



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Ones,

Third's family gathered in a called business meeting on March 28th and **approved recommendations from the Innovations Committee.**

Thank you for honoring the committee's labor and passion for our beloved community!

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Please review the following worship, fellowship and training opportunities.

Holy Week at Third:

Virtual Fellowship Meal is planned Wednesday, March 31 at 6 p.m.

Drew and I will host seder service from Third's Table to yours.

*Please prepare a meal— which includes one meat item or option for vegetarians, vegetable, boiled egg, Bread, Juice and dessert.

*Third will gather virtually at 6 p.m. (Zoom invitation to all will be sent.)

*Devotions will lead us through the partaking of supper together.

**Prayer for Healing and Encouragement
Thursday, April 1 at 8:45 p.m.**

Third family will gather by Zoom and pray specifically for those navigating difficult days. And a reminder of Jesus' instructions to disciples before departing The Upper Room. The lateness of the hour will be honored. Its purpose is to "end the day" as one family of faith, praying for others, as we head out "into the night."

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**Good Friday Service
Friday, April 2 at 7p.m.**

Perseid String Quartet

In person at Third Baptist Church, or via Facebook or YouTube

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Easter Service, Sunday, April 3 at 11am

The Tomb in The Garden

In person at Third Baptist Church for Easter Service, or via Facebook or YouTube.

**Adult Sunday school Leaders will gather by
Zoom**

Wednesday, April 7 at 6p.m.

Training and directional planning for eventual reopening of Sunday School on Third's Campus.

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April will continue Wednesday Night Adult Discipleship gatherings through Zoom. Please take a mid-week break and join your church family. The attendance and participation is a source of encouragement.

April's discussion will continue to apply spiritual lessons from Jesus' resurrection to the founding of first community of Jesus followers in Jerusalem.

I trust Holy Week will offer creative on-ramps of worship, discussion, fellowship and grace. I realize gathering virtually is a poor substitute for in person gatherings—yet, looking back one year, God continues to spring forth life in unexpected places.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy



Family Ministries

Several years ago, I was able to meet one of my heroes, Marian Wright Edelman. She was a student Civil Rights leader in Mississippi in the early sixties, a graduate of Yale Law School, she worked with Dr. King, and eventually became the founding president of the Children's Defense Fund. She has been diligent in keeping the needs of our nation's most vulnerable before our most powerful for decades.

A former student of mine interned for a year at Christ House, a ministry to those experiencing homelessness, in Washington D.C. Marian Wright Edelman worships with the small congregation there. My former student wandered the building one morning and interrupted Mrs. Edelman alone in a room in her prayers. It was her custom, when not testifying before congress, or lobbying for poor school districts, to come alone to pray.

The morning I met her, she told me that she had her tennis shoes with her in worship because she'd just been to walk the gardens and look at the cherry blossoms and she'd be going to the zoo afterwards. It was so important for her to play.

As embodied by this heroic woman, playing and praying are essential to the work God has called us regardless of age.

Loved ones, pray with your children, play with your children and work together to love God and serve others.

While things are not whatever the new normal will be yet—they are trending positively. So be on the lookout for ways we will continue to play and pray together in the coming months with camps, movie nights, and service projects in between our anchors of worship and zoom meetings.

Thankful for this playing and praying community,
Drew



Rev. Drew Phillips
Minister to Families

We thank you, God, for this time of change, challenge, struggle, learning, witness, and action for and with our children. Thou counseled us to “take care that we not despair” and that it is not the will of our Father in Heaven that even “one of these little ones be lost.”

Help us, God, to overcome our selfishness and greed, our political and personal jockeying, our individual and organizational agendas, our need to be first, right, and recognized, and to become humble like the child whom Christ said is the “greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Marian Wright Edelman

from
*Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations
for Our Children*



SUNDAY WORSHIP IN APRIL: GARDENS OF FAITH

THE TOMB IN THE GARDEN

GARDEN OF EDEN

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Missions Moment

Dear friends,

Greetings! This is just a quick note to let you know that the Easter Camp in a Box are all packed and ready to be delivered starting tomorrow! We are so excited to share the magnificent story of Easter with a growing list of children across Lebanon. The Easter box contains 13 super fun and educational activities that encourage creativity, family time and most importantly...Jesus time! Appreciate your prayers for the distribution process and for the children – may they be blessed in the process.

Thanks again for your gracious gift that made this possible. To stay up-to-date with our ministry news, I encourage you to [sign-up](#) to our monthly newsletter, *Thimar* (Arabic word for “fruits”).

Grace and peace,
Alia
Chief Development Officer
Lebanese Society for Educational
& Social Development (LSESD)



Musical Notes

An Appreciation to Third's Worship Team

I wanted to express my appreciation to Third's Worship Team.

This talented group has navigated virtual and in-person worship, while navigating coronavirus restrictions, for over one year. Philip, Brent, Lansin, and all our guest singers, continue to inspire and encourage through their gift of song.

And thanks for your patience concerning Sanctuary Choir. I suspect it will be a while before all worship elements return to normal.

Yet, through it all, Third is blessed with a resourceful and flexible worship team!

I know you join me in offering a resounding *Amen!*
Tommy

Please remember to gather for Good Friday: The Seven Last Words of Christ, Perseid String Quartet 7 p.m.



***Easter Sunday Worship
The Tomb in the Garden
April 4, 11 a.m.***

EVERYDAY PEOPLE



EXTRAORDINARY GOD

A NEW EPISODE FOR THE PODCAST *EVERY KINDA PEOPLE* WILL BE AVAILABLE EACH WEDNESDAY FROM LENT TO EASTER – FIND IT ON THE THIRD BAPTIST WEBSITE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

03 Sue Haverman
Alexis Fay
Caren Wright-Simons



07 Syliva Barnes



20 Colton Simons



22 Ella Banks



30 Dona Turpin



In the city for good!

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CUSTODIAN

Lansin Lim Kimler
PIANIST

Dr. Philip Barnes
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Karen Stewart & Linda
Freiburghaus**
CHURCH HISTORIANS

Christine McCarthy
FINANCE

Ella Banks
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE
ASSISTANT

Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE