

First Baptist Church

Messenger

Volume 56 Issue 04 **APRIL 2020**

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

From Dr. Richard Seagle Senior Pastor First Baptist Church New Bern, NC

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As the coronavirus spread reaches our county and leaders encourage faith communities like ours to consider how we respond to the rapidly expanding public health crisis, I write to you with an update on our plans at First Baptist. Our situation is rapidly changing day to day, so, please check back often for updates.

As you may know, the Governor issued recommendations for places of worship on Thursday, March 12, that included not meeting in groups over 100 people. And now the CDC, as of Sunday March 15, is recommending no gatherings over 50 people for the next 8 weeks. Finally, on Monday, March 16, President Trump requested that there be no meetings of groups over 10 in number. That, of course, affects every one of our normal Sunday and Wednesday meetings for worship, fellowship and Bible study.

Because this is such a difficult decision, our Deacon Chairperson, Ken Gray and I have consulted with deacon leaders, deacons, trustees and the other ministerial staff to determine our best response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Here are our decisions:

- 1. We will continue to suspend all Sunday and Wednesday Activities as suggested by the Governor's office and CDC. This will be evaluated on a weekly basis. There will be a worship service at 11 am on Sunday that you can live stream at our church's website. We are asking all church members to stay home and worship through our streaming service at www.fbchurch.com, or a week delayed at WCTI 12 television.
- 2. After much prayer, conversation, and discernment among staff, Deacon leaders, Trustees, Deacons, it is clear to us that the most faithful and loving expression of our commitment to God and neighbor leads us to cancel all in-person church gatherings. This includes Sunday worship, Sunday School classes, weekday small groups, all age-graded activities, Sanctuary Choir/Praise Team rehearsals, missions circles and volunteer groups, committee meetings, and special events. The called church conference for this Wednesday night, March 18 has been postponed. The youth will meet at times with Jeremy through computer video chats. The application that the youth uses for these video chats is called Zoom and is available for free at your app store. Committees and other small groups might consider this application for video chats. Those without a smart device can still call in using a regular phone. Children's lessons and studies will be made available through social media.
- 3. Please help our church by remaining faithful in giving. The congregation is encouraged to give online, by mail or by calling the church office and setting up a bank draft to keep the church financially stable through the crisis. You can also mail your tithes and offering to the church office at P.O. Box 1463, New Bern, NC 28563. THIS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE.
- 4. The church office will remain open with posted entrance requirements.
 - A. We are asking anyone who has traveled to Level 2 and 3 countries, or believe that they may have been exposed to the virus in the U.S. during the last 14 days not to enter the building (Level 2 Japan, or Level 3 China, South Korea, Iran or Italy).
 - B. All who are experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath should call a doctor and come back to church when they are well.
 - C. We request use of sanitizer available at the door by all who enter the building.

(continued on page 2)

- (continued from page 1)
- Younger exposed patients of COVID 19 have had symptoms similar to the common cold. Therefore, if you have common cold symptoms, please come back to church when you are well.
- 5. All small group activities are canceled. Should your small group decide to meet on its own, we ask you to follow the protocols issued by the CDC.
- 6. The Family Life Center will be closed beginning March 16.
- 7. In keeping with the requests of hospitals and nursing homes, the deacons and ministers will not be making hospital and nursing home visits. The deacons and ministers will continue to make contacts through phone calls and online methods to support and pray with families.
- 8. The congregation will be kept updated through the website, automated calls and social media.
- 9. If you have a prayer request, need, or want to share an encouragement, please email our Senior Pastor at richard@fbchurch.com. Urgent Needs? If you have any immediate needs, please call the church office or our Senior Pastor. Please do email any of our pastoral staff or call the church office if you have questions, concerns, or fears that you need to talk through. If you are included in a vulnerable population and need help with shopping for groceries, pharmaceuticals or other necessary items please let us know. We have individuals within the church who have volunteered to help. During this time, please be sure to reach out to one another and love one another. Use your phones and emails to care for one another during this time. Even though we may not be meeting in the same room, we are still the Body of Christ to one another.

