

The Baptist Beacon

~ June 2023 ~

P S A L M 30

**God's favor
lasts a lifetime.**

Pastor's Message

Baptist Bites: Andrew Fuller, Theologian and Catalyst for Baptist World Missions

A hundred years seems like a long time, but there was an amazing amount of revolution crammed into a single century. If you think I'm writing about our century, you've got good reasons. But actually, I mean the 18th century. Think about it: the Industrial Revolution began in 1760's Great Britain and swept the world. The American Revolution started a tsunami in geopolitics; the traditional balance of power was upset, accelerating the shift from monarchies to democracies. The French Revolution followed in its wake, beginning in 1787. Added to the technological, economic and political revolutions that took place, we covered the spiritual revolution called the First Great Awakening (1730-1755) last month. There was an additional, Second Great Awakening from 1790-1840. Taken together, you can see how so many of the old, familiar things about the Western world were suddenly tipped over, broken up and reassembled in surprising ways. The Baptist movement was in the middle of all that flux, contributing to it and being transformed by it.

Simply gaining the freedom to meet and worship according to their Biblical convictions was a grueling, ongoing battle; we've covered some of this in previous months. But as their churches multiplied and enjoyed more relative peace, Baptists were able to shift their focus from survival to mission. The first step was to lay some theological groundwork: a compelling, scriptural challenge to take up Christ's mandate for world missions.



English pastor, [Andrew Fuller](#) (1754-1815) was one of the most important theologians in Baptist history. In fact, the famous preacher Charles Spurgeon called him the greatest theologian of the 18th century. Fuller is important for this discussion because his clear, reasonable exposition of Scripture helped English Baptists move past some of the hyper-Calvinistic teachings from earlier theologians.

For example, John Gill (1697-1771) was a great theological leader of the previous generation. He published a series of Scripture commentaries that most Baptist preachers used in their study. Many preachers today still benefit from his work. As a rock-ribbed Calvinist, however, Gill held forth the determinative sovereignty of God in

Pastor's Message *(continued)*

salvation: that He has elected some people for salvation while destining others for

condemnation. A corollary of this thinking is that Christ's sacrifice on the cross is only meant for the elect. The non-chosen (the reprobate) do not have access to Christ's finished work.

This type of thinking leads to some troubling applications for evangelism. If God has already elected a certain group to salvation, and if the grace God extends to them is irresistible (another Calvinist precept), then there is no use for a preacher to urge the unbelievers in his congregation to come to Christ for salvation. The elect won't need any urging, and the reprobate can't be saved, anyway. Christ didn't die for them, only for the elect. Andrew Fuller had grown up under preaching very much in the John Gill model, by a man named John Eve. According to Fuller, Eve "had little or nothing to say to the unconverted." Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit undertook a direct work on Fuller's heart, and he fell under a strong conviction of his own sin. Baptized in 1770 and maturing quickly as a Christian, the church recognized that God had definitely given him gifts for ministry. In 1771 Eve left for another church and Fuller was called to be their new pastor until 1782. He was then called on to pastor the Baptist church in Kettering, Northamptonshire. Kettering was the town in which John Gill had been born.

When Fuller started his preaching ministry, he too practiced along the lines of Gill and Eve. However, he'd always felt unsettled by the fact that there had been no appeal to him or other unbelievers to come to Christ. He decided to do a deep study of some of the major Calvinist theologians, including Jonathan Edwards, John Gill, John Owen, and John Bunyan. (One wonders if it was required to be named "John" in order to be a theologian in those days!) Comparing these authors on salvation, he noted that both John Bunyan and John Owen urged preachers to extend a free offer of salvation to *all* people. John Gill was opposed. He came to conclude that his former style of preaching, emulating Gill, was "anti-scriptural and defective in many respects." He decided to make his stand that Christ had come to die for the sins of "whosoever will," to put it in the way of John 3:16. The atoning work of Christ was *offered* to the entire world, and would only be *applied* to those who would repent and believe. The culmination of his study was to publish his first work, *The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation*, published in 1785. The book's major theme is that "Faith in Christ is the duty of all men who hear, or have opportunity to hear, the gospel."

