

# FROM THE PASTOR

While this past Sunday’s sermon was on our need to cultivate joy in our lives, there was plenty to be joyful about in both services. We had over 10 first-time visitors, powerful worship, baptism, another new member and our biggest attendance since our regathering began. While we continue to rejoice in all of these positive things, we find ourselves still facing a long uphill climb to normalcy. There is still a large segment of our church family who are uncomfortable attending in person services, due to the increase in positive Covid-19 cases. Over the past few weeks, the deacons and myself have met to pray through our next step as a church. While the original plan was to reconvene a normal schedule on August 2, we have agreed to delay that plan until September. Firstly, we know of at least 8 members or active attenders who have had or currently have Covid-19. While none of these individuals have attended services while positive, it is a reminder how a positive case can happen and its potential impact. Therefore, we would rather maintain social distance guidelines and the inconvenience of limited services than be forced to shut down for two weeks and rely on digital worship only. Secondly, we looked at the fact that schools will be restarting at the beginning of August. Our hope is to monitor the case numbers over the first two weeks of school and reevaluate our long-term plans after. If case numbers do not increase proportionately, we will follow suit and reintroduce a normal schedule following Labor Day. So, in light of these considerations and more, we unanimously agree to extend our current service schedule until September 13th with the following adjustments.

1. **Nursery:** We have spent the previous month cleaning, sanitizing and implementing new CDC approved guidelines for nursery care. Beginning Sunday, August 9 we will make childcare available for both the 8:30 and 10:15 service. We ask all parents to go online and reserve the service time that you plan to attend during the month of August. This will help us recruit and plan for volunteer workers appropriately.
2. **Children:** At this time will not be offering children’s church until after Labor Day. We will be reevaluating Wednesday activities in mid-August, as well. Our hope is that you will make the commitment to attend worship with your children. Services last 1 hour and provide an opportunity to model the importance of worship as a family. The gym renovation should be completed in mid-August and will serve as a large venue for children’s church and activities that maintain social distancing.
3. **Youth:** Beginning August 2, our student ministry will promote students and maintain an adequately spaced worship experience on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM.
4. **Choir:** After taking survey of current choir members, we have made the decision to delay choir practice and participation until after Labor Day. However, we may utilize some members spaced out in the choir loft later in August. The purpose would be to lead in worship with the praise team but not perform special music selections.
5. **Life Groups:** We will continue to offer socially distanced spaces for classes to meet throughout the week. Our greatest concern is placing groups in confined rooms that don’t allow for spacing. This scenario is our largest hurdle to restarting a normal schedule this fall. Continue to maintain contact with your Life Group leader for weekly schedule and location.

I again want to thank you for your patience and support through these difficult days. Let me remind you that while many of our traditions have been affected or canceled due to Covid-19, the church is alive and well. Our biblical convictions have not ceased nor has our commitment to fulfill the great commission. May we rejoice in this good news while accepting these temporary changes.

For His glory,  
Pastor Justin

# CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

I cannot believe July is almost over! They say time flies when you’re having fun; I’d say that is true! We just finished our third week of Vacation Bible School and we are having so much fun digging into God’s word and raising money for our local schools. If you have helped with VBS in any capacity, thank you so much! I appreciate your willingness to serve and our children love spending time with you!

Next Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, is our final night of VBS. To celebrate, we will be playing our own version of a camp favorite, OMC (Organized Mass Chaos). Since our VBS theme is Concrete & Cranes, ours will be called Construction Chaos! Children will need to come in an old swimsuit with their clothes on top. Parents, please bring a towel and apply sunscreen before sending your child to VBS. See you all on Wednesday!

With a happy heart,  
Bayleigh Powers



# YOUTH MINISTRY

We will continue to meet on Sundays at 5:00 pm until we begin having Sunday night services again downstairs. At that time we will shift all youth activities back to Wednesday nights. We will also continue to meet together as one group with middle and high school students. However, if there is an uptick in numbers that no longer allows us to keep proper spacing, we will make the decision to go back to two services.