Our staff and deacons will continue to discuss this issue and develop plans as the situation evolves. In the meantime, we ask you to act wisely in a way that honors the God we serve. The Holy Spirit led the apostle Paul to write these words: "The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Phil 4:5b-6). The command is "do not be anxious." The means to obey this command is given next: prayer.

Please pray for one another and for the many medical professionals, public safety professionals, educators, missionaries, and others who are affected. Pray for the Lord's protection from illness among our people. Pray for gospel opportunities to come from this outbreak. Pray for wisdom regarding ministry impact in the event of local COVID-19 cases. We want to be a church that reflects our trust in Jesus Christ and his love to our community.

As people of faith, we know we do not face this time alone or without power. We believe in a God who is the Great Physician and the Comforter. I pray God will take from us all any spirit of anxiety and grant to us a peace that surpasses all understanding. I also pray that we will be able to share with others the hope and peace we have through our relationship with Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Richard

				APR	II. BIR'	THDAYS					
01	Anne Metts	80	Cameron Lotridge	11	Chuck Y	ohn	18	Margaret Ame	rson	22	Charles Schmidt
	Allie Andrews		Betty Arthur		Nick Huf	fman		Jennifer Game	s	23	Nick Wilkinson
04	Elizabeth Swicegood		Carson Wood	12	Eddie W	all		Jane Simmons	;		Sally Huffman
05	Richard Humphrey		Sissy Bell		Wendy k	Karam		Oliver Blalock		24	Rosemary Dow
	Guy Pepper		Virginia Knight	14	Marsha l	Parker	19	Jessica Brinkle	ey .		Paul Biro
06	Frances Walker	09	Seth Needham		Jeffrey F	ink		Sonya Thurma	n	26	Nathaniel Holton
	Then Ksor		Bobby West	15	James L	orentzen	20	Rudy Rowe		28	Todd Spear
	Denise Fink		Cindy Lewis		Ashley F	atterson		Corbin Butts			John Hale
07	Kathy White	10	Danny Young	17	Steve Si	mmons	21	Melodie Seagl	Э	29	Trish Thrasher
	Billy Wilkes	11	Jared Brinkley		Westleig	h Holton	21	Elizabeth Ward	t	30	Parker Wehner
	Michael Wehner		Virginia Lawson		Darryl R	ussell	22	Lamar Sledge			Cori Willard
				APRIL	ANNIV	ERSARI	ES				
04	James & Tracey Lorentzen		11 Bud & Marsha	Parker	20	Kevin & Call	ena Ada	ams 26	Ronnie 8	& Kelly	Brinson
05	Roger & Meredith Pait		16 Neil & Debbie	Lotridge		Ed & Kim Bu	utts	28	Paul & S	haron	Biro
	Steve & Vicki Lambert		17 Ken & Diane T	yndall	23	Joshua & Ka	atie Bell	29	James &	Liz G	arner
06	Jeffrey & Karen Wood		Ed & MaryAnn	Stinson	24	Terry & Bren	nda Hall		Todd & H	Holly T	hornton
08	Bill & Cynthia Robey		Brett & Kelli Hi	inson		Chuck & Kat	thy Whit	е			



First Baptist Church First and Second Grade Sunday School Class was delighted to prepare emergency food kits for those in need in our community through Religious Community Services (RCS). The children were excited to know that they could do something to make a difference in the lives of others. Under the leadership of Roger Pait (Lead Teacher) and Marsha Johnston (Assistant Teacher), they have been studying many of the examples set by Jesus and the disciples, including feeding the hungry. Their hope is that this small act of kindness will be uplifting for those who receive these food kits. They will also be featured in the RCS newsletter.

