



PROCLAIMER

first baptist church of el reno

April 2024 Volume 63 - #4

HOW CAN I KNOW?



There is a question I have sensed in many conversations and counseling sessions over the last ten years of ministry. The question is alluded to and worded in many ways but all the questions at their root are about the nature of salvation and the doctrine of assurance. Can a person be sure they are a Christian? What does "once saved, always saved" mean? Even more personally, "How can I know?"

This is especially true for people who grew up in the church. Oftentimes, we who grew up in the church tend to doubt our salvation because we feel there is no dramatic shift in our lives that took place before and after we became Christians. We hear testimonies of major transformation and wonder, "I don't have a story like that—am I really a Christian?"

At the same time, there are many people who walked an aisle when they were young and prayed the "sinners' prayer." Some even got baptized, professing faith in Jesus, however they are no longer in church or trying to follow Jesus. If you were to ask them if they are a Christian, they would confidently say, "Yes!" and claim "once saved, always saved." Should such a person be so confident?

There seems to be a lot of confusion about this doctrine which is unfortunate because it is a beautifully powerful doctrine that when understood correctly can provide a steadiness to life and be a source of unending joy and rest. Therefore, the first two Sundays of April we are going to take a break from the Gospel of John to explore the question, "How can I know?" I hope you will join us!

Pastor Grant



Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Kicks For Kids

This month we are once again providing shoes to children in need throughout ERPS. This is a significant way our church can support our community, but we need your assistance! If you would like to contribute to this ministry opportunity, please mark your gift for "Shoes" on an offering envelope or select the dropdown option at www.fbcelreno.com/GIVE. Thank you for your support! continued support of local missions in El Reno!

Operation Christmas Child Conference at FBCER

The annual Operation Christmas Child Connect Conference is on Saturday, April 20th. Join us for a Connect 1 Day Watch Party at FBCER from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We'll worship virtually and celebrate the work of Operation Christmas Child alongside others across the US. Hear directly from Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child leadership, including Franklin and Edward Graham, and be inspired by impactful stories from international and domestic leaders. If interested, **please contact Tony Pope or Lori Finnigan!**

Graduate Sunday

We love to honor the hard work of our graduating high school students here at FBCER. On Sunday, May 5th, we'll have a chance to celebrate all of our outgoing seniors on Graduate Sunday. There will be a special time in the service for all to be recognized. If you have a senior to sign up for Graduate Sunday, head to www.fbcelreno.com/GRADS.

Women's Ministry - Mothers Day Breakfast

All ladies are invited to a Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday May 12th during the 9:00 am small group hour! We would love to honor the moms in our church for their sacrificial love, in the Fellowship Hall!

FBCER Missions Opportunities!

Interested in missions? Explore all our opportunities here, near, and far at www.fbcelreno.com/MISSIONS. Plan ahead for 2024 -- Costa Rica 2024 will be June 4th - 11th. Contact Holden or visit our website for more details.

Family Commitment Sunday

On Mother's Day (May 12th) we will set aside time in our service for Family Commitment. This will be a special celebration for parents to gather with family and friends, commit to raise their child in a Christ-centered home, and for our church to commit to supporting you as a family.

If you have recently had a child or are new to FBCER and have never participated in a service like this, we would love for you to be a part of our activities on May 12th, 2024. If your family would like to participate in this service, please go to fbcelreno.com/FAMILY and fill out the information there to be included in that service **no later than May 10th.**

New to 2024: In connection to our Family Commitment Sunday, Pastor Grant will be leading a meeting for parents on Wednesday, May 8th.

Summer Schedule

We're thrilled to announce a ton of exciting events happening at FBCER this summer! From activities for kids and students, to adults, there's something for everyone. To ensure you're always in the know, sign up for text updates at www.fbcelreno.com/UPDATES

- Cross Timbers: May 28th - 31st
Sign up at www.fbcelreno.com/KIDS
- Cost Rica Trip: June 4th - 11th
Join us as we pray the 30 who are being sent to share the Gospel to impact the lives of all those who hear it!
- VBS: June 24th - 28th
Sign up at www.fbcelreno.com/KIDS
- Summer Sabbatical: July 7th, 14th, 21st
We will break from small groups for these three weeks, but continue our service at 10:00am.
- Jr High Falls Creek: July 8th - 12th
Sign up at www.fbcelreno.com/STUDENTS
- High School Falls Creek: July 15th - 20th
Sign up at www.fbcelreno.com/STUDENTS



