

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PUBLIC SERVICES,  
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS  
REMAIN CANCELED**

In order to help “flatten the curve,” slow the spread of COVID-19, and keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed, President Trump has asked Americans to not gather in groups of more than 10. Governor McMaster has asked South Carolinians not to gather in groups of more than 3.

**LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP!**

If you are in an “at risk” category and need help picking up groceries or items from the pharmacy, please contact us. We are very happy to help. Contact our pastor, church staff or deacons if you discover ways our church can be a channel of God’s love and care. Check on each other. During this time that we are not able to meet together, reach out by telephone to those in your Sunday School class and others that God places on your heart.

**EASTER SUNDAY PLANS**

**Next Sunday, April 12**

On Easter Sunday, we plan to hold a worship service on the front porch of the sanctuary at **10:00 am**. We will invite people to pull up in their cars (and for health and safety insist that everyone remain in their cars) for the service. We hope to be able to broadcast the service live on the radio (**WQUL 101.7 FM 1510 AM**) so that the service can be broadcast to each car in addition to the sound system. We are also considering putting together a “Flowering Cross” outside that can be enjoyed by our church and community. It would be available for family pictures (one family at a time - we would insist that waiting families stay in their cars until it is available.) All these plans are subject to change depending on the current health situation at Easter in our community.

**RADIO BROADCAST EACH SUNDAY**

Join with your First Baptist Family on our Woodruff radio station, **WQUL 101.7 FM 1510 AM**, each Sunday in April at **12:15 pm**. WQUL will broadcast sermons and music from our church YouTube channel. (The last two Sundays they did this free of charge as a way to minister to the community during these days of crisis. We are grateful for their generosity, help, and ministry.)

**THE WOODRUFF TIMES**

The owners of The Woodruff Times newspaper, Vareva Harris and Tracy Sanders, asked our pastor to contribute a sermon for the April edition. We are grateful for this opportunity. Subscriptions for The Woodruff Times are available at [www.thewoodrufftimes.com](http://www.thewoodrufftimes.com). It can also be purchased at local businesses.

**FAITHFUL GIVING**

Remember to give faithfully (through the mail or online or through the church office) so that our church will have the resources to continue to pay bills, meet obligations, enable ministry and serve effectively.

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

Each week we are recording and posting a number of sermons, special music and lessons for youth and children on our Church YouTube Channel. Visit our church website [www.fbcwoodruff.org](http://www.fbcwoodruff.org) for a link to this channel or search for “First Baptist Woodruff” on YouTube.

(At our March Church Conference the church approved the purchase of equipment that will help us to live stream and/or post our services regularly on the internet once we are able to resume public gatherings. This equipment has arrived and we are in the process of getting everything ready.)

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

We extend our love and prayerful support to **Jack Rhodes** and family in the death of his brother in law, **John Boyd Hanna**.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Emery Lineberger</b> , 4-5   | <b>Bill Scott</b> , 4-6       |
| <b>Kate Yarbray</b> , 4-9       | <b>JoAnn Waddell</b> , 4-9    |
| <b>Victoria Bailey</b> , 4-9    | <b>Cora Stewart</b> , 4-10    |
| <b>Amanda Stonesifer</b> , 4-11 | <b>Kent McAbee</b> , 4-13     |
| <b>Seth Gillespie</b> , 4-14    | <b>Hannah Orias</b> , 4-14    |
| <b>Melissa Craig</b> , 4-15     | <b>Carolyn Osborne</b> , 4-15 |
| <b>Bryan Thompson</b> , 4-16    | <b>Myra Wood</b> , 4-16       |
| <b>Thomasene Owensby</b> , 4-17 | <b>Jonathan Cooper</b> , 4-18 |
| <b>Brandy Fortner</b> , 4-18    | <b>Matt Lineberger</b> , 4-18 |

**OVER AND ABOVE PROJECT**

**\$85,440.56** has been contributed!

**ONLINE GIVING**

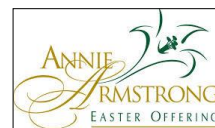
**Secure online giving is available**

**on our church website: [www.fbcwoodruff.org](http://www.fbcwoodruff.org)**

Giving online is easy and convenient but if you need assistance, Carol Morgan, our Church Secretary, is able to help. Feel free to give her a call, 476-8171.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>Mar 29</b>	<b>2020</b>
Needs	\$ 8,821.10	\$114,674.30
Offering	\$ 6,513.00	\$112,341.77
Over/(Under)	(\$ 2,308.10)	(\$ 2,332.53)
<b>Additional Offerings Given for Special Accounts</b>		
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	\$	50.00
Look Up Lodge Summer Staff	\$	200.00



**ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING**

*For North American Missions*  
**Church Goal: \$3,500.00**

**Received: \$570.00**

As COVID-19 cases continue to increase in the US, many medical facilities have faced shortages of masks & other protective gear. In response, Southern Baptists have donated more than 228,000 sets of protective equipment to different hospitals & healthcare workers in recent weeks. *“Medical personnel need the masks greatly right now,”* said Richard Brunson who leads NC Baptists On Mission. *“Besides, they didn’t belong to us anyway, they belonged to God! God just let us hold on to them for a little while until He could use them to bless others.”* The masks are typically used in disaster responses, such as in flood recovery when harmful mold can buildup in submerged homes, and in rebuilds.

The Center for Disease Control has recommended Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, as one of the nation’s largest providers of disaster relief, to several different state emergency management agencies as an organization that can provide wrap-around services, such as food preparation & delivery & spiritual & emotional care.

*“We are trying to be creative, to think outside the box,”* said Sam Porter, national director for SBDR with the North American Mission Board and Send Relief. *“Teams are able to do things they’ve never done or do things they’ve never thought of. It’s a time where Southern Baptists across the convention are stepping up.”* Send Relief, through its various ministry centers across the US, has been providing meals for vulnerable populations in Pittsburgh, New York City, New Orleans and across the island of Puerto Rico. In the next two weeks, Send Relief will be packing care bags at the North American Mission Board building in Alpharetta, GA, the ministry center in Ashland, KY as well as in Denver, CO, to give away to medical workers as an encouragement during this difficult time. *“Send Relief is seeking to respond to needs wherever they are,”* said Wright. *“Jesus is so strong about us loving our neighbor, especially our neighbor in need. This is certainly one of those times throughout all the world.”*

Please continue to pray for these efforts and for our missionaries and prayerfully consider your gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

**MOLLY GRAYSON LAWSON,  
ERYN BEELER & RHEA WILSON**

**Serving this Summer at Look Up Lodge**

Pray for them as they prepare. They will be raising their own support. **If you would like to contribute simply write “Staff – Look Up Lodge” on the outside of the envelope.** They have each been asked to raise \$1,800.00 before April 5.

**PEOPLE OF GOD – PRAY!**

**This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14**

- † Pray for families and individuals who have this virus as well as those in hospitals, care facilities and other places who are separated from support networks because of quarantines.
- † Pray for researchers, doctors, nurses and others who are on the front lines of this pandemic. Pray also for their families.
- † Pray for our president, our governor, and our leaders on all levels who are having to make difficult and unprecedented decisions.
- † Pray that the medical supplies and equipment will be available.
- † Pray for our students and teachers who are having to find creative ways to minimize the disruption of educational opportunities.
- † Pray for those who are now unemployed or whose financial livelihood and jobs are threatened by this crisis.
- † Pray for churches across our country who are working in creative ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus in these troubled times.
- † Pray that God’s people would continue to give faithfully even if their church can not have services so that ministries can continue in the future.
- † Pray for the individuals and families that make up our church.
- † Pray and look for ways that God will bring good from evil and life from death and use the difficulties of these days to draw us closer to Him.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

- Wednesday, April 1 – Hebrews 1
- Thursday, April 2 – Hebrews 2
- Friday, April 3 – Hebrews 3
- Sunday, April 5 – Hebrews 4
- Monday, April 6 – Hebrews 5
- Tuesday, April 7 – Hebrews 6
- Wednesday, April 8 – Hebrews 7
- Thursday, April 9 – Hebrews 8
- Friday, April 10 – Hebrews 9
- Sunday, April 12 – Hebrews 10
- Monday, April 13 – Hebrews 11
- Tuesday, April 14 – Hebrews 12
- Wednesday, April 15 – Hebrews 13
- Thursday, April 16 – John 1
- Friday, April 17 – John 2

**DAWSON SKINNER**

**To Serve on the staff of Camp McCall**

We are excited for Dawson Skinner as he prepares to serve and commit to pray for him as he ministers in Jesus’ name.

