

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COURIER

APRIL 2019 EDITION



OUR STAFF

Rev. Rod Beardsley - Senior Pastor
Rev. Phil Lowther—Assistant Pastor

Debbie Dine - Secretary

Email: csfbc@zoominternet.net

Website: www.csfbc.org

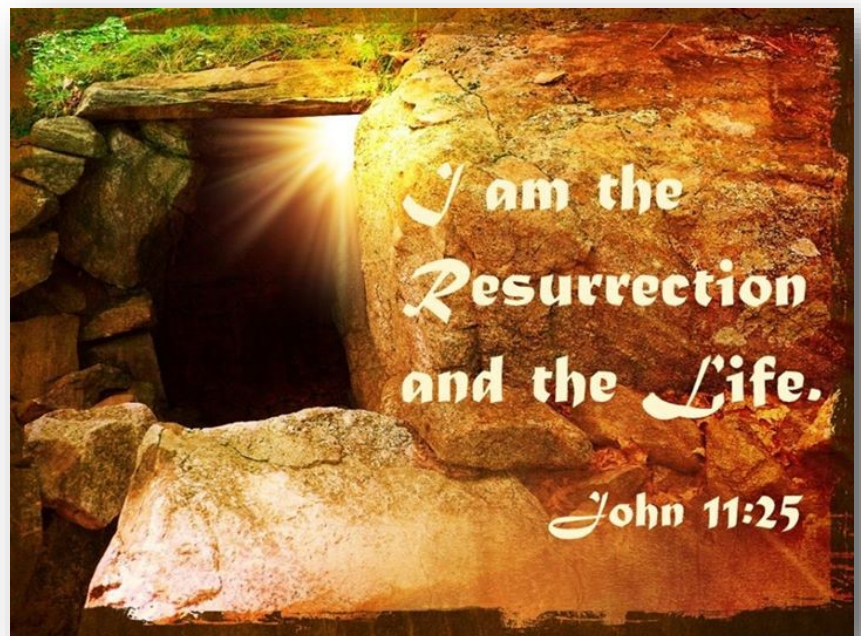
Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8-5

Office is closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 pm

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastor Rod's Message	2
Pastor Phil's Message	3
Deacon's Devotional	4
Health Ministry	5
Honor Roll/Lenten Schedule	6
B/days, Anniversaries, Ministries	7
Special Events and Announcements	8
Book of the Month and Prayers	9
Calendar	10
In The News/Camp Judson	11



Live a Life that Matters

Sunday services: 8:20 and 11 am; Sunday School for all ages: 9:45 am

CSFBC MISSION STATEMENT

"Infusing TRUTH to produce selfless followers of God."

PASTOR ROD'S MESSAGE

Unimaginable, but true!

The Easter season is always a tough time of year for me. Although we all love the resurrection, getting there is a very long road. Jesus went through so much in the path to the empty tomb. After 3 years of ministry and doing the spectacular and supernatural most of Jesus disciples walked away from Him. IN John 6 of the 70 that went out healing and casting out demons only 12 remained. And all of those fought over which of them were the greatest. (Luke 22:24) And of course we remember the last supper as satan filled Judas and he went a betrayed The Savior. (John 13:2) As if that wasn't enough Jesus turned and looked at Peter just as the rooster crowed. (Luke 22:61) That's after they were all asleep during His loud cries and weeping in the Garden. (Hebrews 5:7) It must've been the final heartbreak for The Son of Man. All His earthly support was gone, everyone had forsaken Him. That has to be one of the heaviest moments in life when we feel forgotten, forsake and utterly alone. But that's not the end.

