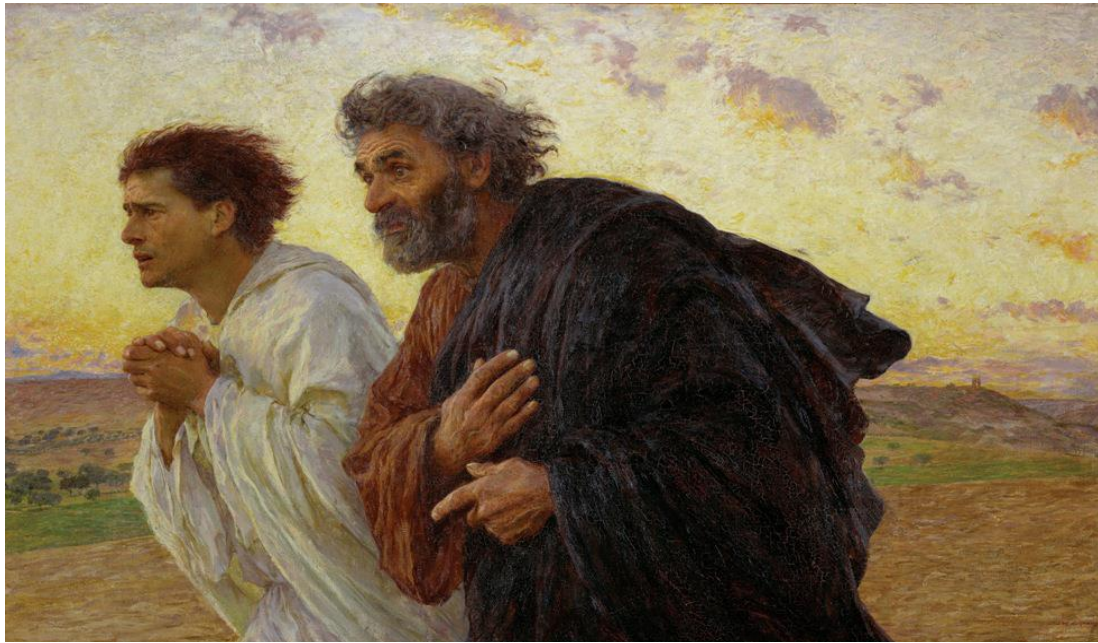




Third Base

Vol 90, Issue 4 · April 2026



From the Pastor

At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. (Colossians 4:3-4)

Paul is under house arrest in Rome and requests prayer for wisdom and clarity.

“Door”—God writing another person into your story to share the Gospel.

Paul is humbly requesting power of the Holy Spirit—explaining “the mystery of God.”

The clarity of the Gospel is indispensable in evangelism and growth of the church.

The Gospel is not:

One of many paths to God

One of many beautiful metaphors for sacrificial love.

A tool for theological gymnastics used by politicians seeking votes.

The Gospel is:

First, an acknowledgement of your own sin, “God, be merciful to me a sinner (Luke 18:13). It is recognition, “I am a sinner”, not repentance for “societal or corporate sins.” The dialogue is between you and God.

Second, your willingness to head in another direction—a turning from—to turning to—Faith. Believing Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins; therefore, he forgives you, extends eternal life and gifts you with the Holy Spirit.

Placing your faith in Jesus Christ is a choice. “Whoever believes in Jesus is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son” (John 3:18).

continued on next page

Fleming Rutledge writes, “It cannot be emphasized too strongly that those writers who seek to reduce or diminish the figure of Jesus are creating a Jesus to suit their own preferences, just as surely as Thomas Jefferson did when he took scissors and paste to the the Gospel.” She concludes, “the key to Jesus is now, as it has always been, his crucifixion and resurrection.”

The clarity of the Gospel is a stumbling block. The mystery of God revealed—the solution to sin is blood sacrifice—and Jesus Christ lived an unblemished, sinless life and crucified on the cross—experiencing death we should suffer.

The summer of 1977 I felt called to “the ministry” and Robert Graham, pastor of a small, loving church in Houston, Texas gifted with a book by J.I. Packer, “Knowing God”—and his statement on resurrection is highlighted through worn pages:

“Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God’s own commitment, that the best is yet to come.”

Beloved, do not be ashamed of the Gospel. Jesus Christ is LORD.

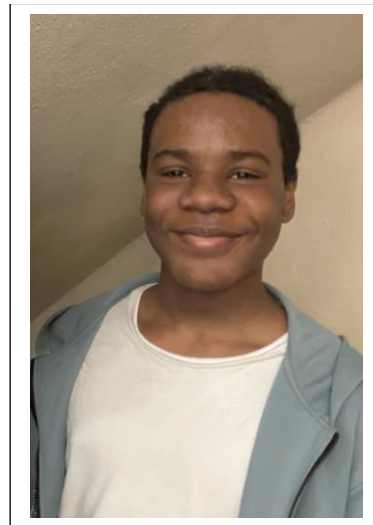
And as John and Peter run to the Garden and discover an empty tomb, so it is with your journey—he is not here—why do you seek the living among the dead?

