

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELED THROUGH THE END OF MARCH

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.

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.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Last week we were able to record and post a number of sermons, special music and lessons for youth and children on our new YouTube Channel. We hope to continue to add to our library this week. Visit our church website www.fbcwoodruff.org for a link to this new 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 been ordered and is on the way.)

RADIO BROADCAST

This past Sunday, free of charge, our Woodruff radio station, **WQUL 101.7 FM 1510 AM**, broadcast sermons and music from our church YouTube channel. They plan to do this again this **Sunday, March 29 at 12:15 pm**. We are grateful for their generosity, help, and ministry especially in these days of crisis.

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. 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.

THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE GOSPEL

A “Standing Order” is an order that stays in place until it is changed or canceled. Waiters may have standing orders to fill the customer’s glasses before they are emptied. Nurses may have standing orders to check each patient’s vital signs when they come on duty. Bankers may have standing orders to pay a particular account each month. Soldiers may have standing orders to fire on the enemy. Theologians sometimes refer to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 as the “Standing Orders of the Gospel.” They are standing orders because they always apply to every Christian in every situation.

Be Joyful Always! Pray Continually! Give Thanks In All Circumstances!

This is a great challenge, isn’t it? After all, we would have no problem if the Scripture said - “Rejoice sometimes,” “Pray occasionally,” and “Give thanks when you feel like it.” It’s the modifiers that trip us up: “Always,” “Continually,” “In all circumstances.” The real impact of the Gospel is seen when we don’t feel joyful, when we don’t want to pray, and when we can’t think of a reason to be thankful. That’s when we discover if our Christianity is genuine or counterfeit. These simple commands reveal the true life-changing power of Jesus Christ. When He enters a life, He changes it from the inside out so that we have both the power and the desire to rejoice, to pray, and give thanks even in the worst moments of life.

Be Joyful Always! Paul and Silas were beaten and locked in the deepest part of the Philippian jail... yet at the midnight hour... they were singing songs of praise and worshiping God! How could they sing? Worshiping Jesus was more important to them than complaining about their circumstances. Worshiping Jesus, focusing on His love, His plan, His purpose – gave them strength and joy despite their circumstances. Worshiping Jesus, called to mind all that He had done for them... all He suffered... He too had been stripped and beaten, it was a privilege to follow in His steps. Worshiping Jesus reminded them that God is greater than evil and that He brings good from evil. Worshiping Jesus filled their hearts with gratitude and prepared them for what God was about to do. The other prisoners heard them. The jailer heard them. God heard them. God used their joy to help give birth to the church at Philippi. The jailer trusted Christ, he and his whole family. Joy is the surest sign of the presence of Christ! If we put our circumstances in His hands... He can use them to make us stronger. He can use them to help us. Our pain does not have to be wasted... it can be used for our good, to shape us and mold us. More than that... this joy that comes from the Lord can actually give us the strength to make it through the circumstances. As Nehemiah told the people... **The joy of the LORD is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10** Joy enables, Joy strengthens, Joy pushes past, Joy endures... In Christ we have been given a joy that the world can’t take away.

Pray Continually! Think about this... Consciously or unconsciously, all of us are engaged in unceasing thought from birth to death. The brain is always active even when we are sleeping. The flat brain wave is the final sign of death. Our unceasing thoughts are sources of both joy and sorrow. Sometimes our minds wander when we desperately need to concentrate. Sometimes they keep us awake when we are in need of sleep. What if we could convert our unceasing thinking into unceasing prayer? What if we lived our lives in constant awareness of God’s presence? When we are in “love” even when that person isn’t with us, they are in our thoughts. We make decisions with them in mind. Each experience of the day is evaluated with them in mind. What if we allowed all of the days events to draw us closer to God? What if we lived our lives with God in mind? What if we spent the day in conversation with God? The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Just as God walked with Adam in the cool of the day... What if we walked with God throughout the day? Would it change our choices? Would it give strength to face temptations? Would it give us a different perspective on life’s challenges? Would it fill our hearts with joy?

