



LOVE GOD-LOVE OTHERS

**SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 AM
(In person & Livestream)**

RIVERBENDBC.ORG

MARCH/APRIL 2026

Volume 23 Issue 2

A Note from Pastor John:

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Several weeks ago I was reading through the Bible reading plan, "Declare the Gospel," and the emphasis that day was upon how we share with others who don't want to hear about Jesus or are hostile toward the Gospel. The group I am reading with shared many great ideas and even personal experiences. As we talked, the Lord reminded me that one of the greatest ways we have to share the Gospel is through selfless acts of love. As I thought about that, I remembered stories of how Christians in the first centuries showed sacrificial love to a hostile world, even to a world which was persecuting them. Let me share some excerpts from an article I found in Credo Magazine written by Diana Severance dated April 12, 2020.

"In the first centuries of the Christian church, several major plagues swept through the Roman Empire. In each case, the Christians' reaction to the crisis demonstrated the transforming power of the Gospel in their lives."

"In 165 AD, during the reign of Marcus Aurelius, an epidemic of what is thought to have been smallpox was brought to Rome by troops returning from wars against the Parthians (in modern Iran). The disease decimated the Roman army and spread rapidly throughout the entire Empire. Lasting episodically for fifteen years, it is estimated that 1/4 to 1/3 of the population in the Empire perished. The noted Roman physician Galen, who described the disease in detail, was in Rome during the first outbreak and fled the city for the country. While Galen fled, Christians remained in the city and cared for the ailing and dying. Mercy and pity was not a virtue among the pagans, but the Christians knew God as a God of mercy. They were to be merciful and love one another, and they showed mercy in caring for others during the plague."

In 215 AD, another plague struck the Roman empire; listen how Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria, described how the Christians showed mercy to others.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

NEW MEMBERS

Joshua and Avrie Morgan

James Peck

Benilda Bennett

Welcome to River Bend!



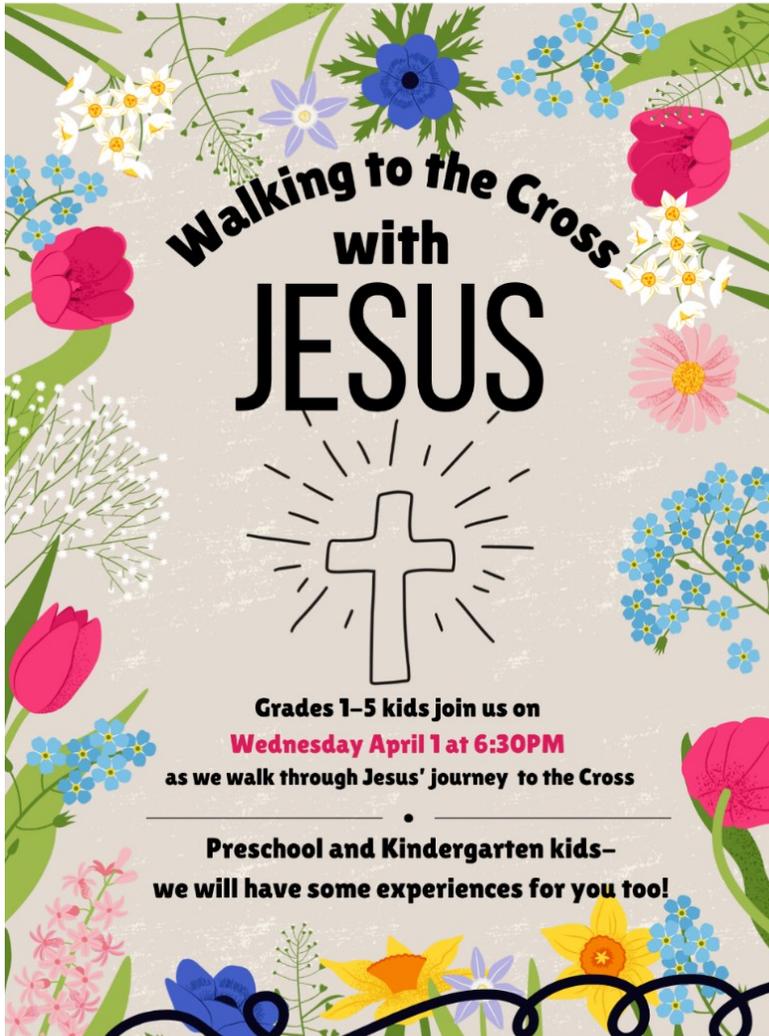
Brittany Nuelle, Children's Director
BNuelle@RiverBendBC.org



Join River Bend Kids on 
facebook.com/groups/riverbendkids



WEDNESDAYS
6:30-7:30 PM - W1
*Come early (6:00) or stay late (8:00)
to hang out!



