

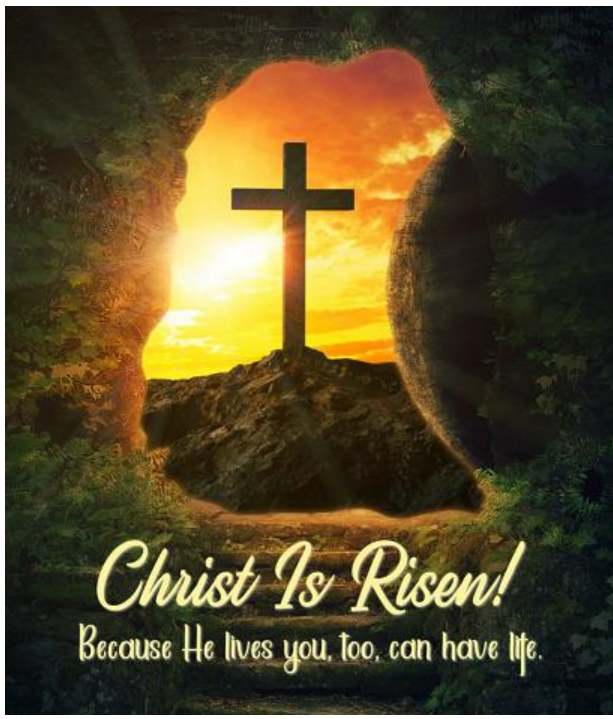
# BEBC NEWS—APRIL 7, 2023

Beth Eden Baptist Church—Fitchburg, MA

## This edition brings you the following news:

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**MISSION STATEMENT:** "Beth Eden Baptist Church exists to glorify God by making, maturing and mobilizing disciples who are becoming more like Jesus Christ."



## Fellowship Breakfast

At **9:30 a.m.** we will host a delicious Easter breakfast in the fellowship hall. In case you have been straddling the fence on whether to come out early...the fellowship will be great and so will the food.

**MENU:** scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, fresh fruit, bread, muffins, coffee, and juice.

## Morning Worship

Our main service for the day will begin at the normal **10:45 a.m.**

We have several wonderful special music numbers. And we will sing several of our favorite hymns about the resurrection. There will also be opportunities for congregational responsive readings.

Our regular ministries to children will all be operating: nursery (birth through age 3) and children's church (age 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade).

## VBS Youth Outreach 2023

We held our initial VBS organizational meeting on Sunday, March 19, following the morning service. We reviewed basic details about our VBS youth outreach, showed teaching and support materials, and answered many excellent questions.

Our VBS 2023 youth outreach effort will be in the **evening (6-8pm)** during the week of **July 24-28 (Mon-Fri)**. We will be offering the program for three age groups: Beginner (ages 4-5), Primary (gr. 1-3), and Junior (gr. 4-6).

## Easter Services this Sunday!

We need to be praying. And there is still time to be inviting...friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers.

The current weather forecast is for a full sun and high temps in the low 50s.

There will be no evening service on Easter Sunday.

## "Sunrise" Service

We will start off the day with an outdoor service at **8:30 a.m.** There will be singing, testimonies, and a Bible challenge. We will meet outdoors in the courtyard near the church bell pavilion.



If you are willing to help serve during Vacation Bible School this summer, and have not yet had an opportunity to turn in a survey form, please contact our church secretary, Patty Cordio, or reach out to Pastor Wiggins. At this point, the dates and time are already set. But we would still love to know the areas in which you would be most interested in helping.

We are praying there will be many opportunities to impact children, older siblings, and their parents with the gospel, and to see young believers grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. **Please pray! Please serve!**



### Men's Spring Fellowships

We have two more men's fellowship times scheduled this spring. Our next meeting will be on **April 27** (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday) at **6:30-8:00 p.m.**

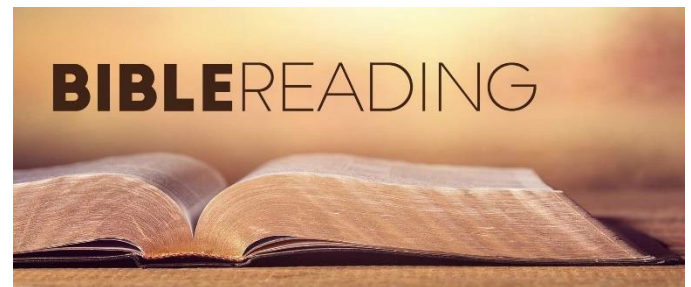
Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us for the Bible study, fellowship, and refreshments.