Pastor's Message *(continued)*

Fuller's works helped to foster a more moderate Calvinistic belief that still upheld a version of divine election, but left open the door for all unbelievers to hear and receive the benefits of the Gospel. And once the theological impetus was established, Baptists began to experience a deep passion to see the Gospel spread to the whole world. Fuller himself was a co-founder of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792. It was a voluntary association of Baptist churches to contribute resources and equip missionaries. Fuller made a continuous circuit of Britain between 1798 and 1813 to fire up Baptist believers and raise funds for missionaries. During this time he was away from his home about three months out of the year. The Baptist Missionary Society basically launched the Baptist missionary movement around the world. Cooperative missions is a major pillar of who Baptists are today.

When we resume our survey next month, we'll look at Fuller's deep friendship with, and the Baptist Missionary Society's support of one of our first Baptist missionaries: William Carey.

Your Brother and Servant,
Pastor Scottⁱ

ⁱSource: *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*, by Anthony L. Chute, Nathan A. Finn and Michael A.G. Haykin. (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2015).

Church Family News



3 Sam Bettis
5 Jill Albright
9 Justin McBride
16 Barb Caughey
17 Todd Clayton
30 Eva McCallion

Anniversaries

1 Tom & Karen Bepler
8 Rick & Debbie Biondi
10 Scott & Carol Jones
24 Dave & Linda Skinner
24 Alan & Roxanna McBride

2023 High School Graduates

Christopher John Dunn, Tough High School
(grandson of Karen Sarge)

Owen Gall, Greensburg Salem Sr. High School
& Central Westmd Career & Technology Center
(grandson of Keith & Dana Loucks)

Toby Rosensteel, Greensburg Salem Sr. High School
(grandson of Rev. Bram & Carol Kjellgren)

2023 College Graduate

Michael Ewing
(grandson of the late Joe & Ginny Ewing)

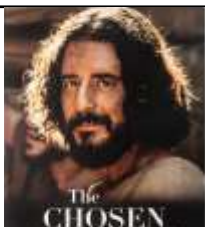
Church News *(continued)*

Mark your calendars!!!

"THE CHOSEN" FILM

*Free movie nights -
here at First Baptist !*

**See the Story of Jesus
Through the Eyes of
Those Who Followed Him**



This month movie nights are on Thursdays,
June 1, 15 and 29 @ 6:30 pm

**INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS!**

*(check your bulletin inserts for
descriptions of each episode)*

"BAPTIST BRASS"

Rev. Bram Kjellgren, Cornet; Brian Blackall, Cornet;
Mary Ellen Patrick, French Horn;
Todd Clayton, Trombone

Our newest addition! Forrest Moore, Trombone

LADIES LUNCHEON

Tuesday, June 6 @ 11:45 am
The Boulevard
900 Towne Square Drive
Greensburg



THURSDAY,
JUNE 8
AT 6:30 PM



IT'S TIME TO SHARE

One Great Hour of Sharing
Offering collected during the month of June

LET'S PLAY BOCCE !

Mondays @ 6:30 PM



FATHER'S DAY GIFT FOR UNION MISSION

The Mission Board will be collecting men's
socks to be given to the Union Mission in
Latrobe in honor of Father's Day.

*Please place the socks in the yellow wagon by
Sunday, June 18*



For those who asked
Diane Meyers what the
name is of the flowering
bush outside of the
Fellowship Hall.

It is called ...

Slender Pride of
Rochester

IS THIS YOURS ?



