

MARCH 2026

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

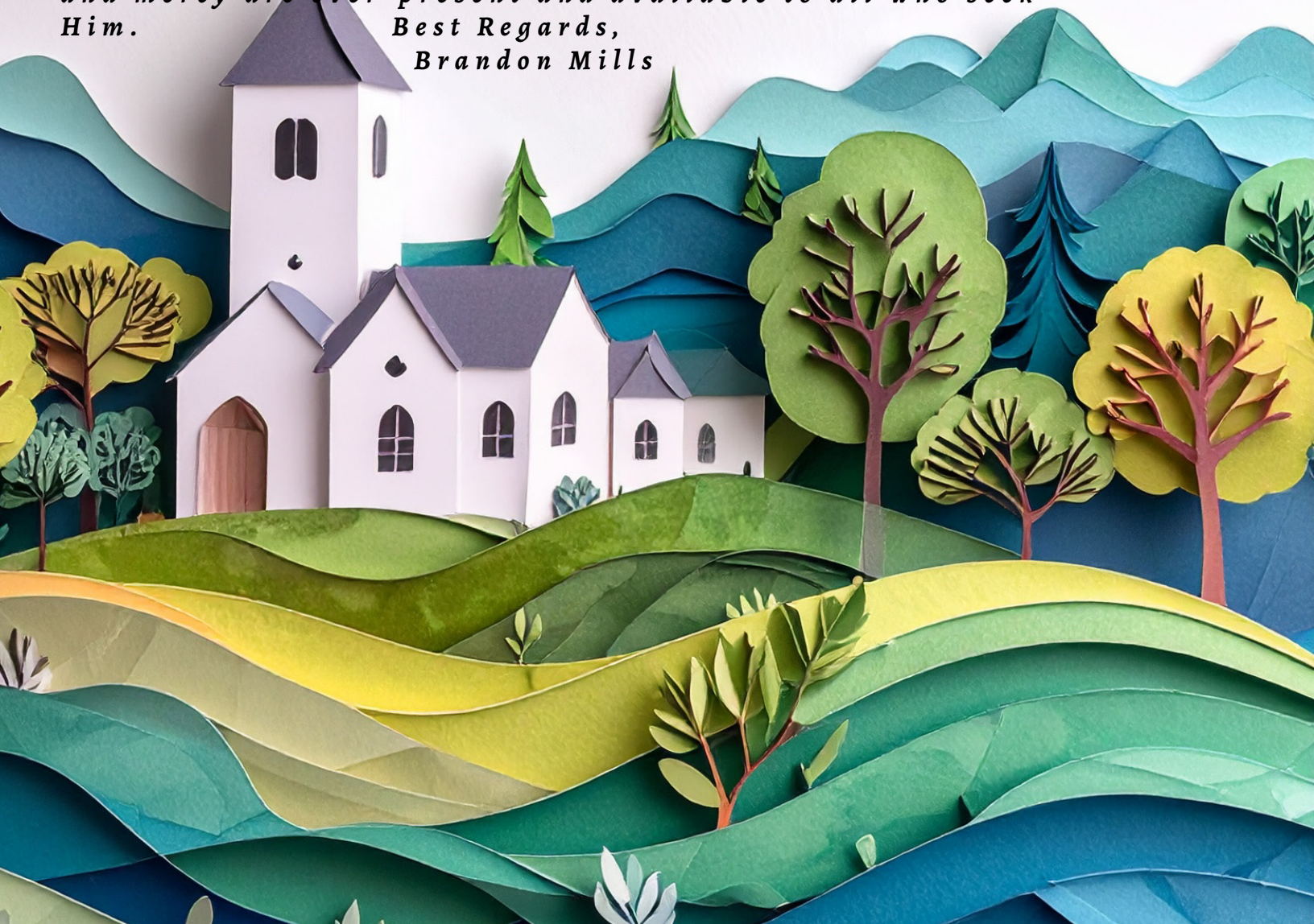
A message from Pastor Brandon

March 20th marks the first day of Spring, a season that brings the hope we all need. Consider this passage from Hosea 6:3:

Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge Him. As surely as the sun rises, He will appear; He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.

