



Volume 2 / Issue 3

March 2024

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made the heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:1-2 (ESV)



THE SPIRE



WELCOME TO FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

First Southern Baptist Church is a Gospel-driven, missions-oriented, Southern Baptist church located in Yuma, Colorado. The great aim of FSBC is to see the Lord Jesus Christ treasured and enjoyed (Matt. 13:44) not only by the members of First Southern or among the peoples of Yuma, Yuma County, or even in greater Northeastern Colorado, but among people groups of every nation of the world to the glory of God.



In pursuit of the exaltation of Christ we seek to follow the Great Commandment and Great Commission by loving God, loving people and making disciples. Within our local congregation, we prioritize the expository preaching and teaching of Scripture. In other words, our sermons and Bible studies aim at exposing the meaning of the Bible, most often in verse-by-verse format.

At First Southern Baptist Church, we are committed to **Exalting** God's Grace, **Growing** God's People, **Reaching** God's World, **Preaching** God's Word, and **Modeling** God's Love.

JOIN US FOR OUR EASTER CELEBRATION

MARCH 31ST

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM

CELEBRATION SERVICE AT 10:45 AM

At First Southern Baptist Church, we are committed to **Exalting** God's Grace, **Growing** God's People, **Reaching** God's World, **Preaching** God's Word, and **Modeling** God's Love.

Service Times

Sunday School Hour.....9:30 – 10:30 am

Worship Service.....10:45 – 12 noon

Wednesday Night Prayer.....6:30 – 7:30 am

A Note from our Pastor

DEAR FRIEND,

As pastor of First Southern Baptist Church and in behalf of our members and friends, I would extend a personal and warm invitation to you to attend services at our friendly church.

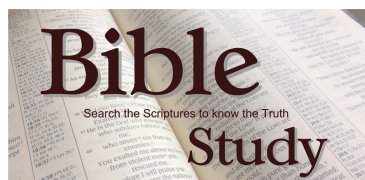
We are a loving church family and welcome new folks with open arms.

Our church has a vision to reach our community and the world with the Gospel message of Christ's death, burial and resurrection and the salvation He so freely offers.

We would be delighted if you would stop in for a visit and even more excited if you should choose First Southern Baptist Church as your church home. Everyone is welcome and we would love to include you in our fellowship.

Blessings,

Pastor Doug and Ruth



POWER FOR DAILY LIVING

(Ephesians 2: 1-10)

How can I experience God's life changing power?

What special gift have you received recently?

[Read Ephesians 2:1-10]

Understanding the Need for God's Power (vv. 1-3)

1. What phrases does Paul use in describing what the Christians in Ephesus were like before Christ? Why do you think Paul reminded these people what their lives were like before Christ?

2. How might your life "before Christ" compare to the descriptions Paul gives? Why? How does knowing that you have been saved from these things make you feel?

Receive God's Power Through Faith in Christ (vv. 4-9)

1. From these verses, what was life for the Ephesians like after they began to follow Christ by faith? What are some benefits of a life lived with Christ that you didn't experience before you came to follow Christ?

2. Is anyone "good enough" to earn salvation?

3. What does it mean to respond in faith (v. 8)? Why do you think some Christians feel obligated to work their way to God even after they have been given the gift of salvation through Christ?

4. Why do you think people have difficulty understanding that salvation is a free gift? Why might "salvation by works" look appealing to some?

Apply God's Power (Ephesians 2:10)

1. Verses 8–9 tells us that works do not save us; what does verse 10 add to that truth?

Why should a Christian want to do good works?

1. What is the significance of the phrase “prepared in advance for us to do”? How does knowing you are God’s workmanship (i.e. His masterpiece!) make you feel?

Care & Prayer – How can we help you through prayer today?

- Do you need to place your trust (faith) in Christ and receive the gift of salvation?
- If you are saved, how might God be at work in your life?
- Who are those you know that need Christ?