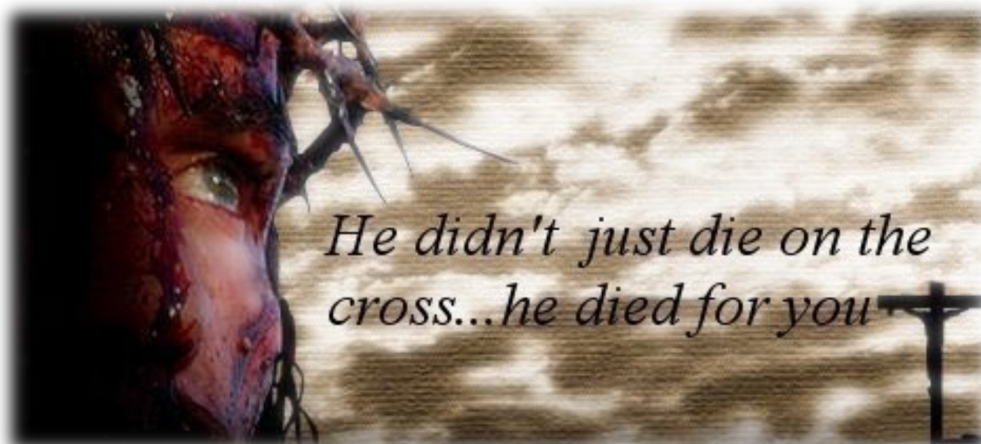
Philip Yancey writes in his book, "The Jesus I Never Knew", an imaginary scenario that is both quite plausible and probable. Imagine with me this cruel military force that occupies Jerusalem and wants to make an example of this hunted-down criminal. Their goal was mockery and humiliation. Yancey suggests that the interaction with the soldiers would go something like this: *Messiah, huh? Great, let's hear a prophecy. Wham! Who hit you, huh? Thunk! C'mon, tell us, spit it out, Mr. Prophet. For a Messiah, you don't know much, do you? You say you're a king? Hey, Captain, get a load out of this. We have us a regular kind here, don't we. Well, then, let's all kneel down before hizzoner. What's this? A king without a crown? Oh, that will never do. Here, Mr. King, we'll fix you a crown, we will. Crunch! How's that? A little crooked? I'll fix that. Hey, hold still! My, look how modest we are. Well, how about a robe then...something to cover that bloody mess on your back. What happened, did your majesty have a little tumble?*

Gentle, kind and gracious were not in the soldier's vocabulary. They were rough battle seasoned and ready for a fight. They loved violence and brutality.

It's the reason why every year I religiously get out our DVD of "The Passion". Honestly, I have never watched it all the way through without stopping it for a mental health break. How anyone could brutalize someone that unmercifully is way beyond my comprehension. I cannot watch the perpetual bludgeoning even in a movie! But to think that He endured that for me is even further beyond what I can handle. Yet I know it's true.

Then of course there is the cross! The agony of the cross is where we get our word 'excruciating'. The word literally means: out of the cross. That kind of pain warrants its very own word, but remember many were crucified with the kind of agony, but ONLY One died bearing the sin of the world. The weight of our own sin individually crushes us, but Jesus took all of our sin and bore it. Yes, this is a tough time of year for the thoughtful Christian. Yet it is also blessed with the assurance that if He loves us that much then I can be sure that I can indeed entrust my soul to Him. Have you done that, yet? There's no better time than this season of the year. Ponder this: "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21 Unimaginable, but true!

By grace through faith,

PASTOR PHIL'S MESSAGE

Do you have a nose like God's?

Exodus 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (ESV)

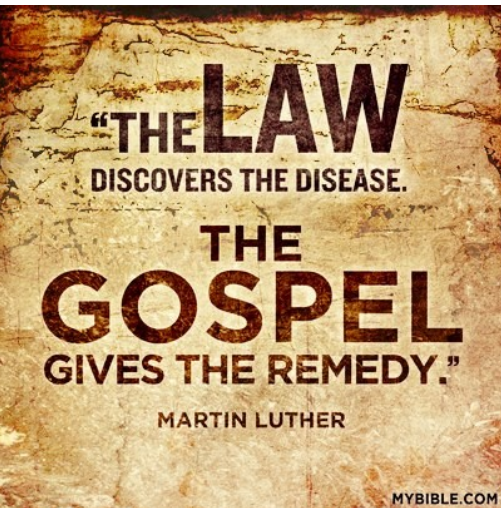


As a teenager, I had an anger problem. I remember storming off on more than one occasion over something little or losing my cool because of something stupid. We all have the propensity to give in to anger on some level. We sometimes confront or withdraw based on our feelings. In today's day and age, we see that people get offended and lose their temper very quickly. This is to say we have people today that are the opposite of how God describes Himself. You will not find many people today who are merciful, gracious, and slow to anger.