This passage encourages us to actively seek a relationship with God, reminding us that when we do, we are met with divine assurance and grace. It challenges us as individuals and as a church to prioritize our spiritual growth and to trust in God's unwavering presence. Like the dawn and the rain, God's love and mercy are ever-present and available to all who seek Him.

*Best Regards,
Brandon Mills*



CHURCH SERVICES

Weekly Fellowship and ministry

Sunday School (all Ages)	Sunday	9:30 A.M
Morning Worship	Sunday	10:45 A.M
Evening Worship	Sunday	6:00 P.M.
Children Worship	Sunday	6:00 P.M.
Youth Group	Sunday	6:00 P.M.
Prayer Meeting	Sunday	6:30 P.M.
Men's Bible Study	Wednesday	7:00 P.M.
Women's Bible Study	Wednesday	6:00 P.M.



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LEADERSHIP
PASTOR BRANDON MILLS

DEACONS:

JIM COLLINS
TIM KNABENSHUE
TYLER COLLINS

OCC:

WILMA COLLINS

VBS COORDINATOR:

KATHY BUTLER

WORSHIP LEADER:

ALLAN LASATER

PIANIST:

ARLENE WATTERS
CARLA MILLS
KIM STRICKNER

CALENDAR

MARCH 2026

MARCH 8 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

MARCH 17 - AT ITS CORE, ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS ABOUT:
TRUSTING GOD THROUGH HARDSHIP
ANSWERING GOD'S CALLING
LIVING OUT FAITH BOLDLY
SHARING THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST

WHILE ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS OFTEN FESTIVE AND LIGHTEARTED, ITS DEEPER MESSAGE IS ONE OF FAITH, OBEDIENCE, AND GOD'S TRANSFORMING POWER. THE BIBLE VERSES SHARED HERE REFLECT THE SAME SPIRITUAL TRUTHS THAT GUIDED ST. PATRICK'S LIFE—TRUSTING GOD FULLY, COURAGEOUSLY ANSWERING HIS CALL, AND SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH LOVE. CELEBRATE GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS AND HIS GLOBAL MISSION. SEE BIBLE VERSES ON PAGE 3 OF NOTE PAGES.

MARCH 20 - FIRST DAY OF SPRING

MARCH 29 - PALM SUNDAY



APRIL 2026

APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 4 - HOLY SATURDAY
APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY



MAY 2026

MAY 10 - MOTHER'S DAY



BAPTISTS AND ST. PATRICK PART 1

PADUCAH, Ky. (BP)-On St. Patrick's Day 2007, I donned some green clothing for the traditional "wearin' of the green." Then I fastened to my sweater a shamrock pin and the identifying symbol of the O'Connor clan. I thought to myself, "What are Baptists to make of St. Patrick?"

Unfortunately, much of the popular lore about Patrick is largely untrue. For instance, the story about Patrick using the shamrock to demonstrate the doctrine of the Trinity appears to be a relatively modern legend. Patrick believed in the Trinity and cited this belief in his own writings, but he himself did not mention using the shamrock this way.

Patrick also is credited with driving the snakes out of Ireland, but this unlikely tale originated at a later time too. Two centuries before Patrick was born, the Roman geographer Solinus recorded that Ireland was devoid of snakes.

What we do know about Patrick comes from two of his own writings, penned near the end of his ministry in the late fifth century. These works, written in a rough provincial Latin, "The Confession of St. Patrick" and "Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus," reveal Patrick was a dynamic missionary and Christian leader. His personal testimony was very inspiring. Although Patrick's grandfather Potitus was a pastor and his father, Calpurnius, was a deacon, Patrick said that nonetheless in his youth he "did not know the true God."

