

11:00 am Sunday, March 22 Live Stream Sunday Services  
 11:00 am Sunday, March 29 Live Stream Sunday Services

First Baptist Church  
 PO Box 518 \* 102 Church Street  
 Chester, SC 29706  
 (803) 377-7187  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U. S. Postage  
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 Permit # 100

March 16, 2020

**TOGETHER**  
**Growing Disciples To Share Jesus**  
 First Baptist Church  
 www.fbcchester.com

Rev. Clay Waldrip, Pastor

Flora Heinlein  
 Minister of Children &  
 Activities Director

David Edwards  
 Minister of Education  
 & Youth

John Neely Gaston  
 Minister of Music

Missy Hartis  
 Associate  
 Choir Director &  
 Accompanist

<u>Deacon of the Week</u>	
March 15	Douglas Josey Will Smith
March 22	Jill Josey Kerry Stowe
March 29	Eddie Nunnery Jody Thomas

**March 22 and March 29**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WORSHIP**

**WILL BE LIVE STREAMED**

**THROUGH FACEBOOK**

**OR A LINK WILL ALSO**

**BE AVAILABLE AT [www.fbcchester.com](http://www.fbcchester.com)**

**11:00 AM**

**Holy Week Services**  
 The Chester Ministerial Holy Week Services are planned for April 6-10 at noon each day here at First Baptist. Worship will be from 12:00 until 12:30 and a meal will be served from 12:30 to 1:00. Plan to be a part of these services each day. A nursery volunteer is still needed for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of that week. If you could help on one of those days, please let Flora or Clay know.

The situation regarding the coronavirus will be evaluated in two weeks to determine if we will be able to move forward with these services. Check the next newsletter, the website, and the Facebook page for updates.

**One Night Community Revival with Johnny Hunt Cancelled**  
 Because of the coronavirus the One Night Community Revival with Johnny Hunt had to be cancelled. Pray for God's leadership in planning other opportunities for the community to seek revival together.

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**  
 We are receiving our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. The money received for this offering supports missionaries who are serving throughout North America. The money helps pay for many things – anything from bus fare in a city for \$5.00 to monthly worship facility rent for a new church plant for \$1400. How will you give to support the work of missions in North America?

**Meals on Wheels Substitute Drivers**  
 Frozen meals are delivered to some senior adults in our community. From time to time substitute drivers are needed for the regular drivers. The meals are delivered on Monday and Thursday mornings. A vehicle is provided to be used to deliver the meals. If you would be willing to help deliver these meals on occasion, please contact David Peeples at 803-385-7755. Is the Lord leading you to help in this important service in our community?

No Wednesday Night Activities

Remember the song *Look for the Silver Lining?* During this time when activities are cancelled or temporarily postponed, the silver lining is that we have more time at home to connect with family or just have some quiet time without the hustle and bustle of normal everyday life. The church library will not have our regular open hours, but if you would like to check out a DVD for a family "popcorn night" or a book to read, give me a call (Sylvia Strange, 377-3841) and I will be happy to meet you at the church and help you find what you need.



**UNSHAKEABLE**  
CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The **WEDDING SHOWER** for Codie Revis and Dvid Wright has been postponed to a later date. Please watch for information about a new date.

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**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Cameron Brawley	4/01	Cathy Cudd	4/13
Celeste Bundy	4/01	Wayne Foster	4/13
Mac Treveiler	4/01	Sadie Odom	4/14
Janice Saylor's Nixon	4/04	Jordan Green	4/16
Bobby Fleming, Jr.	4/05	Terry Housman	4/17
Julianne Hammond	4/05	Brad Jolley	4/17
Laura Lovin	4/05	Azarias Groves	4/19
Matthew Henry	4/06	Sarah Odom	4/21
Austin Henry	4/06	Nathan Wyatt	4/21
Dylan Reed Simpson	4/06	Kimmy Bogle	4/24
Rebekah Hinson	4/07	Lee Ann Brawley	4/24
Mallory Perez	4/07	Paul Stewart	4/25
Aiden Cassels	4/08	Matthew Waldrip	4/25
Missy Hartis	4/09	Carson Henry	4/26
Adam Johnson	4/09	Irma Chitwood	4/27
Lex Bagley	4/10	J. Gary Landry	4/27
Stephen Hunter	4/10	Billy Wright	4/27
Mallory Poston	4/11	Jesse Bland	4/28
Trey Smith	4/11	Betty Griffin	4/29
Quay Whitesides	4/11	Logan Pemberton	4/29
Jenna Cok	4/13	Adam Wickings	4/30

**Tithes & Offerings**

**Mar 1**

Worship Service	217
Sunday School Attendance	120
Budget Offering Required	8,694.00
Offering Received	13,967.00
Children's Ministries	500.00
Annie Armstrong	370.00
Mission Trip	2500.00
Total	17,337.30
Ann Armstrong Total	380.00

**Memorials**

Betty Bagley	Peggy Edwards
Fred Tindall	Carole Tindall

**Honorariums**

Mary Kendall Edwards	Linda Wylie
Melinda Abercrombie	

**March 8**

Worship Service	146
Sunday School Attendance	88
Budget Offering Required	8,694.00
Offering Received	26,252.00
Children's Ministries	10.00
Annie Armstrong	780.00
Building Fund	45.00
New Bus Fund	10.00
Security Fund	10.00
Total	27,107.00
Ann Armstrong Total	1,560.00