Found under the pew in front of
the sound system cabinet.
Actual size is much smaller

Remembering Our Loved Ones

Jim Townsend, May 22, 2023
(father of Jesse Townsend)

James "Jay" Caughey, May 26, 2023
Juanita Legg, May 29, 2023

Our deepest sympathy to the families,
Sincerely, First Baptist Church Family

Church News

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 2023

- > Treasurer's Report: New copier will be \$3,500.00 paid out of Capital Expense Fund (S454); Church Insurance to be paid yearly
- > Membership Care Board: T&T receipts \$2,274.50 & \$150 donation; Fellowship Fund total amount is \$4,973.95
- > Education & Youth Board: The BOCCE court is ready for the summer games
- > Property Board: The storage shed is almost done, thanks to Rick Biondi, Sam Bettis, Jim Smith, Jim Gongaware; church electronic sign still in process; looking into resurfacing the driveways of parsonage and pavilion;
- > Worship Board: Plans for our Memorial Day Service are underway; taps will be played by handbells; need communion servers



FARMER'S MARKET VOUCHERS FOR SENIORS

The 2023 Senior Farmers' Market Program provides eligible seniors with checks to purchase fresh vegetables grown in Pennsylvania at any participating Farmers' Market. The program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Applications, Sign up Schedule and Locations, and a list of Farmer's Markets and Stands are located in the yellow folder on the bulletin board in the foyer.

(Dana has extra copies if you need more)



ABWMOPAD

Thrive Retreat 2023

August 18-20, 2023

Camp Hebron

957 Camp Hebron Road, Halifax, PA 17032 *(18 miles north of Harrisburg, PA)*

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. - Romans 12:13

The purposeful design of this retreat is that we get away from the world and draw near to God and each other through quiet times, small groups, short group sessions, mission projects, planned activities and free time.

The 3 days/2-night retreat fee is \$170 per person.

The Retreat Fee includes lodging in newly-updated motel style rooms (2-4 per room), 5 meals, meeting spaces, and full use of many activities provided for guests as Camp Hebron, including the swimming pool, frisbee golf, MANY walking trails and much more of God's beautiful creation to explore. For some we know this will be a nostalgic stay, for some this will be a first-time get away to this very special piece of heaven on earth.

REGISTRATION - [Click Here to Register Online](#)

Note: The Mission Board would like to get a group of women from the church to go. The price is affordable and Camp Hebron is beautifully situated in a secluded & serene wooded location—a perfect place for spending some quiet time with the Lord. [Please click here to see for yourself.](#)

A \$70 Non-Refundable Deposit is due with Registration Form.
The Full Fee is \$170 and must be paid by July 15, 2023.

ABCOPAD News



DID YOU KNOW?

One Great Hour of Sharing began seventy-four years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. On Saturday evening, March 26, 1949, a national broadcast titled "One Great Hour" featured a remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities. The 33rd U.S. President, Harry S. Truman's, radio address during the broadcast included the following:

"There are thousands of children in foreign lands today who have no memory of their parents, no knowledge of the meaning of the words "home" and "family," and who have forgotten what it feels like to have enough to eat. There are hopeless thousands who wander among the shattered towns seeking a place to rest, seeking security and a chance to begin their lives anew. There are many who pray to God only in secret, fearing persecution if they profess their beliefs openly.

It is hard for us to comprehend grief and distress such as this because we in America are so much more fortunate. Our country has been blessed with material riches. Our homes are secure. We can go to our churches and worship God as we desire.

We know that we enjoy these great blessings not because of any special merit on our part, but because of the bounty of God. It is to His Providence that we owe the richness of our country and our heritage of freedom. Since these good things come to us from Him, we know that we must use them for the good of others in accordance with His will."



Harry S. Truman, 33rd U.S. President

The broadcast concluded by asking Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. More than 75,000 churches responded.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing serves people in over 80 countries around the world. Sponsored by five Christian U.S. denominations and Church World Service, One Great Hour of Sharing makes sure that we can respond to needs as soon as they happen and that tens of thousands of people receive support for ongoing relief, rehabilitation, and development.

The World Relief Committee of the American Baptist Board of General Ministries reviews each development project request funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing offering received from American Baptists. Gifts reach the ministries and people in need through a network of regional and international partnerships with the following:

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (International Ministries)

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Baptist World Aid – the compassionate arm of the Baptist World Alliance, supporting three areas of ministry: relief, development, and support of national partners.

