

MARCH 27, 2025 Offering a seat at God's table for an adventurous life with Christ.



MARCH 30 SERMON TOPIC: Esther

> Sermon scripture: Esther 4:1-17

OUT OF THE PULPIT From Pastor Jim Coston

I had the chance to attend a conference in Virginia last week (thank you, Endowment!). It was the second gathering of Ascent. Last year, this nascent group met near Baltimore and started the process of connecting theologically like-minded churches to one another. Some notes from this conference.

- Theologically like-minded means churches that follow and preach the Bible regardless of denomination. We had Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptists, Pentecostal and others. The minutiae of how we worship matters little compared to whom we worship. This change from parochialism to big tent has happened in my lifetime. I give thanks.
- 2. American Baptists were WELL represented. We had in attendance a former General Secretary (and personal friend), several regional executives and lots of ABCUSA clergy.
- 3. Many churches face questions of sustainability. We are not alone in our dilemma.
- 4. Many churches are looking to learn from others as they seek to answer these questions. That's what Ascent is about at its core.

I did not return from this conference with a BIG IDEA. I did return renewed and re-invigorated at the resources God has marshaled for His church in America. May we—all—have the courage to follow the lead of our Shepherd!





WITH THE ELDERS AS WE SEEK GOD'S DIRECTION. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US.

SUNDAYS: 9:15-10:15a TUESDAYS: 9:00-10:00a WEDNESDAYS: 5:00-6:00p THURSDAYS: 11:15a-12:15p All Sessions in C-2 (Fireside Room) The Elders are providing opportunities for you to join in prayer between now and the end of April as we seek God's direction.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Corinthians 1:10 NIV



Holy Week is a series of services and events used for the purpose of remembering the last week of Jesus' life on earth. It begins with a Palm Sunday Service at 10:30am on April 13 and continues with a Maundy Thursday Service on April 17 at 6:30p, a Good Friday Service on April 18 at 6:30p, and an Easter Sunday Service on April 20 at 10:30am, followed by a children's Easter Egg Hunt at noon. We hope you will join us for any or all of the worship opportunities!

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE Sunday, April 13, 2025 10:30a In the Sanctuary

"The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" - Matthew 21:9

Our worship service will be in the Sanctuary on March 24 as we commemorate Palm Sunday. This is the event where Jesus reenters Jerusalem for the final time and is worshiped by the crowd shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!". Join us as we prepare our hearts for the events to follow in Holy Week including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE Thursday, April 17, 2025 6:30p In the Sanctuary

"Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."" - John 13:8b

This service commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His disciples. As Jesus shared this last supper with them, He knew that His time to return to the Father was close. During the last supper, Jesus humbled himself before God and man and washed the disciples' feet. During this Maundy Thursday Service, in addition to prayer, music, and communion elements, you will also have the opportunity to take part in foot washing.

The purpose of this is to help us to understand what it is to humble ourselves before Christ who can wash us white as snow and then, in turn, humble ourselves before men and wash another's feet. Christ lived as the perfect representation of God in the form of man that we may have the humility and courage to follow in his footsteps. May God work in our hearts and minds this Easter season as we seek to follow Jesus even when it requires parts of our hearts and egos to die. The more we die to ourselves, the more Christ's life can inject purpose and true life into us.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE Friday, April 18, 2025 6:30p In the Sanctuary

"[Jesus] knelt down and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.'" - Luke 22:41b-42

Throughout Jesus' life He remained focused on following the Father's will for Him. Jesus knew that God's purpose for sending Jesus was to redeem humanity through conquering death. As Jesus' final hours drew near, He prayed to the Father, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." This is the greatest act of trust and selfless love in history. Christ loved you so much that he was mocked, tortured, flogged, and crucified so that you and I would have the opportunity to know God and pursue a relationship with Him in spite of our sin. "God made [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." - 2 Corinthians 5:21.

EASTER (RESURRECTION) SUNDAY April 20, 2025 EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30a In the Bowl

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him." - Psalm 34:8

My Redeemer Lives! Come celebrate what Easter means for humanity! Christ, who selflessly and lovingly died so that we may have life is ALIVE! Christ conquered death so that we may have life and life to the fullness in Him!

Come worship our risen and reigning Redeemer, Savior, and Friend with us! We join together to sing our praises to God and respond to the opportunity to have not only eternal life in Heaven with God, but a life that is purpose-driven and fulfilling here on earth! Come see and experience the perfect love that Christ offers you! Come taste and see that the Lord is good!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES EASTER EGG HUNT Immediately after Worship In the Children's Ministry Playground

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." - Matthew 19:14 NIV

Come join us for an Easter Egg Extravaganza! With hundreds of eggs hidden both inside and outside over two different playgrounds, there's fun for children of all ages! We'd love for you to join us Easter morning for this fun filled activity with our family Easter Service following afterwards.

We will start right after the worship service. Please bring a basket or bag for your child to collect their eggs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Darla Holmes at: DHolmes@FBCScottsdale.org Giving of our tithes and offerings to God is part of worship and discipleship.
To do this in faith, and to support God's ministry at FBCScottsdale, you may use any of the following ways:

In person using a Giving Envelope in the back of the pews
Use the QR code on screen or back of Giving Envelopes
Online at: https://fbcs.churchcenter.com/giving
You may also mail checks to:

FBCScottsdale
7025 E Osborn Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Tithes and Offerings received thus far in March: \$36,477

Tithes and Offerings Budgeted for March: \$57,220

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

It has been suggested to staff that there are people who would be willing to help pay for specific needs in our ministries, over and above their normal tithing, if we make those needs known.

