We all need hope these days.

Something that brought me great hope recently was our “Rededication Sunday” on April 11. It was a time to celebrate that, after a year of not being able to worship in person, we were finally able to re-gather inside the church building.

One of the most significant moments during that service was when we observed a moment of silence for our loved ones. In our church family alone, a total of 8 people passed away during the pandemic. In each case, the families of these dear saints were unable to celebrate the lives of their loved ones with a typical memorial service at First Baptist Church due to COVID-19 restrictions. But on Rededication Sunday, the names of these folks were read, and a candle was lit for each one. It was a poignant moment of remembrance for all involved.

Our church family is not the only group of people who have been unable to have appropriate memorial services for loved ones. So many folks in our community have been in the same situation, unable to fully celebrate the lives of their departed friends or family members. Now is the time for us to reach out in love, and with the hope to be found in Jesus, to our family members, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances.

That is why, on May 30, we will have a special “Memorial Sunday Celebration” outreach at church. It will be a special day set aside to honor those who have passed away over this last year. We will be inviting you and anyone from the community at large to bring the name of a departed friend or loved one. During the service we will read the names of those remembered and observe a moment of silence in their honor.

To share the name of a loved one you would like to have remembered, please just call the church office or email prayer@fbc-portland.org. Or, use one of the cards that will be provided at church. You can even invite a friend or neighbor who might be blessed by an opportunity to remember their loved one.

As we remember those who have gone on before us, may we also cling to the hope of scripture, which promises the bright hope of that place, where God will “wipe every tear from their eyes.”

Remembering and hoping with you,

—Pastor Matt
Meet Edith Tamay, FBC’s New Worship Outreach Coordinator

Here is a little bit about Edith:

The Portland area has been Edith’s home, most of her life. She grew up in a pastoral Christian home, eldest of three, and first generation. She came to personally know the Lord in her preteen years. At an early age of nine she joined the children’s church choir and has remained involved in the music ministry in one way or another since. Through her teenage and young adult years she served and lead youth ministries, assisted in filming and editing church services, that would then be broadcasted on local television channels, and participated in church mission trips.

In 2012 she became the worship music director for Iglesia Vision Nueva, a Spanish speaking congregation at Grace Baptist in Portland and a sister church of First Baptist. Edith has co-led, co-directed the Bilingual Jams/Worship nights with pastor Matt from the first year it came to life in 2017.

Apart from church ministry, Edith works with our Multnomah County community and population as a nurse. She lives in Gresham with her husband, Donato, immensely enjoys coffee, dogs, sunny days and gatherings with family and friends. They are beyond happy to become parents and are expecting a beautiful baby boy this summer.
**NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**Remembering Bettie Schweinfurth**

Our Christian Sympathies go out to the friends and family of our dear sister in Christ, **Bettie Schweinfurth**.

Bettie went to her home in heaven on March 22, 2021. She and her husband, Ed, were long-time members of First Baptist Church. You can leave comments for the family by following this link: https://tinyurl.com(bschweinfurth).

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**Celebrating the Life of a Missionary Hero**

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As we all celebrate this great woman of God, may we also pray for one another, encouraging each other to follow the example of Gospel work and Christian service so clearly demonstrated by our friend, Marian.

The family will hold a celebration of life service at some point in the future, as COVID-19 protocols make that feasible and practical. Please stay tuned and we will keep you informed.

The family requests that flowers not be sent at this time. Condolences can be sent to Marian’s family, in care of her niece, Terrie Boehr at: 9880 SW Garrett St., Tigard, OR 97223.

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**Teaching Series for May**

- May 9: Mother’s Day — Part XV: “The Woman and the Water” (John 4:1–14)
- May 16: Bridge-Building Sunday — “Now Is the Time” (Matthew 28:16–20, 2 Corinthians 5:18–20a)
- May 30: Memorial Sunday Celebration — “The Hope of Heaven” (Revelation 21:4)

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**2021 ANNUAL THEME:**

**Jesus brings new life**

“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” —1 Peter 1:3b
Join us for a weekly Youth Group program via Zoom, for all students in 6th–12th grade, led by Community Youth Pastor, Visal Sok. See old friends from church and meet new ones from other churches in our area.

If you need any help, just contact the church office.

**Drive-Up Communion**
Sunday, May 2, 8:30–9:30 am

Drive-up, walk-up, or otherwise get yourself downtown to join us as we celebrate communion together in the parking lot on May 2, 2021. We are offering this ministry the first Sunday of every month, rain, snow, or shine, until the pandemic subsides. See you at the Lord’s Table! (Social-distancing precautions will be taken in order to ensure everyone’s health and safety.)

**Mission PDX**

We are everyday people

LOOKING UP to God for meaning in life;

REACHING OUT across cultural boundaries with the hope of Jesus;

RAISING UP a generation in the way of Jesus;

LIVING AS FAMILY, different though we may be; and SERVING TOGETHER for the good of others.

**AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2021**
For the Purpose of Equipping Saints
EPHESIANS 4:11-13 (NIV)

Thanks to America for Christ (AFC) Offering contributions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) supported communities distressed by the devastation of COVID-19 last year, as the pandemic swept our country and Puerto Rico. We also helped families who lost homes to floods, wildfires and storms, along with children living on the edge because of poverty, and seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News. These are just a few of the ways we minister to those in need; there are many more.

Please help us continue to bring healing and hope to communities, families, children and Jesus’ disciples in 2021 by supporting this year’s America for Christ Offering.

First Baptist Church of Portland will be inviting our congregation to give to the American for Christ Offering this May. To make your donation today, just mark your gift “AFC.” Thank you for your generosity!

—FBC Missions Outreach Team

**Celebrating a New Life!**

May 2 will witness the dedication of baby Arya Dawn Lofland. Due to the pandemic we were unable to hold a dedication service in 2020, but that just means this will also be a special time to celebrate Arya’s 1st birthday, as she was born on April 28, 2020! Arya is the daughter of Ryan and Ester Lofland. On behalf of the family, we warmly welcome everyone to join us for this special day as we dedicate Arya and her family to the Lord.
Drama at the Well

John is a very dramatic gospel. By that I mean it has many elements that would be in a play or movie. Take the story, “The Samaritan Woman at the Well,” in John 4, for example. It has elements of conflict, symmetry, irony, and of course, dialogue. I enjoy taking stories such as this one and analyzing them with an actor lens (developed at NYU) to see if I can glean anything more about the setting, characters and action to help me better understand the message.

The Setting
A good author uses the setting to indicate scene’s style or motif. John 4 takes place in a Samaritan city called Sychar at a well at noon. The setting of Samaria is significant because Jews and Samaritans did not interact with one another. The meeting between Jesus and the woman would be an uncommon, perhaps even taboo encounter. The well evokes a romantic encounter. Meeting at a well is a familiar betrothal scene from Hebrew stories (See Isaac and Rebecca in Genesis, 24 Jacob and Rachel in Genesis 29, Zipporah and Moses in Exodus 2). It is conceivable both ideas would be familiar to Jewish listeners in the early church. The author of John is aware of these expectations and uses this story to invert them.

The Characters
An effective way of getting into the mind of a character is to determine what the character wants in the scene. Good storytelling requires dramatic tension and dramatic tension requires characters with opposing wants. John 4 demonstrates this. Since the characters do not come right out and say what they want, it is up to the analysis to extract the want from the dialogue present.

Scholars such as Lyle Eslinger in the essay, “The Wooing of the Woman at the Well,” suggests that the woman is flirting with Jesus with coquettish double entendres to gain power. Conversely, Luise Schrottroff in her essay, “The Samaritan Woman and the Notion of Sexuality in the Fourth Gospel,” sees the woman’s journey as one of liberation. “She understands herself as someone who acts, but through her meeting with Jesus has acquired the strength to call her situation by her name by its name and free herself from it.” Based on Schottroff’s reading, the woman could want “to feel restored again.” Her restoration can be one of faith, belief, or confidence in herself.

Jesus, although omniscient, is emotionally affected by his surroundings. Take, for example, how he changes his mind in the wedding at Cana or cries at the death of Lazarus. In John 4 with the use of metaphor and irony, Jesus is making a sincere attempt with the Samaritan woman to lead her to understanding. He wants the woman to “discover belief for herself.”

The Action
With the “wants” established, the next step is to look at action. In order to lead the woman toward belief, Jesus uses the complicated metaphor of living water. He could come right out and say he is the Messiah, but he wants her to come to an understanding of faith on her own. In this way it will be a lasting and stronger faith. Unfortunately, it does not work.

In verse 15 when the woman asks for living water, Jesus sees that she is not comprehending his message. He then changes tactics instructing her to call her husband and come back (vs 16). What follows is a series of observations and clarifications building to Jesus’s final revelation as the Messiah in verse 26. Significant to this revelation is that Jesus does not bring it up, but rather guides her to the idea first. Verses 25-26: “The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am he.”

Continued on page 8
Our Lord, Jesus Christ, urged us to keep watching and praying in the middle of this sinful and corrupted world. As born-again children of God, we have to fully depend on the indwelling Spirit of our living God to resist all kinds of temptations. Being in watchful prayer is the most humble submission to God that we stand firmly by the power of our sovereign God. We can also watch and pray for one another as we faithfully serve HIM.

Our honored members in the Cambodian ministry express their sincere thanks to our church leaders and support staff who prepared the Easter flowers, cards, and candies, which were delivered to them on Palm Sunday. They were so beautiful, and the words of God spiritually encourage them during these challenging times. We are so glad that our church regathered for our worship service on Palm Sunday. Some of our Cambodian members are unable to join in-person worship services still, but are actively joining the Cambodian Sunday school at 9:30 – 10:30 am, then worship with us on Facebook live-stream services. We are so excited to see our usher team and worship team welcome worshippers safely to the Sanctuary each Sunday.

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” —Matthew 26:41
morning. With the preparation of the pastoral and support staff, the hybrid services on Sundays are worthy to lift our living God in another way of worshiping Him during this pandemic. To God be the Glory!