From left to right in the attached photo: back row - Roger Pait (teacher), Wes Holton, Kameron Owen, Parker Wehner, Merritt Best, Marsha Johnston (assistant teacher); front row - Mary Ella Swicegood, Mason McQuistion, Phen Hardy. Class member not shown in the picture - Alex Sanchez.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Summer Camp! June 22 - 26, 2020



Kelly's Corne

**For those who completed 4th, 5th, & 6th grades

Final payment of \$95 Now Due

VBS Registration Begins May 1st



Dear Parents & Church Family:

As all of you are aware of the unusual events of self-quarantine and restriction that our children, parents, and families are experiencing, let us not forget one another in our church community and in the community around us. I too am disappointed about our current circumstances with our not being able to meet together at church, with our children being out of school, with our baseball season suspended, and with the uncertainty of our Spring and Summer calendars. Let us pray for one another, keep in communication as best we can, and reach out to our church members of all ages through phone calls, texts, "snail mail", emails, and FaceTime.

I will continue to send out emails which will include lessons, devotions, and activities for our preschool, elementary and preteen children. Of course, if you have something you would like to share, please feel free to do so. I have created a new Facebook page "FBC First Kids Club" which will be a private page which you can join by request. On this page I will be posting interactive activities and you are welcome to post interactions as well.

Please contact me or any one of our Children's Committee members (Billy Townsend, Meredith Pait, Courtney Tavares, Rachel Hardy, Katie Bell or Megan Ireland) if you are in need of anything. We are here to serve you. "Make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."—Philippians 2:2 (CSB).

In Christ's Love— Mrs. Kelly

YOUTH NEWS

Appalachian Outreach July 5 - 10, 2020

Dutreach Unidiversity **July 19 - 25, 2020**

From FBC and the NBSSL:

All T-ball and Baseball practices and games are currently suspended. The new date for the NBSSL Opening Ceremony will be Monday, April 20th at 6:00 pm at Creekside Park. Please keep in touch with your coach and with the New Bern Sunday School Facebook Page for further notices.

	WORSHIP	S E R V I C	E V O L U N	T E E R S
	APRIL 5	APRIL 12	APRIL 19	APRIL 26
DEACONS	Bobby West James Garner	Rosemary Dow David Knight	Terry Hall Chuck White	Wade Fuller Kimsey Welch
WATCHMEN	Terry Hall	Rick Welborn	Dwayne Alligood	Andy Wilkinson
USHER TEAMS	Reuben Hart	Mike Seawell	Donald Heath	Bobby West
LORD'S SUPPER	April 9th - Maundy Sherry & An	/ Thursday Service dy Wilkinson	_	_
CAFÉ CONNECTION	Joe & Gretchen Overby	Easter Breakfast	Anna Pearson	Don & Pat Eglinton
REFRESHMENTS	Lynn Barnhill	Easter Sunday	Kathy White	Stephanie Warren
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	Laura Backstrom Mallory Compton	Easter Sunday	Laura Backstrom Sally Huffman	Laura Backstrom Rebecca Sanchez
EXTENDED CARE 8:45	Bobbie Love Cathie Wall Josie & Hoyt Doak Mike & Jessica Wehner	Lori Meads Kelsie McBride Rick Sanchez Rebecca Sanchez Jennifer Benton	Tara Thurman Josh & Katie Bell Rodney & Sheila Bell	Billy & Nicole Townsend Liz Garner Vanessa Smith Kyle Compton Mallory Compton
EXTENDED CARE 11:00	Gretchen Overby Renea & Kimsey Welch	Diane Thompson	Susie Games Jennifer Games Charlotte Antry	Adam & Cindy Lewis Tommy & Rachel Hardy
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE	April 1 Team: V. Barrow Lasagna Salad Bar Rolls Dessert Tea/Coffee	April 15 Team: D. Heath and S. Wilkinson Hamburgers & Hot Dogs Baked Beans Cole Slaw Chips Dessert	April 22 Team: D. Alligood Grilled Pork Chops Stewed Apples Green Bean Almondine Sister Schubert Rolls Dessert Tea/Coffee	April 29 Team: T. Daniels Meatloaf Homemade Mac & Cheese Peas Sister Schubert Rolls Dessert Tea/Coffee
YOUTH SNACK SUPPER	Tiffany Adams	Easter		Sonya Thurman

Saturday, May 2

2020 is the 25th Anniversary of Operation Inasmuch. Operation Inasmuch is a one-day missions blitz in our community and throughout the world that takes the Love of





God into our communities. We invite our entire church to be active in missions to our community on May 2, 2020. Consider giving a morning in local missions outreach. The Missions committee has various options for ALL skill levels. First Grade through Adults.