The mercy of God means he is sympathetic towards His people. He loves His people out of the overflow of His goodness. God is gracious, meaning He is kind toward those who have placed their trust in Jesus alone for salvation. We find that it is, in fact, His kindness (slow-anger/patience) that leads us to repentance. We turn from sin to trust in our merciful and gracious God who lives forever! He invites us to be His kids in eternity by grace through faith. His slow to anger-ness is fascinating. The word in Hebrew literally means to be long-nosed, this may refer to how quickly one's nostrils flare when angry. Proverbs speaks often about those quickly angered or slow in anger, the Bible praises those who are self-controlled versus those who reactionarily are quick in anger. God carries such mercy and grace that He doesn't act right away as we deserve. We earn Hell and He offers forgiveness and reconciliation by His blood.

His patience is amazing. While we deserve the punishment of hell, He gives us steadfast love and faithfulness. What?! How is this possible? We deserve death and hell because of our sin; our wages should be death and separation but He is holding out steadfast love that seeks you out like a locked missile. Like a hound on the hunt, His grace finds you and brings mercy if you accept it! He has targeted you with His compassion, so stop running and turn to trust Him completely.

We see God's reaction to death and suffering at the tomb of Lazarus. Here Jesus confronts death unlike anyone ever has before or since. Our English translations don't communicate the level of emotion when they say Jesus was deeply moved, the word literally means He snorted in anger (John 11:33). He was angry at the effects of sin and suffering. Shortly after raising Lazarus from the dead He answers death with victory over it at the empty tomb. This is only possible by the work of Jesus on the Cross. There is no better news, no better Gospel. See God forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin on the Cross. All of Scripture speaks of Christ's work. From the garden to the Cross and from the Cross to the New Heavens, we see God visiting grace upon grace to those who believe. There is no other way to escape hell. God promises not to clear the guilty. We are all guilty. He paid for the guilty by His blood!



Instead of clearing the guilty, God takes on our sin and guilt on the Cross. He has borne the wrath of the Father for your sake and mine. His blood speaks a better word paying our sins with His complete righteousness. Now death's sting is taken away and we are made new as new creatures. We are new in Christ. I pray this amazes you this Easter! Revel in your newness by renewed faith in our amazing Savior and Lord. The grave is empty so that you can be filled to overflowing with God's very Presence, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow!

Pastor Phil

Deacons Devotional

. Unceasing Prayer - What does that mean ?

We kind of know or should know what that means .. but sometimes we just need to be reminded or refresh our memories .

Prayer is communication with God, and like all communication, it can be developed to maximum efficiency or allowed to languish (grow weak).

Which you choose will determine the quality of your spiritual life.

Ironically, the freedom of worship we enjoy in our society and our high standard of living make it easy to become complacent about prayer and presume on God's grace. Consequently, many who say they trust in God actually live as if they don't need Him at all. Such neglect is sinful and leads to spiritual disaster.

Luke 18: 1-8 The Parable of the Persistent Widow, Jesus taught that we should always pray and not give up. Giving up on prayer speaks of becoming weary or cowardly or giving in to evil. In Ephesians 6 (after we are told to put on the full armor of God) in verse 18 we are told to pray in the spirit at all times, with all prayers and petitions, and be alert to keep on praying for all the saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says " Pray without ceasing." That doesn't mean to do nothing but pray. It simply means living in constant state of God-consciousness. If you see a beautiful sunrise or a bouquet of flowers, your first response is to thank God for the beauty of His creation. If you see someone in distress, you intercede on his or her behalf. You see every experience of life in relation to God.

God wants you to be diligent and faithful in prayer! Thank God for the privilege of communing with Him in prayer. Ask God to reveal any areas in your praying that need to be strengthened.

The exact relationship between God's sovereignty and our prayers is a mystery, but it is clear that somehow God's Word and our prayers are co-laborers in achieving God's will.

Daniel 9: 1-19 What was Daniel's attitude toward God, himself, and his people? Then what did Daniel request? Daniel was in tune with God's Word and understood that somehow his prayers were part of God's plan.

(from The MacArthur Study Bible and notes.)

IS PRAYER YOUR
STEERING WHEEL
OR YOUR SPARE TIRE?
-CORRIE TEN BOOM



Health Ministry

Vaping Rises Among Teens

A new survey found an alarming rise in the number of American teens who tried vaping last year. The study suggests that vaping may be driving an increase in nicotine use for teens.