ABC's of Salvation



Admit you're
a sinner



Believe
Jesus is Lord



Call upon
His name

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2024						
					1 Yuma High School BB Luncheon 11:45-12:15	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
North American Missions week of prayer						
Youth Fund Raising Luncheon Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM & G.A.P.	Constitution Committee 6:00PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM		
10 Daylight Savings Time Change Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	11 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	12 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	13 A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM & G.A.P.	14 Citywide Lenten Dinner and Service 6 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM	15	16
17 Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	18 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	19 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	20 A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM & G.A.P.	21 Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15 Church Council 6:00 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Sunday School Social Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	25 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	26 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	27 A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM & G.A.P.	28 Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15 Worship Practice 7:00 PM	29	30
31 Easter Sunday Harmony Home 2 PM Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM						

BIBLE CROSSWORD

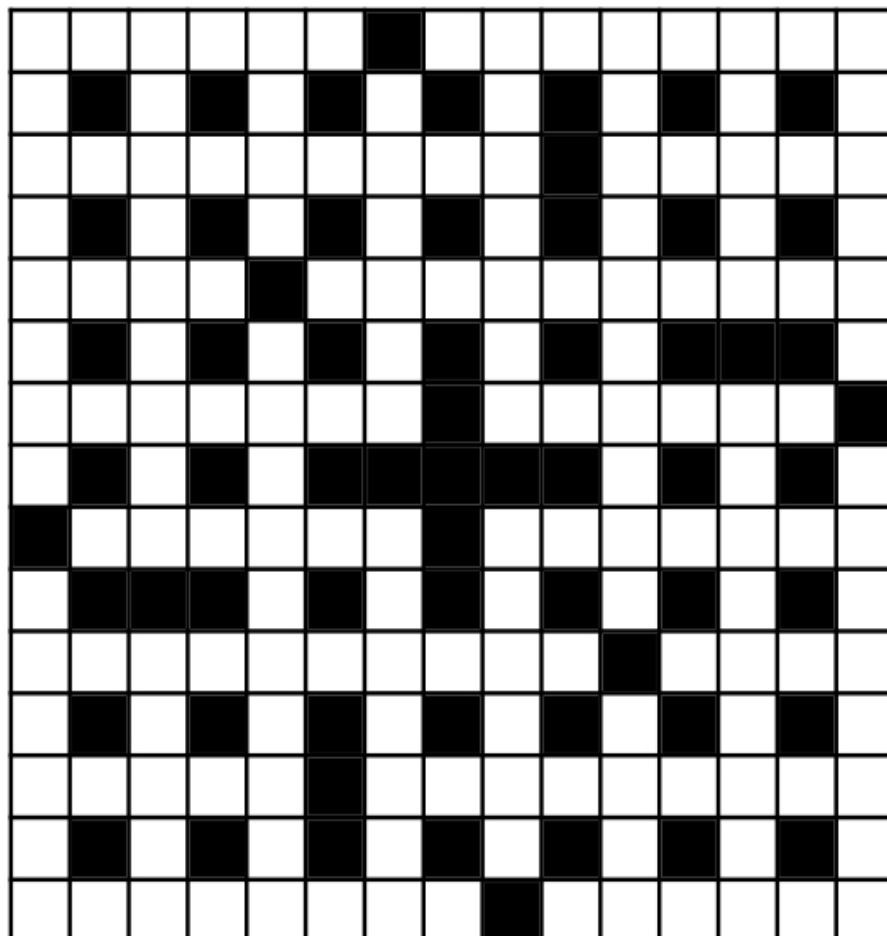
Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
 4 Seemed (8)
 10 New Testament book (9)
 11 Unit of length (5)
 12 '...it is a ____ thing
 the king requireth'
 (Dan 2:11) (4)
 13 Contemplation (10)
 15 Abigail supplied David
 with one hundred
 clusters of these (7)
 16 A son of King David (6)
 19 Concurred (6)
 21 Light sources (7)
 23 Propitiations (10)
 25 A false god (4)

- 27 Gather (5)
 28 Abimelech was hit by
 this (9)
 29 Instructors (8)
 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal
 workers (8)
 2 Inspiring (9)
 3 Compass point (4)
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

6 The words of Jeremiah
 said not to listen to
 these (10)

7 Jewish leader (5)

8 'He is proud, knowing
 nothing, but _____
 about questions and
 strifes of words...'
 (1 Tim 6:4) (6)

9 Bread makers (6)

14 In this year of King
 Nebuchadrezzar's reign,
 Nebuzaradan arrived in
 Jerusalem (10)

17 Ancient city of Og, King
 of Bashan (9)

18 Stringed instrument (8)

20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)

21 Tiny amount (6)

22 Jesus did this with
 authority (6)

24 Last letter of the Greek
 alphabet (5)

26 Province of the Roman
 Empire (4)

WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OF EASTER?



The origins of Easter are obscure. It is often assumed that the name *Easter* comes from a pagan figure called Eastre (or Eostre) who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe. According to the theory, Eastre was the “goddess of the east (from where the sun rises),” her symbol was the hare (a symbol of fertility), and a festival called Eastre was held during the spring equinox by the Saxons to honor her. This theory on the origin of Easter is highly problematic.