At age 16, Patrick and several other Britons were carried away from Britain by a group of marauding warriors that raided his community, Bannavem Taburni. They were sold into slavery across the sea in Ireland, where Patrick labored for six years as a shepherd. Although he was isolated from any church or clergyman, Patrick accepted Christ as his personal Savior. Patrick wrote, "There the Lord opened the sense of my unbelief that I might at last remember my sins and be converted with all my heart to the Lord my God."

Shortly after his salvation, Patrick said he received a vision from the Lord, warning him to flee Ireland and informing him a ship had been prepared for his escape. Patrick eventually made it back home to Britain, where he rejoined his family and later was ordained as a deacon

Nevertheless, Patrick was not destined to remain in Britain. He said he received another vision, in which an Irishman brought him numerous letters that implored him to return to Ireland. One of the letters read, "We ask you, boy, come and walk among us once more." Patrick submitted to God's call to return to Ireland.

Part 2

Patrick understood his primary mission was to “preach the Gospel to the people of Ireland,” and he performed his mission well. His preaching and ministry, aided by the Holy Spirit, resulted in the conversion of thousands of the Irish to saving faith in Christ. He also ordained others to help him in his work, influenced the local Irish chiefs to promote Christianity and encouraged the Irish themselves to financially support his ministry.

Similar to what we find today in international missions, Patrick produced his greatest gains in evangelism among the Irish women. They became strong supporters of his ministry in terms of enthusiasm, service and giving. Conversely, for the sake of propriety, Patrick returned many of their gifts.

Patrick’s advocacy for his newly baptized female converts even led him to challenge the roving raiders who plagued the British Isles in the middle and late fifth century. By this time, the Roman legions once stationed in Britain had long ago been recalled to the continent. Consequently, the British Isles were overrun by gangs of Germanic and Celtic warriors. One of these bands, under a leader named Coroticus, had butchered a number of Patrick’s newly baptized converts and had enslaved the surviving women.

Patrick sent subordinates to recover the women, but the soldiers of Coroticus only jeered at them. Patrick’s “Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus” was addressed to this warrior band. In it, Patrick again appealed for the return of the female captives and warned Coroticus and his soldiers they faced the wrath of God if they did not repent and comply. Given that these men were violent and well-armed, Patrick’s letter of “righteous anger” shows he thought nothing of putting himself in harm’s way for others.

Although history does not record what happened after his letter was delivered, two features of Patrick’s ministry are clear.

First of all, even late in his ministry, the success of Patrick’s work appeared incomplete. Although legend states he converted the entire island to the Christian faith, it seems obvious from the Coroticus incident that plenty of spiritual darkness remained.

Secondly, we can observe Patrick’s compassion for his newly converted charges. He truly loved the pagan Irish enough to bring the Gospel message to them, and once they became part of the Christian community, he was willing to endanger himself to be their advocate.

Part 3

What are Baptists to make of St. Patrick?

Patrick is a remarkable role model for all Baptists who value the Great Commission. As Patrick himself proclaimed, "I share in the work of those whom He called and predestinated to preach the gospel among grave persecutions to the end of the earth."

Much the same can be said of modern Southern Baptist missionaries and those who support them.

Author:

Stephen Wilson is vice president of academic affairs and dean of arts and sciences of Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, Ky., and serves as a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

You can find this article at:

[HTTPS://WWW.BAPTISTPRESS.COM/RESOURCE-LIBRARY/NEWS/FIRST-PERSON-BAPTISTS-ST-PATRICK/](https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/first-person-baptists-st-patrick/)



Notes and Events

PAGE 1

Contact Form: If you would like to receive church emails, please fill out the contact form on the website. <https://www.fsbclajunta.com>

Arkansas Valley Youth Revival- was held on February 27, 2026, with special guest Tim Tebow! Along with a passionate group of volunteers as we celebrate and share the teachings of Christ the Lord for an unforgettable experience with spirited youth from all around the valley! Details in the next newsletter.

Arkansas Valley Youth Revival/Tim Tebow (AVYR) - Heartfelt Luncheon Appreciation: After a remarkable event, First Southern Baptist Church hosted an exceptional meal! About 80 dedicated AVYR volunteers enjoyed a delicious and well-earned banquet. Once again, the FSBC family provided outstanding support, ensuring our success!