Church World Service – Founded in 1946, Church World Service is a relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry supported by 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. Church World Service transforms communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster.

The ABCOPAD Regional Newsletter
NOTES & NEWS, THOUGHTS & VIEWS
[May 2023 edition](#)

The ABCOPAD Regional Web Update
[Click here to see the latest updates](#)

Community News

... THRIFT STORE SHOPPERS...

Click on > [Christian Layman Facebook page](#) and you will be amazed at the appealing merchandise !

Jun	3	Sat	summer dresses 50% off
Jun	5	Mon	all pjs 50% off
Jun	7	Wed	bottoms 50% off
Jun	10	Sat	five clothing items \$5, coats not included
Jun	12	Mon	Hi end purses 50% off
Jun	14	Wed	shoes and purses 50% off
Jun	17	Sat	children's clothing 50% off
Jun	19	Mon	jackets and tops 50% off
Jun	21	Wed	capris and shorts 50% off
Jun	24	Sat	bathing suits 50% off
Jun	26	Mon	all ladies clothing 50% off
Jun	28	Wed	all men's clothing 50% off



For more information: 724-537-7011
 Website: misterrogersfamilyday.org
 Facebook: Mister Rogers Family Day

*SummerSounds - free concerts
 Fridays @ 7pm
 St. Clair Park, Greensburg*



CONCERTS and EVENTS

Westmoreland County / Hempfield Twp Events

Trips Just Ducky Tours; picks up/drops off @ PetSmart in Greensburg for Various Trips and Excursions of all ages

**Youngwood Community Yard Sales
 June 10, 7am-3pm**

**Ligonier Night Market
 June 15, 5pm-8pm**

**Westmoreland County Air Show
 June 16, 8pm and June 18, 12am**

**Southwest Greensburg Community Yard Sales
 June 17, 8am-2pm**

**Celebrating 250 Years, Historic Hanna's Town
 June 18, 10am-3pm**

**Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival
 June 29, 11am-8pm**

<p>June 2 The Seven Wonders <small>Fleetwood Mac Tribute</small></p>	<p>July 21 Sweet Lizzy Project <small>Anthem Rock</small></p>
<p>June 9 Elton Rohn <small>Elton John Tribute</small></p>	<p>July 28 The Suitcase Junket <small>Singer Songwriter</small></p>
<p>June 16 Laurie Morvan Band <small>High Energy Blues</small></p>	<p>August 4 Bill Toms & Hard Rain <small>Soul, Americana, Rock</small></p>
<p>June 23 Victoria Victoria <small>Indie Pop</small></p>	<p>August 11 The Slambovian Circus of Dreams <small>Punk, Classical, Hillbilly, Floyd</small></p>
<p>June 30 Willie Nile Band <small>Rock</small></p>	<p>August 18 Start Making Sense <small>Talking Heads Tribute</small></p>
<p>July 7 Toubab Krewe <small>Rock, African, Jam</small></p>	<p>August 25 Dancing Dream <small>ABBA Tribute</small></p>
<p>July 14 Lao Tizer Band <small>Jazz, Classical, New Age, Jam</small></p>	

HEAR THE MUSIC AT SUMMERSOUNDS.COM

Fun for Dad

FATHER'S DAY

SCATTERGORIES

FATHER'S DAY

SCATTERGORIES

On the lines below, write down words that begin with each letter of the word BEST.

- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1. MOVIE | 5. SPORT |
| 2. TV SHOW | 6. FAMOUS FATHER |
| 3. ANIMAL | 7. FATHER'S DAY GIFT |
| 4. FOOD | 8. SOMETHING DAD LIKES |

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1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Matthew [references are in brackets]

(Answers are at the bottom of this page — no cheating!)

