



STEEPLE VIEWS

First Baptist Church • Monroe • North Carolina

Issue 20 - May 13, 2020

Current

Community Needs

Union County Christmas Bureau

The Christmas Bureau is attempting to help Union County families during these difficult times. They invite you to help by providing any of the following items: Diapers (newborn, 1,2,3,), baby wipes, baby formula (Similac powder preferably), any type of baby cereal, and baby bottles. Donations may be taken to their office at the Union County Human Services center on Highway 601 North. Their office is to the far left of the building on the 601 side. Ring the bell at the top of the steps and someone will come down and take your items.

Wingate University Students

Wingate Baptist Church has asked our congregation to partner with them in providing “care” packages for the 45 or so students (mostly international) still living on campus. Donations can include snacks, goodies, cookies, and/or gift cards (McDonald’s, Burger King, or Food Lion). You can also donate money and these items will be purchased (make checks payable to First Baptist Church). Please drop these items by the church office within the next week.

As always, thank you for ... **“Loving Beyond”!**



Josh Owens will be facilitating this event each Thursday at 9:00 AM by Zoom. Discussion will be on the book of Lamentations. You can download the Zoom app and then use the following Meeting ID for each session: 976 2647 6091. You can also use the following link for each of these meeting: <https://wingate.zoom.us/j/97626476091>. The Book of Lamentations can help each of us during this time of challenge and mourning for so much that we have lost. Join Pastor Josh each week for coffee & conversation!

2020 Grads!

First Baptist would like to recognize both high school and college graduates. Parents, if you have a son or daughter graduating this year, please call or email the church office. A list of graduates will be published in the newsletter within the next few weeks.



The Board of Trustees have approved the purchase of equipment that will give First Baptist the ability to livestream all worship services, even after restrictions on public gatherings are lifted. Cost will be between \$3,000 and \$4,000. This will give the church the opportunity to reach more people in the name of Christ, in addition to staying connected through worship to those of our church family who are not able to attend each Sunday. All that is required to view the services is a smart phone or computer that is connected to the internet and Wi-Fi. You do not need Facebook to be able to watch. Instructions for connecting to view the services will be published in Steeple Views, or you can call Pastor Chris or Pastor Josh for help. If you do not have internet or Wi-Fi and are interested in this capability, you will most likely receive a call from your deacon for help. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of equipment, please make a check payable to First Baptist and drop it by or mail it to the church office and mark it “Live Stream Equipment.”



The Worship of God

Sunday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.

Worship via Facebook

Worship Leaders

*Dr. Chris Dawson, Rev. Josh Owens
Beth Adams*

Prayer Concerns

Katherine Cox - Ken Murray - Joy Shute - Al Kessel
Cathy Thompson - Lorey White
Daniel Latham and family in the death of his mother,
Dr. Gail Latham
Terry Bollick, cousin of Larry Tuggle
Brother of Denise Hopper with Covid-19
Mary Pettus, sister of Emily Massey
Shari Sierk, daughter of Neal and Susie Hinson
Kevin Casner, son of Ray and Gerry Casner
Church leadership as they begin preparing for the
2020-2021 church year
All those affected by Covid-19

It's a girl!

Congratulations to Nolan and Ashley McBride on the birth of their daughter, Ever Drew, on May 4. Proud grandparents are Tim and Debby McBride, and great-grandmother, Peggy Springs.

Facts & Figures:

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Weekly Budget Requirements	\$ 8,040
Budget Receipts	\$ 4,550
Budget Receipts to Date	\$ 273,801
Expenses to Date	\$ 260,209

Sunday Worship

May 10 Livestreaming Worship

Opening Music	Beth Adams
Words of Welcome	Dr. Dawson
Call to Worship	Rev. Owens
Worship through Music	Beth Adams
Scripture Reading: Acts 17:22-31	Rev. Owens
Prayer for the People	Dr. Dawson
Lord's Prayer	
Special Music	Beth Adams
Sermon Text: John 14:15-21	Dr. Dawson
Words of Encouragement	Dr. Dawson
Prayer	Dr. Dawson
The Stewardship of Tithing	Dr. Dawson
Benediction	Dr. Dawson



I am pleased to announce that funds are available to distribute scholarship grants from the R. Spence and Annie Lee Smith Helms Scholarship Fund for the 2020-2021 school year. College students of families who are members of First Baptist Church of Monroe can apply. Applications are now available in the church office, and the completed application should be returned to the church office by June 1.

