

First Edition

First Baptist Church

Volume 46, Issue 4

A Word from your Pastor

Church Family,

In accordance with the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control, ALL corporate gatherings have been suspended. Please continue to worship remotely with us each week on Facebook.



All updates will be posted both on our web page (www.fbcf.org) and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/firstbaptistfloresville.)

Hope you are adjusting as best you can in these trying times. We have been for the most part staying in our homes the last couple of weeks. The other day President Trump forecasted more of the same for the month of April. Although there are certain hotspots like New York, New Jersey, Washington and Louisiana, we need to still take social distancing and washing our hands seriously. People have been infected with the virus in our city, county and state. We will probably see those numbers rise as we move into April. Nevertheless, our Lord is still on the throne. I do not mean to use that phrase as a cliché. We can truly rest in His sovereignty. Our Lord is guiding history to the final eschaton – end. The end for us, those of us who know Him personally, is eternal life. What a day that will be when we enter the gates of heaven to see Him and live with Him. Yet, although we want to be with Him in heaven, we are here for His purpose. He has work for us to do. That work right now includes prayer for our President and all of our leaders. Pray that God will give them wisdom. Also, we need to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel. It may be that such a time as this will cause people to think not just of their physical lives but of their spiritual lives. Also, try to think about others you may need to phone for a weekly check-up.



On our end we will be continuing to broadcast our services via Facebook live. The broadcast last week will lead us into this coming Sunday – Palm Sunday. I would like for you to read John 11 and 12 prior to the service. Again, if you need anything, please call us at the office. God bless all of you.

~ Pastor Mike

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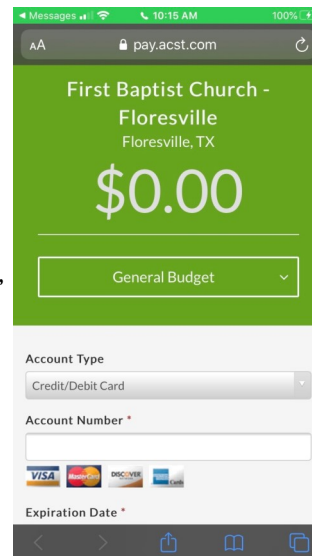
Introducing—Giving by TEXT Message

Giving is an act of worship. And during this time when we are not meeting together and the offering plate is not passed, we must be even more intentional about worshipping with our gifts.

Giving online is an option. Visit www.fbcf.org and click the green “Give Online” button. Of course, checks can always be mailed to the church or dropped off during office hours. Installing the “ACS Church Life” app is another option.

We are excited about giving by text message. Just text the code “FBCF1234” to the number 73256 and follow the instructions. It’s super easy—and secure.

Remember, your gifts help fund efforts to keep the office running, meet practical needs of those in our community and keep missionaries on the field.



Pursuing Community When We Cannot Gather

By Michael Kelley

We did not gather on Sunday. It was the right thing to do. But it was also the hard thing to do. Now, of course, you might say that we did gather, virtually, but it's not the same, and we all know it. Virtual meetings and sermons are a substitute, but it's not a perfect one. It is what we must do for a while, but not what we ought to do forever. The people of God are meant to gather together; indeed, that is our very trajectory, moving forward to a time when we will be gathered together forever more.

But not this week. And not next week either. And we missed gathering together, didn't we? We missed the handshakes and the hugs; we missed hearing the people of God around us singing together; we missed the very sight of one another, a visual reminder of presence that we are still here and still in the faith. Together. And yet the church remains. Because the church is people. And people remain. But here we have this challenge to our biblical communities, communities of faith which have been forced apart by the threat of disease. How are we, as church leaders and Christians, to continue in community with one another when we cannot – and should not – gather together in large groups? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Embrace the bigger vision of discipleship. Imagine someone walking into a church and asking a regular, everyday church member this question: "Who is responsible for discipleship in this congregation?" That church member might name a member of their staff that has "discipleship" in their job description. Or they might name someone they know who is a great Bible study leader. Or they might pick out someone who regularly meets one on one with several different people. All those answers would be right, but they would all be wrong at the same time.