COVID-19 has been spreading in Cambodia during April, and the government used a lockdown system to stop it. This is a good way to control the spread!

At our children’s center, we postponed our ministry activities due to the rules and regulations according to government guidelines. At the same time, we continued to help the poor families who needed medical and food supplies during the lockdown. We also prayed with them and spiritually encouraged them with the words of God and His promises in a safe environment as we visited them. They deeply appreciated our ministry support as they faced the ongoing financial crisis. We continue to praise and thank our God for protecting our active children, students, their families, and our CCM’s leaders during this period. It is not easy for us to do ministry with children and their families during this lockdown. There is only our prayer for them and their safety. It was good when they came to the center; they have been tough on trusting our almighty God. Now it is time for them to put their faith in actions.

On behalf of these children and our leaders, we are grateful to you who gave generously to FBC Easter Offering to help operate this ministry during this pandemic. We pray that this Easter offering will be used wisely to change the lives of those poor children, their families, and the community for His kingdom. Let us watch and pray and claim the promise of God in 1 Peter 3:12: “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their prayer.” May you have a blessed springtime!

― Pastor Peter
We are thankful for the tithes and offerings you send for your generosity in supporting the work of FBC.

We continue to be so grateful to our church family for your generosity in supporting the work of FBC. We are thankful for the tithes and offerings you send through your bank, by sending a check in the mail, or by using the online giving feature on our website (fbc-portland.org).

— Pastor Chris

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— FBC Executive Committee

Memorial Sunday Celebration

A special day set aside to honor those who have passed away over this last year.

Because Covid-19 restrictions have made appropriate memorial services difficult, we are inviting you to bring the name of your departed friend or loved one for a special time of remembrance.

During the service we will read the names of those remembered, and observe a moment of silence in their honor.

JOIN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PORTLAND FOR

MEMORIAL SUNDAY CELEBRATION

MAY 30, 11:00 AM

Cards are available at the Sunday in-person services, or by visiting our website at fbc-portland.org.
Welcome to: “The Path”

“The Path” is a community of people who are interested in reading the Bible together. We use the M’Cheyne reading plan, which is available through the free “YouVersion” app on smartphones. Depending on how quickly you want to read the Bible, people can read either 1, 2, or 4 chapters a day in order to reach their goal.

“The Path” also offers a conversation group that meets every Tuesday at 12:00 pm. Join us at the following Zoom link: https://tinyurl.com/FBC-ThePath

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Scenes from Holy Week

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Re-Gathering Update

We are grateful to be able to “re-gather” as a church family, in-person! Our ministry continues to follow a “hybrid” model, offering people the opportunity to choose between participating in FBC events either in-person or online.

Please note that the live-stream of our church services will still be provided every Sunday for those who prefer to attend church from home. The CD ministry will also continue indefinitely.

“Drive-Up Communion” will still be offered on May 2, from 8:30 – 9:30 am, as we go through this time of transition and seek to meet the spiritual needs of the various members of our church family.

When at church, please remember to wear your mask to enter the sanctuary and maintain social-distancing!

Teaching Series for May

• May 2: Child & Family Dedication — Part XIV: “He Must Increase” (John 3:22–36)
• May 9: Mother’s Day — Part XV: “The Woman and the Water” (John 4:1–14)
• May 16: Bridge-Building Sunday — “Now Is the Time” (Matthew 28:16–20, 2 Corinthians 5:18–20a)
• May 30: Memorial Sunday Celebration — “The Hope of Heaven” (Revelation 21:4)
## MAY

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### Events in grey are postponed until further notice.

**SUNDAY**
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Service
- 9:30 am: Khmer Sunday School via Zoom
- 10:00 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45 am: Khmer Devotional, online at fbc-portland.org
- 11:00 am: Worship Service, online at fbc-portland.org
  - Cambodian language, Rose Chapel
  - Children’s Church
  - for ages 3 through 7th Grade

**MONDAY—SUNDAY**
- 6:00 – 8:00 am: Eye Opener (AA meeting)

**MONDAY & THURSDAY**
- 2:00 – 4:00 pm: Drop-In Center

**TUESDAY**
- 12:00 pm: The Path Bible Study via Zoom
- 5:30 pm: Dinner + A Movie

**WEDNESDAY**
- 5:45 pm: Wednesday Night Dinner
- 7:00 pm: Sermon-based Bible Study online
- 7:30 pm: Choir rehearsal (September – June)
- 8:00 pm: Khmer Bible Study via Zoom

**THURSDAY**
- 6:00 pm: Community Youth Group via Zoom
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm: Downtowners (AA meeting)

**FRIDAY**
- Office closed
- 6:00 pm: FOCUS

**WE WILL RETURN TO OUR REGULAR SCHEDULE WHEN REGULATIONS PERMIT US TO DO SO.**
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Remembering and hoping with you,
—Pastor Matt

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**Join us online SUNDAY for livestream at 11:00 AM**

**Facebook.com/firstbaptistportland**

Service available on YouTube at 2:30 pm

tinyurl.com/firstbaptistportland