

Good News



May 24-30, 2020

A Pastor Letter

From Pastor Eric and Deacon Chair Eddie Baker

Our Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Each month during the Pandemic, I have written to us detailing our ministry plan for the next phase of our life together. This month, I write to outline our next phase of ministry with Eddie Baker, our 2020 Deacon Chair.

Over the last month, our church leaders have gathered regularly to listen, discuss, and prepare our church for the first phase of re-opening our building in the pandemic. These leaders include our pastoral staff, church council and deacons.

Our Pastoral Staff have actively engaged our specific national ministry networks to learn more about the pandemic and what it will require to meet again in person. These networks and trainings have included children and youth ministries, congregational leadership, facility/disinfectant training, denominational networks, mission networks, choral/music networks, and UF/Gainesville experts. We have learned as much as we can at this moment about the virus and how to best mitigate risk when individuals and families gather in groups.

At the same time, our church council made up of our committee chairs and our deacons have been listening to you, our congregation, to gauge our risk tolerance for re-engaging in-person gatherings. We have discovered we are a diverse church family with some partners ready to meet again whenever the doors open, and some who will struggle to meet again until there is a vaccine. Most of our congregation falls in between accepting – what Donn Wisdom calls – “cautious risk.”

Based on our learnings/trainings and our congregational listening efforts, our pastoral staff, church council, and deacons spent the last week developing a next phase ministry plan to guide our church through the summer.

Our primary focus in this next ministry phase will continue to be online/digital worship and ministry. We have already begun making upgrades in technology and training to better engage our whole congregation and community online.

Our secondary focus will be the establishment of an in-person Bible study event on Wednesday nights. We have already begun preparing ourselves for this event through engaging local regulations, ordering necessary cleaning and protection items (many are back ordered), and learning how to train both volunteers and participants in proper social distancing efforts. Our Wednesday night event will be a great and fun way for all of us to learn how to gather again safely during a pandemic.

If all goes well this summer, we expect the next phase of ministry will shift these two focuses. Our primary focus will be in-person worship and ministry gatherings on Sundays and our secondary focus will shift to online, digital ministry. Our summer ministry plan will prepare us wonderfully for what comes next. We will learn how to have in-person public

gatherings safely while the knowledge of Covid-19 continues to grow. At the same time, we will develop the equipment and technical know-how to provide good digital, online ministry.

Our guiding theme for the summer will be: **God's Faithfulness Continues**

For God is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever. (Ps 100:5 MSG)

This year during our 150th Anniversary celebration, we have constantly reminded ourselves of God's faithfulness during some of the hardest moments of human history – wars, pandemics, and civil rights. We are living through one of those moments now. The Covid-19 pandemic will reshape everything. As we live through these days, let us stay focused on God's continued faithfulness to each of us – each person, family, and group. In 50 years at our 200th Anniversary, we will celebrate how Jesus guided and strengthened us faithfully through the 2020 Pandemic.

We will be sharing the details of our Summer Ministry Plan in upcoming newsletters. As we move into this next phase, please remember our love for each of you drives these decisions. You trust your church. Your physical, emotional, and spiritual health remains our upmost concern. Until we see you again in person, please know ...

You are Loved!

Pastor Eric
Senior Pastor

Eddie Baker
Deacon Chair



[This Week in Living Room Worship](#)

This Sunday, May 24, we will celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Eastertide together. Our theme for Sunday is "Giving our Church as a gift back to God."

WorshipFirst, our contemporary worship band, will lead us in worship. They both play a beautiful song and guide various worship elements. WorshipFirst includes Jon Samborski on electric guitar, Grace Brodbeck on piano, Tim Wood on bass and Daniel Sing on acoustic guitar. For this song, David Kidd sings vocals.

Pastor Eric will preach from Acts 2:43-47 as we focus on how being and doing church allows us to grow spiritually together.

Please share this week's worship with your family and friends.

Here is this week's Order of Worship:

<https://fbcgainesville.net/download/4067/>

Remember to find our Living Room Worship ONLINE:

FBC Worship can be found on Sundays at 8:00 am in the following places:

- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_Ogqg5UQI4OkCjR7_HDVEw?view_as=subscriber
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-of-Gainesville-FL-224911824189421/>
- Website: <https://fbcgainesville.net/sermons-2/>
- Email: sign up to receive the link here: www.fbcgainesville.net/newsletter-sign-up
- Roku TV: If you own a smart TV or use ROKU for streaming, you will find a YouTube app on these devices. Simply search for our FBC Gainesville FL page and find the videos you want to watch.