Here is a list of just a few of the many projects that we will work on:

- Cookie Delivery to Service organizations (police, firemen etc.)
- New Bern Parks and Recreation Service Project
- Ramp build for elderly (this project will probably take all day)
- Bangert Elementary School cleanup outside
- Special needs baseball game (Jeremy and Youth)
- Gideons bible give away
- Broad Street laundry providing guarters, conversation and bottled water to whoever comes in
- Bethany Christian Church trim work around doors and floor

Sign Up sheet will be in the Breezeway Child Care will be provided for birth to preschool Breakfast provided by FB Brotherhood will be served in the Family Life Center at 7:30 AM after which we will pray and go into the community. Please join us. Get a "cool" shirt for participating!

FBC Missions Committee

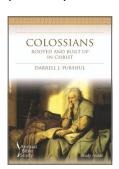
Terry Hall, Chair

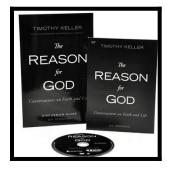


Wednesday Night Discipleship at 6pm

When regular schedule resumes...

Winter Bible Study — *Colossians*Led by Dr. Seagle
Sanctuary





The Reason for God:

Conversations on

Faith and Life

by Timothy Keller,

Led by Phil Smith, A111

Lenten Devotions An Invitation to Prayer

Copies are still available if you did not get one or would like to share.



Sunday, May 31

4:00-6:00 pm

Dr. Caleb Oladipo –
Director of the World Religions
& Global Culture Centers

Snellings Chair of Evangelism and Missions

Campbell University Divinity School





By exploring Islam and other faiths, we can learn different ways of practicing and articulating personal faith through the diverse experiences of believers around the world.

Financial Notes

In an effort to keep everyone up to date, I have been asked to include a brief update of our financial status in the newsletter. We will continue to provide updates to the congregation in the Messenger and we will consider other options as we move forward or until we can meet together safely.

Through the end of February, our year to date income was \$156,412. That puts us approximately \$10,000 behind budgeted needs for the year and it is similar to our income last year for the same time period.

Our expenses so far this year have tracked our income very closely. We have made an effort to support several of our missions' organizations, especially local missions' partners, early this year. Other expenses in Personnel, Church and Service Programs, and Buildings and Equipment have been typical of the types of expenses we normally would have.

Our Operating Fund was at \$130,294 at the end of February. Our CDs and money market funds total approximately \$580,000. We are blessed to have a healthy reserve.

We have not yet seen any significant effect of COVID-19 in our giving, but we are monitoring this closely. Nearly 70% of our income is collected on Sunday mornings, so each cancelled Sunday morning service could have an impact on our income. In order to help meet expenses, please consider the options for making your tithes and offerings that are available to all members. These options include mailing a check to the church office or electronic options though your bank or on-line services. The church office can provide you with more information regarding the electronic options.

The Finance Committee and other church leaders will be monitoring the Church's financial condition on a regular basis and, if necessary, we will be prepared to make recommendations to the church. Our goals remain the same: To support our church staff who serve us faithfully, to support our mission and ministry efforts, and to maintain the campus and support services that make these priorities possible.

In closing, we have been truly blessed as a congregation and we are in a healthy financial position. That has been made possible through your past support and we ask that everyone continue to prayerfully consider their faithful stewardship here at First Baptist Church.