In vaping, a battery powered device called an e-cigarette heats a liquid into a vapor that can be inhaled. The vapor may contain nicotine (the addictive drug in tobacco), flavoring, and other chemicals. E-cigarettes can also be used with marijuana, hash oil, or other substances.

Vaping may pose serious and avoidable health risks. Exposure to nicotine during youth can lead to addiction and cause long-term harm to brain development. The vapor can also contain toxins (including ones that cause cancer) and tiny particles that are harmful when breathed in.

More than 44,000 students took part in the 2018 annual survey of drug, alcohol, and cigarette use in 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. About 37% of 12th graders reported vaping in 2018, compared with 28% in 2017. Vaping of each substance that was asked about increased. This includes nicotine, flavored liquids, marijuana, and hash oil.

“Vaping is reversing hard-fought declines in the number of adolescents who use nicotine,” says Dr. Richard Miech, who led the study at the University of Michigan. “These results suggest that vaping is leading youth into nicotine use and nicotine addiction, not away from it.”

“Teens are clearly attracted to the marketable technology and flavorings seen in vaping devices,” explains Dr. Nora D. Volkow, director of NIH’s National Institute on Drug Abuse. “However, it is urgent that teens understand the possible effects of vaping on overall health, the development of the teen brain, and the potential for addiction.”

From The National Institutes for Health Feb 2019.



The Dangers of
VAPING & E-CIGARETTES

- ⚡ Raised Blood Fat Levels
- ⚡ Increased Blood Pressure
- ⚡ Constricted Blood Vessels
- ⚡ Stimulated Heart

HONOR ROLL



Congratulations to our outstanding scholars! They made the Honor Roll at their respective schools.

Calvary Baptist:

Anna Held, Levi Gardner, Everett Gardner, Natalie Held, Brett Kania, Laurel Steudler

Cambridge Springs Jr./Sr. High:

Dylann Dupont, Micah Humes, Paige Porter, Parker Schmidt, Cameron Doubet, Jordyn Wheeler, Kyler Astor, Nathan Held, Aubrey Klemm, Parker Doubet, Jacob Jones, Cori Schmidt

Crawford County Career and Technical Center:

Jacob Jones, Cyrus Gage

Saegertown Jr./Sr. High School:

Cassidy Boylan

LENTEN/RESURRECTION SCHEDULE

April 3rd:	Lunch at Methodist Church	Noon
April 10th:	Lunch at CMA Church	Noon
April 14th:	Palm Sunday/Baptism service	9:45 am
April 17th:	Lunch at St. Paul's Lutheran	Noon
April 18th:	Maundy Thursday Communion	7 pm
April 19th:	Good Friday	
April 20th:	Egg Hunt	10 am
April 21st:	Resurrection Day!	6:30 am Sunrise Service at Tom Gage home
		7 am Breakfast in All Purpose Room
		8:20 am Worship Service; 9:45 am Sunday School; 11 am Worship Service



APRIL BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSIES



23rd: Drew Jardina
 26th: Cameron Doubet
 Paige Porter
 27th: Bryce Kania
 30th: Trent Wheeler
 Karon Runyan

1st: Ken Walczak
 3rd: Julie Kania
 Abby Kightlinger
 4th: Larry Klemm
 5th: David Humes
 Linda Shearer
 Chris Zirkle
 6th: Beckett Joslin
 8th: Tom Gage, Jr.
 11th: Judy Wrye
 12th; Karen Joslin
 14th: Kobe Wheeler
 17th: Bonnie Boylan
 19th: Cyrus Gage
 Brian Smith
 20th: Ken Dine



4th: Diamond and Amy Jones
 11th: Dave and Janet Wise
 16th: Dan and Cathy Williams
 22nd: Jay and Lorraine Acklin

Nursery

1st Service:

7th: LuAnn Wheeler and Brenda VanMatre
 14th: Karen Burchill and Missy Zimmerman
 21st: Gina Brace and Tenae Gage
 28th: Carol Thumm and Teresa Findlay

Sunday School:

7th: Ken Dine and Paul Sellers
 14th: Wendy Gardner and Dani Schmidt
 21st: Pam Lowther and Lydia Sellers
 28th: Josh and Emily Mumau

2nd Service:

