

FROM THE PASTOR

I don't know about you, but I am still excited because of worship this past Sunday. The presence of the Lord was evident to everyone. While it was only a small sampling of our choir, it was great to see and hear them leading in worship. I am just as excited about this coming Sunday. I hope and pray that you are here to experience it as well. If you are exercising caution and wisdom in staying safe, then know these comments are not directed at you. However, I want to lovingly say, if you are able to go out to eat, shop and carry on with life, while not attending church on Sunday, that is a major problem. Not only are you missing a key component of your spiritual life (Corporate Worship, Accountability, Fellowship) but we are missing a key component of our church's life— you. Your presence and spiritual gifts are an encouragement to me and those who know you. So let me implore you to break the habit and start the most important one and be at church this Sunday. Remember that we are asking people to wear masks to your seat. There you are able to socially distance with two services.

Don't forget that on Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with a special night of singing and the Lord's Supper. We are still moving toward a tentative regathering on January 3. Details and plans will be posted in the weekly newsletter. Also, please don't forget about our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. While this is no normal year, the need to fund our missionaries has not diminished. Consider prayerfully how God would lead you to give.



Over the past few weeks I have discussed the purpose of my upcoming Sabbatical and the personal goals I am seeking to achieve. Let me take a moment to share how you can help this be a successful time for the life of our church. First and foremost, I want to ask you to pray. Specifically, would you pray that the Lord, in refreshing my heart, would give me a clear vision for what is ahead. While we all long for things to be “normal” again, the reality of it is, that things have changed for good. What does that mean for the church? How will we adapt to these future changes to remain effective and fruitful. Pray that God will make it clear and evident to me. Second, I want to ask you to use this time to encourage our staff. For the first time in 6 years I am surrounded by an incredible group of Godly men. Someone asked how I was going to be able to truly withdraw for this time? The truth is, it will be difficult, but I will be able due to the character and competency of our staff. Finally, I want to ask you to step up even more. It would grieve my heart to hear that people didn't attend because I was away. Folks, we don't gather to hear the words of Justin, we gather to hear the Word of God. Regardless of who declares the Word, the Lord will deliver it to our heart if we allow Him. So make every effort to be here on Sundays and Wednesdays. Give to the church through your offerings and time. Step up and meet the needs that arise like you always do.

While I have wrestled personally for some time in this decision, I know that it is essential to my heart and the longterm vitality of our church. Thank you for this opportunity to be refreshed and refocused. Thank you for loving me and my family as your own these past 6 years. I love you and consider it an honor to serve as your Pastor. Merry Christmas!

For His glory,
Pastor Justin

CHILDREN



Tentative: Wednesday night Children's activities will resume January 6.

YOUTH

As we move ever so closer to Christmas, I am encouraged by the faithfulness of our students to stay engaged with the youth group despite not meeting together as one. Tentatively that will take place beginning Sunday, January 3 at 6:00 PM. Just a reminder that Middle School meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM and High School meets Sundays at 5:00 PM. We are encouraging all students to wear a mask at this time when attending service.

We are having an impromptu Christmas Party this Sunday at 5:00 PM for both Middle School and High School students in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be having an UGLY Christmas sweater contest as well.

Winter Retreat is quickly approaching. This trip is January 15-18, 2021 and I know the kids are excited about going. There is a \$50 deposit due by December 20. We are planning and preparing for this trip just as we would any other time except with some extra precautions. As we get closer to Winter Retreat there will be more details available. Cost this year is \$175 per student and \$75 per adult. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I hope you have a great weekend. See you Sunday!

Blessings,
Bro. Brad



EDUCATION

Last week I started an article series on getting back into the routine of church. This week we look at the first step: Make the Decision to Come. This is the biggie. Before you can get into the swing of things again, you have to decide to take the first step. Psalm 122:1 says, “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” For months we have desired to meet together. In 2020, we've longed for that moment when we could gather again in person for worship. By the grace of God we have been able to maintain inperson worship, but now we are turning our attention to reconvening our Life Group ministry. In a church our size, Life Groups are vital to finding community within the congregation. They are the place to find others that are in the same life situation as you are. They are the place to discover how God's Word applies to your daily life. And they are the place where you can find accountability and community in your spiritual walk. Life Groups are vital in our church, but your attendance is essential to maintain that vitality. Make the decision to come back in January, if you are able. As always, if you are in a high risk situation when it comes to Covid, then please take every precaution you feel necessary. But if you feel safe coming to church but have simply fallen out of the routine of coming, make the decision to come back. That's the hardest part!

