

Good News



July 12, 2020

A Word from the FBC Finance Committee

Dear Members

Thursday, July 9, 2020

For obvious reasons we have not been meeting regularly as a Finance Committee, nor have we had our scheduled Church Business Meeting. We did, however have a Zoom meeting as a committee in June and agreed to offer an update on the Church's financial condition for our first six months.

Overall, our financial condition is good. We have contributed \$234,811.70 towards our budget goal of \$528,173.00 which is an increase of 3.5% over 2019.

As you can see from the Financial Report Summary below in the newsletter, our actual income and expenditures are about equal. On the one hand, this means we are paying all our bills, paying all our staff, and paying all our designated funds (to ministries, benevolence, the Nehemiah Project, etc.). On the other hand, this also means we're not adding to our reserves for any future needs. However, there is a positive slant.

We were hit last year with a fundraising need for the Nehemiah Project with a goal of raising \$200,000. At the beginning of July, we have raised \$138,596. Our initial donations helped to provide sufficient funds that, when coupled with the reserves we had, made it possible to get most of the work completed without having to borrow from a lender. As more donations have come in, we have been able to complete the remainder of the work and start building back our original reserves, paying back what we borrowed from ourselves.

So, with a foundation of our Church's financial condition now established, Pastor Eric and the Finance Committee want to thank everyone who has donated through these past months. This is not just a "Thanks for your donation" kind of sentiment; rather we have been astonished at how your giving has continued,

even exceeded, as compared to past time exposures. Each one of us has expressed our gratitude to the Church members in our meeting, and we are now expressing it collectively. We are truly inspired by your efforts.

There is currently a movement being created within our Church under the guidance of Pastor Eric which will help all of us be better at Living for Christ through our discipleship, through our relationship with Jesus through prayer, through our generosity of time and treasure, through our fellowship. As we learn more in the months to come about this way of living, we will be able to talk more easily about many issues facing Christians including money and how it fits in our Christian life. Some of us have difficulty discussing money and Church, but it is a reality. This awkwardness is nothing new, but perhaps we will be able to offer a way to alleviate the negative connotations and other obstacles facing the reluctant, cautious, or even curious giver.

Moving forward we hope to shift our views of offering beyond a figure in a column written in black or red ink, or as a static routine effort on our parts, or as a chore or a hardship. Instead, we want to consider the goal of our giving. We don't wish for anyone to resent giving, or be perplexed about how much is the right amount, or wonder even if it's doing any good. Our goal is to have everyone understand what it means to give, and how to best give within your means without feeling guilty or resentful.

With another astounded Thank You, we pray for the best of health and safety for all of First Baptist Church of Gainesville.

Finance Committee

Michael Nadeau, Chair

Linda Stott

Eddie Baker

Jan Baur

Chuck King

[This Week in Living Room Worship](#)

Join us this Sunday in Living Room worship. Then, next Wednesday join us for Wednesday Night Live at 7:00 in the sanctuary and steaming online.

Here is this week's Order of Worship: <https://fbcgainesville.net/download/4295/>

FACEBOOK WORSHIP PREMIERE

Each Sunday on Facebook @ 8:30 am

Each week on Facebook, you are invited to have a great experience watching worship with the sacred partners of our church. Come, join us this Sunday at 8:30.

What does this mean? At 8:30 am, our Worship Service will play live on our Facebook page. This live premiere will allow anyone to watch together with other members of our church. We will be able to communicate to one another, shout Amen in the comments, ask questions or ask for prayer.

Who will Lead us? During the Service, one of our pastors will serve as an online, pastoral host, inviting comments, checking in on each of us, and saying a few AMENS too.

Can I watch the service later? Definitely. After the Worship premiere at 8:30, the worship service will remain on Facebook so come anytime to watch it.

Can I still watch the service on other online platforms? YES! At 8:30, our service will still be released on all our other platforms – Email, website and YouTube. If you have a specific time or way to watch the service, you will still be able to do so.

Why should I watch the Worship Premiere on Facebook? COMMUNITY! The element we miss in online worship is community – being with other people, seeing our pastors, connecting in the hall. Our Facebook Worship Premiere will allow us to do this virtually until we begin to gather in person later in the summer.

[Remember to find our Living Room Worship ONLINE:](#)

FBC Worship can be found on Sundays at **8:30 am** in the following places:

- FACEBOOK PREMIERE @ 8:30: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-of-Gainesville-FL-224911824189421/>
 - Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_Ogqg5UQl4OkCjR7_HDVEw?view_as=subscriber
 - 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 1 and find the videos you want to watch.
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REOPENING PLAN

JULY 2020: WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE BIBLE STUDY at 7:00 p..m.

- In the FBC Sanctuary
- Wednesdays in July
- Seeing friends
- Special Music
- Bible Study: Tales of the End: A Study of the Book of Revelation with Pastor Eric
- Live Streamed for all to experience

AUGUST 2020: GRAND RE-OPENING – Sunday, August 2, 2020

- Morning Worship Service begins at 9:30 a.m.
- Morning worship will be live-streamed online.
- 1 Bible Study in the Fellowship hall @ 10:45 a.m.
- The Bible study will utilize rotating teachers as we have done during our digital ministry.
- The Bible study will be recorded and released online.

TOGETHER AGAIN!