This Month's Serve Teams

04/07/2024

Nursery Team 1

Tasha Couch
Addison Couch
Harper Looper
Emily Smith
Erica Ayers

Parking Lot Team 1

Jeff Davis
Gary Eisenhour
Bobby Mixon
Julio Trejo

Welcome Team 1

Jason Looper
Merry Fisher
N'Lisa Havener
Terry & Linda Howard
Freda Moffat
Karen Nance
Tammy Perando
Stephen Shafer
Malachi &
Lyndzee Sherman

Bus Driver

Les & Pam Ellis

Coffee Bar

Brandon Adams

04/14/2024

Nursery Team 2

Jaimie Wardlaw
Debra Steffler
Michelle Whetstone
Janice Palmer
Angela Lesperance
Jesse Lesperance
Anjelica Avendano

Parking Lot Team 2

Ronnie Ezell
Virgile Roach
Parker Avendano

Welcome Team 2

Jennifer Davis
Caleb Davis
David Harris
Mary Kay Hokett
Carla Holsted
Toni Irion
Christine Orr
Eric Parker
Jerry Zucksworth

Bus Driver

Paul Fuell

Coffee Bar

Malachi Sherman

04/21/2024

Nursery Team 3

Pam Ellis
Heather Fairbanks
Lou Ann Mickle
Sarah Ayers
Skylar Ayers
Trisha Bass

Parking Lot Team 3

Jesse Lesperance
Harold "Pete" Petree
Aron Steffen
Will Wedman

Welcome Team 3

Angela Lesperance
Ray & Carla Apple
Bob Lee
Jessica Lee
Donna Mogg
Jim & Sandy Rankin
Angie Steffen
Erin Tinsley

Bus Driver

Bob Lee

Coffee Bar

Rusty Shamblin

04/28/2024

Nursery Team 4

Kim Eisenhour
Kristy Pepper
Dianna Spott
Kayla Fipps
Heather Pope
Shelby Brittain
Lynn Havener

Parking Lot Team 4

Cory Charmasson
Ronnie Funck
Jason McClure
Darrin Pepper

Welcome Team 4

Cathy Knott
Christopher &
Chanda Burdine
Karen Chadwick
Cleta Mullin
Jackie Ogilvie
Robin Robinson
Bob & Debbie Stutler

Bus Driver

Curtis Steffler

Coffee Bar

Christopher Burdine



We believe that part of our sharing our life with God and others is evidenced in our generosity. We believe that everything we have is a gift from God and not only should we give to God with our "first fruits" (tithing) but that we should be looking to go above and beyond with our generosity. Join us on our mission by giving today. Go to fbcelreno.com/give to find out all the ways you can give!



Sunday Morning Stats

	<u>March 03</u>	<u>March 10</u>	<u>March 17</u>	<u>March 24</u>	<u>March 31</u>
Small Groups	252	230	226	247	N/A (Easter)
Worship Attendance	380	304	332	342	619
Offering/Tithe	\$23,193.50	\$12,435.00	\$13,889.10	\$9,499.24	\$13,410.75
Building Fund	\$485.00	\$514.00	\$0	\$497.00	\$260.00



Calendar

April

	1	SH Open	2	3	4	Office Closed	5	6
				Wed Schedule 10am Midweek 6:30pm Kid's 6:30pm Students 6:30pm Adults				
9am Small Groups 10am Worship 11:15am Cross Timbers Meeting	7	8	9	10	11	Office Closed	12	13
		SH Open	11am Bykota Diaper Distribution	Wed Schedule 10am Midweek 6:30pm Kid's 6:30pm Students 6:30pm Adults				
9am Small Groups 10am Worship	14	15	16	17	18	Office Closed	19	20
		SH Open	6pm Dental Clinic	Wed Schedule 10am Midweek 6:30pm Kid's 6:30pm Students 6:30pm Adults		Women's Retreat @ Falls Creek		Judi C's Birthday
9am Small Groups 10am Lord's Supper 10am Worship 11:45am Finance 6:30pm Foster Care	21	22	23	24	25	Office Closed	26	27
		SH Open		Wed Schedule 10am Midweek 6:30pm Kid's 6:30pm Students 6:30pm Adults		Men's Retreat @ Falls Creek		
9am Small Groups 10am Worship 11:30am Quarterly Financial Meeting Adult Small Group Meeting 11:45am	28	29	30					
		SH Closed						