On behalf of the Finance Committee,

James Garner, Chair

PRAYER CONCERNS

CHURCH FAMILY

Valeria Barrow Charles Blythe Elizabeth Brinkley Bernie Brunese Connie Brunese Jan Burke Bob Clark Rosemary Dow Amos Hardee Brenda Hardee Arnie Harrell MaryLou Harrell Martha Johnson

Mary Ann Jones Chuck Rettew Sherry Jones Mary Jo Roberts Charles Kolb Faye Rowe **Howard Mathews** Ed Stinson Xander McBride Norman Tharrington Joe McLamb **Dolores Trueblood** Seth Needham Jewel Watson Ray & Boots Parker Patsy White Selma Piner Karen Wilkes Steve Predaris **Greg Williams** Lynn Rausch Karen Wood Bobby Reece **Dutch Young**

Ellen Young

Care Facility Residents (Members & Friends*)

BERNE VILLAGE **CROATAN VILLAGE** Doug Amerson, Sr. Lamar & Ann Sledge Rev. David Page HOMEPLACE Gwyn Page H.E. Allen Norman Pake Jean Fulcher Peggie Wooten Frances Walker **BROOKDALE** KILDAIRE WOODS Jean Ritter Paul Blizzard Louise Blizzard **CHAMPIONS** Doris Dyson

CHURCH FRIENDS

Karen Alexander (Parents, Colt & Natalie)

Jerry & Deborah Ashley (Mary Bob)

Sheila Austin (brother Charles)

Lynn Barnhill

Don Brinkley (parents)

Elizabeth Brinkley (Alexis Brinkley) Bernie Brunese (John Osborne) Connie Brunese (Leigh Ann)

Jan Burke (son John)

Lisa Chitty (dad, Judy, Lorraine)

Sandra Dail (daughter Jeanette; great grandson; son-in-law

Louise Reece

Tommy Gaskins, Wallace family)

Cindy Daniels

Tommy Daniels (friend Olivia)

Lori Davenport

Sharlene Dimpsey (Sandra & Bobby) Mildred Edwards (grandson Chuck)

Rich Fowler

Ruby Franks (nephew Matthew; brother Harvey)

Carolyn Fulcher (Tyler, Bill Willis)
Eddie & Susie Games (Jack Parker)

Liz Garner (mother)
Lori Hale (husband Chris)

MaryLou Harrell (BG Harker, brother)

Brandy Holton (Father Richard Farnham, Watkins family)

Sally Huffman (mother Rita Herrin) Sherry Jones (sister Gail Parrish) Phil & Debbie Kaylor (friend Chris) Charles Kolb (sister in law Carol Kolb) Virginia Lawson (Betty & Worth)

Helen Mathews (brother Woody Coggin)

Howard Mathews (sister JoAnne Hollowell; cousin Tommy

Mathews)
Missionaries

Gwyn Page (brother Calvin, great grandson James Muse)

Ray & Boots Parker (son)

Greg & Anna Pearson (friend Christy)
Kerry Peeler (Jackie & Martha Bailey)

Shirley Phillips (Leslie Britt)
Joe Pike (niece, Mary Ellen)

Todd Price (brother-in-law Phil Warren)

Carol Register (daughter)
Debbie Rhymer (mother)

Debbie Roberts (Bob Thompson, step-dad)
Bill Robey (friends Bob Mallard & Hilda Bender)

Cathy Rock (dad, Kathy, uncle) Sai Sang (mother, nephew)

Dennis & Polly Sawyer (father Charles Sawyer)

Richard Seagle (mother)
Ansley Sinkiewicz
Ed Stinson (sister Claudia)

MaryAnn Stinson (Joe & Josh, Lee Bailey) Elizabeth Swicegood (grandparents, uncle) Kathy Swindell (son Gray, Randy Davenport)

Jeremy Tavares (dad Alex Tavares)

Ray Vawter (Toni, Rusty)

Richie Wagner

Cathie Wall (mother, Ruth Edwards)

Kathy White (brother Buddy) Linda White (brother Jack)

Sherry Wilkinson (Kathy, Mary Lou)
Andy Wilkinson (father Edward Wilkinson)

Phyllis & John Wiltrout Melonie Wray (James Frick) Tony Wray (*father Gene*) Anna Young (*Ross Allen*)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FINANCIAL RECORD

Required 03/16/20 YTD: \$ 225,648 Received 03/16/20 YTD: \$ 209,991

Do you have any corrections to report on the newsletter? Do you have any updates regarding our listed Prayer Concerns for family or friends? Do you have anything for the next publication? If so, please contact the Church Secretary, Loma Brown at 252-638-5691 or by email at Loma@fbchurch.com. We appreciate your input and feedback.