CALLING ALL PRESCHOOLERS!

First Steps Preschool is now registering for the
2026-2027 School year!

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

18 MONTHS—4 YEARS OLD

Reach out to Brittany for more info! bnuelle@riverbendbc.org

Sundays: Morning Bible Study 9 AM Mpact 5:30 PM Youth Praise Band Practice 6:30 PM
Worship Wednesdays 6:30 PM



Youth Fundraiser Lunch

The youth will be raising funds for this summer's youth camp and mission trip by working on **Rodeo Sunday, March 1**. Make donations & leave tips as the students serve food, bus tables, and set-up and tear-down tables.
 *Students: Sign-in with Leah Bade to receive your assignments for volunteering.



SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

MARCH 8 & APRIL 12 - 12:00 PM

*Students, get ready to chow down at a local eatery!
 Parents, feel free to join the fun or drop-off & swing back by for pick-up at 1 pm. Bon appétit!!*



Mobile Youth Mission Trip

This summer, June 14-20, a team of youth will take a mission trip to Mobile, AL.

The group will work with various ministry organizations by volunteering with individuals experiencing homelessness and overcoming addiction. The team will also help at a food bank and perform for senior adults and kids.

The cost of the trip is \$300 per student.

Payment schedule:

- Due now - \$50 first payment
- March 18 - \$125 second payment
- May 27 - remaining balance

Be sure and attend Mpact (choir, puppets, & signing) on Sunday nights at 5:30 p.m.

There is a minimum attendance requirement for participation in the mission trip.

Scan QR Code for scholarship application. Applications due by May 31.

SCAN ME 



JOURNEY 2026 - LET'S GO!

JULY 6-10 \$360/CAMPER

July 6-10 will be packed with high-energy fun, meaningful moments, and memories your student will be talking about long after camp ends.

WHO CAN ATTEND: Students who have completed 6th-12th grade

FUN ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: Hexapod Challenge Course, Archer's Quest, GellyBall, Archery, & BB Guns Swimming Pool & Swim Pond, Banana Boat Rides

Share and invite friends! Open to River Bend students and beyond.

Registration and Deposit Deadline: April 26
\$50 due

SCAN ME 



Blessings On Your Birthday!

March

1 Tremon Brown
 1 Kate Kirschbaum
 2 Cheryl Weller
 5 Ann Barnhart
 7 John Boaz
 7 Jack Harper
 7 Mary Wood
 11 Gordon Hendley
 12 Loras Jones
 12 Myrna McDade
 12 David Washington

13 Wade Kirkpatrick
 15 Max McCart
 18 Brian McMahan
 24 Gretchen Townley
 26 Bill Schraer
 31 Brenda Blanco
 31 Will Nuelle

3 Dan Flagg
 4 Karen Helm
 5 Kathye Watson
 7 Louise Lawton
 8 Brianne Baucum
 8 Marisa Dugas
 8 Amy Hunter
 9 Sue Soward
 10 Cheryl Nattier
 11 Danielle Jewell
 11 David Peck

April

12 Abby Richardson
 13 Robert Means
 14 Judy Dowty
 14 Lacy Beth Peck
 15 Randy Lawton
 15 Rickey Witt
 16 Mark Conner
 16 Benjamin Holley
 16 Reagan Miller
 17 Megan Holley
 19 Ian Nkwelle
 20 Colton Dayton
 20 Gene Nordt
 22 Sean Nkwelle
 25 Caitlin Elliott
 25 Jillian Elliott
 25 Theresa Washington
 26 Michael Bell
 26 Pam Boaz
 26 Hunter Sullivan
 28 Stacy Peck
 30 Gloria Edgar

Daylight Savings Begins: Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night, March 7.

Spring Break Schedule: There is no regular activities on the following dates as schools observe spring break.
 Sunday night, March 8 Wednesday night, March 11

CHURCH CALENDAR

March

1 Rodeo Sunday 10:30 am - WC
 General Mtg. #2: Elder-Led Cong. 4:30 pm - E2
 3 Saints Alive Lunch & Game Day 11:30 am - WC
 8 Spring Break: March 8-14
 RBStudents 2nd Sunday Lunch 12:00 pm - Offsite
 General Mtg. #3: Elder-Led Cong. 4:30 pm - E2
 9 Deacons' Meeting 7:00 pm - E8
 14 Church Work Day 9:00 am - RBBC
 15 SMBS Adult Teacher Training 4:30 pm - E2
 17 General Mtg. #4: Elder-Led Cong. 7:00 pm - E2
 20 RBKids: Boy Event: Details to come 5:30 pm - W1
 21 RBMen's Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am - YB
 RBWomen's Spring Tea 2:00 pm - WC
 28 Friends & Family Clay Shoot 1:00 pm - Offsite
 30 RBWomen: Coffee Time 10:00 am - Offsite