1. **The angel of the Lord instructed Joseph to call Mary's son Jesus, for He was to . . .** [Matthew 1:21]
(a) restore Jerusalem (b) transmit messages from the Lord
(c) save His people from their sins (d) preach love, not hate
2. **Jesus was born in . . .** [Matthew 2:1]
(a) Bethlehem of Judea
(b) Bethlehem of Zebulun
(c) Nazareth
(d) Jerusalem
3. **The wise men, because they saw in the East the star of Him who had been born King of the Jews, came to . . .** [Matthew 2:1-2]
(a) Jerusalem (b) Bethlehem (c) Nazareth (d) Capernaum
4. **The source of Herod's information as to the town where the Christ was to be born was . . .**
[Matthew 2:1-8; Micah 5:2]
(a) the wise men (b) his security police (c) Micah (d) Joseph
5. **In Matthew, the number of wise men is . . .** [Matthew 2:1-12]
(a) two (b) three (c) four (d) unspecified
6. **Joseph's flight with Jesus and Mary to Egypt, just before Herod ordered the slaughter in Bethlehem and its vicinity, also served to . . .** [Matthew 2:13-15; Hosea 11:1]
(a) prove the power of the Lord (b) alert Israel to the menace it faced
(c) fulfill a prophecy in Hosea (d) reveal that the Lord's anger at the Pharaohs had cooled
7. **Herod's reaction to the wise men was to order the slaughter, in Bethlehem and its vicinity, of certain . . .** [Matthew 2:16]
(a) wise men
(b) parents named either Mary or Joseph
(c) children
(d) Jews
8. **When Joseph, returning with his family to Israel, selected Nazareth, this choice served to . . .**
[Matthew 2:19-23]
(a) erase his unpleasant memories of Bethlehem
(b) place him close to the border
(c) put him in touch with influential friends
(d) fulfill what had been spoken by the prophets
9. **John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, wore a garment of . . .** [Matthew 3:1,4]
(a) goatskin (b) camel's hair (c) papyrus (d) wool
10. **John the Baptist's food was . . .** [Matthew 3:4]
(a) locusts and wild honey
(b) wild honey and manna
(c) locusts and manna
(d) manna and troglodytes

First Baptist Church June 2023

1228 Brinkerton Road, Greensburg, PA 15601 (724) 837-1080

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
Church Office Hours 9am-2pm Tues-Thurs *Birthday **Anniversary FY (Foyer) FH (Fellowship Hall) S (Sanctuary) N (Narthex) MOW (Meals On Wheels) P (Pavilion) L (Library) C (Conference Room)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="7">May</th></tr> <tr><th>Sat</th><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	May							Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="7">July</th></tr> <tr><th>Sat</th><th>Sun</th><th>Mon</th><th>Tue</th><th>Wed</th><th>Thu</th><th>Fri</th></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	July							Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						1 "THE CHOSEN" Movie Night S 6:30 pm **Karen/Tom Bepler	2	3 MEN'S BREAKFAST with Pastor Scott Café Italiano @ 9 am 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH **Sam Bettis
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4 10:45 am Worship Service COMMUNION SUNDAY	5 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 6:30 pm Sis of Light Rm 121 BOCCE @ 6:30 pm **Jill Albright	6 11 am NA (mtg@12) FH LADIES LUNCHEON The Boulevard Greensburg 11:45 am	7 11:30 am Out-To-Lunch Bunch Bible Study FH 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH 6 pm The Baptist Brass S 7 pm Praise Team S	8 COUNCIL MEETING 6:30 pm FH **Rick/Debbie Biondi	9	10 6 pm NA (mtg@7) FH **Scott/Carol Jones																																																																																										
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First Baptist Church
1228 Brinkerton Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

**COME JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10:45 AM**

**Adult Sunday School is postponed for now
Kids Connection has resumed**

Church Phone: (724) 837-1080

Email: gbgbapt@comcast.net

Website: <https://fbcgreensburg.com>

**Secretary's Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-2pm**

**Tues thru Sat - Morning Devotions
with Pastor Scott Jones**

