact. But stop and think about this for a moment.

In Christ, you don't need to feel guilty or condemned. If you feel guilty, ask God if there is some sin that you need to confess. If He brings something to your mind, confess it and turn from it. Once you have done that, you do not need to continue to feel guilty about it. He has already forgiven you. From that point on, if you continue to feel guilty about that sin, that's not from God. It's ok to let it go.

Paul expresses the same thought in Romans:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. - Romans 8:1

"No condemnation." What a glorious thought! If you are in Christ Jesus, He does not condemn you. So why do we continue to beat ourselves up over things that God has already dealt with? If He has already paid for our sin on the cross, why do we still hold on to the guilt? We don't have to!

Easter declares that Jesus died our death on the cross and defeated our death by His resurrection. We get to live in the freedom of knowing that our sins are paid for and our condemnation is gone. Let's live in that freedom and let's not allow guilt to keep any place in our lives.

Dale

Safe Church Training

**Training sessions will be April 6th at 6pm and April 14th at 7pm
Please contact the church office to sign up for your training.**



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK WILL BE THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY AND GPALS WILL BE TAKING FLOWERS TO THE GPES TEACHERS. WE NEED 65 BUD VASES FOR THE FLOWERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY TO DONATE PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE MISSIONS ROOM.

HOPE BOXES

WE WILL BE DELIVERING HOPE BOXES APRIL 14-15. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.



Saturday
April 12

10 a.m.



Ministers On Call for the Month of April

April 3-6

Bob Webster

April 10-13

Beth Canada

April 17-20

Derek Denard

April 24-27

Mike Bouldin



Please join us for the following Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025
Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025
Good Friday, April 18, 2025
Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

April Birthdays

Jaxon Bogart	April 05
Cathy Martin	April 05
Jazmine Bogart	April 07
Donna Moore	April 07
Jason Bogart	April 08
Susan Hudson	April 13
Bennie Kidd	April 14
Louise McGhee	April 15
Howard Martin	April 16
Ed Williamson	April 17
Katie Overby	April 18
Joyce Hayes	April 21
Scarlett Rutter	April 25
Jessica Rutter	April 25
Mary Etta King	April 27
Susan Massey	April 27
Randy Joplin	April 30