The truest answer to that question is this: "We are." The church itself, made up of men and women, teenagers, boys and girls who are all trying to follow Jesus, is responsible for discipleship. Certainly, the program part of that effort might be managed and centralized out of the church office, but the actual work of helping each other follow Jesus falls to us all. That's true in the best of times, and it seems to be especially true in the worst of times. Here we have an opportunity for the church to remember that we each are responsible for each other, even when we cannot be with each other in the same room. Once we embrace that, we are compelled to do simple things in order to help each other move forward with Jesus, which leads to the second suggestion:

2. Embrace the need for service. If we are all responsible for each other, then we should not wait for a direction from a church leader to pick up the phone and contact, for example, elderly members of the congregation, urging them to stay home and offering to buy and deliver groceries. We should not wait for someone we know who struggles with anxiety to reach out proactively and check on them. These are things that can and should be done without violating any of our consciences by becoming a potential carrier of this disease. Service, you see, is both a means of and an effect of discipleship. When we serve one another, we do so because we are growing in Christ, but we also do so as an act of self-denial in order to follow Christ. And when we serve one another, we will find that community is deepened. And that community is especially sweet and Christ-honoring when it goes beyond our particular demographic or friend circle. It's through service on days like today that we can see relationships build beyond their current boundaries.

3. Embrace sharing truth as personal rather than public. Friends, with all the good that might come from it, it's my strong feeling that these are days when we would all do a little better through less interactions on social media. Now you might argue that social media is the way in which we can maintain our sense of community – I fear it's actually the opposite. We might have all the best intentions in broadcasting to the world how our family is dealing with this crisis, what our opinion of it is, or even what we are learning from God's Word. But let me gently suggest that true, real and lasting community isn't going to be found through a massive forum but a smaller personal one. Consider instead of using Facebook an actual phone call with a few people to talk about what you are reading in the Bible. I believe what we'll find there is a forum in which we can share our fears and our comfort in a way that is much more helpful in the end, one that is actually sustainable for when we are able to meet together again.

Let us surely be sad that we cannot gather together for the time being. Sadness is not a bad thing, and in this case, it is the right thing. But in our sadness, let us not despair as if there is nothing we can or should do. These are days, friends, when we need to love each other well. We need to serve each other well. We need to encourage each other well. And the Spirit of God has equipped us to do so.

<http://michaelkelley.co/2020/03/community-when-we-cannot-gather/>

Women's Ministry News

Hello out there!! (echo) I'm praying that everyone remains healthy! I realize we all need to focus on the positive in our different situations! We can all find something special each day to see the beauty in the world. Through this time, I feel like the LORD is reminding me to stay focused on HIM! He reminds us: "I am your provider; I am your great healer; I am sovereign and the Creator!"

During this time, I believe the LORD is giving us new opportunities to show our love to one another. I'd like to encourage you to connect with each other on Sundays at 10:30 am via the streaming worship service on Facebook LIVE, or contact your church family via a text, phone call, or a card. There are numerous opportunities in this day and age to connect. Although we cannot physically "hug" each other, we can still share a hello through messaging. Our church directory has been a very handy tool in my home. David and I are trying to contact church members from A to Z. There are so many things that are out of our control right now, but I feel that the LORD is telling us to focus on Him during this time. When we do, all the hope and trust we have in the Lord will see us through this! We will be stronger, and blessed by Him! I challenge each of you to contact someone that the Lord puts on your heart. Don't stop there! Keep on sending out a virtual hug or a wave to others.

As far as Women's Ministry goes, we're putting our activity calendar on hold—until later. If you have any questions, any Women's Ministry activity ideas, or want more information, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068, or me, Donna Arispe, at 210-560-9642.



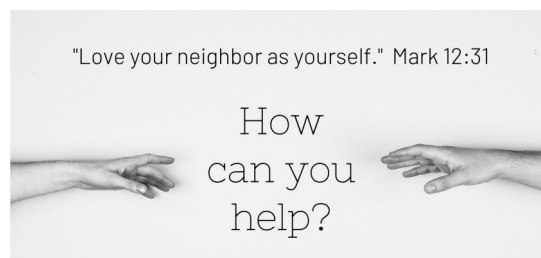
"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

Proverbs 17:22

How Can We Love Our Neighbors?

As a neighborhood church, it is important that we show the love of Christ to our neighbors—especially now. Two ways you can help love our neighbors is by giving and by serving. By giving, you help fund the efforts to meet the needs of those in our community and around the world. Check out the article on the front page for more information about ways to give. By serving, you act as the hands and feet of Christ. How can we serve one another while we are remaining socially distant and sheltering in place? Here are a few suggestions:

- Serve your neighbors. Call, text, Facetime, or video chat with friends and neighbors. Some neighborhoods connect with the "Next Door" app through social media. Whatever platform you choose, encourage one another and take care of each other remotely. Mail a card or letter. Help run small errands or pick up groceries and medicine for those who are most at risk.
- Serve your community. Let's not neglect to donate non-perishables to the Floresville Food Pantry and Resource Center. Call 830-321-1151 to learn about specific ways you can help. Our community is also in desperate need of blood donations. Give the gift of life by contacting the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center at 800-292-5534 or visit www.southtexasblood.org. Mobile units are often stationed nearby.
- Serve our health care professionals. Are you looking for a way to help local healthcare workers? Put your crafting skills to work and sew much-needed masks. Visit JoAnn Fabric's web page [HERE \(www.joann.com\)](http://www.joann.com) and help them reach their goal of 100 million masks. Contact Donna Arispe at 210-560-9642 for information about this fun and vital project.
- Pray. Pray that God would slow the spread of the virus. Pray for people who are quarantined or sick. Pray for health care workers. Pray for our leaders. Pray for our mission workers. Pray for pastors as they shepherd their flocks through uncertain times. Pray that our Faith Family will adapt to caring for each other in new and different ways. Pray that through adversity, people will put their faith in Jesus.