Proverbs 11:25 "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

Children's Church and Sunday School:

On February 22, 2026, Mrs. Kathy Butler conducted her second-to-last session with the Children's Church and Sunday School. Her final session, set for April 1st, will focus on training. Though attendance was a bit lower than usual—normally the classroom buzzes with up to 27 kids—the young ones will undoubtedly miss her leadership and will warmly welcome her during future church visits. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Kathy for her 25 years with Sunday School and over a decade nurturing young minds in Children's Church. Enjoy your semi-retirement, and know that our doors are wide open for your visits!



Notes and Events

PAGE 2

Serving the Lord:

Blessings to our church family who help the church run efficiently each week: Security Team, Nursery Team, the Cleaning and Maintenance team, Administration, VBS, OCC, Music, AV Team and the new Children's Church and Sunday School Team. If you are looking for a way to serve your church, please contact Pastor Brandon.

Colossians 3:23-24. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving".

VBS: As we prepare to serve the Lord, it's just 13 weeks until VBS kicks off! This incredible event invites us to inspire around 100 young hearts towards God's word, and your help is crucial. Here's where you can get involved:

Recreation - Be part of the outdoor excitement! Throughout the week, kids will enjoy action-packed games, and on the final day, they'll leap into fun with inflatable bounce houses. It's just like playtime-you would be great at this!

Teachers - We're looking for leaders to guide our small age-specific groups. Don't worry; lessons and supplies are all prepared. Your role is to steer them through their journey of discovery.

There may be other roles available as well. Such as help with the tons of snacks to feed about 100 hungry kids, not only are they hungry for God's work, they need nourishing with snacks. Sign up and secure your place in making a difference!

OCC: Did you know your older, thicker t-shirts can be transformed into jump ropes for OCC? These ropes provide countless hours of fun and exercise for children worldwide.

In March, we're gathering items for boys aged 10 to 14. We need **40 ft Diamond Braid rope, basic tools, and hats. Check out your local Dollar store for these great finds.**



Notes and Events

PAGE 3

Food Pantry: We welcome your donations of non-perishable food items.

Ideas: Canned meats: tuna & chicken, Canned fruit, Canned beans, Peanut butter, Bottled Jelly, Canned soups, Canned ravioli, Boxed/bags rice products, Boxed/bagged pasta products, Condiments/sauce, Boxed complete meals, Hot cereals, Cold cereals, Powder milk, Granola bars, Breakfast /snack bars, Boxed crackers, Fruit snacks, Canned veggies, Bottled/Boxed juice, Soap/lotion, Mac & Cheese, Instant mashed potatoes, Shampoo & Conditioner, Tooth brush/toothpaste, Feminine products, Diapers, Baby formula, Toliet/klenex tissue.

Were you unable to attend church last Sunday?

Don't worry! Just visit the FSBC website, click on the "MEDIA" tab, and explore the links available to watch the service you missed. Be sure to click the "like" thumb, it helps to remember if you watch it. And it shows how many visitors stop by.

The next sermon series:

Pastor Brandon is thrilled to share the upcoming sermon series, a journey through seven weeks culminating in Easter. Join us for "Road to the Resurrection."

Don't forget to work on the "Let's talk about Jesus" Goal. As of February 22, 2026. We are at 15 new people were told about Jesus. I can't wait to see the totals after the AV Youth Rival with Tim Tebow. See the thermometer gauge in this newsletter.

ST PATRICKS DAY VERSUS-

FAITH-

PROVERBS 3: 4-5

HEBREWS 11:1

PSALMS 28:7

COURAGE & PERSERVERANCE-

JOSHUA 1:9

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

ISAIAH 41:10

SPREADING THE GOSPEL-

MATTHEW 28:19-20

ROMANS 1:16

COLOSSIANS 3:17

GOD'S PROTECTION AND PRESENCE-

PSALMS 91:1-2

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

PSALM 121:7-8



God gave you a
FINGERPRINT
that no one else has,
so you can leave an
IMPRINT
that no one else can.