Give Thanks In All Circumstances! Things happen to us (and to our loved ones) that make no sense to us. Try as we might, we cannot trace God’s hand in every circumstance because God paints on a canvas much larger than our tiny vision. How do we give thanks when our hearts are broken? How do we give thanks when we are confused? How do we give thanks when we are afraid? Even in the worst of circumstances we can give thanks. . . that God is sovereign; that He causes all things to work together for good for His children; that He can use hard times to show us our complete need for Him; that God’s promises are true; that evil will not reign forever; that heaven is real; that His grace is sufficient for every situation; that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus; that the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from every sin; that God delights to save sinners; that the Lord can soften the hardest heart; that there are no impossible cases with God; that even when we feel alone, we are never alone; that we will not be tempted beyond what we can bear; that the Holy Spirit abides with us always; that the Lord Jesus feels our pain; that our hardships equip us to minister to others; that we are still God’s children even when our faith falters; and that God is greater than our circumstances. By giving thanks when we don’t feel like it, we are proclaiming that God’s wisdom is greater than ours. There is no escaping sorrow while we live on a sin-cursed planet. Left to ourselves, the pain of life will drive us to bitterness and ultimately to despair. But when we rest upon the rock of His sovereign grace and love, then and only then, do we have the grounds for saying “Thank you, Lord,” no matter what happens around us.

What is God’s will for your life? **Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.**

PEOPLE OF GOD – PRAY!

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

- 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 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 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.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We extend our love and prayerful support to **John Lehman** and family in the death of his grandfather, **Jack Nelsen**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

James Westmoreland , 3-29	Othella Bernard , 3-29
Jack Bernard , 3-30	Kris H. Gillaspay , 3-30
Buddy Few , 4-2	Cathy Grubbs , 4-2
Julie Bowie , 4-3	Mike Carlile , 4-3
Jessie Weaver , 4-3	Kay Brown , 4-4
Emery Lineberger , 4-5	Bill Scott , 4-6
Kate Yarbray , 4-9	JoAnn Waddell , 4-9
Victoria Bailey , 4-9	Cora Stewart , 4-10
Amanda Stonesifer , 4-11	

ONLINE GIVING

Secure online giving is available on our church website: 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.



**ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING**
For North American Missions
Church Goal: \$3,500.00
Received: \$520.00

Push Back Against Lostness: Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and through Him, you, too, have the power to share the gospel and lead others to a relationship with God. Sadly, the 21st century has been marked by an increase in the number of lost people in the world. Living for Jesus means working to extend God's Kingdom on earth. There are many ways you can make a difference: donate to missions offerings, share your faith with your friends and family and with those God has placed in your life, and pray for the specific lost people that God puts on your heart that He will open their eyes to the truth. Support the efforts of the North American Mission Board, which trains and provides resources for missionaries across the United States and Canada. 100% of your donation to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is used to support missionaries. Every dollar makes a difference for the Kingdom. Prayerfully consider your gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

FRESHLY PLANTED TREES

We give thanks for the Woodruff Garden Ella's for donating two new dogwood trees *In Memory of Cheryl Smith and Donna Hembree*. The trees have been planted across from the playground near the nursery portico.

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Two people can look at the very same circumstance and experience it entirely differently based upon the attitude they choose. From our attitudes spring our actions. From a prison cell, Paul encourages us to not let a fearful or critical spirit rob us of joy and peace. *"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."* *Philippians 4:8-9*

OVER AND ABOVE PROJECT

\$85,440.56 has been contributed!

FINANCIAL REPORT		
BUDGET	Mar 22	2020
Needs	\$ 8,821.10	\$105,853.20
Offering	\$ 5,664.10	\$105,828.77
Over/(Under)	(\$ 3,157.00)	(\$ 24.43)
Additional Offerings Given for Special Accounts		
Men's Ministry Reimbursement	\$	59.00
Children's Ministry	\$	50.00



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Wednesday, March 25 – 2 Timothy 3
Thursday, March 26 – 2 Timothy 4
Friday, March 27 – Titus 1
Sunday, March 29 – Titus 2
Monday, March 30 – Titus 3
Tuesday, March 31 – Philemon
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

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.

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.

