

# First Edition

First Baptist Church

## Regathering the Church Survey: Coming Out of COVID

First Baptist Church's leadership faced some difficult decisions due to the COVID-19 crisis back in March. We ended normal, physical congregational gatherings and transitioned to remote online gatherings and streaming worship services.

However, as some states are beginning to lift stay-at-home restrictions, our leadership is again facing difficult decisions about when and how we will begin to gather again. There are numerous needs to consider and questions to ask. Our leaders are prayerfully listening to government officials and health experts to make the best decision for their congregation. There is another group, however, that our pastors want to hear from before starting the re-entry process – YOU, the congregation.

YOU will help FBC's leadership better assess our current situation and make the proper plans before we begin welcoming worshipers and guests back to the building.

To help with the process, and with guidance from the good folks at LifeWay Research, FBC has developed a survey that will assist as these decisions are being made. The questionnaire asks about expectations regarding when to begin worship services, people's comfort level in attending large and small groups, precautions that should be made for the entire church and specific ministry areas, and more.

Church leaders won't be able to please everyone when making decisions about gathering physically again, but having congregational feedback will hopefully avoid undue stress on people. The pastors certainly don't want to make radical changes that most find unnecessary.

A link to complete the survey will be emailed to folks on the church's distribution list. Please answer the questions honestly to help determine what the best course of action is for FBCF, and pray that the Lord gives FBC's leadership wisdom as they navigate this season.

Visit [www.fbcf.org](http://www.fbcf.org) and subscribe to receive e-mail notifications.

## Your Gifts Work Together

This coming Sunday, May 3, 2020, will be the seventh consecutive Sunday where FBC has not gathered together physically. It is also the seventh week where a physical offering plate has not been passed. Giving is an important part of worship. Thank you for mailing or delivering your gifts. Thank you for exploring electronic ways to give. Your gifts matter. Thank you.



Thank  
You  
for  
Giving

WAYS TO GIVE:

DROP OFF OR  
MAIL YOUR GIFT TO  
1115 B STREET  
FLORESVILLE, TX 78114

GIVE ONLINE AT  
WWW.FBCF.ORG

TEXT "FBCF1234" TO  
73256

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May 1, 2020

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Mother's Day  
is Sunday,  
May 10, 2020.  
Happy Mother's Day!



## A Word from the Canadys

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from the United States! As you may have read in our e-mail newsletter, we have been relocated from Indonesia back to the USA. Even though we are not abroad, our Global Internship Program will continue in an alternative capacity. In other words, your financial partnership is still greatly appreciated.

It has been an incredibly emotional couple of weeks. We had 24 hours to pack and prepare to leave the country. Living there for seven months was great, but not being able to say goodbye to all of our friends and contacts was difficult. The country is now on lockdown. Please continue to pray for Indonesia. We hope there is an opportunity to return overseas in the summer or fall, but only time will tell. In the meantime, Bethany Global University (BGU) is working on intercultural outreach opportunities in the USA so that we can continue our intercultural training as we work through college.

The support you have extended to JP and me so far has allowed us to live and interact in ministry overseas. Moving ahead, for the next 7-8 months, your continued partnership will allow us to continue to live and interact in ministry among unreached people groups that are located here in the United States. We completely understand if you are unable to continue supporting us in this season as we know a lot is going on right now with our economy. However, if you are able to continue supporting us, we want you to know it would be greatly appreciated and helpful, as we will have to continue raising partnership in this season. Because BGU is a tuition-paid university, none of the funding you share with us goes toward the cost of my education or tuition (because Bethany scholarships the education through grants and funding they have access to).

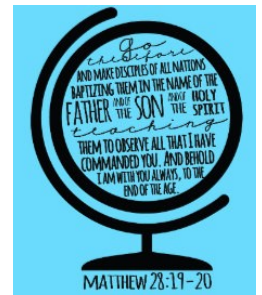
We will continue communicating with you through monthly updates and as we find out new information. Please keep us in prayer during this season and let us know how we can be praying for you and your family.