April

1 RBKids Walking to the Cross with Jesus 6:30 pm - W1
 3 Good Friday Service 6:00 pm - WC
 5 Easter Garden Service 8:00 am - RBGarden
 Easter Services 9:00 & 10:30 am
 7 Saints Alive Trip (Date tentative) Watch for updates
 11 Church Work Day 9:00 am - RBBC
 12 RBStudents 2nd Sunday Lunch 12:00 pm - Offsite
 13 Deacons' Meeting 7:00 pm - E8
 18 RBMen's Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am - YB
 19 SMBS Adult Teacher Training 4:30 pm - E2
 22 VBS Grade Level Leader Meeting 6:00 pm - W3
 26 Quarterly Business Meeting 11:45 am - WC
 27 RBWomen: Coffee Time 10:00 am - Offsite

***May 2: River Bend Women's Conference - Details Coming Soon!**

Prayer Request? River Bend offers many opportunities to join us in prayer, or to submit a prayer request.
 Wednesdays: Glory Morning Prayer at 6:30 am in E1. Prayer Meeting 7:30 pm in E4. Email: Pray@RiverBendBC.org

AROUND THE BEND

Rodeo Sunday March 1 - 12:00 pm - WC

Wear your favorite rodeo duds and gather 'round after worshippin' for a rootin' tootin' good time with rodeo games for the young'uns and some grub! Our youth will be volunteering at the Rodeo Sunday lunch. If they provide excellent service and you wish to express your gratitude with a tip, all contributions go to the RBStudent Mission Trip and Camp Scholarship Fund.

Elder-Led Congregationalism Meetings

River Bend is beginning a church-wide conversation about whether Scripture calls us toward an elder-led congregationalist form of leadership. The Elder Task Force has prepared a document outlining our biblical study and reflections and after reading it, we invite every member to join one of our upcoming meetings to search the Scriptures together and discern the Lord's direction for our church! Please plan to attend one of our forthcoming meetings: **Sundays, March 1 & 8: 4:30 pm - E2 or Tuesday, March 17: 7:00 pm - E2**

Saints Alive Luncheon Tuesday, March 3 - 11:30 am - WC

Join us for a potluck lunch and Games Day on Tuesday, March 3, at 11:30 am in the Worship Center. Details coming soon for our Saints Alive Day Trip in April.

RBWomen's Spring Tea Jesus, Me, and a Cup of Tea Saturday, March 21 - 2:00 pm - WC

Guest Speaker: Mary Wood, My Journey with Jesus Ladies - Join us on **Saturday, March 21**, 2 pm in the Worship Center to savor exquisite tea, delectable fresh salads, and indulge in an array of tasty desserts. All are cordially invited to this delightful gathering! RSVP in the foyer or [online](#).

Friends & Family Clay Shoot Hosted by River Bend Men's Ministry Saturday, March 28 - 1:00 pm - Offsite

Gather for lunch at 1 pm and sporting clays at 2 pm on Saturday, March 28, at Westside Sporting Grounds, 10120 Pattison Road, Katy, 77493. \$55/person covers course fee, golf cart fee and lunch. [Register online!](#)

Easter Schedule

Good Friday Service: Friday, April 3, 6 pm - WC
Messianic Passover and Lord's Supper

Easter Garden Service: Sunday, April 5, 8 am
In the River Bend Garden

Easter Services: Sunday, April 5, 9 & 10:30 am - WC

RBWomen: Monthly Coffee Time Mondays, March 30 & April 27 10:00 am - Offsite

Ladies - Join us for a ladies coffee date to enjoy a time of connection, conversation and coffee at 10 am at Humble Grounds Coffeehouse, 11525 S Fry Rd, Fulshear.

Amazing Grace Quilters 2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month 9:00 am - E2

Join the quilters in E2 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month as they work on projects for area ministries. All skill levels welcome! Bring your sewing machine, materials, and a sack lunch. Contact Mona Follis at 281-533-0147 for information.

River Bend Men's Monthly Breakfast Saturdays, March 21 & April 18 8:30 am - YB

Join us for breakfast, Bible study, and prayer monthly on the 3rd Saturday 8:30-9:30 am in the Youth Building. Invite your friends, neighbors, sons, and fathers!

Church Work Days (CWD) 2nd Saturday of each Month - 9:00 am - RBBC

We're excited for our next come and go Church Work Days (CWD) happening March 14 & April 11, 9 am-12 pm! We'll have projects for every skill level and every age with tasks designed so everyone can participate.