Mon - Thu: 8:30 - 5:00 Fri: 8:30 - 1:00

OFFICE HOURS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 AM Non-traditional Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship 5:00 PM Youth/Parent Ensemble 5:50 PM Youth Snack Supper 5:45 PM Adult Ensemble 6:10 PM Youth Discipleship 6:30 PM Chancel Bells

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:30 AM Men's First Light
10:00 AM Community Gospel Choir (1st,3rd & 5th Wednesdays)
5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Preschool & Children's Activities
6:00 PM Announcements, Celebrations & Prayer, Preschool Choir;
Children's Choir, Adult Discipleship
6:30 PM Worship Team
7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir, Prayer Team

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			-	2 8:00 AM RCS Soup Kitchen	3	4 SPRINGFEST And Easter Egg Hunt At Creekside Park
5 PALM SUNDAY	9	7	8	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY	10 Good Friday	11
	9:00 AM Early Moming	9:00 AM Beme Village Ministry		7:00 PM COMMUNION		
	Prayer Group 11:00 AM Christine Daniels 2:00 PM Homeplace Ministry 6:30 PM ORW/C Group	Atlantic Baptist Association Sr. Adult Spring Rally	10:30 AM Brookdale Ministry			
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	7:00 PM Sweet Pittard 7:00 PM Boy Scouts		NO EVENING ACTIVITIES			
12 EASTER	13 Easter Monday	14	15	16	17	18
8:45 AM Worship in Garden		9:00 AM Berne Village Ministry				Brotherhood Local
Easter Breakfast	OFFICE CLOSED					Mission Moming
			No Children's Activities (childcare only)	3		
19	2:00 PM Homeplace Ministry 6:00 PM SOLE Circle 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	21 9:00 AM Berne Village Ministry	10:30 AM Brookdale Ministry	BES CO FOR	STRONG WRAGEOUS LORD	.2012.
3:00 PM Gospel Choir Concert 5:15 Preteens	27 2:00 PM Homeplace Ministry 6:45 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	28 9:00 AM Berne Village Ministry	29	MOY S	MITH YOU AHEREVER YOU GO —JOSHUA 19	

First Baptist Church

239 Middle Street P. O. Box 1463

New Bern, NC 28563

Church office located at 409 Pollock Street

Phone: (252) 638-5691 www.fbchurch.com



Electronic Service Requested



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Newsletter articles are due in the church office no later than 9:30 AM on the third Monday of each month. All articles must be written out—none over the phone or verbally, please.

Dr. Richard. D. Seagle, Senior Pastor	ext. 124	124
Rev. Barry E. Templeton, Associate Pastor of Music & Worship	ext. 125	125
Rev. Kerry Q. Peeler, Associate Pastor of Christian Education	ext. 127	127
Rev. Jeremy L. Slagle, Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Life	Ext. 121	121
Mrs. Kelly W. Brinson, Director of Children's Ministry	ext. 128	128
Loma Brown, SecretaryLoma@fbchurch.com	ext. 122	122
Sandy O'Brien, Financial Secretary	ext. 126	126
Bette Jo Oglesby, Organist	ext. 105	105
Gwyn Rice, Food Service Manager		
Tyler Barker, Custodian	ext. 108	108
Sai Par Sang, Custodian		

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the love, food, support and prayers you have shown our family while we welcomed Alexander into this world. We are thankful for all of the progress Xander has made thus far. We appreciate your continued prayers and loving outreach.

Dated Material

Please Deliver Promptly

Love, The McBride Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the love and support of First Baptist during the loss of our Mother and Grandmother, Catherine Bullock. The prayers, cards, and kind words have meant so much. She was blessed to be a part of the Mary Martha Sunday School class. Richard and Barry did a lovely service for her and many of you traveled to Greenville. As always, we are grateful for this wonderful Church.

God bless you all, The Hall and Tavares Families