With Love,  
Sarah and JP Canady



## Pray for our Missionaries

Jerry & Elizabeth Averill Scotland	The Bob Farley family Belize & Guatemala
J.P. & Sarah Canady Southeast Asia (stateside)	The Trey Fleming family Japan
Bryan & Lisa Catherman Salt Lake City, Utah	The Derek Ross family Philippines
The Aaron Coffey family Belize Bible College (stateside)	



Maegan Mahula



Madeline Street

Congratulations to the graduating classes of our local high schools! The Class of 2020 will definitely have a story to tell about the spring semester of their senior year. Graduates, please know that your faith family at FBC Floresville has been praying for each of you, and we will continue to pray for God's blessings upon you as you enter the work force, college, or the military.

At Floresville High School, both the valedictorian and salutatorian have ties to FBC Floresville. Congratulations to Maegan Mahula, class valedictorian, and Madeline Street, class salutatorian. We at FBC Floresville are proud of you both!

Keep watching, as we are working on some creative ways to honor our graduates in this time of social distancing.



## Parents, You Can't Anticipate God; You Can Only Trust Him

By Michael Kelley

I love child dedication days at church. These aren't baptisms; they aren't confirmations; at least in our faith traditions, these are commitments and promises. Parents stand in front of the congregation with their children, and those parents promise that they will raise their kids to know and love God's Word and the gospel we find there. But it's also a promise for the congregation to make back to the family—that as fellow members of the Body of Christ, that they will also contribute as they are able to that child's spiritual growth and understanding of the gospel.

It's a beautiful thing. It's a wonderful reminder of the fact that we are in this thing together. And as a parent who has stood three times before a congregation like that, it's an incredible encouragement to know there is a whole group of people who are in the thick of it with us. A child dedication is all those things—but one thing it is not... a guarantee.

The parents might center their home on God's Word; they might diligently do family devotions and raise their children in the midst of the things of God; they might model grace and truth as they raise that child; and the congregation might come faithfully alongside those parents to do the same. But even in the midst of all that, who can say what decisions that little boy or girl will make as they live their lives?

This is one of the reasons why parenting is, if nothing else, an exercise in faith. It is because a parent has to exercise and work hard at their faith as that child they love, treasure, and value goes out into the world of school, first jobs, first dates, driver's licenses, and eventually out on their own. There are few things, at least in my experience, that are as painfully difficult to exercise faith in the middle of than parenting.

As parents, we want guarantees. We want formulas. We want a sure-fire, tried-and-true way to make absolutely sure that our kids will grow into mature, Jesus-loving, children of God. But we don't have that, and if we think we do, we are mistaken. It's a mistake to think that verses like Proverbs 22:6 is a promise:

*Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

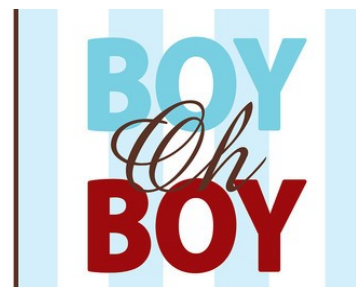
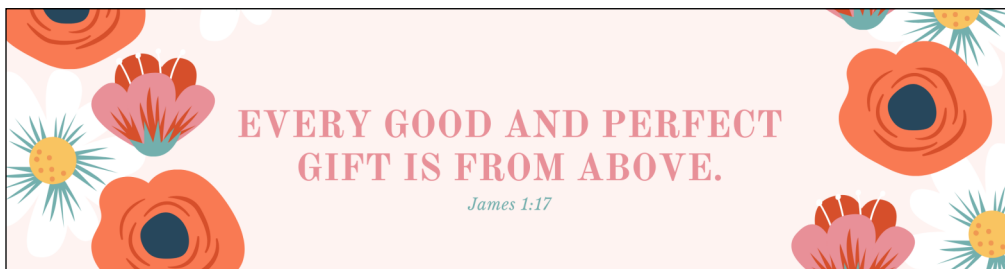
This is a proverb; it's not a promise, and it's important we understand the difference. God is not offering a formula here. He is not promising that, if we really invest in the spiritual development of our children, that they will grow in their faith. Rather, proverbs like these describe the general way the world works. We don't take a guarantee from this passage, but we do take all the encouragement in the world to train up our children in the way they should go.

If there was a formula? If there was a promise? If there was a guarantee? Well, if there were, we could anticipate God. But, parents, you can't anticipate God; you can only trust Him.

