

FROM THE PASTOR

What an incredible time of worship we had on Sunday. We continue to stand in awe of God's faithfulness to us during these uncertain times. I am truly convinced that God is using this pandemic to refine the church and our mission. I pray that in these days, you are drawing closer to Christ than ever before. Across our nation, believers and churches are being forced to make unimaginable decisions between honoring government and the Lord. Sadly, last week the Supreme Court ruled on a decision by the state of Nevada, which allowed gatherings in casinos and theaters while restricting the gathering of worshippers. This news seems to have flown under the radar of most, but I pray you understand it. Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the dissenting opinion, "The Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, it says nothing about the freedom to play craps or blackjack, to feed tokens into a slot machine or to engage in any other game of chance." But the governor of Nevada apparently has different priorities...A public health emergency does not give governors and other public officials carte blanche to disregard the Constitution for as long as the medical problem persists," Justice Alito wrote. Also last week, the governor of California enacted orders forbidding churches from gathering to worship, regardless of safe distance protocols. Yet, the church is not backing down. In all of these and more, the church is called to honor the government that is over it, but not at the expense of dishonoring the Lord.

While so many of these stories are disheartening, let me encourage you through them today. This is a time for the church to stand committed to our great King and His mission like never before. While many of you reading this long to be in worship, it is wise to remain at home due to health conditions and compromised immune systems. Yet, you are a minority group of the church. The vast majority are out every day, conducting business, traveling and moving forward in life. To that group, I implore you to stand committed to the assembly of worship. Your presence encourages others, while others' presence encourages you. Beginning on August 9, we will have nursery available in both morning services. If you have young children, don't fret about them being in worship. You have only known the luxury of having programming for your children at all times. We do not expect children who have never sat in a full worship service to suddenly be conditioned for it. So let them come. Let them cry. Let them crawl. If people take issue with you making the decision to be present, that reveals the hardness of their own heart. As your pastor, it encourages me. I would rather your kids be in the sanctuary yelling than absent and in your home on Sunday morning. This is only a season and before you know it, we will be able to provide the necessary programming you know and love. Until then, please join me and the others of our church as we worship and grow in grace.

As an undershepherd, my concern is for your spiritual health. I speak these words not from a place of financial concern or job security. Rather, I know that the longer you are absent from worship the more susceptible you become to the world, the flesh and the devil. It is from that place of soul care, that I write these words. My hope and prayer is that you receive them in grace and in love.

For His glory,
Pastor Justin

IMPORTANT BUSINESS

August 5th — 6:00 PM

Regular Business Meeting

- 2020-2021 Nominating Committee Annual Report
- Personnel Committee Motion regarding a new Sabbatical Policy. This will be presented with the support of the Deacon Body.

August 16th — 8:30 & 10:15 AM

Special-Called Business Meeting

- Deacon Election will take place by ballot at the end of both morning services.
- Sample ballot will be mailed out the week of August 2nd.

August 26th — 6:00 PM

Special-Called Business Meeting

- 2020-2021 Budget Proposal
- Budget copies will be available for pick up on Sunday, August 23.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Remember, middle and high school students will continue to meet on Sundays at 5:00 pm until we begin having Sunday night services again downstairs. This Sunday, August 2, we invite 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. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings,
Bro. Brad

FROM THE COUNSELOR'S DESK

Let me ask you a question, in your struggle against any particular sin i.e. lust, bitterness, covetousness, lying, idolatry, etc., do you believe you can change? DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN CHANGE? The apostle Paul teaches that the same grace that saved you is the same grace that sanctifies you. To state it another way, the same grace that forgives you for that moment when you lusted or told that lie to cover yourself is the same grace that empowers you to overcome the temptation to sin and gives you the power to change. Paul stated it this way to the Romans in his opening greeting, "Jesus Christ, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among the nations" (Romans 1:5). Notice that the grace we received at salvation is the same grace that brings about obedience through faith. Heath Lambert, in his book titled Finally Free, calls this grace transforming grace. He says, "If you want to use Jesus' transforming grace, you have to do something so easy that many people find it impossible. You have to believe it." DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN CHANGE? When you sin, don't stop at seeking forgiveness, ask God to empower you so that you can be set free from your sin and grow in grace like Pastor Justin mentioned on Sunday. After all, "for freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

Because of Him,
Bro. Russell

EDUCATION

The start of school is being pushed back. Major League Baseball games are being postponed. State of emergencies are being extended. As of this writing, we don't know what college football will look like this year. And the regathering of our church is being delayed. With each of these moves, I get the feeling of waiting for something to happen, but it seems like it will never happen. It feel like we're waiting for the next step. The problem with waiting for the next step in this season of life is the fact that we have no idea when that next step will be taken. But what we do know is the step we're currently taking. We know what today holds and it's up to us to make sure we make the most of it. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:34, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." Sufficient for the day is its own trouble has certainly been the case during the pandemic. Each day brings opportunity, we simply have to see it that way. Yes, the "normal" schedule of church isn't back yet, but we have a pretty good schedule right now. Have you tried the early service yet? Are you meeting with your Life Group? Have you tried fellowshiping with other church members over dinner on Sunday night? Have you invited your neighbors over to your home for our livestream worship? Have you been to VBS for kids or adults? There are lots of opportunities to worship and fellowship today. Stop waiting for the next step! Make the most of what today offers!

Firmly in His Hands,
Bro. Sam

THANK YOU

We want to thank you for everything that has been done for our family during this sad time. The stand of flowers were beautiful and we appreciated them. Bro. Justin, we thank you especially for your time with our family and the great service. She loved her church and never gave up hope of coming back. Please continue to pray for Jamie and us too.

Paula Rice and the family of Bertie Bowling

BABY ANNOUNCEMENT

Weston Dotson Malone

July 25, 2020

11 lbs. 15 oz. 21 in.

Proud parents are Clint & Carlie Malone and proud grandparents are Randy & Valerie Dotson.

SYMPATHY

Sam Stephens and his family on the death of his brother, Edwin Stephens.

Joe Wheat and his family on the death of his son, Joe Allen Wheat.

BIBLE READING PLAN

Mon.	August 3	Jeremiah 30-31 & Mark 16
Tues.	August 4	Jeremiah 32 & Psalm 1-2
Wed.	August 5	Jeremiah 33 & Psalm 3-4
Thurs.	August 6	Jeremiah 34 & Psalm 5-6
Fri.	August 7	Jeremiah 35 & Psalm 7-8
Sat.	August 8	Jeremiah 36,45 & Psalm 9
Sun.	August 9	Jeremiah 37 & Psalm 10

FINANCIALS

Week of July 19, 2020

Budget Actual	\$	33,435.50
Budget Goal	\$	32,830.29
Journey of Faith	\$	31,345.00
Children's Home	\$	100.00
Designated Offering	\$	3,996.00

Year-To-Date

Budget Actual	\$	1,522,773.65
Budget Goal	\$	1,543,023.63
Journey of Faith	\$	72,418.69
Children's Home	\$	3,708.21

UPCOMING EVENT



THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY

A Worship Encounter EVENING

Second Baptist Church
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 6:30 PM

General admission is FREE or Gold Circle tickets are \$45. Must have ticket to attend! Tickets are available at [ITICKETS.COM](https://www.tickets.com) or you may go to our Facebook page: Second Baptist Church-Union City Official and click on the link.

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 28, 2020



SECOND BAPTIST

GATHER • GROW • GO • GIVE

831 Everett Boulevard
 Union City, TN 38261

Return Services Requested