On August 2 we will be inviting all of our new 6th grade students to join us on Sundays for worship and preaching. Parents are welcome to join us for a couple of weeks until your child gets adjusted. This will not be a problem for most of them. I will set a date for our 6th grade Meet & Greet at a later time. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings,  
Bro. Brad

# FROM THE COUNSELOR’S DESK

**PATIENCE!** When I mention the word patience, I often hear the response “I don’t have any patience.” The reality is all of us struggle with patience. For me personally, it’s the person in front of me who is driving too slow, it’s the lady in the grocery line who is taking too long to place her 5 groceries on the conveyer belt, and it’s my daughter Anna who is taking forever to get upstairs to take a bath! Yet patience, often called long-suffering (after all it seems like were suffering for having to wait) is not optional if you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a Christ-like quality given to everyone in whom the Holy Spirit dwells called a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). If you are one who struggles with impatience like I do or one who claims to not have any patience, I encourage you to make a list of all of the sins you have committed against God and against someone else or as many as you can think of at the time. By the way, for most of us, we would fill a whole ream of paper with no problem or effort. After you read over that list, mediate upon it. Once you realize how God has been patient with you as the Psalmist says, “the Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,” you will be reminded of your need to imitate the same kind of patience towards others as God has done to you over and over. So whether you are suffering mistreatment, experiencing provocation by others, or tolerating their shortcomings, remember the patience God has shown you as you realize you are no different and are in need of God’s grace just like they are.

Because of Him,  
Bro. Russell

# EDUCATION

If you’ve read Pastor Justin’s article in this newsletter, then you know that Life Groups will remain as currently scheduled until September. While we certainly would have loved to gather again at our normal time, I believe it is a wise choice to delay. As we’ve studied Proverbs, we’ve learned that wise choices can sometimes be the hardest ones to make. Thankfully, we do continue to have options for Life Groups. If your Life Group is currently meeting, make it a point to meet with them. Your leader needs to see that you’re invested in your group. Encourage others in your group to come back and meet in person. If your Life Group has chosen to wait until the normal schedule resumes, take it upon yourself to contact fellow members of your class and check in on them. See if there are ways you can pray for or minister to your fellow members. Despite the global pandemic, life hasn’t stopped. Life Groups are all about studying God’s Word and sharing life together. Even if you can’t meet in person, you can still impact the life of your brothers and sisters in the church through calls and texts.

Bro. Sam

DECISIONS



Debra Blankenship  
By Statement

THANK YOU

Thank you for the Bible for my graduation. I really appreciate the support and encouragement that everyone in the church has given me during my new walk with Christ.  
Jacob Hudspeth

BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Georgia Lynn Goodman  
July 15, 2020  
7 lbs. 15 oz. 20 1/2 in.  
Parents are Lucas & Bethany Goodman.

Elliot Rose Darnall  
July 14, 2020  
7 lbs. 0 oz. 20 in.  
Parents are Alex & Ali Rose Darnall. Grandparents are David & Bridgette Darnall and proud great-grandmother is Betty Keathley.

SYMPATHY

Brad Cook and his family on the death of his father, John Cook.  
Wanda Buchanan and her family on the death of her husband, Jerry Buchanan.  
Kent & Kevin Hendon and their families on the death of their mother, Berta Hendon.

BIBLE READING PLAN

Mon.	July 27	Jeremiah 23 & Mark 9
Tues.	July 28	Jeremiah 24 & Mark 10
Wed.	July 29	Jeremiah 25 & Mark 11
Thurs.	July 30	Jeremiah 26 & Mark 12
Fri.	July 31	Jeremiah 27 & Mark 13
Sat.	August 1	Jeremiah 28 & Mark 14
Sun.	August 2	Jeremiah 29 & Mark 15

FINANCIALS

Week of July 12, 2020

Budget Actual	\$	32,923.77
Budget Goal	\$	32,830.29
Journey of Faith	\$	665.00
Designated Offering	\$	1,694.73

Year-To-Date

Budget Actual	\$	1,489,338.15
Budget Goal	\$	1,510,193.34
Journey of Faith	\$	41,073.69

UPCOMING DATES

- July 26**  
• Youth Services for Middle School and High School Students (Upper Room) at 5:00 PM.
- July 29**  
• Concrete & Cranes VBS: 5:30-8:00 PM. Adult VBS: 6:00-7:00 PM (F-104).
- October 1-3**  
• National Quartet Convention (Pigeon Forge, TN). We have tickets available for those interested in attending. \$250 per person. Contact Royce Morgan 731-234-7660 or Barry Keathley 731-504-2772.

WATCH THE SERVICES

Stay connected by viewing our Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday services through these avenues:  
Television: Sundays • 8:00 PM on CH 8 or 26  
Radio: Sundays • 10:15 AM on FM 104.9  
Facebook: Second Baptist Church-Union City Official  
YouTube: Search Second Baptist UC (live Sunday AM and Wednesday PM)

JULY 21, 2020



**SECOND BAPTIST**  
GATHER • GROW • GO • GIVE

831 Everett Boulevard  
Union City, TN 38261

Return Services Requested

Non-Profit Organ.  
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