

FROM THE PASTOR

In a year of unexpected setbacks and cancellations, I should not be surprised that the last newsletter of 2020 would be about setbacks and cancellations. Last night, Governor Lee shared his concerns with the residents of Tennessee regarding the level of Covid infections across our state. I have found myself on the phone since last night discussing the implications of his address and mandate with others. So let me share with you what this means for Second Baptist Church.

First and foremost, the mandate of limiting social gatherings to no more than 10 people is not applicable to the gathering of worship. Within that same order was the directive that high school sports can continue with certain restrictions, while still allowing more than 10 people to be in attendance. We **WILL** continue to provide a safe, socially distanced and sanitized environment for anyone to worship in on Sundays and Wednesdays. We will continue to ask that masks be worn entering, exiting and moving around the building. However, when you have reached your seat, due to the social distance parameters, you are free to remove it. Despite over 100 members having had the virus, we have never been able to track someone getting it at the church. We thank God for this, and believe that it is the result of common sense policy and your cooperation.

While our worship will continue, in light of the current levels of Covid cases and the governor's mandate, we must pause our plans to restart LifeGroups until the end of January at the earliest. While these plans are always tentative, we are still disappointed when forced to adjust. While a class with less than 10 could potentially meet in a properly spaced room, the vast majority of our classes are more than 10. We are still left with difficult questions regarding children/youth ministry and how to move forward in those areas due to the continuation of open schools. I can assure you that the upcoming decisions regarding those ministries will be made with both facts and wisdom in the coming weeks.

The bottom line is, we are still in the midst of a pandemic. While early in this process, we saw only the highlights of Covid's effects on other places. The last few months has seen it hit close to home. A few people think the mask policy we have implemented is unnecessary. Some believe the continual delay of our complete regathering is an overreaction. But let's look at the facts for us in Obion County. 1 in every 450 residents of Obion County has died due to Covid. That rate is positioning us to possibly lead the state in overall death rate. To compare, that is nearly double the rate for Weakly County and nearly triple the rate for Shelby County (Memphis). I don't state those things to cast fear into you, but to help enlighten the seriousness of the problem. We continue to encourage those who are at risk to remain at home and worship virtually. For those who are not at risk, we ask that you continue being mindful of the issue and help meet these guidelines when we gather in worship.

Despite all of these setbacks, God continues to show up and show out. Sunday was probably one of the best services we have had in 6 months. I pray that spirit continues through the holidays and into the new year. Please know that I will be praying for you and can't wait to hear all that God does in my absence. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

For His glory,
Pastor Justin

YOUTH

I hope that you all have a safe and happy Christmas with family and friends. As we prepare to close the door on Christmas and look forward to a New Year, I pray that you will take time this coming year to invest more into your relationship with the Lord and serving Him in a much greater capacity in 2021. **Service times for the youth will remain as they are right now: Sundays at 5:00 PM for High School students and Wednesdays at 6:00 PM for Middle School students until further notice.**

As difficult as it is for me to communicate this to you today, in light of the governor's executive orders that last until January 19, 2021, Winter Retreat 2021 has been cancelled. My heart is broken over this decision but I understand the situation that we are currently dealing with. Please know that we are working diligently to come up with an alternative event here at the church for that weekend that would be allowed under the guidelines set forth by the governor. I will be communicating by email over the next couple of weeks to all my parents on any decisions that are made for another event and the costs for that event. Please pray for guidance as we move through this difficult task. I pray that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!!

Blessings,
Bro. Brad

FROM THE COUNSELOR'S DESK

Christmas is a season of hope because it is this season we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ = Hope. In a year where many feel hopeless due to loss of family, job and therefore income, health or a myriad of other losses, we as followers of Christ have an incredible opportunity. It is the same opportunity the lowly shepherds had immediately after seeing the birth of the Christ-child. We have the chance to give life giving hope by telling the message of Jesus Christ to those who are left hopeless and helpless without Him. In Luke 2:17, the gospel writer says, *"When they (the shepherds) had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child."* They told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said, *"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* While 2020 has been an unforgettable year we would all like to forget, for that ONE who God places in your path to share Jesus, it could be an unforgettable year in a positive way as there may be one who finds life giving hope when they thought no hope could be found. YOU personally could be that one that God uses to give hope just like those lowly shepherds did thousands of years before. Let me ask you, who will you choose to give hope to this Christmas season by verbally giving the message of the gospel?

Merry Christmas,
Bro. Russell

EDUCATION

This is week two of a four week series on getting back into the routine of church. The second step to getting into the routine of church is: Prepare Ahead of Time. There is an old cliché that says Sunday morning church is a Saturday night decision. On a very practical note, this means getting things in order the night before. As a kid, I could never find my dress shoes on Sunday morning. Sundays were the only time I wore them, so I never knew how they would just disappear the moment I needed them...right when we were supposed to leave for church. I couldn't find them because I didn't prepare ahead of time. Lay your clothes out the night before church. Study your Life Group lesson ahead of time. Spend time praying for God to prepare your heart for worship. Go ahead and decide what you'll have for breakfast. Every step you can make the night before will eliminate an excuse the morning of. Prepare on Saturday night so that Sunday morning is free of all excuses not to go.