We will be changing the date for the May meeting and will announce that soon.

### Spring Church Work-Day Moved to May 13

Our spring church work-day has been rescheduled for **Saturday, May 13**. We will have refreshments ready to go by 8:00 am for those willing to get an early start. If 9:00 am or later works better for you, we will still have plenty of tasks to choose from when you arrive.

We have a good mix of indoor and outdoor projects planned. There will be light cleaning and organizing of both inside rooms and outside storage buildings. And there will be lots of seasonal outdoor clean-up, along with a few heavier outdoor projects. Feel free to bring the whole family and serve together.



### Bible Reading Plans

This year, we are placing copies of the various [Bible reading plans](#) on the [church website](#) so you can access them anytime and anywhere you have internet access.

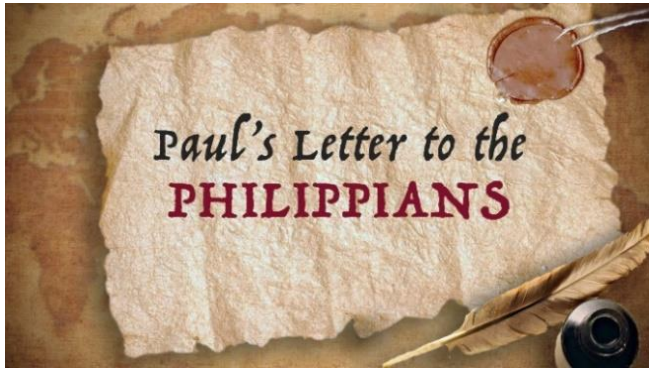
Here is the summary of reading chapters for **April 9-15 (Sun-Sat)**.

#### **Three Sections at a Time:**

OT Law, History, Prophets	Joshua 9-22
OT Poetic Books	Psalms 71-75
New Testament	John 3-7

#### **Chronological Order**

1 Samuel 4-24; Psalm 7, 11, 27, 31, 34, 52, 59



### April 23-29

<sup>3</sup> Let nothing *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. <sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

### April 30-May 6

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

## Scripture Memory & Meditation

Our scripture memory and meditation effort this year will focus on **Paul's Letter to the Philippians**. We will review two verses each week and will go over all four chapters during the year. It will be a great way to build off the adult Sunday school series this fall taught by David Galvin.

A copy of the [Scripture Memory & Meditation](#) schedule can be viewed on the [church website](#). Paper copies will be provided at the start of each month as a bulletin insert.

## **The Letter to the PHILIPPIANS** **April 2023—Philippians (chap 1-2)**

### **Philippians 1**

#### **April 2-8**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; <sup>28</sup> And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

#### **April 9-15**

<sup>29</sup> For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; <sup>30</sup> Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

### **Philippians 2**

#### **April 16-22**

<sup>1</sup> If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, <sup>2</sup> Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.



## **This Weekend: A Preview**

8:30 am Outdoor Service  
9:30 am Fellowship Breakfast  
10:45 am Morning Worship  
6:00 pm No evening service this week

## **Looking Ahead:**

April 13 Ladies Meeting  
April 26 Q3 Business Meeting  
April 27 Men's Fellowship (Thur 6:30pm)  
April 30 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship Luncheon  
May 6 Ladies & Girls Luncheon (Speaker: Holly Christiansen)  
May 13 Church Work-Day (Saturday)

## **Fellowship Ministry Teams**

New Fellowship Ministry Team (FMT) **lists** and a **schedule** have been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. Thank you in advance for your efforts to help us set up and clean up for our social events.

**April 9 Easter Sunday**  
**Team: Morrison-Allaire**

**April 30 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship Luncheon**  
**Team: Galvin-Cordio**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **Birthdays this month:**

- 1 Geoff St. Onge
- 4 Helen Godin
- 7 Judi Morrison
- 7 Linda Gouldrup
- 8 Dan Quimby
- 10 Nancy Bowditch
- 10 Mack Jackson
- 13 Larry LaRoche
- 18 Eric Campbell
- 20 Richard Tait
- 25 Pastor Claude Wiggins

### **Anniversaries this month:**

- 2 Jim & Nancy Babineau
- 5 Geoff & Pam St. Onge
- 13 Ernie & Joan Tait
- 20 Mark & Jodi Waaramaa
- 27 Peter & Alice Birney
- 28 Phil & Deb Chura



## ICYMI: Recent Ministry Resources

Here are [BEBC YouTube](#) links to recent service recordings. You will also find the links posted on the [BEBC Facebook page](#). Feel free to share these links with others via social media. And remember to “Like” posts by BEBC as often as you can.