How do we show, then, that we are trusting God? We are prayerful about the hearts of our kids. We teach and guard and discipline and train with the Bible at the center. We do our best to treat our children the way our Heavenly Father treats us. These are all tangible examples of our trust, for we do these things in faith.

And, as with all things, we leave the results ultimately to Him.

<http://michaelkelley.co/2020/02/parents-you-cant-anticipate-god-you-an-only-trust-him/>



*Congratulations to  
Matt & LacyJo Perez,  
siblings BrookLynn,  
Grayson, and Aubree,  
and grandparents,  
Mike & Karen Whatley,  
on the arrival of a baby boy,*

**ISAIAH RAY**,

*born April 7, 2020,  
weighing 7 lbs., 10 oz.*



*Congratulations to  
Damon & Lauren Shine,  
siblings Tristan, Hannah,  
and Gabrielle,  
on the arrival of a daughter,  
Vivian Grace,*

*born April 17, 2020,  
at 10:12 pm,  
weighing 8 lbs., 1oz.*





## Women's Ministry News

Hello Everyone!

I pray that you and your families are healthy and safe! I'm sure we are all looking forward to "The Day" when we can make up for all the lost hugs! We are so blessed during this time—time to have access to video sermons by just picking up your phone! Pastor Mike's Sunday sermons and Wednesday sermon nuggets are priceless! Being able to listen to the wonderful hymns with Pastor Terry and the praise team! The LORD is UNSTOPPABLE! The Children's Ministry is doing a great job of helping families stay connected with their children's Sunday School lessons through video and email messages. We can be in the WORD anytime with the BIBLE.IS app where we can be listening to either the Old or New Testament—any book or any verse! GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME! ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD!

I have been thinking more than usual in the past few weeks, and the question that keeps surfacing in my mind is...

What do you think the FIRST thing you will want to do after our "new" normal returns? Will you go shopping for new clothes? No, I have a closet full of clothes that I have not worn in months—they are like new. Go to the movies? No, I have seen enough TV in the past few weeks to last me a very long time. Go to a restaurant to sit and eat? No, I would guess some of you have become pretty creative and discovered that you are wonderful cooks! Eating out just isn't the same.

I've been thinking about what Women's Ministry activity we should schedule first. Over the past several years, we have organized some wonderful events. Do you remember?

- Christmas in July—July 2016. We asked ladies to dress in festive Christmas colors and also decorated the Fellowship Hall for Christmas. One area we never have a problem with is FOOD!
- Tea Fellowship—March 2017. Our scripture for this event was "Stir Up the Gift of God" - 2 Timothy 1:6. We decorated the Fellowship Hall with all types of teapots. Beautiful and special, just the way the Lord made each of us.
- Annual Spring Flower and Plant Exchange. We have gathered for this exchange for several years. We did miss it this year, but some of us are eager to fellowship in our Plant Exchange!
- SOS—Sharing Our Story—October 2017. Our friend Char Hauser from Hawaii visited again this past February also. Char has a unique way of sharing with women and it has been her lifelong ministry.
- Women of Joy Conference—October 2018. I realize each conference has such wonderful speakers, but 2018 has been one of the best so far. We enjoyed it so much that we listened to some of the speakers during the summer months. It was like being there again!
- Tapestry of Tables. Wow! To see the transformation of the Family Life Center was amazing! Lots of hard work preparing, and the messages were timeless!
- Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes—This activity was the most fun for all ages. Who doesn't enjoy wrapping up and giving gifts? It's fun to imagine what part of the world the shoe box is destined for and whether the child who receives it enjoys all the love and care put into each box.
- We had several "Women's Night/Day Out" Activities. Some highlights of them were the Summer Salad of Encouragement (Mary-Ellen Long hosted). We have also enjoyed singing karaoke, sitting around a beautiful pool sharing our testimonies, and we had a Christmas cookie exchange and contest.

Which would you enjoy? I have some wonderful memories and so much to look forward to. I'll be praying for you and your families. I will try to call or text to stay in touch. I miss each of you dearly. Ladies, I pray we join in fellowship and in the love of the Lord, lifting up all glory to HIM! If you have any ideas for our Women's Ministry, please contact Sally Gaertner at 361-290-1068 or me, Donna Arispe, at 210-560-9642.