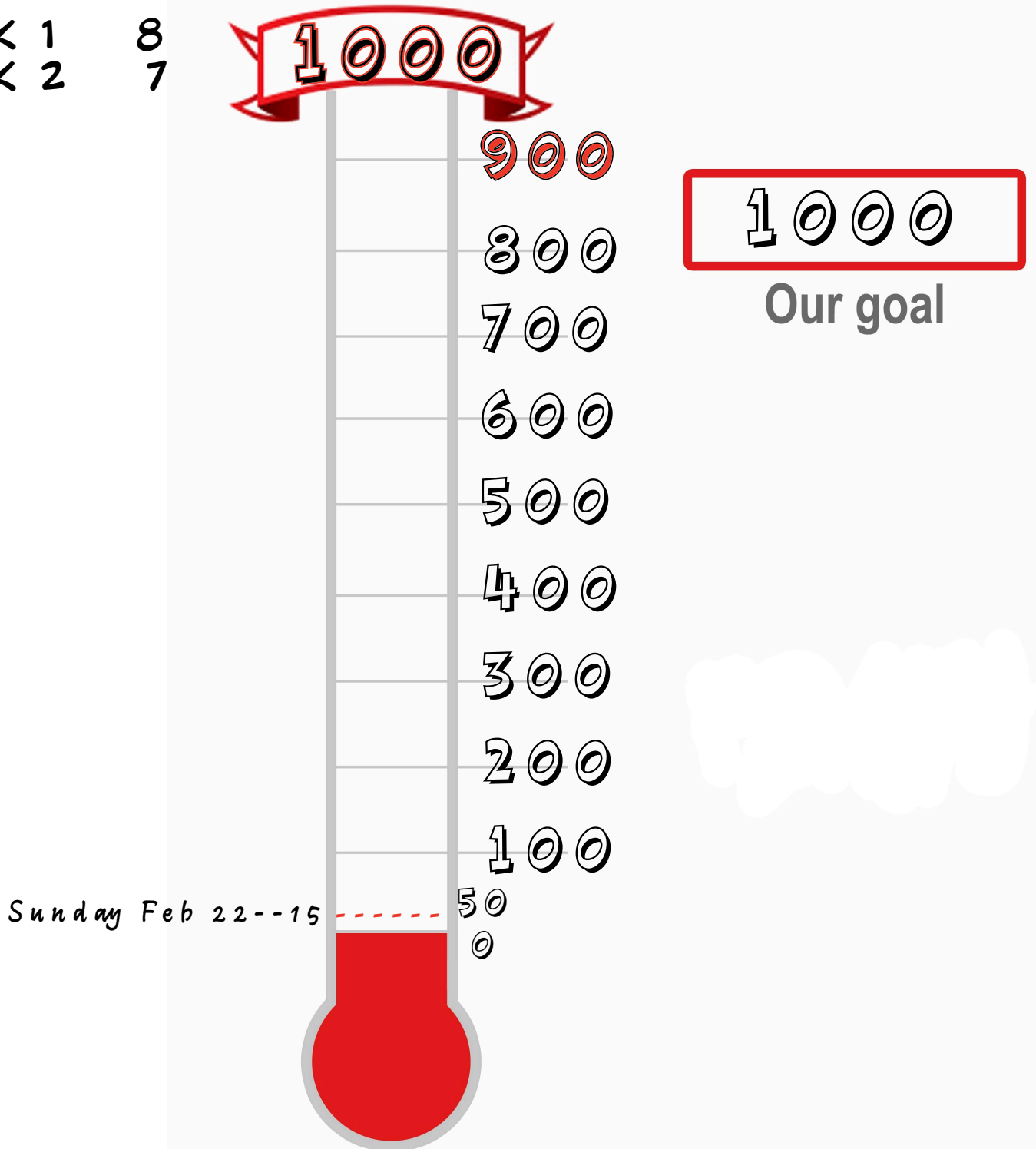
The Goal to Easter

Sharing the grace of God's Word and welcoming new faces to our church community

Meeting the 1000 person Goal

Starting date Feb 15, 2026

WEEK 1 8
WEEK 2 7



Kids Korner

WHO WAS THE MOST SINFUL MAN IN THE BIBLE?
MOSES.

