

From the Pastor



It is so difficult to comprehend what we have endured this year since March. When we learned about the coronavirus and when we, along with all of Delaware and those across the country, began to follow safety guidelines we stopped meeting in person for worship, Bible study, and other meetings. Even though we started gathering in person for worship in July, we are being so careful to protect each other by wearing masks, sitting at safe distances from one another, and using hand sanitizer. We give thanks that through these difficult times that you, the people of God, have continued to support the ministry we share.

Beyond our congregation, we each have endured so much with the changes made for our safety. The closures, the challenges of shopping, banking, and other normal tasks and then there is the isolation. Never did we think that we would be shut-in and that things would be shut down for so long. We give thanks for friends and family who are our lifeline in these times. We are so thankful for the reassurance that we have from Jesus that he will be with us always (Matthew 28.20). We know that God is our refuge and strength and a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46.1).

In this month of November, we have an especially important election that has taken up most of the news of the country for months. Many of you have already voted by mail or by dropping off your absentee ballot and this year that is the safest way to vote. Others of you will be going to your local polling place on Tuesday, November 3, and as you do, be encouraged to carefully and prayerfully vote as you look down the list of national, state and local candidates. This is indeed a time for prayer to ask God to guide each of us and to guide our country (2 Chronicles 7.14). **VOTE!**

During this month we are going to be sharing a theme of how we are and can be **Faithful, Hopeful and Loving** in our living for Christ. We will also be affirmed that we are



Faithful, Hopeful and Loving in our giving to God and the ministry and mission that we share as the people of God. **As stewards, we give in thanksgiving to God**, not in obligation, not in guilt, but because we have the privilege of sharing from what God has given to us. Yes, God has provided financial resources for us, but we also have many other gifts that we have each been given, and God's greatest gift to us, Jesus, whose love overwhelms us all.

We have the great privilege of sharing each of these gifts. Your individual gifts of prayer support, studying scripture, sharing time with others, and learning and growing as disciples are important to you but also to the life of the congregation. Your financial gifts are vital to how we work and serve together. Combine these gifts and we are able, as Christ followers in this congregation, to share Jesus – we can give him away – to those who need to know his saving love.

Throughout November we will hear personal stories from church members who have experience with God who is Faithful, Hopeful and Loving. Each Sunday in our time of worship we will hear stories and be challenged by scripture to be the stewards God wants us to be. Plan to safely join us in the sanctuary each week or find our worship service online on [YouTube](#) at 'First Baptist Church of Dover DE;' or Facebook at 'First Baptist Church of Dover Delaware;' or on our website – www.fbcdover.org & click on "sermons."

On the fourth Sunday, November 22, we will be dedicating our commitments to support our ministry in 2021. A letter with additional information and a commitment card will be in the mail to all of those on our mailing list. Please make sure we have your address by calling the church office at 302-674-1980.

The fifth Sunday of the month, November 29, is the First Sunday of Advent and we begin that wonderful season of anticipation of the coming of Jesus into the world. Yes, the Sanctuary will be prepared for the season with the lighted Chrismon trees, wreaths, and other decorations. We will hear and sing the music of the season and we will affirm the Hope that we have because God loved us so much and sent his son, Jesus. Advent and Christmas do not change but some of the activities that we have done in the past will be altered. We look forward to sharing the Good News of Jesus with you and with all those who join us for worship. Invite friends to join you as we worship and celebrate together.



In the Hope of Christ,
Rev. Dan Taylor