# MAY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3  10:30 am *David Arispe	4	5	6	7 	8	9
10  10:30 am *Mother's Day *Ron Bluff	11	12	13	14	15	16
17  10:30 am *Darrel Dundas	18	19	20	21	22	23
24  10:30 am *Danny Fenner	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31  10:30 am *Amos Garcia						

## Schedule of Events

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

## May Birthdays

- |                   |                    |                     |                       |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 L. Glenn Jones  | 6 Bernice Tatum    | 15 Ashley Joosepson | 23 Carolyn Nickles    | 28 Ernest Young     |
| 2 Jacob Hill      | 7 Steven Boyd      | 15 Brenda Minard    | 23 Jeannie McCarville | 30 Brent Houdmann   |
| 2 Madison Posey   | 8 Rojean Rodriguez | 15 Beth Price       | 24 Joseph Canady      | 30 Karen Whatley    |
| 2 Tricia Tipton   | 9 Janet Holt       | 16 Denise Trabucco  | 24 Jennifer Miller    | 31 Bro. Terry Smith |
| 3 Randy Coston    | 10 Ruth Baker      | 16 Lilly Murray     | 24 Justin Young       |                     |
| 3 Brooklen Pelech | 13 Camille Ingram  | 18 Michelle Hill    | 25 Vickie Nieto       |                     |
| 4 Thomas Harris   | 13 Marcy Jacobs    | 19 Bill Perry       | 26 Luis Trabucco      |                     |
| 4 Kyle Miller     | 13 Chris Young     | 21 Lois Brown       | 25 Marc Turner        |                     |
| 4 J.R. Rogers     | 14 Wesley Kotzur   | 21 Ray Rogers       | 28 Codee Baker        |                     |
| 5 Cameron Herndon | 14 Rebekah Street  | 22 Chandler Gorzell | 28 Christie Davis     |                     |
| 6 Micah Clements  | 14 Laurie Miller   | 22 Bonna Reed       | 28 Theresa Watson     |                     |





First Baptist Church

1115 B Street  
 Floresville, TX 78114  
 Phone: 830-216-4946  
 Fax: 830-393-3613

**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

WWW.FBCF.ORG

## BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:  
\$ 525,000.00

April Loan Payment:  
\$ 5,000.00

Current Loan Balance:  
\$ 152,091.82

**"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)

Deepest condolences are extended to the family of J.L. Obenhaus, father of Julie Smith, who passed away on April 3, 2020;

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Frances "Sue" Armstrong, sister of Bonna Reed, who passed away on April 3, 2020;

Sincere condolences are offered to the family of Romaine Moran, sister of Debbie Seidel, who passed away on April 6, 2020;

Deepest sympathy is offered to the family of Ulus Jay "Junior" Oxley, uncle of Sandie Garcia, who passed away on April 23, 2020.



Church family,

We would like to thank our friends and church family for all the love and support during Mom's illness and going home. Thank you all for the beautiful plant in Mom's memory. We have appreciated all the cards and sympathy during this time. Thank you especially for all the prayers. They were truly felt and appreciated.

~ Tom & Mae Belle Stringer (Billie Riddle's family)

Dear Ones,

I wanted to thank the pastors and staff for all you are doing during this time. Lost people don't typically seek out and rush to church, but most people do have Facebook. Maybe they will find the Lord since so many churches are online at this time. You are in my prayers every day. God Bless!

~ Ruthie Cione

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for continually supporting Bible Study Fellowship!

~ The New Braunfels Evening Women's Class

Dear FBC Floresville,

Thank you for your prayers and support, even in this tough season. You continue to be a blessing to us!

~ Dr. Bryan Catherman, Pastor

Redeeming Life Church, Salt Lake City, Utah

## Floresville Food Pantry's Suggested Donation for MAY SUMMER FOODS For Kids

Macaroni & Cheese

Cereal

Pop Tarts

Cereal/Granola Bars

Crackers, Cookies, Chips

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Ramen Noodles

Vienna Sausage

Canned Spaghetti/Ravioli

Canned Chili

Hot Dogs

Lunchables

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 8am to sign in and wait for food distribution. A devotional time will be at 9am. 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.



**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](http://www.fbcf.org), or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
March 2020	\$ 54,253.64	\$ 57,596.85
YTD thru March	\$ 158,423.19	\$ 172,790.55