O death, where is your sting?!
He is Risen. He is not here.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy

Welcome to new member,
Jaden Jacobs!

Baptism
Sunday, April 12th



*Easter Day in Rome, 1840, by John Frederick Lewis
courtesy Wikimedia Commons*

April 1: Sedar Dinner, 5:15 PM

Service in Sanctuary, 6 PM

April 3: Good Friday Service, 7 PM

April 5: Easter Sunday, 11 AM

Worship

May 31: Concert with Isobel Ramsey,

6 PM Sanctuary, with ice cream

fellowship in Pillsbury Threshold

Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

Upcoming Events to Note!

APRIL -

APRIL 3: YOUTH LOCK-IN: after Good Friday service, with Pastor Drew

APRIL 5: EASTER EGG HUNT AND STORY TIME: Easter Sunday, 10 a.m., during the Sunday School hour

MAY

Sunday, May 10th: we will be celebrating our high school students!

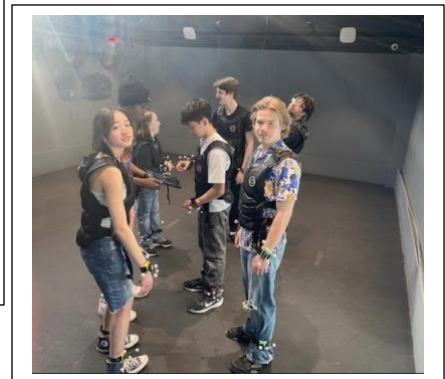
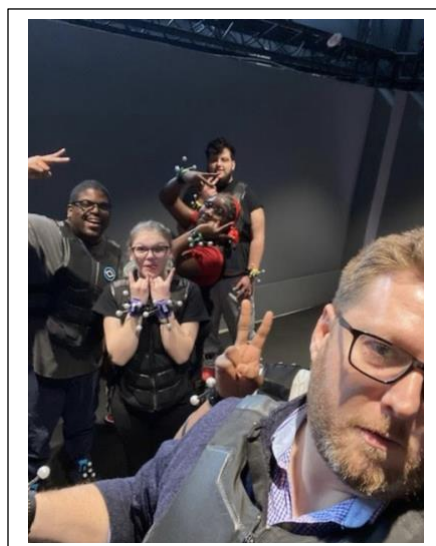
Be on the lookout for a May after-worship trip to the Zoo, for children ages pre-K through 5th grade.

SUMMER CAMP SIGN-UPS:

- Junior High Sign-up [link here](#)
- Senior High Sign-up [link here](#)



March's Youth outing to the VR Sandbox at the Foundry:



Sunday morning
Extended Session
(Childcare)
Volunteers Needed!

Come and play with us!
Please contact Drew Philips or
Ella Banks



Food Pantry Donations Request



Help Third stock the pantry!

Any and all donations are great and will be gratefully received and distributed! Including food, drinks, and hygiene items.

Of particular assistance: hearty soups, and sauce with meat (such as Chef Boyardee) - cans or factory-sealed packets.

(No one can stop talking about protein these days, right?!)

Please connect with Pastor Drew or Monica McDaniel-Collins about where to leave donations.

Mission Focus April 2026: The Middle East

Our Newsletter in November 2025 began with: "In 1893 a young man travels to the US from his home in Lebanon. Said Jreidini (Sigh-yEEed Juryidini) heads to Chicago to the World's Fair. There he hears evangelists D. L. Moody and Thomas Spurgeon. Being a sceptic, he rejects the message but continues going back to hear them. Soon he visits St. Louis and stays with a member of Third. Hearing the word of God by Pastor William Smith of Third Baptist Church, he accepts Christ as his Savior and is baptized. When he heads home to Lebanon, he cannot stop declaring the word of God."

And so, our ties with the Middle East begin when the First Baptist Church of Lebanon was founded by Said Jreidini (in fact the First Baptist Church of the entire Middle East.)

If you travel to Beirut today your first impression would likely be the issues of continued war and turmoil in Lebanon. And while that is very troubling, there is a continuing thread of hope walking alongside the fear. Consider this from our partners in Lebanon:

Urgent: Over 500,000 People Displaced in Lebanon – Local Churches Respond

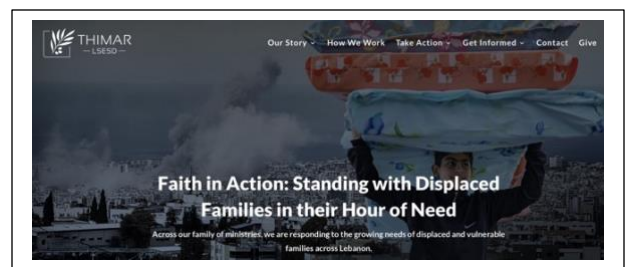
Hundreds of thousands of people across Lebanon have been displaced in a matter of days. And the number keeps rising. Churches across the Middle East are not running from this crisis. They are running toward it. Right now, across Lebanon churches are opening doors, distributing emergency supplies, and demonstrating the love of Christ to families in crisis. This is how the Gospel advances – not through words alone, but through the church meeting people's immediate needs with both truth and compassion.