**Memorials**

Marion Lowe	Raynett Pavese
Heath Baker	Henry Lee Grant, Sr.
Betty Bagley	K. L. Black
Peggy Edwards	Garry Young

**Honorariums**

Chick Anderson	Jill Coleman
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**March 15**

Worship Service	147
Sunday School Attendance	96
Budget Offering Required	8,694.00
Offering Received	4,836.00
Children's Ministries	500.00
Annie Armstrong	410.00
Fleming Trust—Children's Ministries	500.00
Fleming Trust—TEL SS Class	500.00
Total	6,251.00
Ann Armstrong Total	790.00

**Memorials**

Betty Bagley	Shirley Rucker
Eloise Johnson	Betty Rose Fleming



These are strange times we are living in this week, and probably for a few weeks to come. Because of the pandemic, we are having to make major adjustments to our normal activities here at the church. We are currently working on methods to begin streaming our Sunday services on Facebook, and I am going to be planning ways to do Bible study with our students at least weekly.

At this time we are unsure whether we will be able to have our Spring Retreat April 17-19. For now, please go ahead and drop off or mail your payment to the church office by Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (due date extended). If the trip is cancelled, a full refund will be given. Continue to check our facebook group page for updates.

In the meantime, I know all of our students are 'experts' at 'social distancing', so I encourage you all to keep in touch with each other, pray for each other and continue to live your lives as the body of Christ. "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." 1 Cor. 12:27

Please contact me by calling/messaging or through facebook if I can be of any help over the next few weeks. Love you all! -David

**Upcoming Schedule – Sunday Services to be Streamed Live**

In response to the coronavirus and measures to contain its spread as recommended by the CDC and the governor of South Carolina, several changes have been made to the upcoming schedule at the church. There will be no Sunday Services or Sunday School on March 22 or March 29. The church staff will be here to live stream a time of worship at 11:00 AM on both of these Sundays. We encourage you to gather with your family for this time of worship. You can join with us through a link that will be on the church website ([www.fbcchester.com](http://www.fbcchester.com)) or through the First Baptist Church Facebook page. Please join us remotely for this time of worship.

As previously announced there will be no activities for the next two Wednesdays, March 18 and March 25. There will be no Kids Klub, Children's Choirs, Supper, Prayer Meeting, RA's, GA's, Mission Friends, Youth Activities, or Choir Practice. Also there will be no other committee meetings for the next two weeks.

Please continue to check the website or our Facebook page for updates and changes.

**Giving Opportunities**

Even though we are not having activities at the church over the next couple of weeks, the financial obligations of the church continue. Please continue to support the work and ministry of the church through your tithes and offerings. You can give through mailing your tithe (P.O. Box 518), bringing your gift by the church office, or through secure online giving at our website or using the Sharefaith app. Thank you for your continued support of the work of the church.



In this country we are living through a time unlike any other that most of us have seen. Schools have closed, church services have been canceled, sporting events have been cancelled or postponed, and many other events and activities have been cancelled or postponed. Many people are being encouraged to stay in and all are being encouraged to avoid large crowds. As of this writing the Centers for Disease Control is encouraging people to postpone or cancel gatherings of more than 50 people. Certain industries are being particularly affected by all these changes and many who work in those areas wonder how they will make ends meet in the next several weeks. Financial Markets have taken a downturn and many wonder what will happen next. There are so many unknowns and unanswered questions. There is much speculation but answers will come only as time moves forward.

In the midst of all the uncertainty, we, as people of faith, are called to turn to the Lord for strength, for guidance, and for peace. As followers of Jesus we are to be people who put our trust in the Lord, knowing that He is our Refuge and Strength. We need to follow all the best practices and do all we can to protect ourselves and others from the virus. We are to be people of wisdom and seek to follow the recommendations of doctors and scientists -- the Lord has given them knowledge and wisdom to help others. And as we do these things, we do not live in fear, but we find peace in knowing that we can trust the Lord and find our strength in Him. We know that even in the midst of the upheaval and all the things that are going on in our world, we serve the Lord who gives love and strength in all the situations of our lives. Let's continue to put our trust in Him and move forward with courage.

As people of faith, we are called to pray in the midst of this crisis. Let's pray that the people who have been made sick by the virus will get well. Let's pray that the spread of the virus will be stopped in its tracks. Let's pray that all the steps that are being taken to stop the spread of the virus will be effective. Let's pray that a vaccine will soon be developed. Let's pray that the virus will soon be contained and the conditions that allow it to grow and spread will be changed. Let's pray that the virus will soon be gone and we can get back to doing what the Lord calls us to do in ministry and service.

We also need to pray for God's guidance in how we can be the Christians that God wants us to be during these days. Let us seek ways to do ministry and service in the midst of all the issues being caused because of this pandemic. May we seek ways that we can help those who are need and find themselves in hard places because of the pandemic. Let us pray about ways that we can help others and seek God's guidance in how we can best respond.

These are uncertain days. Let's continue to put our faith and trust in Jesus as we walk through these days, seeking His direction and sharing His love as we travel this path.