## WAVE A PALM OF VICTORY

The Sunday that Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph (Palm Sunday) is a day of great significance. It is as if all of history... all of prophecy... and all the stories and acts of preparation had been placed in a large funnel and are now coming down to this event. Earlier this year, we studied prophecies in the Book of Daniel (from 538 BC) that give the exact number of days leading up to this Triumphal Sunday when Jesus is openly proclaimed as the "Christ", the "Messiah", the long awaited "Anointed One." Psalm 118:24 states *"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."* This verse truly applies to every day – we should *"rejoice always"* and give thanks for each day as a gift from God. But in the context of Psalm 118 it celebrates the day when the Messiah is made known.

**The people prepared the road ahead by laying down their coats and palm branches.** This was an ancient tradition. This is how you made way for a king. It is beautiful and powerful, but does it make any sense? Let's say for a moment that you only own 1 coat and that it doubles as a blanket when you go to sleep at night. That would have been true for most of the people. Does it really make sense to take your one source of warmth and lay it on a dirty road in hopes that when a donkey steps on it, it will make the path softer? Is it really worth all that? The people who gathered that day would say... yes. It is an act of sacrifice, and act of worship, and act of devotion. At that moment, honoring the true King was more important than any practical considerations. They showed that by laying their coats across the road.

**They waved palms of victory.** The palm branch was used as a national symbol during the brief years of independence (164 BC - 63 BC.) The Romans put pictures of Caesar on their coins. This was considered a "graven-image" – idolatry by the faithful. Roman coins have been found where over the image of Caesar was stamped a palm branch – a symbol of victory. It was a way of saying God will win the victory over Caesar.

**They shouted, "Hosanna!"** It means "save us now!" They shouted "Hosanna in the Highest" – "Save us to the uttermost!" They shouted to the "Son of David" – The Messiah, The Christ, The King. They placed on Him all their hopes and dreams.

**Jesus enters the city riding a donkey.** Zechariah 9:9, five centuries earlier declared: *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* Tom Rees tells of a jockey who attended a Palm Sunday service. He was disgusted with himself over the sins in his life that he could not seem to control. As the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was read, his attention focused. He was amazed about how that donkey was commandeered and mounted, unbroken and untrained as he was, by the Lord Jesus who rode him calmly through the noise and confusion of the parade. He recalled the hours he had spent in training colts and horses and then he thought of his own struggles. If Jesus could quietly and quickly control a colt, surely Jesus could help him. And there in the back of that church, the jockey surrendered control to Christ.

This Palm Sunday we will not be able to gather in the sanctuary as a church but as you gather as the Church in your homes lift up your praises to the One that God has sent to save us. Wave the Palm! Claim the Victory! He has given us everything we need to overcome temptation. He is greater than any problem we will face. He gives peace greater than any sorrow and joy that can overcome the greatest despair. Wave the Palm! Claim the Victory! There is no sin so dark that He cannot forgive. There is no soul so lost that He cannot shine the way for them to come home. There is nothing in this life that His love cannot overcome. Good will triumph over evil. Trust in God will be proved to be the right decision. Those who trust in Him will not be disappointed.

The Triumphal Entry in the first century can also prepare us for another day... A day when the heavens will open! A day when the Son of God will come in glory and power to reign! A day when every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him! A day when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ! A day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess to the glory of God the Father that Jesus Christ is Lord! Wave the Palm! Claim the Victory! Live your life here and now in expectation. Claim what God has done through Calvary's cross. Get ready for what He will do when our salvation is complete and our faith is made sight. Paul reminds us in Romans 8:18, *"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."* Put your faith in Jesus!

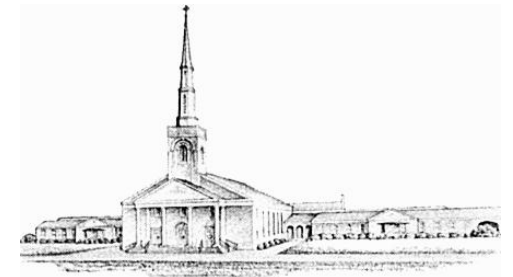
## DEAR PARENTS,

I have been sending devotions and activities for our kids to do with their families while we are home. If you have not received the information from me, please email me at [lisa@fbcw@gmail.com](mailto:lisa@fbcw@gmail.com) or call me at 476-8171 so I can add your family to my list. The first packet included the Lord's Prayer coloring poster and several devotions with activities. Please work with your child on memorizing the Lord's Prayer. If they memorize it and send me a video of them reciting it I will include a special prize in their next packet. I will contact everyone closer to the end of the week about when the Easter packets will be available. Thank you for allowing me to help your family during this time. If you have any needs or prayer requests please feel free to contact me. Praying for all you! – Lisa Abercrombie