Bible Study/Small Group Opportunities

- Sunday morning Video Bible studies are released each Sunday morning at 8:00 am. This week Sandra Sharron will be teaching!
- Join our Men's Bible Study each Monday night at 5:30 via zoom. Contact Eddie Baker for a zoom request: bestdaysstartwithu@gmail.com.
- Join our Women's Bible Study each Thursday morning at 9:30 via Zoom. Contact Betty Ann Franks (franksba@bellsouth.net)
- Several Bible Study Groups are meeting via Zoom each week. Contact Pastor Lynn to see if your class is meeting online.
- Prayer and Bible Study with Pastor Eric: Wednesdays @ 7:00 via Zoom and YouTube LIVE. **YOUTUBE LIVE IS NEW. PLEASE JOIN US ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND NOT FACEBOOK.**

Zoom Meeting Details

Zoom allows you to meet face to face online with Pastor Eric as we pray together and as he teaches. To Join Zoom Meeting:

Click Here: <https://zoom.us/j/871161219?pwd=RWM4QlFUd2xFdVpGc2szelU0cHNCUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 161 219

Password: fbczoom

Operations Updates

And the People Gave

Thank you for everyone who generously gave to FBC this week when no literal offering plate was passed.

May 17, 2020

Tithes & Offerings: **\$9,485.00**

And the People Engaged

Over the coming weeks and months as we begin to worship both online and in person, we will be evaluating various ways to measure the engagement of our church in God's Mission in the world. Online analytics and actual attendance will be limited in telling us how we are growing in our love for God and love of neighbor. Below are some analytics to describe how people engaged our online ministry this week.

Unique Viewers of the Worship Service: 87

(Some churches are using 2.14 people/unique view to gauge their online audience.

Hours Watched: 31 Hours

Average time watched: 15 Minutes

Facebook Analytics

Unique Viewers of the worship Service:

70 People

Estimate Reach: 15510



Let's Celebrate! Be looking for Pastor David and Pastor Lynn on Friday, May 29th with a surprise just for you! Summer is almost here...

Beautiful Feet Serving Gainesville

ElderCare of Alachua County

UF Academic Health Center



Meals on Wheels is one of many programs for the elderly under the ElderCare umbrella.

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to help deliver meals. There may be 4-5 coolers/insulated bags for

the route. Delivery help is needed any week day from 10 am to 1 pm. If you can help, contact Nick Hauzer at nhau0001@shands.ufl.edu or 352-871-3963

Go to <https://eldercare.ufhealth.org/volunteer/> to learn about volunteer opportunities. Thank you!

Deacons of the Week

May 17 – May 23

Frank Green: 352-317-8984

Jeff Brooker: 352-316-3717

May 24 – May 30

Bobby Bennett: 352-376-1440

Jon Samborski: 904-759-7343

Birthdays

May 24 – May 30

26 Zack Loflin

29 Bobby Bennett

Funny Kid Stories

One night after prayers, a mom was surprised to see her daughter's light back on beneath the door. She went inside to make sure she was feeling okay.

"I'm fine, mom," she said. "I have something private to say to God and I need the light on so he'll know it's me."

A children's Sunday school teacher asked her class to name one thing they were thankful for. A little boy replied, "My glasses." When the teacher asked why, he said, "They keep the boys from fighting me and the girls from kissing me."

Giving to First Baptist



- Send your offering via **US Mail** to the church office. Lots of folks use this one! Our mailing address is: 14105 NW 39th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32606



- **Automatic Draft** from your bank (usually free service.)



- Give through our **website** www.fbcgainesville.net You can set up a regular donation charged to your bank account, credit or debit card.

- **Text to Give.** Use your smartphone to give your offering.



Here's how:

Text... **FBCGAINESVILLE \$(amount you want to tithe)**... to **73256** to give to Vanco Tithes & Offerings using your text messaging (*Tithes \$25 – suggested location and amount*). *Standard text message rates do apply.* First time, you'll get a registration link · After that, it's automatic!

Questions? Call Elizabeth at 376-4681

Connecting to FBC

During these weeks when we do not see each other physically, we are working even harder to stay connected. Here are the steps to stay connected to FBC.

Sign up for our Email Newsletter

Each Sunday morning at 11:00, we will send out the link to our video Worship Service.

Sign Up Here: <https://fbcgainesville.net/newsletter-sign-up/>

Sign up for QuikKast.

We use QuikKast to send quick, short announcements to the whole church and to smaller groups within the church via email, text or phone call. To sign up, please call the church office at 352. 376.4681 or email Elizabeth.byrd@fbcgainesville.net.

Sign up for Facebook

If you are not connected to Facebook, this will be a good time to sign up. To get messages from the church, please search for First Baptist Church Gainesville. Hit the "Like" button and you will get notices when we go live.

FBC Website

Each week, we will use this page to inform our church members of opportunities, changes, and events in which we can participate. Make this page a weekly go to spot online. www.fbcgainesville.net

YouTube Subscription

Each week's bible study and worship will be release on Youtube. Subscribe to the First Baptist Church Gainesville channel to se all of these

videos. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_Ogqg5UQl4OkCjR7_HDVEw?view_as=subscriber