### **Week of March 26-April 1:**

**Morning Service (3/26)**—Pastor Wiggins preached from [First Timothy 2:8-10](#), **“True Spirituality and Real Religious Expression.”** Q: What is really at the heart of who you are? A: The heart of the matter is the matter of your heart! The passage looks at two unique but connected principles.

First, Christ’s church needs TRULY PRAYERFUL MEN (vs. 8). Since men are tasked with strategic leadership in the home and in the church, they are vulnerable to operating by default with an externalized approach to religious expression. Paul stated three essentials for effective

prayer. They are all qualities that flow out of true spiritual maturity. (1) A right relationship with God [“lifting up holy hands”]; (2) a right relationship with fellow believers, and others within the community [“without wrath”]; and (3) “without doubting” (or “disputing” i.e. disputes, arguments, quarrels).

Second, Christ’s church needs TRULY AND TOTALLY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN (vs. 9-10). As women “adorn themselves” outwardly they are to be characterized by modesty, decency and propriety [vs. 8]. They are not to substitute for true inner spiritual beauty by depending upon or resorting to excessive and expensive hair, jewelry, or clothing. Rather, their lives ought to be especially attractive because of the good works which flow naturally out of their truly godly lives.

**Evening Service (3/26)**—Pastor Wiggins concluded the series on the book of Ezra, teaching on [Ezra 9-10](#), **“What to Do When Sin Takes Root.”** This passage describes the second wave of Jews who returned to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon. When their spiritual leader, Ezra, arrived with the people, he found a tragic and serious situation among God’s people already in the land. Many of the people, in direct disobedience to clear scriptural commands dating back approximately 1,000 years, had intermarried with the unbelievers of the land who followed pagan religion and denied Jehovah God. It would have a devastating effect upon the nation if not addressed swiftly and effectively. Sadly, the civil and religious leaders were the worst offenders!

Chapter 9 focuses on Ezra’s private preparation. “How do you respond to the presence of sin embedded in the midst of God’s people?” He grieved deeply and prayed...a lot!

Chapter 10 focuses on the public process. Other people acknowledged the problem and joined in being part of the solution. The civil and religious leaders had to be confronted and commit themselves to doing right. It was a serious situation that demanded a serious solution. It was painful, but necessary. It was complex and entrenched, so it required time and patience. It also required blameless and competent leaders to oversee the resolution process.

It is an important reminder for all of us. (1) Be circumspect: “Guard your heart with all diligence; for out of it proceed all the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23). (2) Be humble and gentle: “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, you which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness;

considering yourself, lest you also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:1-2).

**Midweek Service (3/29)**—During the midweek service, Pastor Wiggins taught on [Acts 20](#), "[How to Pray for Those You Love Deeply.](#)" Paul was traveling to Jerusalem and wanted to stop ashore to meet the elders of the church at Ephesus one last time. Paul shared with those dear friends and fellow servants that this would be the last time they would see each other this side of heaven. The words of his prayer are not recorded in scripture. But a summary of the words spoken at that meeting are given to us.

Paul prayed with them because he loved them deeply...and they loved him. They had spent much time serving together. Paul had invested his life in theirs (vs. 18-20, 31). They cared enough for each other to make a time-consuming special trip to meet (vs. 16-17). They realized it would be the last time they would see each other on earth (vs. 25, 37-38).

Paul prayed with them because he trusted God to take care of him...and them (vs. 18-19, 33-35). Paul prayed with them because he loved God and considered faithfully serving Him more important than his personal preferences or feelings, even though it pained him to say good-bye (vs. 16, 22-24). And Paul prayed for them because he knew of the spiritual dangers they would face and the opposition they would need to overcome (vs. 28-32).

Paul told them how he had and would be praying for them. He prayed for God to strengthen them and bless them. "I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (vs. 32).