The major problem with associating the origin of Easter with the pagan goddess Eastre/Eostre is that we have no hard evidence that such a goddess was ever worshiped by anyone, anywhere. The only mention of Eastre comes from a passing reference in the writings of the [Venerable Bede](#), an eighth-century monk and historian. Bede wrote, “Eosturmonath has a name which is now translated as ‘Paschal month,’ and which was once called after a goddess of theirs named Eostre, in whose honor feasts were celebrated in that month. Now they designate the Paschal season by her name, calling the joys of the new rite by the time-honoured name of the old observance” (*De Temporum Ratione*). And that’s it. Eostre is not mentioned in any other ancient writing; we have found no shrines, no altars, nothing to document the worship of Eastre. It is possible that Bede simply extrapolated the name of the goddess from the name of the month.

In the nineteenth century, the German folklorist Jakob Grimm researched the origins of the German name for Easter, *Ostern*, which in Old High German was *Ostarâ*. Both words are related to the German word for “east,” *ost*. Grimm, while admitting that he could find no solid link between Easter and pagan celebrations, made the assumption that *Ostara* was probably the name of a German goddess. Like Eastre, the goddess Ostara was based entirely on supposition and conjecture; before Grimm’s *Deutsche Mythologie* (1835), there was no mention of the goddess in any writings.

So, while the word *Easter* most likely comes from an old word for “east” or the name of a springtime month, we don’t have much evidence that suggests anything more. Assertions that Easter is pagan or that Christians have appropriated a goddess-holiday are untenable. Today, however, it seems that Easter might as well have pagan origins, since it has been almost completely commercialized—the world’s focus is on Easter eggs, Easter candy, and the Easter bunny.

Christians celebrate Easter as the resurrection of Christ on the third day after His crucifixion. It is the oldest Christian holiday and the most important day of the church year because of the significance of the crucifixion and [resurrection of Jesus Christ](#), the events upon which Christianity is based ([1 Corinthians 15:14](#)). In some Christian traditions, Easter Sunday is preceded by the season of [Lent](#), a 40-day period of fasting and repentance culminating in Holy Week and followed by a 50-day Easter season that stretches from Easter to Pentecost.

Because of the commercialization and possible pagan origins of Easter, many churches prefer to call it “Resurrection Sunday.” The rationale is that, the more we focus on Christ and His work on our behalf,

the better. Paul says that without the resurrection of Christ our faith is futile ([1 Corinthians 15:17](#)). What more wonderful reason could we have to celebrate! Whether we call it "Easter" or "Resurrection Sunday," what is important is the reason for our celebration, which is that Christ is alive, making it possible for us to have eternal life ([Romans 6:4](#))!

Should we celebrate Easter or allow our children to go on Easter egg hunts? This is a question both parents and church leaders struggle with. Ultimately, it comes down to a matter of conscience ([Romans 14:5](#)). There is nothing essentially evil about painting and hiding eggs and having children search for them. What is important is our focus. If our focus is on Christ, our children can be taught to understand that the eggs are just a fun game. Children should know the true meaning of the day, and parents and the church have a responsibility to teach the true meaning. In the end, participation in Easter egg hunts and other secular traditions must be left up to the discretion of parents.



Heard from a friend...

Three stupid guys just died and are at the pearly gates of heaven. St. Peter tells them that they can enter the gates if they can answer one simple question.

St. Peter asks the first man, "WHAT IS EASTER?"

The man replies, "Oh, that's easy, it's the holiday in November when everybody gets together, eats turkey, and is thankful..."

"WRONG," replies St. Peter, and proceeds to ask the second man the same question, "WHAT IS EASTER?"

The second man replies, "No, Easter is the holiday in December when we put up a nice tree, exchange presents, and celebrate the birth of Jesus."

St. Peter looks at the second man, shakes his head in disgust, looks at the third man and asks, "WHAT IS EASTER?"

The third man smiles and looks St. Pete in the eye.

"I know what Easter is. Easter is the Christian holiday that coincides with the Jewish celebration of Passover. Jesus and his disciples were eating at the last supper and He was later deceived and turned over to the Romans by one of his disciples. The Romans took Him to be crucified and was stabbed in the side, made Him wear a crown of thorns, and He was hung on a cross. He was buried in a nearby cave which was sealed off by a large boulder. Every year the boulder is moved aside so that Jesus can come out, and if He sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter."

