

# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2024

### REV. DR. DAVID BESS, PASTOR



#### Radio Ministry

First Baptist Church's worship service is on WANB Radio each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. The cost of the weekly broadcast of the service is \$50. If you would like to sponsor the broadcasts either in total or in part, please contact the Church office, 724-627-6444, [office@fbcwaynesburg.org](mailto:office@fbcwaynesburg.org), or place in the offering plate with the notation for Radio Ministry. Thank you!

#### "Room At The Table"

"Room At The Table" fellowship dinner will be on Friday, April 19, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. Thank you to all those who have volunteered in the past and to all those who are so willing to give of their time to help. Everyone is welcome!

#### April Scripture Readers

- 7 Gene Falvo
- 14 Byllye Miller
- 21 Tonya Steinmiller
- 28 Wade Cowell

## FROM THE PASTOR **Why Do I Wear a Pulpit Robe?**

When I was talking with the search committee of FBC Waynesburg in early 2023, I noticed from the YouTube videos that Pastor Ed was preaching in a robe. I thought, "That's something I don't see done much anymore!" I then began praying and thinking if I wanted to do the same. I had an old second-hand robe I'd used for a wedding once, but I'd never preached in one. I'd never even considered it. All the churches I had pastored previously moved away from the practice, if they had ever done it at all.

As I gave it more prayer and thought, I really liked the idea. So, I decided to purchase a new, simple black robe that fit and that was much cooler than the old second-hand one in my closet. Notice I said, "simple black robe." What I chose to order was something that could also be called "a Genevan gown." It isn't academic because there are no doctoral bars and no hood. It's not ornate or showy. It's just plain and simple. So, in this article I'm sharing three reasons why I've chosen to wear a preaching robe.

First, a preaching robe highlights the sacred responsibility of faithfully sharing God's word. 2 Timothy 4:2 says, "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." My calling is not to make God's word palatable to the people, but simply to proclaim it. When I stand in the pulpit I'm not there on my business, but on God's business. The robe reminds others, and me, of the sacred task of proclaiming the Scriptures to the congregation. The pastor is the representative of the transcendent, almighty God. The robe is to focus attention not on the one who wears it, but on the One he serves.

Second, a preaching robe downplays contemporary trends and fashions. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." In my lifetime, I've witnessed fads with preachers come and go. There was a time when leisure suits were popular. Then it was two-piece suits, then three-piece suits. As the years passed, coat and tie often were replaced with open collars and business casual attire. Now the trend for many pastors is t-shirts, skinny jeans, and expensive athletic shoes. The highest goal in preaching, however, is not to be trendy, but timeless. It's not to be hip, but holy. It's not to be fashionable, but faithful.

Third, a preaching robe identifies with a Reformed, Protestant heritage. Some people may think that wearing a robe gives the appearance of a connection with the Roman Catholic church. On the contrary, a "Genevan gown" is associated with the theology of the Protestant Reformation. One author says,



The evidence—both written and artistic—reveals that men like John Owen, Herman Witsius and Thomas Goodwin from the seventeenth century, George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards and Thomas Boston from the eighteenth century as well as countless others, all wore pulpit gowns whenever they led worship. It was simply the norm in Protestant congregations on the European continent, the British Isles and the Americas. Even in more modern times, men like D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, one of the most gifted preachers of the twentieth century, wore Genevan gowns. In his famous 1969 lectures to students at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Lloyd-Jones exhorted those entering the ministry to wear a gown when they preached as a sign of their call to the office.

“So, pastor, do you expect me now to dress fancy when I come to church since you’re preaching in a robe?” No, not at all. But I do hope and pray that you’ll recognize the vital importance of hearing and heeding God’s word. I also hope that you’ll set your mind and heart on eternal things, not earthly things. And most of all, I hope that you’ll be grounded in sound Biblical theology, so you can speak the truth in love and mature in your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

With a shepherd’s heart,

Pastor David

## Children's Moment



April 7  
April 14  
April 21  
April 28

Lauren Hall  
Garrett Huffman  
Levi Brandstetter  
Wade Cowell



**Family Bowling**  
**The Meadows – Washington, PA**  
**\$5/person**  
**Saturday, April 6, 2024**  
**12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

## Young Adult

### Cup of Grace Coffeehouse

Anyone is invited to attend Wednesday Night Coffeehouse from 7-10pm when Waynesburg University is in session. Find us in the Fellowship Hall for free coffee, fun, and fellowship.

