



STEEPLE VIEWS

First Baptist Church • Monroe • North Carolina

Issue 21 - May 20, 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”!**



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. 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.” Because of COVID-19, equipment may not be available until the end of July.



Experience

it online! **JUNE 25-26**

2020 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The CBF 2020 General Assembly will be offered online. Join Cooperative Baptists from across the country and around the world for an engaging two-day interactive learning experience. Theme is about Forming Bold Faith. Over the course of the two days, you can worship, participate in timely workshops, see what’s happening with their ministry partners and browse a virtual exhibit hall, all from the comfort of your own home or office. Dr. Paul Baxley, former President of Wingate University, will be one of the keynote speakers.

Registration is free and is required to participate. You will receive information on how to access the 2020 General Assembly experience once you complete registration. You will receive a confirmation code that you will need to keep if you need to modify your registration. To register, visit the CBF national website and follow the instructions.

2020 Grads!

A list of high school and college graduates will be published in the Steeple Views next week. Parents, if you have a son or daughter graduating, contact the church office



To participate, 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 meetings: <https://wingate.zoom.us/j/97626476091>.



The Worship of God

Sunday, May 24, 11:00 a.m.

Worship via Facebook

Worship Leaders

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

**The Church Offices
will be closed on
Monday, May 25
for Memorial Day**

Sunday Worship

May 24 Livestreaming Worship

Opening Music	Beth Adams
Words of Welcome	Dr. Dawson
Call to Worship	Rev. Owens
Worship through Music	Beth Adams
Scripture: Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36	Rev. Owens
Prayer for the People	Dr. Dawson
Lord's Prayer	
Special Music	Beth Adams
Sermon Text: I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	Dr. Dawson
Words of Encouragement	Dr. Dawson
Prayer	Dr. Dawson
The Stewardship of Tithing	Dr. Dawson
Benediction	Dr. Dawson

Prayer Concerns

Katherine Cox - Ken Murray - Joy Shute - Al Kessel
Cathy Thompson - Pat Herrell
Anne Ashcraft, daughter of Doris Ramsey
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 preparing for 2020-2021
All those affected by Covid-19

Thank You ...

First Baptist Church:
Thank you for the outpouring of prayers and concerns for my wife and me during my bout with pneumonia. My doctor determined from a remote "visit" that I had COVID-19. Thankfully, it was a severe case of pneumonia, which had me hospitalized for a week. Your prayers and those of many others were felt by us and were answered in a very powerful way. God is good and we are grateful. Blessings to each of you.

— Ron and Vicki Johnson
(brother of Denise Hopper)

Facts & Figures:

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Weekly Budget Requirements	\$ 8,040
Budget Receipts	\$ 4,796
Budget Receipts to Date	\$ 278,597
Expenses to Date	\$ 268,723

College Scholarships ...

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. 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
109 Morrow Avenue
Monroe NC 28112
704-283-8534

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"

To date, First Baptist has received 55 surveys. Thank you to those who have completed and returned them. If you have not sent one in, you are encouraged to fill out the survey and return it to the church office, or you can go online to complete the it at www.fbcmonroe.nc.com/survey. Your opinion matters to the church leadership!

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?

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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?

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

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
- Slightly Open
- Somewhat 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
- Slightly Open
- Somewhat 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
- Slightly Open
- Somewhat 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?