7th: Robyn Kovschak and Jenn Howell
 14th: Kristin Held and Barb Beardsley
 21st: Darlene Gorske and Emily Cadle
 28th: Andi Lundin and Brenda Morrow

Garden Room Schedule

Please be sure to call your partner prior to working to confirm. If you are unable to work, please call to switch with someone and notify your partner. If you cannot work or find anyone to switch please call Laura at 398-2507



April

6th: Paula Steudler and Bonnie Boylan
 13th: Toni Merritt and Karon Runyan
 20th: Closed for Resurrection Sunday
 27th: Sandy and Heidi Mumau

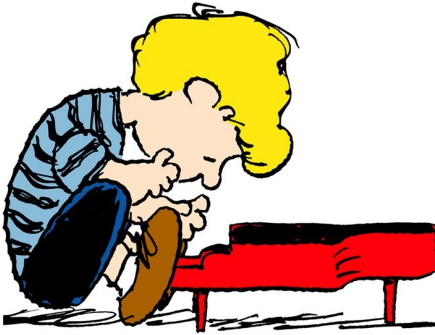
Special Events and Announcements

IS PRAYER YOUR
STEERING WHEEL
OR YOUR SPARE TIRE?
-CORRIE TEN BOOM

Tuesday April
2nd
Prayer Meeting



Parenting Small Group
Friday April 5th
7 pm
Lowther Residence



You are invited to a piano recital
on Saturday April 13th.
Several of our youth that take
lessons from Wendy Gardner
will be performing.



Baptism service
Sunday April 14th
beginning promptly at 9:45



Book of the Month

Captured by Grace by Dr. David Jeremiah

If you look at the titles of the chapters you see the subtitles are lines of the song Amazing Grace.

As you read the Prelude, which I have learned to read, you read a historical fiction about Paul and how he went from house to house taking Christians 'in the name of God'. At the end of this it says that "*he* is the one who is pursued, and that someone or something else is doing the pursuing. He is God's champion, defender of the faith. All he can do is soldier on, keep doing his job, root out these infidels, capture them one by one. Capture their faith, capture their – yes, that's the word – their *grace*."

Jump years ahead. There is a captain gazing out to sea listening to the cry of the gulls. He is restless and impatient. He wants to get busy gathering his crew and loading his ship for his homeward voyage. But there was still business to do.

The cargo to be loaded was African slaves. At one hundred sixty, maybe one hundred seventy dollars per head. It depended on how many came ashore alive.

He was not insensitive to these things. He would not be in attendance when the cargo hold is opened and the tally is taken.

As the captain strolls now by the seaside, he hears the footfalls again directly behind him. He whirls around quickly and finds nothing but the ocean wind. His restlessness must be to blame.

And yet Captain Newton has felt it more and more on these business trips; a sense of being followed; of being watched. Even as he has pursued the fortune of slave trading, he has been unable to escape the feeling that it is *he* who is being pursued. Some steady footstep always out of eyesight, some whispered voice just beyond his hearing.

"Something relentless," John Newton mumbles to himself. "Something is pursuing us all."

Continue reading and see how we all can be Captured by Grace.



SPECIAL PRAYERS

The Grieving: Karon Runyan, Dan Viglione, Jan Cory, Joyce Cory, Nadine Shaffer, Rodney Schmidt

Cancer: Karen Held, Larry Haroon, Kelsey McClellan, Karon Runyan, Jason Runyan

Health Issues: Emily Williams, Kim Marzke, Misty Hovis, Julie Brink, Barb Ellis

Rehabilitating: Janet Wise, Gary Boylan, Bill Hodge, Jim Acklin, Tom Anderson

Nursing Home: Paul Kirk, Jean Port, Ralph Batchelor, Judy Klemm

College Students: Austin Jones, Katie Duda, Stephen VanMatre, Cami Schmidt, Neely Colvin, Brenna Rindfuss, Clayton Dingle, Zachary Dingle, Jordan Anderson

Military: Dillon Lang, Keith Bentley, Howard VanMatre, Adam Alm, Jimmy Humes, Gregg Merritt, Wesley Fleischer, Christian Ross