For the most current information, find us at:  
[fbcwaynesburg.org](http://fbcwaynesburg.org)

Follow us on  
Instagram @cupofgracecoffeehouse

## Youth

### Illuminate

During the school year, anyone in 6th-12th grade is invited to attend Illuminate- our youth program! We meet every Sunday evening from 6pm to 8pm. You can find us downstairs in The Well. Bring your friends and join us as we play games, get to know each other, and learn what it means to be a follower of Christ together!

### Youth Praise Team

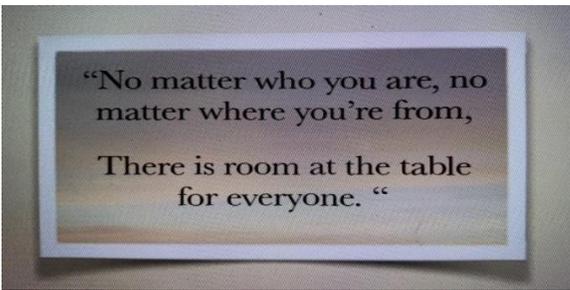
Anyone 6th-12th grade is invited to participate in their own praise and worship team! We are looking for singers and instrumentalists. This team will meet every Sunday (during the month that they lead worship) at 5:00pm and provide the music for worship any month there is a 5th Sunday.

### Youth Sunday School

Anyone 6th-12th grade will meet Sunday mornings at 9am in the prayer room (beside the first floor bathrooms) for Sunday School!

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## Coming Activities

Roller Skating  
Mon View Park  
Sunday, May 19, 2024  
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Fishing Contest  
Waynesburg Sportsmen's Club  
Saturday, June 15, 2024  
9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Sign-In  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Fishing  
2:00 p.m. Awards

Vacation Bible School  
"Wild Live"  
June 17 – 21, 2024  
Monday – Friday  
5:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Outdoor Service and  
All Church Picnic  
Sunday, August 11, 2024  
10:15 a.m.  
Lions Park  
Picnic to follow Service

*Illuminate*  
**SPRING 2024**

**YOUTH MINISTRY AT FBC WAYNESBURG**

Sunday nights during the school year students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade - 12th grade are invited to participate in youth group!

From 6pm-8pm there is free time, games, snacks, a lesson, and small groups. Friends welcome!

GREENE COUNTY YOUTH NETWORK

**YOUTH LOCK-IN**

APRIL 12-13

381 WILLIS RD JEFFERSON, PA 15344

register!



**THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER AT THE MURDER MYSTERY**  
 A MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

04.20.2024

5pm First Baptist Church

ADULTS: \$10  
 KIDS: \$5

Dinner Included  
 Childcare Provided  
 Tickets available for preorder or at the door

CINEMA  
 CINEMA

Questions/Reservations: mandirestano@fbcwaynesburg.org



**Volunteers needed!**

**YOUTH PRAISE TEAM**

PRACTICE SUNDAYS AT 5PM  
 CONTACT MANDI RESTANIO FOR MORE INFO



SAVE THE DATE:  
 MISSION TRIP

**JULY 7-12**

**PARENT CONNECT**

Join Remind - our parent communication program:



**MANDI RESTANIO**  
 DIRECTOR OF YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT, AND TECHNOLOGY

(724) 331-7656  
 303 W High Street,  
 Waynesburg PA 15370  
 mandirestano@fbcwaynesburg.org  
 www.fbcwaynesburg.org





**Bobby Fox  
Pastor Dick Visser**

**May**

**1 Bill Barnes**

**8 Dave Fox**

**9 A.J. Diamond**

**10 Dylan Cowell  
Sally Johnson**

**11 Levi Brandstetter**

**14 Dawn Mankey**

**16 Mary George**

**17 Dixon Lutes**

**18 Logan Miller**

**19 Everly Sargent**

**Remember Our Shut-Ins**

**Rolling Meadows: Geraldine Calvert**

**Evergreen Assisted Living:  
Marilee Martin**

**APRIL**

**7 Cathy Loughner**

**8 Laura Huffman**

**11 Lee Wise**

**14 Kolbi Rastoka**

**16 Lilian Cowell**

**17 Jackson Fox**

**18 Cody Rush**

**19 Robby Salosky  
Zach Sargent**

**20 Craig Brewer**

**21 Blake Brewer  
Chris Lash**

**22 Jordan Brooks  
Spring Gaskill**

**27 Floyd Ankrom**

**28 MaChal Forbes**