Name: _____ Date: _____



Easter Story

WORD SEARCH

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

S	C	B	M	N	E	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
K	A	A	P	O	D	V	G	V	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E
J	R	V	M	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	W	C	B	V	F	S
Y	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	T	R	M	L	E
L	A	P	C	O	I	E	B	Q	O	X	B	B	N	O	O	L
I	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	E	S	T
T	R	E	P	P	U	S	T	S	A	L	Y	E	M	B	L	S
S	H	L	U	P	V	Y	T	K	V	F	D	M	T	E	K	O
O	C	A	R	N	E	P	A	X	R	E	S	I	H	M	R	P
C	R	M	E	P	E	N	L	D	M	A	N	A	O	I	E	A
E	U	B	I	K	G	A	A	P	I	J	R	R	R	R	V	V
T	H	X	C	H	Y	N	T	N	H	R	S	M	N	A	O	X
N	C	N	C	A	M	I	E	O	C	T	F	Y	S	C	S	J
E	K	E	R	K	O	S	E	W	N	E	I	D	A	L	S	U
P	U	T	O	N	I	R	N	W	R	P	Y	A	O	E	A	D
L	E	Z	W	R	W	M	D	R	Q	I	T	Y	F	O	P	A
B	S	M	N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	C	X	G	S

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB





What Happened on Good Friday?



Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins.

This means that I can pray and ask God to forgive my sins.



What are sins? A sin is anything I do that doesn't please God.
Circle each picture that shows a sin.



stealing



talking back to my parents



sharing



lying

Why did God send Jesus to die for our sins? Because he loves us.
Complete the verses about God's love for us.



love



Son



world

God _____d the _____ so much that he gave his only _____,

so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. John 3:16

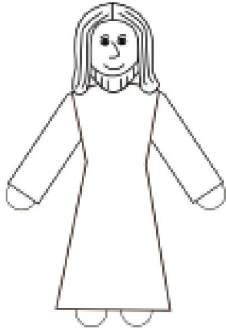
God showed his _____ for us by sending his only _____ into the _____,

so that we might have life through him. 1 John 4:9

He _____d us and sent his _____ to be the means by which our sins are

forgiven. 1 John 4:10

What Happened on Easter?

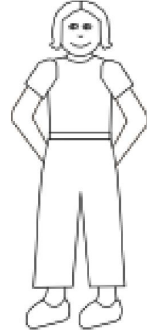


On Easter morning
Jesus came back
to life.

Later he went back
to live in heaven.

This means that
Jesus can give
me new life.

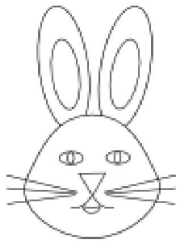
I can be happy now
and go to heaven
later.



Why do we have bunnies and eggs as symbols of Easter?

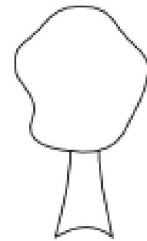
Spring is a time of new life, and this reminds us of our new life in Jesus.

Find the springtime words in the puzzle.

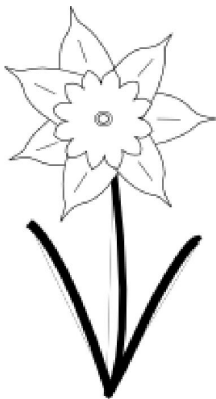


BUNNY

A	S	T	E	G	G
F	L	O	W	E	R
T	R	E	E	R	A
B	U	N	N	Y	S
C	H	I	C	K	S

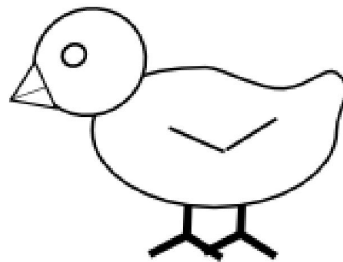


TREE

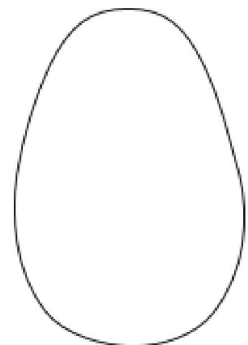


FLOWER

CHICK



GRASS



EGG

The Bulletin Board



A.W.A.N.A. every Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM.
Prayer Meeting , Sunday Evenings at 5:00 PM.
Constitution Committee, March 7th @ 6:00 PM
Harmony Home Service, March 31st @ 2:00 PM



5:00 PM



March 21st @ 6:00 PM



Ladies Bible Study Each
Monday night @ 6:30 PM

NOTE: See Pastor Doug to have any future events placed into the monthly newsletter.

First Southern Baptist Church

1101 South Albany St.
Yuma, Co 80759