.....HE BROKE ALL 10 COMMANDMENTS AT ONCE!

WHY WASN'T JESUS ALLOWED IN THE JEWELRY
STORES IN JERUSALEM?

.....THEY WERE AFRAID HE WOULD BREAK EVERY CHAIN.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO GET A MESSAGE TO GOD?

.....KNEE-MAIL

On the Ark, Noah probably got milk from the
cows.

What did he get from the ducks?

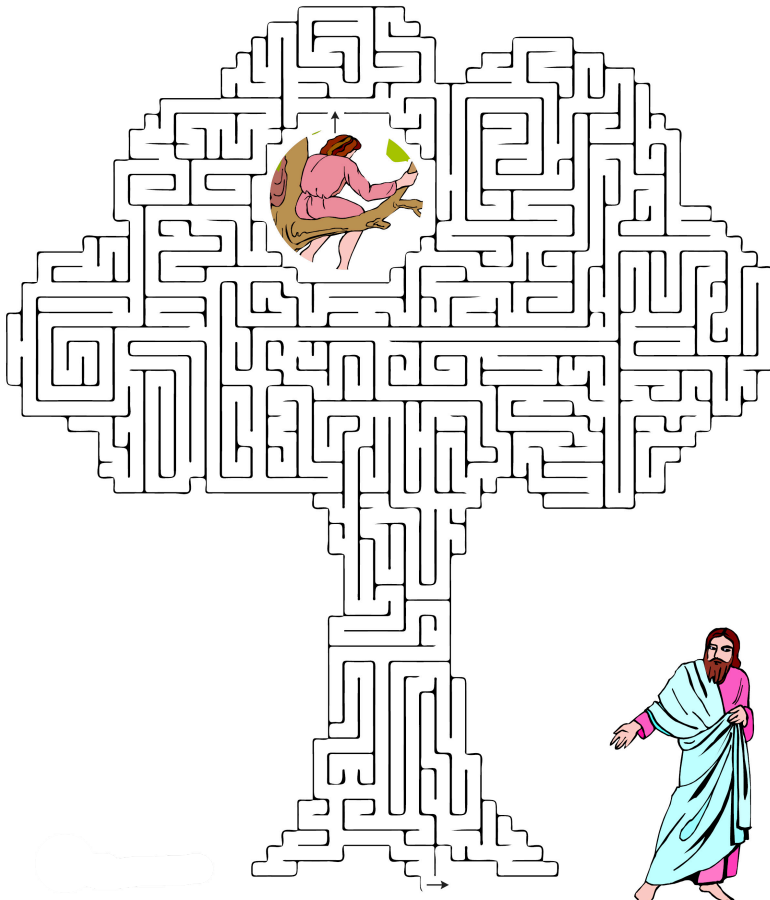
....Quackers

Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?

....David. He rocked Goliath to sleep.

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Help Zacchaeus climb down from the tree so he can meet Jesus!



FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

CHURCH

2006 SMITHLAND AVE, LA JUNTA

PASTOR BRANDON MILLS

719-384-5185

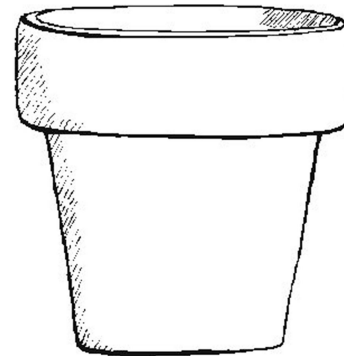
What's a dentist's favorite hymn?

...Crown him with many crowns

Grow in Faith

"If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed..."

Matthew 17:20



Add flowers to your flower pot.