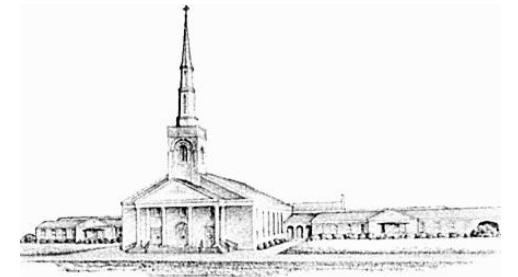
THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES?

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom is a powerful true account that inspires us to trust God and give Him thanks. Corrie and her sister, Betsie, are in the Nazi death camp. They are packed together in the most inhumane of conditions. Their barracks are infested with lice and fleas. Corrie hears her sister pray... *"Thank you God for the fleas and lice."* Corrie thinks her sister is out of her mind. Why should we give thanks for fleas and lice? Later Corrie discovers that because of the fleas and lice, the guards are careful not to enter their barracks. They are able to hold Bible studies, share their faith, and lead in worship because of the freedom the fleas and lice give them from the guards. We should give thanks in all circumstances! Just like Corrie, we may learn that the very "fleas" that we are tempted to complain about as a painful inconvenience may be the very thing that God uses to bless us with the things we need most.

THE ENCOURAGER

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

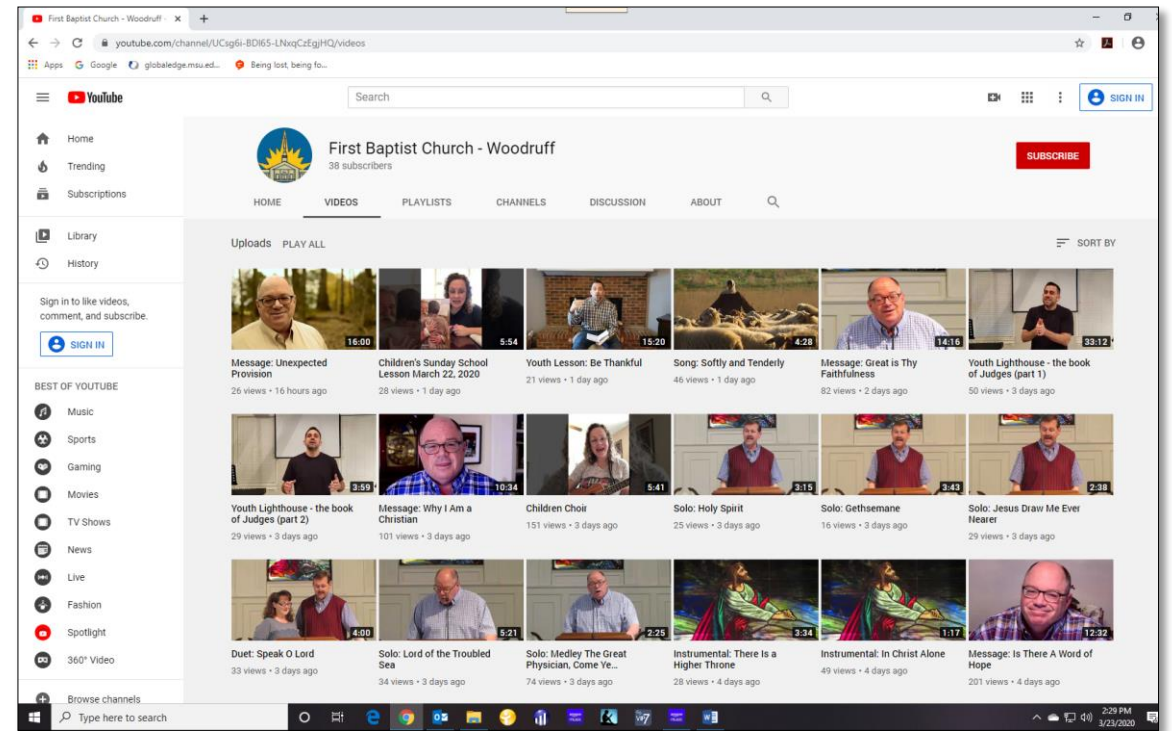
www.fbcwoodruff.org



First Baptist Church * Woodruff, South Carolina

March 25, 2020

Visit the First Baptist YouTube Channel for Music, Sermons & More.



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

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