First Edition

Missionary Moments—from the Canadys

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that we had to leave our home in South East Asia (SEA) due to the problems surrounding the COVID-19 virus and the impact it had on complicating our visa renewal. However, our internship is not over. It will look different, and we will keep you all informed as we learn more about it in the coming weeks.

As we watched the effects of COVID-19 from our home in SEA, we were devastated by the impact it has taken on the entire world. On Saturday, March 22nd, our entire team planned to stick it out, so we went to stock up on groceries, fully intending to stay in country on lockdown for a while.

However, the following Monday morning, we received news from our sending organization that we had 24 hours to pack up and evacuate, leaving little time for goodbyes. It was a shock to say the least. Our leadership let us know that it was due to the travel restrictions and the rising threat of COVID-19, which then caused visa renewal impossibilities.

We left our city in SEA on Tuesday evening and have now safely arrived back in the USA near Sarah's family in Nashville, Tennessee. We will self-quarantine for 2 weeks by ourselves to make sure we did not get the virus on the way home.

We will provide more information as we learn about what the rest of our internship looks like in the weeks to come. Our hope is to be back in SEA as soon as possible, and our organization is working hard to make this happen.

We have also been praying for all of you during these trying times and for everyone around the world. Thank all of you so much for your support and prayers during this difficult and unexpected transition for us and our team. Our emotions are running high with a blend of pain, shock, frustration, and confusion, BUT we know the Lord is faithful and we trust in His will.

~ J.P. & Sarah in South East Asia

Missionary Moments—from the Fleming Fam in Japan

Check out some recent updates from the Trey Fleming family's Facebook page:

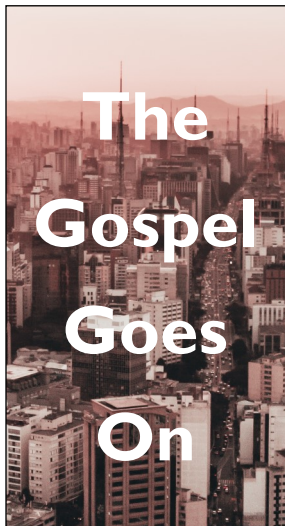
March 7th—We haven't posted much since the coronavirus took over everyone's news feed, but rest assured, we are fine. The girls are out of school for at least one more week, but Adria and I are continuing with our Japanese classes as usual. Ministry and church opportunities are being affected so please pray. We don't know any sick people and we don't know anyone who knows any sick people.

March 23rd—Things are semi-normal here in Japan. We are following the news and praying for our family and friends in America. While you are stuck at home, please continue to pray for Japan.

March 24th—We made some cookies for some friends today and packaged them in bags we had left over from Valentine's Day (we ate some too!). Pray for opportunities to show love to those around us!

March 24th—With so much of Japan's economy riding on the Olympic games, please pray they can be rescheduled smoothly and missionaries will be ready to make the most of every opportunity.

The Trey Fleming family posts regular updates on their Facebook page. You'll find Trey and Adria at www.facebook.com/flemingfaminjapan. Visit their page often and learn about different ways to pray as the gospel continues to be shared in Japan and around the world.







"In light of the vast amount of information you're hearing about the effect of the coronavirus around the world, I want to take the opportunity to share with you that your International Mission Board personnel are continuing to advance the gospel even during these difficult days."

- Dr. Paul Chitwood
IMB President

April 2020

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 WNS Drive-Thru Bacon-wrapped chicken 5:30pm	2	3	4
5  10:30 am *Carter Thomas	6	7	8	9 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	10	11
12  10:30 am *Ron P. Tipton	13	14	15	16	17	18
19  10:30 am *Ronald T. Tipton	20	21	22	23	24	25
26  10:30 am *Bob Whitley	27	28	29	30		

In accordance with the CDC's recommendations, ALL corporate gatherings have been suspended. Please worship remotely with us by accessing Facebook LIVE.

Sunday

- 8:00—Worship Service (except Lord's Supper & 5th Sundays)
- 9:15—Bible Study
- 10:30—Worship Service

Wednesday

- 10:00—Ladies Mid-Week Study
- 4:30—FLC open for students
- 5:30—Supper
Kids Movie Night
LAST Wed/mo
- 6:30—Life Groups / Prayer Meeting / Kids on a Mission Youth Bible Study
- 7:30—Choir Rehearsal

Weekly Activities

- Creative Hands—Quilting Mondays at 10:00 am
- Worship at Veterans' Home Wednesdays at 2:00 pm (except for 2nd Wed of each month)
- Sr. Adult Game Day Thursdays from 1-4 pm
- Line Exercise Classes Mon, Tue, & Thu from 9:30-10:30 am
- Mother's Day Out Tue & Thu from 9am-2pm

* Deacon of the Week

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Julia Trabucco | 11 Ronald T. Tipton | 21 Mailee Bowers |
| 1 Jan Thomas | 13 Ryan Street | 21 Hurvey Elliott |
| 3 William Lanier | 13 Penny Smith | 21 Jaclyn Flores |
| 4 George Hill | 15 Luke Pierce | 21 Garner Remling |
| 5 Jill Coleman | 15 Asher Welfel | 22 Leonard Lee |
| 6 Ashley Coffey | 16 Karen Coston | 22 Donna Etheridge |
| 6 Dianne Wehmann | 17 Rayne Guajardo | 22 Gary Seidel |
| 7 Christian Huber | 17 Lyndra Harris | 23 Valerie Guerrero |
| 8 Lillie Ray | 17 Rosie Lozano | 24 Barbara Estes |
| 8 Britley Loeffler | 17 Desiree Wehmann | 24 Travis Pehl |
| 8 Austin Welfel | 19 Shae Harris | 26 JoJo Gleeson |
| 9 Linda Coston | 19 Patti Kuykendall | 27 Roland Ledoux |
| 9 Bernice Eichman | 19 Braden Loeffler | 27 Landon Coston |
| 10 Connor Collins | 19 Eric Nickles | 28 Lonnie Bodiford |
| 10 Levi Collins | 19 Seth Taggs | 28 Boone Collins |
| 11 Darrell Bombei | 19 Karen Wallace | 29 Danny Fenner |
| 11 Kayla Kunath | 20 Michael Collins | |






First Baptist Church

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 E-mail: office@fbcf.org

Mike Clements, D.Min, Pastor
 830-391-2016
Terry Smith, Worship Pastor
 830-391-3362
Matt Keller, Student Pastor
 409-656-3089
 Darlene McKeen, Children's Director
 Penny Smith, Office Manager
 Christie Davis, Office Assistant
 Rosa Beltran, Church Custodian



Because He First Loved Us.

 WE'RE ON THE WEB!
 /FIRSTBAPTISTFLORESVILLE

BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:
 \$ 525,000.00
 March Loan Payment:
 \$ 5,000.00
 Current Loan Balance:
 \$ 156,491.02

"Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord."
Exodus 35:5a (NKJV)

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
February 2020	\$ 54,842.67	\$ 57,596.85
YTD thru February	\$ 104,169.55	\$ 115,193.70

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of **Clara Jeanne Baca**, mother of **Elizabeth Coats**, who passed away on **March 4, 2020**;

Sincere condolences are offered to the family of **John Vaughn Tackitt**, brother-in-law of **Sue Tackitt**, who passed away on **March 8, 2020**;

Heartfelt condolences are extended to the family of **Luella Golden**, aunt of **Kelly Parker** and **Scott Davis**, who passed away on **March 11, 2020**;

Deep sympathy is extended to the family of **Billie Riddle**, mother of **Mae Belle Stringer**, who passed away on **March 30, 2020**.



As we give all glory to God for you, we wanted you to know how much we appreciate you for hosting Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) meetings every Tuesday night for us. We continue to lift you up as a beacon of hope in this lost world that is looking for joy in places other than in Jesus.

Thank you, Mavis Cantu

"Give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5:18 (CSB)



Floresville Food Pantry's
 Suggested Donation for APRIL
Peanut Butter & Jelly

The Floresville Food Pantry is partnering with *Daily Bread* ministry of San Antonio to provide food to the needy of Floresville. The Pantry is now open on Thursdays only. Clients need to arrive at 9am to sign in and wait for food distribution. A devotional time will be at 10am. Clients are asked to bring their own bags. The Pantry is located on the corner of 4th and A Street and the phone number is 830-321-1151. Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.

New Members

By Baptism

Teresa (Resa) Leach
 5290 FM 537
 Floresville, TX 78114

By Statement

Trudy Holt
 25 County Road 301
 Floresville, TX 78114
 210-251-0067

online GIVING
 easy. fast. effective.



Online giving is an easy, convenient, and secure alternative to writing a check. Go to the church's web page, www.fbcf.org, or scan the QR code