With that in mind, we are going to put out 3 specific needs each month. Here are the needs for March.



If you are interested in funding ALL OR PART OF any of these needs, please email: <u>office@fbcscottsdale.org</u>.

Thank you so much for your giving hearts!

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

See what's happening at FBCScottsdale in one easy place. Here's how to download the FBCScottsdale App.

- 1. Go to your App Store on your device.
- 2. Search for and select "Church Center" (white background with an aqua church icon).
- 3. Follow instructions to search for "First Baptist Church of Scottsdale".
- 4. Tap on the FBCScottsdale icon.
- 5. Tap "Log In".
- 6. Sign in using your phone number or email address and you've got access to the app!





The seasons roll by so quickly. Volunteers are busy changing racks from winter to summer while allowing for cool nights for a while yet! We do need help with all donations, regardless of the season!

One of the enjoyable things we are doing is gathering small toys to put in Easter bags for the children. We will appreciate all donations to help with this project.

We continue to feed the hungry. Homeless folks may have a lunch every time they come, and we recently posted a list of items for that. Families who need help with food may have a bag of groceries once a month. Here is a list of the items we always include:

Food Bags:

- Peanut Butter 16 oz jar
- Corn/Green Beans 15 oz
- Tuna 5 oz
- Canned Fruit 15 oz
- Hunts Pasta Sauce 24 oz
- Spaghetti 16 oz
- Kraft Mac and Cheese 7.25 oz box
- White Rice
- Dried Pinto Beans
- Soup (cream of mushroom/chicken/celery)
- Boxed Cereal

God continues to bless this ministry through our faithful supporters. Thank you.

¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. ¹¹ The Lord will guide you always;

Isaiah 58:10-11a NIV



Join FBCScottsdale Women's Ministry for our Spring Cleaning Donation Drive. Throughout the month of March we are accepting gently used items in the Lobby on Sunday mornings. Every item counts. Let's work together to help others and refresh our homes this season. Thank you for making a difference!

- Clothing and Shoes (All Sizes) Household Appliances
- Baby Items & Diapers
- Toys & Stuffed Animals
- Sheets & Towels

- Pots & Pans
- Non-Perishable Food & Water

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS WILL SUPPORT CHANENI HOUSE.

For more information, contact Darla Holmes at dholmes@FBCScottsdale.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS





Join us for a fun morning of great food, exciting games and amazing prizes! We're making this a pot-luck style brunch, please bring your favorite food item to

For more information, please contact Darla at: dholmes@fbcscottsdale.org





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HOLY WEEK AT FBCScottsdale



JOYCE REED MISSION CIRCLE Monday, April 14 9:30a In C-2 (Fireside Room)

It is the goal of this Women's group to minister not only to global servants (aka missionaries), David and Joyce, but also to other global servants. Each meeting includes a devotion, updates on the four missionaries the Circle helps to support, and work on various service-oriented projects!

COME JOIN US TO LEARN WHAT WE DO. LADIES OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Dianne Brouwer at: 602-614-5703.





SUNDAYS AT FBCScottsdale

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

In the Children's Building — 9-10:15a and 10:15-11:45a

The curriculum theme for March is the Life of Jesus. The curriculum title for our Preschoolers is "This and That", and for our Elementary kiddos is "Picture This".

We also have a Memory Verse each month, and we incorporate sign language to help the students learn it. The verse for March is:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 NKJV

YOUTH MINISTRY

In the Youth Rooms — 9:00-10:15a

Apologetics: Following a series created by Josh and Sean McDowell, we will be learning evidence for Christianity, the Bible, and the person of Jesus. Students will learn how to ask and answer questions about absolute truth and how to share their faith.

ADULT GROW/ GROUP CLASSES

9:15a-10:15a

GATHER IN PRAYER – C-2 (Fireside Room)

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW – In E-1 (between the Chapel & Winfield's)

THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH – In the Gallery

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30a-11:30a in the Sanctuary

MIDWEEK AT FBCScottsdale

MONDAY NIGHTS

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY – 7p 1st Monday of each month in Winfield's, rest of Mondays at Panera in Tempe Marketplace

MIDWEEK WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

WOMEN'S YOGA – 5:00-6:00p in the Dance Room

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (1st-5th Grade) – 6:00-6:45p in the Choir Room

YOUTH MIDWEEK – 6:00-8:00p in the Youth Building

CHILDREN'S MIDWEEK – 6:30-8:00p in the Children's Rooms

ADULT CLASS – GENESIS: In the Beginning – 6:30-8:00p in C-2 (Fireside Room)

THURSDAY MORNINGS

THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6:45a-7:45a in Winfield's

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CHRIST B.C. – The Hidden Christ of the Old Testament 9:30a-noon in Fellowship Hall

CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH OFFICE

7025 E Osborn Rd Scottsdale, AZ 85251 Hours: Monday through Thursday – 9a – 3p **480-945-6346** office@fbcscottsdale.org

CHURCH WEBSITE

https://fbcscottsdale.church

ELDER BOARD

elders@fbcscottsdale.org

LEADERSHIP

Jim Coston – Lead Pastor jcoston@fbcscottsdale.org

Monica Lievsay – Youth and Outreach Pastor mlievsay@fbcscottsdale.org or youth@fbcscottsdale.org

Darla Holmes – Director of Children's Ministries & Grow Groups dholmes@fbcscottsdale.org

> John Stewart – Facilities Director jstewart@fbcscottsdale.org

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NEWSLETTER SUPPORT

Mary Lou Sarrault – Volunteer Editor msarrault@fbcscottsdale.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Submit prayer requests for the prayer team at: prayers@fbcscottsdale.org