In an effort to follow recommended safety guidelines, we ask the following:

- Masks are required unless there is a medical reason not to wear one. Children two and under are not required to have a mask.
- If you are running a fever, have a cough, or feel sick, please stay home.
- Please maintain social distancing of 6 feet from others at all times.
- Please have all members of your family sit together and maintain 6 feet from other families.
- Please do not move around the sanctuary once you have been seated.
- A host/hostess will direct you to your seat. Seating is designed for every other pew.
- Please refrain from physical contact (hugs, shaking hands, etc.).
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer as you enter the sanctuary and throughout your time at church.
- Please complete the Participant Contact Card provided and return it to the designated basket as you depart.

- There are NO nursery, children or youth activities in the building.
 - Rather than passing offering plates in worship, offering plates are available at the back door as you leave.
 - Our Sanctuary Worship is Livestreamed on Sundays. An “Order of Worship” is available on our website.
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Every Wednesday Night at 7:00 pm
In Person and Live Streamed

Join us Wednesday nights for our new In person and Live Streamed event called Wednesday Night Live. This fun, worship event will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. It will include congregational music, intercessory prayers, special music and an in-depth Bible study lead by Pastor Eric There are two ways to join us:

1. In person – Arrive at the church a little early to get checked in and seated for our 7:00 pm event.
2. Online – Wednesday Night Live will be Live Streamed. Look for the information below to watch.

Watch Wednesday Night LIVE Online

We will be using Vimeo Live as our platform for Live Streaming. Soon, the link to this service will be found on our website. For now, you will need to follow the link below to watch us live. After the live event, a recording of the service will live on our Vimeo page and soon on our website.

Follow this link to watch us LIVE tonight at 7:00 pm Eastern.

LIVE STREAM LINK: <https://vimeo.com/event/156159>

TEXT PROMPTS

All participants – both in-person and online – are invited to participate in the LIVE service. You will find TEXT Prompts and a number to text in the Order of Service. Send Pastor Eric your prayer needs via text, send answers to questions in the Bible study, and ask your own questions LIVE as he teaches. All of us are invited to participate – both in-person and online.

Each week's Wednesday Night Live event will be live-streamed on our Website so everyone can participate in this new ministry.

Tales of the End: A Study of the Book of Revelation

Dr. Eric Spivey
Summer/Fall 2020

Description: The Book of Revelation reveals Jesus the Christ. With its symbolism, imaginative language and focus on the end of things, the book both captivates and scares us. This summer and fall, Pastor Eric will dive deep into Revelation as a powerful narrative telling the story of Jesus for each generation. He will also invest time in the different end time theologies giving each of us the opportunity to trust in God's victory.

Pastor Eric will also make space for new technology during this study. Individuals at FBC or in their homes will be able to text questions to him during the study.

Ongoing Bible Study/Small Group Opportunities

- Sunday morning Video Bible studies are released each Sunday morning at 8:00 am.
 - Join our Men's Bible Study each Monday night at in the Prayer Garden. Contact Eddie Baker for more information.
 - 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.
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Operations Updates

And the People Gave

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

July 5, 2020 Offerings: \$6,855.00

June 2020

Tithes & Offerings: \$36,958.00

Year to Date: \$234,811.70

Budget Spent to Date: \$235,203.05

The Nehemiah Plan

Wall Repair & Repaint

Goal: \$200,000.00

Given: \$138,596.00





Our next Family Promise host week is Sunday evening, July 26 through Sunday Morning, August 2. We will not host families at the church, but will instead provide 3 meals for each of the five families during that week. Because families are not housed in a single place, meals will need to be packaged separately for the families. Brenda Cohen will deliver the meals to the downtown location of Family Promise. We need volunteers to help with Wednesday meals only.

We have also been asked to donate a \$25 gas card and a \$25 Publix card to each of the families. Donations can be brought to the church when you attend on Wednesday night or dropped at the church any time during business hours.

Please email brenda.cohen@fbcgainesville.net or call/text Brenda at [352-538-2884](tel:352-538-2884) if you have questions or are ready to sign up to help. Details about the families will be shared with volunteers.

In January we hope to be back to hosting families in our church. Thank you all for your help!



Vacation Bible School

is coming

July 27-31

to a home near you.

Climb aboard for mountains of fun all week long at Rocky Railway. Each day of VBS we will have a video available that will include our Rocky Express opening with songs and Bible verses, skits, Bible story, mission moment. You will also drive by to pick up a bag full of fun activities,

Bible buddies, games, craft, and a snack that day to go with your video time. Each family will also receive a music CD of all the songs we will be learning that week! Stay tuned for more details to come.

<p><u>Deacons of the Week</u></p> <p><u>July 5 – July 11</u> Bobby Bennett: 352-376-1440 Jon Samborski: 904-759-7343</p> <p><u>July 12 – July 18</u> Eddie Baker: 352-792-3200 Dick Brodbeck: 601-954-0271</p>	<p><u>Birthdays</u></p> <p><u>July 12 - July 18</u></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">July 13</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Ida Skipper</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">16</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Lea Sweat</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Russell Clifton</td> </tr> </table>	July 13	Ida Skipper	16	Lea Sweat	17	Russell Clifton
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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.)



- **Online Giving** 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](tel:376-4681)