Firmly in His hands,
Bro. Sam

BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wade Lawrence Barnes
Born December 18, 2020 7 lbs. 14 oz. 20 inches
Parents are Rance & Taylor Barnes

Jensen Michael Fortson
Born December 9, 2020 8 lbs. 6 oz. 20 1/4 inches
Parents are Caleb & Kayla Fortson

Katherine Louise "Loui" Cavness
Born November 25, 2020 7 lbs. 15 oz. 20 inches
Parents are Zack & Katy Lane Cavness

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 29: No newsletter

Wednesday, December 30: No Prayer Meeting

Thursday, December 31: Church Office Closed

Friday, January 1: Church Office Closed. Happy New Year!

Wednesday, January 6: Prayer Meeting resumes at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.

2021 schedule is TENTATIVE. More information to come!

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for all the calls, cards and many expressions of sympathy after Dad passed away. Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were sent to the funeral. A special thank you to the Meals Seasoned with Love ladies for the wonderful meal after the funeral. This is a wonderful ministry that is done by our church. Thank you, Diana Guynn, for organizing this— you are a blessing to our church. Also thank you to Bro. Russell and Pastor Justin for checking on us during Dad's sickness and after his passing. Please continue to pray for our family as we adjust to the loss of our sweet family members. While hearts are broken, we are rejoicing for Dad and David. We know that they are having a wonderful time in Heaven and waiting for us to join them when God calls us.

- Joan Emrich
- Judy & Larry Robinson & family
- Pat & Lynn Ogden & family
- Lisa Adkins & family
- Steve & Missy Emrich

SYMPATHY

Michael Walton and his family on the death of his father, Wesley Walton.

MISSIONS



National Goal: \$175 million
Given to Date: \$7,820

Thursday, January 7: Mobile Pantry at 12:00 PM in the church parking lot. 20-25 volunteers needed!

BIBLE READING PLAN

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|--------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Mon. | Dec. 21 | Zechariah 8 & John 11 | Dec. 28 | Malachi 1 & John 18 |
| Tues. | Dec. 22 | Zechariah 9 & John 12 | Dec. 29 | Malachi 2 & John 19 |
| Wed. | Dec. 23 | Zechariah 10 & John 13 | Dec. 30 | Malachi 3 & John 20 |
| Thurs. | Dec. 24 | Zechariah 11 & John 14 | Dec. 31 | Malachi 4 & John 21 |
| Fri. | Dec. 25 | Zechariah 12-13:1 & John 15 | | |
| Sat. | Dec. 26 | Zechariah 13:2-9 & John 16 | | |
| Sun. | Dec. 27 | Zechariah 14 & John 17 | | |

Chronological Reading Plan 2021

- Day 1 Genesis 1-3
- Day 2 Genesis 4-7
- Day 3 Genesis 8-11
- Day 4 Job 1-5
- Day 5 Job 6-9
- Day 6 Job 10-13
- Day 7 Job 14-16

PRESCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

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|--|--|
| December 27 8:30 AM
Bed Babies: Jeff, Jessica & Jill Caldwell
1 & 2's: Jarrod & Angie Carr
3 & 4's: Justin & Bracey Tittle
Floater: Jennifer Powers | 10:45 AM
Bed Babies: Candace Akin, Lisa Adkins
1 & 2's: Olivia Hill, Elisha Easterwood
3 & 4's: Kyle & Kelsey Coleman
Floater: Donna Middlebrook |
| January 3 8:30 AM
Bed Babies: Susie Evans, Abi Evans
1 & 2's: Dawn Jenkins, Kim Watts
3 & 4's: Brian & Amy Burcham
Floater: Kayla Sherwood | 10:45 AM
Bed Babies: Sheila Parks, Martha Laster
1 & 2's: Jim & Lori Hunt
3 & 4's: Denise Mathis, Katrina Dugger
Floater: Natalie Huebner |
| January 10 8:30 AM
Bed Babies: Ginger & Shelby Bondurant
1 & 2's: Tim & Trisha Long
3 & 4's: Libbi Verdell, Beth Brown
Floater: Staci Allen | 10:45 AM
Bed Babies: Mary Nell Roberson, Ariel Hughes
1 & 2's: Mark & Tammy Daniels
3 & 4's: Antoinette, Paige & Emma Waites
Floater: Joni Williams |

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 13, 2020		Year-To-Date	
Budget Actual	\$ 29,514.00	Budget Actual	\$ 476,405.33
Budget Goal	\$ 33,934.05	Budget Goal	\$ 509,010.75
Journey of Faith	\$ 450.00	Journey of Faith	\$ 12,260.00
Children's Home	\$ 50.00	Children's Home	\$ 1,415.00
Lottie Moon	\$ 2,350.00	Lottie Moon	\$ 7,820.00
Designated Offering	\$ 835.00		

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.




SECOND BAPTIST
 GATHER • GROW • GO • GIVE
 831 Everett Boulevard
 Union City, TN 38261
 Return Services Requested

Stay connected by viewing our Sunday morning services:
 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)

Non-Profit Organ.
 U.S. POSTAGE
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 Permit No. 21
 Union City, TN