Adult Bible Study "Answers in Genesis" Wednesdays - 6:30 pm - E8

Join us as we dive deep into Genesis to explore the God who creates and the relevance of Genesis and why it is so important to our faith.

Prayer Meeting meets at 7:30 pm in E4 after Bible study.

Ladies' Precept Bible Study Thursdays at 9:30 am - YB

Our study on Colossians and Philemon meets on Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 am, in the Youth Building. Workbooks are available at [Precept.org](#); Precept Upon Precept & NASB book. If you have questions, please contact Darlene at dirvin1990@att.net. We will not meet March 12 during Spring Break or April 2.

Small Group Bible Study Thursdays at 6:00 pm - Offsite

Small Group Bible Study meets weekly at 6:00 pm. Contact Kevin at KColeman@RiverBendBC.org for information and schedule.

COME AND CELEBRATE

WITH US THIS EASTER

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

“MESSIANIC PASSOVER” AND THE LORD’S SUPPER

April 3 at 6:00-7:30 pm in the Worship Center

EASTER GARDEN SERVICE

April 5 at 8:00 am in the River Bend Garden

EASTER SERVICES

April 5 at 9:00 & 10:30 am in the Worship Center

*Sunday Morning Bible Study Schedule

9:00 am: RBKids Easter Service - W1, RBStudents - YB, Adult Open - E2, 50-60 Class - E1

10:30 am: Ladies’ Class - E3, Men’s Class - E4, 60+ Classes - E5 & E8

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

March 8 - 29 Church Goal: \$13,500

Each spring our church partners with Baptist churches across America to collect funds to support over 3,000 North American missionaries. Pray as to how God would have you support our missionaries. Step into the story at www.AnnieArmstrong.com

FAMILY HOPE MOTHER’S DAY CARE PACKAGES

River Bend Goal: 300 Regular Size Bottles of Shampoo

We are partnering with Family Hope to create Mother’s Day Care Packages for attendees at the Family Hope Food Fair at Parkway Fellowship on May 11. **Donation Days are Sundays, April 26 and May 3**, with shampoo bottles collected in the foyer. We need **four volunteers** at 6:30 AM on May 11 to help pack care bags. Ladies - Bilingual volunteers (Spanish/English) are also needed to pray with attendees; please contact Pastor John if you are available.

RIVER BEND WORSHIP SURVEY

We want to hear from you about your worship experiences at River Bend. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the survey. Please complete by March 31.

“Most of our brethren showed love and loyalty in not sparing themselves while helping one another, tending to the sick with no thought of danger and gladly departing this life with them after becoming infected with their disease. Many who nursed others to health died themselves. The best of our own brothers lost their lives in this way – some presbyters, deacons, and laymen – a form of death based on strong faith and piety that seems in every way to equal martyrdom. They would also take up the bodies of the saints, close their eyes, shut their mouths, and carry them on their shoulders. They would embrace them, wash, and dress them in burial cloths, and soon receive the same services themselves.”

“Dionysius noted that the pagans showed no such compassion to the suffering, but only sought to protect themselves from the disease and death: The heathen were the exact opposite. They pushed away those with the first signs of the disease and fled from their dearest. They even threw them half dead into the roads and treated unburied corpses like refuse in hopes of avoiding the plague of death, which, for all their efforts, was difficult to escape.”

Here’s even another example of sacrificial love from the 4th century. “In the early 4th century, famine and plague again affected many in the eastern portion of the Empire. Under Emperor Maximinus Dai (308-313), Christians were under persecution as well, yet the Christians again sought to help others in their distress. According to the early church historian Eusebius, ...the zeal and piety of the Christians are obvious to all the heathen. In this awful adversity they alone gave practical proof of their sympathy and humanity. All day long some of them tended to the dying and to their burial, countless numbers with no one to care for them. Others gathered together from all parts of the city, a multitude of those withered from famine and distributed bread to them all, so that their deeds were on everyone’s lips, and they glorified the God of the Christians. Such actions convinced them that they alone were pious and truly reverent of God.”

“Whether during the second century Antonine Plague, or the third century Cyprian Plague or the later plague under Maximinus, the actions of the Christians demonstrated that their lives had truly been transformed by their faith in Christ. Their actions of love and mercy to all men expressed the mercy of their Heavenly Father. They did not fear death and willingly showed mercy to others at the risk of their own lives. Conversions to Christianity increased greatly after each of these pandemics as the Christians let their light shine before men.”

Matthew 25:34-40.

Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Jesus calls us to love sacrificially, not only showing love to believers, but also to the world which denies God and may even hate you. When you do this, you show the world how important Jesus is to you. Who are you showing sacrificial love too?

Pastor John,
Love God – Love Others