Since the escalation of regional war in Lebanon began on March 2nd, the situation has deteriorated rapidly. Families have been forced to evacuate immediately. Public schools are being converted into emergency shelters. Churches are voluntarily becoming distribution centers.

Our Baptist partner in Beirut, THIMAR (meaning fruits), has already started responding to the needs of the newly displaced neighbors through hosting displaced families on its campuses and distributing mattresses and blankets for those living in shelters or on the streets. Now, and in the weeks to come, THIMAR plans to scale up their response through distributing more mattresses, blankets, and other items as food boxes and hygiene kits. Every item distributed is through the hands of local believers demonstrating Christ's love in the darkest moments. Every family served sees Christians responding with generosity and compassion. This is the Christian witness the world desperately needs to see.

How can we help?

"Any and all donations, unless otherwise noted, made to Third's Missions Fund during the month of April will be sent directly to THIMAR, the Baptist Churches of Lebanon, who are providing care and much needed supplies for the Lebanese fleeing war torn areas.....again. The witness of the Christian caregivers is so refreshing in the Arab world, and as a result many have come to Christ. Please consider a gift."



The link to the THIMAR website can be [found here](#).

The following poem was written by Candace Thomas and echoes beautifully placing trust in the Big Story of God—inspired by Pastor Simon’s recent sermon series on media:

News anchors tell stories to shock us
Stories that make us react;
Why do we even keep watching
When we should watch for God?

Whatever happened to newspapers
And everything we used to read?
Now we watch and listen –
When we should read God’s Word.

What attracts us to media?
Using our tablets and phones;
Scrolling and typing and clicking;
When we should write to God.

We listen to podcasts on media
To hear those that think like we do;
God is patiently waiting
To teach us to listen to him.

Daily we choose to read, watch, and listen.
When we can refrain from it all.
Let us choose to ignore what we don’t need in our lives-
So that we can receive God’s Word.



Join us for the
Carol Fleming Pillsbury
Memorial
Tea Party

Saturday,
April 11
11:00AM
Tickets:
\$5.00

Call the Church office
or buy tickets outside of the
sanctuary on Sunday morning!

Adult Discipleship

**Dinner and Discipleship
Wednesdays in April, following Holy
Week**

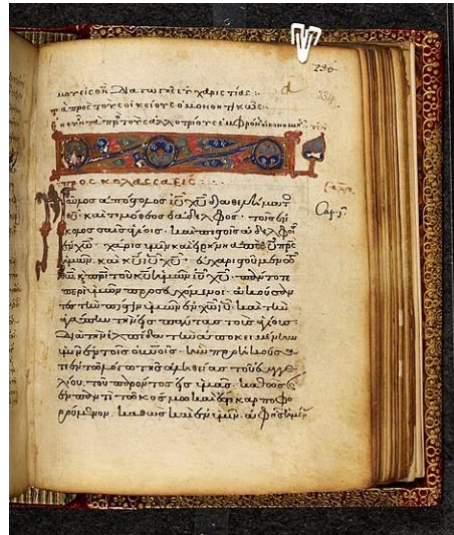
5:15 p.m. Dinner

5:45 p.m. Discipleship discussion:

The study of Colossians, Pastor Tommy
with Rob Lamb

Sign up for dinner reservations with
Pastor Tommy:

tsimons@third-baptist.org



The first of the Epistles to the Colossians
in the Codex Harleianus 5557

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to...

- 03 🎁 Sue Haverman
& Alexis Fay
& Caren
Wright-Simons
- 07 🎁 Sylvia Barnes
- 14 🎁 Jaden Jacobs
- 17 🎁 Brandon Brooks
& David Jolly
- 20 🎁 Colton Simons
- 22 🎁 Ella Banks
- 28 🎁 Gideon Omune
- 30 🎁 Dona Turpin



Listen in to Third's Podcasts:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1750498>

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *Justice and Mercy* - with Jerry Bryan – weekly on Sundays
- *Finishing Well* - Pastor
- *At the Movies* – with Ashleigh and Aaron

Mark your Calendar

Church Council Meeting:

Sunday, April 9th

Quarterly Business Meeting:

Sunday, April 26th

Both following morning worship





Third Baptist Church

620 North Grand Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63103

Office: 314-533-7340

Third-baptist.org

We'd love to connect with you!



third-baptist.org/guest

Third Baptist Church Staff

Dr. Philip Barnes
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Lansin Lim Kimler
PIANIST

Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

Dr. Tommy Simons
PASTOR

Rev. Drew Phillips
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE

Ella Banks
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASST.

Tom Kurtz
BUSINESS MANAGER

Isobel Moreno
FINANCE MANAGER

Ronnie Winthrop
FACILITIES MANAGER