# THE ENCOURAGER

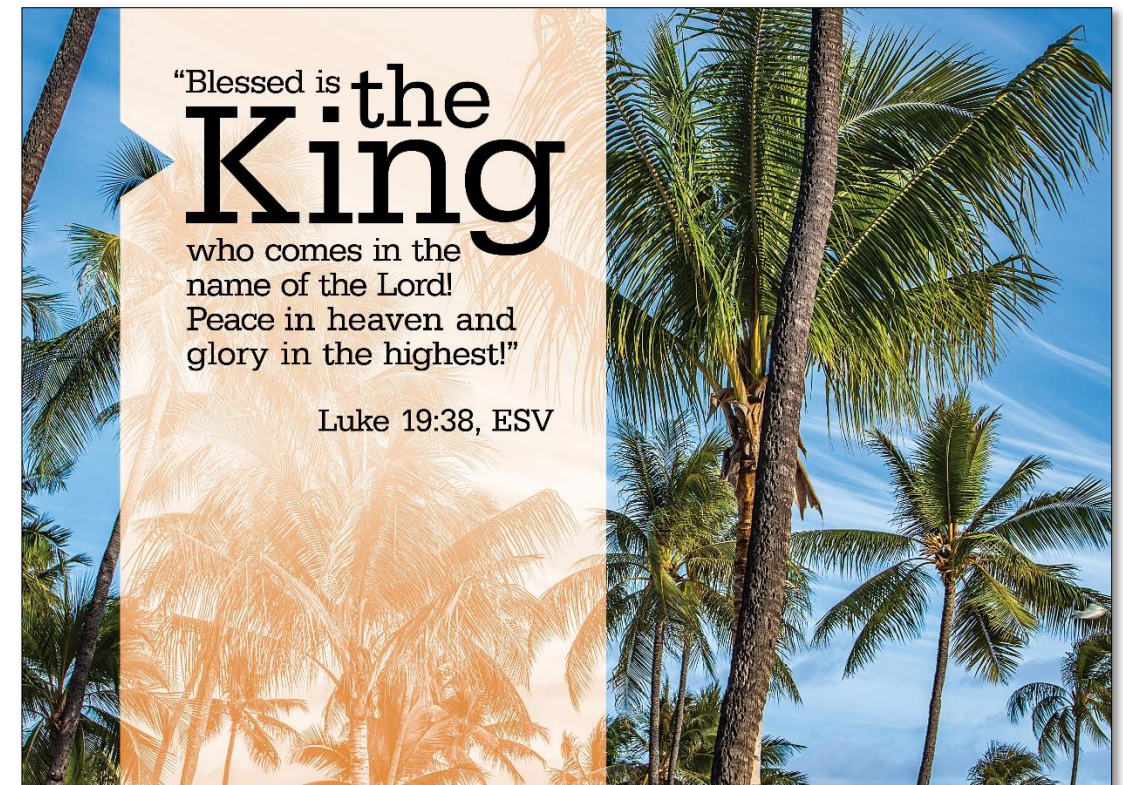
"...to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian Service to build up the body of Christ."

[www.fbcwoodruff.org](http://www.fbcwoodruff.org)



**First Baptist Church \* Woodruff, South Carolina**

**April 1, 2020**



**C. Andrew Shull, Pastor**  
**Bryan C. Thompson, Associate Pastor for Youth**  
**John C. Carroll, Minister of Music**  
**Lisa C. Abercrombie, Ministry Coordinator**  
**Carol R. Morgan, Secretary**  
**Kay M. Young, Pianist**  
**Tommie Jo McAbee, Site Manager**  
**Randy C. Rhodes, Site Manager**

**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Email:** [office@fbcwsc.org](mailto:office@fbcwsc.org)

**Web site:** [www.fbcwoodruff.org](http://www.fbcwoodruff.org)

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