## Week of April 2-8:

**Morning Service (4/2)**—Pastor Wiggins preached on "[Palm Sunday: Who Was There in the Crowd?](#)" The answer is several people or groups of people. We looked primarily at [Mark 11 and Matthew 21](#).

**Jesus Christ the King**—the object of our worship and affection. As the Son of God, He alone was worthy of the people's worship. "Hosanna. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord... Hosanna in the highest." O save us now! Save us now, O God, who lives in heaven!

**The Chanting Crowd**—a picture of the people around us. That included the faithful, true believers

in the Messiah who had waited long for his arrival. It also included the fervent but misdirected, who were excited about a leader who would deliver Israel from the oppression of Rome. There were also the curious, who inquired what was going on and who was coming. They didn't want to miss out on any of the community excitement.

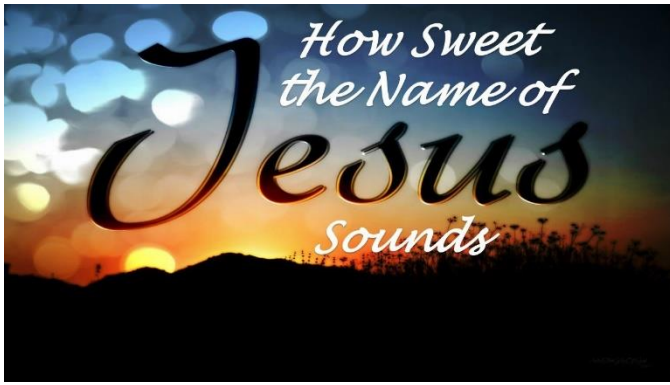
**The Religious Critics**—a warning about unbelief and man-centered religion. The Pharisees, Scribes, and Chief Priests reacted immediately to all this unbridled enthusiasm and praise for Jesus as the Christ. Their opposition is clearly seen in trying to (1) silence Jesus' disciples; (2) silence the witnesses there who watched Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead; and (3) silence even the children at the Temple who praised Jesus as Lord for his healing work. Jesus provided a careful rebuke to his critics in each of these cases.

**Evening Service (4/2)**—This service was focused on [the sacrifice of Christ](#) and our monthly observance of The Lord's Supper. Scripture readings and brief Bible lessons were taken from [John 12 and Matthew 26](#)

**Midweek Service (4/5)**—Pastor Wiggins taught on "[An Incredible Prayer Meeting: Both Tragic and Tremendous.](#)" In [Acts 1:12-14](#), following Jesus' Ascension, the disciples and other faithful believers gathered back in Jerusalem in an upper room for prayer. They were waiting on the promised Holy Spirit and seeking wisdom for choosing a new apostle to serve with them.

Conspicuously absent from that meeting was the former disciple, Judas Iscariot. His betrayal of Jesus and abandonment of any pretense of true faith was **a tragic episode**.

But in that same prayer meeting are some nameless people referred to as "his brethren." That would be family members of Jesus. We know from references in Mark 6 and John 7, that many residents of Jesus' hometown and even his own half-siblings (younger biological children of Joseph and Mary) rejected Jesus as the Christ and mocked him. But after the resurrection at least two of his siblings came to faith in Jesus Christ. James and Jude (Judas/Judah) became faithful and effective leaders in the Christian church there in Jerusalem. And both of them were used of God to write inspired books of the Bible which bear their names. That is **a tremendous blessing**. Oh, what an encouragement that must have been to Jesus and to his mother, Mary!



## **Hymn of the Month**

### **“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”**

Words: John Newton (published 1779)

Music: Lloyd Larson (2005)

Arranged: Ruth Coleman (2010)

#### **Verse 1:**

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear!  
It soothes my sorrows, heals my wounds,  
And drives away my fear.  
It makes the wounded spirit whole  
And calms the troubled breast;  
It satisfies the hungry soul,  
And gives the weary rest.

#### **Verse 2:**

Dear name! the rock on which I build,  
My shield and hiding place,  
My never-failing treas'ry  
Filled with boundless stores of grace!  
My Jesus, Savior, Shepherd, Friend,  
My Prophet, Priest, and King;  
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,  
Accept the praise I bring.

#### **Verse 3:**

Weak is the effort of my heart,  
And cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see You as You art,  
I'll praise You as I ought.  
Till then I would Your love proclaim  
With every fleeting breath,  
And may the music of Your name  
Refresh my soul in death.

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