Guidance: Brian & Lynette Smith, Lucas Crowe



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Open 8-5 7 pm Trustees Pray for Pastor Phil	2 7 pm Prayer Meeting	3 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch Methodist Church	4 6:30 pm Prison Ministry 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	5 Office Open 8:30-5 7 pm Parenting Small Group	6 Outdoor Beautifica- tion Pray for Pastor Rod
7 COMMUNION 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	8 Office Open 8-5 6 pm C.E. Board Pray for Pastor Phil	9	10 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch CMA 3:30-7 Recital re- hearsal	11 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	12 Office Open 8:30-5	13 Piano Recital Outdoor Beautifica- tion Rain date Pray for Pastor Rod
14 Blood Pressures Taken 9:45 am Baptism 6 pm Youth 3:16	15 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Deacons Pray for Pastor Phil	16	17 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study Noon Lenten Lunch St. Paul's 7 pm Praise Group	18 7 pm Maundy Thursday Com- munion Service	19 Office Open 8:30-5 Noon Good Friday Service	20 10 am Egg Hunt Pray for Pastor Rod
21 6:30 am Sunrise Service @ Gage's 7 am Breakfast 8:20 am Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 am Worship	22 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Board Chairmen Mtg. 7 pm Advisory Pray for Pastor Phil	23	24 Office Open 8-5 10 am Women's Bible Study	25 6:45 pm Ladies Bible Study 7 pm Praise Group	26 Office Open 8:30-5	27 Pray for Pastor Rod
28 6 pm Youth 3:16 7 pm Small Group	29 Office Open 8-5 Pray for Pastor Phil	30				
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In The News

From Cindy Mitchell: We are loving it down here. The weather is in the low to upper 80s almost every day. We found a wonderful "First Baptist Church" that we love attending. The pastor always has great messages. We have been spending time Barney and Dianne Shade as well as other friends down here. We thank everyone for their prayers for safety and for finding a good church. Our address down here is 8054 Pennsylvania Rd., Sebring FL 33870. Its really weird not having to do any work; it's like being on vacation all the time. We've met several people from everywhere and have already booked a site for next year.

Congratulations to our fine volunteer fire fighters!

Years of service awards were given to: **Justin Gaines** 5 years; **Lee Manross**, 40 years. Life members are: **Ken Walczak, 34 yrs.** **Lee Manross 40 yrs.,** **Doug Shearer 43 yrs.,** **Gene Shearer 62 yrs.**

The church now owns an otoscope, so if you have a fussy infant or a child with ear pain, you may contact **Barb Beardsley RN** from Health Ministry. She will check your child's ears and might **save you a trip to Urgent Care.**

Cambridge Springs Borough Clean up day is Saturday May 4th 8 am till 3 pm for **Borough Residents only.** They **WILL NOT accept** Tires, Batteries, Liquids, Hazardous Materials or items with Freon. Cost is \$5.00/car load; \$10.00/truck load; \$25.00/trailer or dump truck load.

Camp Judson

Summer Camp: Registration for Summer Camp is open at www.campjudson.com Those who register by April 10th receive \$10 off their overnight camp registration and 1st time campers (and those who invite them) will receive a \$15 credit in the camp store.

Summer Staff Hiring: Camp Judson is in the process of recruiting summer staff and volunteers. They are asking for prayer for this process as we seek to build a summer staff team that will point campers to Jesus. Visit www.campjudson.com/summerstaff to find more information or to apply

Family Forum with Duffy Robbins: We are bringing youth ministry veteran, Duffy Robbins, to Erie for our First Family Forum event. He will be sharing with parents and youth leaders how to better understand today's teens and provide them with what they need to seek to point them to Jesus and help them grow into the adults God created them to be.

Spring Retreats: The **Women's Retreat** May 17-19 will feature speaker Courtney Cherest of One19 ministries.

Spring Volunteer Workday and Alumni & Friends Work Week: The annual Spring Volunteer Workday is Saturday May 4th. Alumni and Friends Work Week is scheduled for May 19-23. Come and join us as we get camp ready for summer by de-winterizing cabins, raking leaves, cleaning trails and vesper sites, wash windows, touch up paint and an assortment of other projects. Meals and lodging are provided, please call (814) 922-3834 to let them know you are coming.

Building the Kingdom Capital Campaign: Please continue to be in prayer as we launch the capital campaign to renovate the pool and dining hall and construct new duplex cabins.

Rally Day: Don't miss our special Rally Day June 15, 2019

70th Celebration of Camp Judson: Saturday August 24th! SAVE THE DATE.