Firmly in His hands,
Bro. Sam

FROM THE COUNSELOR'S DESK

The corona virus pandemic has been THE STORYLINE of 2020. One day, we will all look back on this year remembering this was the year of THE PANDEMIC. We will reflect on what was the strangest year many of us have ever lived through. And yet, there is a year in which the storyline of that year has had far more significance and impact than this pandemic. The year is 5 B.C. respectively. It is the year in which God became flesh, prophecy was fulfilled, and a redeemer would begin His quest to save people from their sin. Luke 2:11 sums up what happened this way; “for unto you is born THIS DAY in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Since then, lives have been changed forever because of a personal encounter with this Savior who dawned on the scene that day. Think of individuals like Mary the mother of Jesus, the disciples, the Apostle Paul, Billy Graham, and even yourself whose life has been radically and forever changed because of what happened in that year on that day. Yes, 2020 has been hard. We still cannot fathom or comprehend the lasting implications of this year. Yet, as the Apostle Paul said, “whatever is true....think about these things.” Instead of focusing on what has been lost in 2020, let's focus on what was gained on that day in 5 B.C. the day we celebrate the virgin birth of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Merry Christmas,
Bro. Russell

DECISIONS



Andrew Hayes
By Letter

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the visits, calls, texts, food and memorials sent to our family at the passing of Mike McCarver. A special thanks to Pastor Justin & Bro. Russell for their calls and lifting us up in prayer. The funeral spray was beautiful and the meal prepared by the ladies was delicious and very much appreciated. Please keep us in your prayers as the days ahead will be difficult. I am so thankful to belong to such a loving and caring church family.

Pat McCarver
Wendy & Matt Sims
Missy & Steve Emrich
Tim, Windy & Gage Wright

SYMPATHY

Tim James and his family on the death of his mother, Peggy James.

MISSIONS



National Goal:
\$175 million
Given to Date:
\$5,470

SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Holiday Weeks
Thursday, December 24: Church Office Closed. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30 PM in the sanctuary
Friday, December 25: Church Office Closed. Merry Christmas!
Wednesday, December 30: No Prayer Meeting
Thursday, December 31: Church Office Closed
Friday, January 1: Church Office Closed. Happy New Year!
2021
Sunday, January 3: Life Groups resume at 9:45 AM
Sunday, January 3: Youth (Grades 6-12) resume. Time to be announced.
Wednesday, January 6: Children’s Mission Classes and Prayer Meeting resumes at 6:00 PM
2021 schedule is TENTATIVE. More information to come!

PRESCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

December 20	8:30 AM	10:45 AM
Bed Babies: Patricia Segraves/Beth & Leah Edmaiston		Bed Babies: Cherry Hiens
1 & 2’s: Stella Preuett, Breanna Bell		1 & 2’s: Steven & Jennie Beth Bearden
3 & 4’s: Brooke Dodd, Laura Johnston		3 & 4’s: Harley & Gabbi Forrester
Floater: Kelly Preuett		Floater: Cherry Hiens

BIBLE READING PLAN

Mon.	Dec. 14	Zechariah 1 & John 4	Dec. 21	Zechariah 8 & John 11
Tues.	Dec. 15	Zechariah 2 & John 5	Dec. 22	Zechariah 9 & John 12
Wed.	Dec. 16	Zechariah 3 & John 6	Dec. 23	Zechariah 10 & John 13
Thurs.	Dec. 17	Zechariah 4 & John 7	Dec. 24	Zechariah 11 & John 14
Fri.	Dec. 18	Zechariah 5 & John 8	Dec. 25	Zechariah 12-13:1 & John 15
Sat.	Dec. 19	Zechariah 6 & John 9	Dec. 26	Zechariah 13:2-9 & John 16
Sun.	Dec. 20	Zechariah 7 & John 10	Dec. 27	Zechariah 14 & John 17

FINANCIALS

Due to the church office being closed on Thursday, December 31, please have any end of the year contributions turned in to the office by December 30 or postmarked December 31.



Week of December 6, 2020			Year-To-Date		
Budget Actual	\$	66,957.19	Budget Actual	\$	446,891.33
Budget Goal	\$	33,934.05	Budget Goal	\$	475,076.70
Journey of Faith	\$	1,880.00	Journey of Faith	\$	11,810.00
Children’s Home	\$	50.00	Children’s Home	\$	1,365.00
Lottie Moon	\$	3,370.00	Lottie Moon	\$	5,470.00
Designated Offering	\$	4,451.00			

Please note: When making your contributions online, please choose the option to use your routing number and account number, instead of using your debit card. The fees for debit card use are on the rise and we want to use as much of your contribution as possible for the Kingdom.

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings through text, follow these 4 simple instructions the first time.

1. Text GIVE to 731-251-4343 (save this number in your phone)
2. Click the link in the reply message
3. Log in using your online giving ID and password or set up an account
4. Give a one-time gift or set up a recurring contribution

While you are logged in, click the 3 lines in the top left corner, click My Account, then click Account Info. While in this portal, add your cell phone number to the account information. Once this is done, you will simply be able to text an amount to 731-251-4343 to make future contributions. If you have any questions, please call Jessica at 731-885-5223.

Offering envelopes for 2021 are located in the hallway by the Care Corner. If you need envelopes, please contact the church office at 885-5223.

DECEMBER 15, 2020

Stay connected by viewing our Sunday morning services through these avenues:
Television: Sundays • 8:00 PM on CH 8 or 26
Radio: Sundays • 10:45 AM on FM 104.9
Facebook: Second Baptist Church-Union City Official
YouTube: Search Second Baptist UC (live Sunday AM)

SECOND BAPTIST
GATHER • GROW • GO • GIVE

831 Everett Boulevard
Union City, TN 38261

Return Services Requested

