

First Baptist Church  
PO Box 518 \* 102 Church Street  
Chester, SC 29706  
(803) 377-7187  
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July 6, 2020

# TOGETHER

## Growing Disciples To Share Jesus

First Baptist Church  
[www.fbcchester.com](http://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

### Taking Measure of Prayer

Fluency [in prayer] is a questionable endowment, especially when it is not accompanied with the weight of thought and depth of feeling. Some [people] pray by the yard, but true prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.

—Charles Spurgeon

### Faithful Giving

Thank you for your continued support of the church through the days of the pandemic. Your faithful giving has allowed the church to continue to meet all of our financial obligations. Thank you for your generous support. You can continue to support the church through mailing in your tithes and offerings (PO Box 518), dropping them by the church office, or giving online through the church website or church app. Thank you for your faithful support of the work of the church.

### Deacon of the Week

June 21	Jason Wilburn
	Jason Owens
June 28	Donnie Abercrombie
	Billy Sanders
July 5	Jamey Abercrombie
	Mike Shaffer





Do you remember the flight in 2018 that had the catastrophic engine failure? *Nerves of Steel*, by Captain Tammie Jo Shults, is the story of her journey from growing up on a farm in New Mexico, to becoming the first female F/A-18 Hornet pilot in the Navy, to the pilot who calmly and heroically brought the crippled Southwest Flight 1380 safely to the ground. Her talent and staying true to herself and her personal faith are the foundation of her inspirational life. Pastor and author Max Lucado says “Tammie Jo reminds us that life’s challenges and the choices we make equip us to face anything with confidence and that we don’t face them alone.” *Nerves of Steel* is available in your church library. We are here to serve you as always, although in a different manner. Call me at 803-377-3841 and we can arrange to meet at the library so you can check out a book or DVD, or I will deliver.

**4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN**

Now is the time to make sure your 4 year old is signed up for Kindergarten this fall. If you have a child or know of a child who will be 4 by September 1, the child is eligible to be part of the 4 year old Kindergarten here at the church. The program is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn and grow in a Christian environment. Call the church office, 803-377-7187, or Charli Smith, 803-374-1303, to sign-up or for more information. Please pass the word to relatives, friends, and neighbors.



**Mission Trip**

In light of the restrictions because of Covid-19 we will not have our traditional week of mission work. We are, however, going to work to finish the house that was started last year. Over the course of the next several weeks we will have work days to hang and finish sheetrock, to paint, to put on vinyl siding, and to complete other tasks. We will publicize the days we will be working as they are scheduled. We will practice social distancing as much as possible as we complete this work. After the days are scheduled, please let Clay know if you will be able to help on a certain day. Pray with us that this project will soon be completed so that the family can move into their home.

**Tithes & Offerings**

**June 21**

Budget Offering Requird	8,694.00
Offering Received	5,209.00
Designated Donations	1,200.00
Total	6,409.00

**Memorials**

Faye Sullivan	Ginny Gwin
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**Honorariums**

Ken & Sandra Caldwell	Carol Shockley
Kirk & Marie Roberts	Flora Heinlein



Hello! I hope all is going well with each of you! I know this summer is VERY different, but be encouraged by knowing our GOD loves you the same as yesterday, last summer and even before that! Make the most of the ‘extra’ time you have to deepen your relationship with Him! We are having in-person Wednesday night Bible Studies every week. We will gather at 6:45 for fellowship/games, and begin our Bible study time at 7:00 pm (with the same zoom code), and end at 7:30 pm (same as adult Prayer Meeting). Please wear a mask and join us! We will have an outdoor movie night (weather permitting) this Friday, June 26th from 8:00 pm until 11:00 pm. Bring your own chair/blanket and meet at David’s house (text me if you need the address). Drinks and popcorn will be provided! See you soon! -David [David@fbcchester.com](mailto:David@fbcchester.com)

**Upcoming Schedule**

We have started to have in person gatherings again on Sunday mornings for Worship and on Wednesday evenings for Prayer and Bible Study. We will continue to stream live on Sundays and Wednesdays for those who are not yet comfortable gathering in crowds. We will continue this ministry even when the pandemic has passed for those who are not able to come to the church to join us for worship, prayer, and study. We are thankful for this new tool in staying connected to our church family and in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please watch the newsletter and listen on Sundays and Wednesdays to know when we will be able to resume other activities and have other in person events.



**Graduate Recognition Sunday**

This has been an unusual year for graduates. Normally we would have already been able to recognize them on a Sunday morning in worship, but this year it had to be postponed. A new date has been set for Graduate Recognition Sunday. The plan is to recognize our graduates during worship on Sunday, July 12. If you are a graduate and are planning to be a part of this service, please let David or Flora know. Please pray for our graduates as they seek God’s direction in their lives.



During the summer people often take trips. It is the season for vacations. People pick out a destination and make plans. They prepare and get ready to go. If someone is going to a new place, they have to get directions on how to get there. The way we get directions has changed through the years. Growing up there were road maps. Often you would stop at a Welcome Center for a state and pick up a highway map. After it was unfolded the first time, it may never be folded the same way again. Maps and atlases were studied, and you hoped you picked the best route. After the internet came along, there were websites that you went to to get directions. You put in your starting location and your ending location and directions are found. Often there is more than one route and so you have to choose the route you want to take. After picking the route, the directions are printed and you just have to follow the directions that have been provided. Along with the internet, GPS technology became available and so people would buy a GPS to put in their car. The GPS finds where you are, you put in the address of where you want to go, and the GPS begins to give you directions. And now many people simply use their phones. The phones use the GPS technology to give directions once you tell the phone where you want to go. Many of the apps on the phones will route you around traffic that is slowed down and will help you avoid those things that will cause you delays. There are many different ways to get directions. Getting good directions helps a person end up where they want to be. How do we get good directions and good guidance for living our lives? There are many people in the world who are more than willing to give us directions and give us their opinion about what we ought to do. What are some good sources for direction in or lives? The teaching of scripture is a place where we can find guidance for living life and for making choices. Let us seek to live our lives in accordance with God’s teaching and God’s Word. Are we seeking to follow the teaching of the Bible? We can find guidance for life as we study the Word with other people of faith. Often others can help us to find insight from scripture that will help us to know the Lord’s direction. We find guidance for life as we seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ. We are called to see how Jesus lived His life and what Jesus taught and how He loved. The life of Jesus provides guidance for us. We find guidance for life as we spend time talking with God and listening for His direction. Prayer is an important part of knowing what the Lord wants us to do in our lives. There are times when the Lord puts people in our lives who help us to understand His direction. It is important for us to have brothers and sisters in Christ who are striving with us to follow the will of the Lord. God promises to give us direction in our lives. We are called to seek His direction and be open to what He shows us each day. Are we allowing the Lord to guide us as we travel through life?

**God amid pandemic**

Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, “Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you” (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).