— Joel Myers, Treasurer



Steeple Views

First Baptist Church
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Monroe NC 28112
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Web-site	www.fbcmonroenc.com
Christopher S. Dawson, Senior Minister	cdawson@fbcmonroenc.com
Joshua K. Owens, Associate Minister	jowens@fbcmonroenc.com
Beth Adams, Church Accompanist	badams@fbcmonroenc.com
Marsha Sexton, Business Manager	msexton@fbcmonroenc.com
Kathy Cole, Ministry Coordinator	kcole@fbcmonroenc.com
Jennifer Trull, Weekday Preschool Director	jtrull@fbcmonroenc.com
Logan Williams, Music Intern	lo.williams592@wingate.edu

Vision Statement: "First Baptist Church Monroe exists to Love God, Love Within, and Love Beyond"

FBC-Monroe Regathering Interest Survey

The leadership of First Baptist is in the process of looking at what gathering together in person again would look like for our faith family in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The following questions are intended to help them gauge your feelings around this topic and the various concerns pertaining to it. Please complete this survey and return it to the church office. A link will also be emailed to members that gives the opportunity to fill out the survey online.

Select your age range

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-older |

In general, how concerned are you regarding the COVID-19 situation currently?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Concerned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all Concerned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Concerned | |

Have you, or anyone in your circle of activity (work, family, neighbors, etc.) contracted the COVID-19 virus, or have suspicion to believe you or that individual has contracted the virus?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

How concerned are you regarding your safety and the safety of others as it pertains to returning to the campus and facilities of First Baptist Monroe?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Slightly Concerned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all Concerned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Concerned | |

Under Phase 2 of North Carolina's reopening plan, restrictions on public gatherings are lifted. In general, how likely would you be to attend services at FBC with social distancing, limited capacity, and other safety measures implemented by the church under Phase 2 status?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Likely | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Unlikely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Likely | <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely Unlikely |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neither Likely or Unlikely | |

With the possibility of returning to gathering on our campus, one of the expectations being considered is the requiring of all people to be in face masks. If the decision was made to require everyone to wear face coverings, how comfortable are you with this decision being enforced?

- Extremely Comfortable, would attend and abide by expectation
- Somewhat Comfortable, some reservations about wearing masks
- I'll attend whether masks are required or not
- Somewhat Uncomfortable, I'm open to wearing masks, but unsure if I would
- Extremely Uncomfortable, I do not feel I should be required to wear masks or to ask that of others

— CONTINUED —

There has been much discussion among experts that singing drastically heightens the potential transmission of the virus, and groups have been encouraged not to practice corporate singing. How might the absence or modification of singing in worship gatherings impact your view of worship?

- Singing is a core component of worship for me, so it would be difficult for me to attend without having that as part of worship
- The loss of corporate singing would be sad, but so long as music in some form (instrumentalist, soloist, video) was a part, I would be open to attending
- Whether music is able to be sung corporately does not impact my receptivity to gathering for public worship
- I am open to gathering for worship even if singing can't be a part of the service

One element of consideration for safely gathering is the ability to contract trace in the event of a confirmed case of the virus in a community member. In an effort to track possible transmission, what is your openness to measures such as assigned seating (same spot, around same people, in order to tract contact from week to week).

- Extremely Open
- Somewhat Open
- Slightly Open
- Not at all Open

One element of consideration for safely gathering is to make use of multiple locations to engage in corporate worship. In an effort to limit the number of people in one room, what is your openness to measures such as conducting worship in the sanctuary with a live-streamed version of the service happening simultaneously in the Family Life Center with physical distancing measures in place in both rooms?

- Extremely Open
- Somewhat Open
- Slightly Open
- Not at all Open

One element of consideration for safely gathering is having greeters/volunteers in place to enforce physical distancing practices and sanitation efforts. How open would you be to undergoing training to safely enact these types of procedures pertaining to possible gatherings?

- Extremely Open
- Somewhat Open
- Slightly Open
- Not at all Open

Are there any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions you would like to share with the church leadership regarding the topic of regathering as a faith community during the COVID-19 pandemic?
