



The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

January 2021 Newsletter



Contact Us

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Calendar - last page

Visit the
First Baptist Church website at
<http://www.fbcdover.org>

**The First Baptist Church
of Dover**
will gather in the sanctuary for
worship
on Sunday,
at 11 AM.

Come wearing your mask
and
continue safe distancing.

More information will be
coming by mail, email,
Facebook and on the
church website.

Church Office Hours
Monday 8:00 - 2:00
Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 3:00



A new month, a new year, and a fresh start. It's always exciting to celebrate the coming of a new year with parties, promises and prayers. This year the parties will be private in each home, the promises or resolutions will be different than in the past and the prayers will be many for the health and safety of friends and family.

The past year, 2020, has been one that has been filled with many different memories that include weddings, celebrations, anniversaries and new life in families with babies born. On the other hand, the COVID19 pandemic was recognized in March as highly contagious and that brought shutdowns, stay at home orders, masks, social distancing and many cancellations. In this year there have been well over 316,000 deaths across the United States from this virus and many more who have felt the effects of the illness.



As we turn the corner into a New Year the vaccines offer great promise, and we offer prayers of thanks for those who have worked diligently on these new formulas that will allow us to move from defense to offense against the virus. Frontline health workers, those who are compromised, nursing home residents and more are beginning to receive the vaccine. The hope for the future has begun to look brighter and we need to continue to be careful and to show our love for one another. As we move from the Advent and Christmas season into a new year, we carry with us the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that comes to us through Jesus.

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. [Isaiah 48.18-19](#)

In this new year we will continue to be very cautious as we gather for worship on Sunday morning. We will maintain safe distancing; we will all wear masks and will check temperatures of each person attending. We are thankful that these precautions have been working. Thank you to all of you who attend for your cooperation.

It is hoped that we can do new things in this new year as a church family. With technology that is available, we hope that we can bring individuals together who would like to share a book study, or a time of Bible study, or even a discussion group on common issues of interest. Those of you who might be interested in this type of small group gathering, please contact me and together we can begin the process and invite others to join. In this time when we should all be staying home, this is one of the ways that we can continue to grow as disciples and share together.

Blessings to each of you as we leap into this new year that is filled with both challenges and opportunities.

*In the Hope and Peace of Christ,
Rev. Dan Taylor*



“Don’t Look Back: A New Year Reflection”

Within this New Year of 2021, it’s important to reflect on God’s goodness and faithfulness. But, equally important to remembering is learning to “forget”—to overlook an offense, to move forward without the burden of the past, and most importantly, to surrender to Christ whatever the future holds.

The Bible talks about how God is heavily displeased with Sodom and Gomorrah. Before destroying the city, God sends two angels to warn Lot (Abraham’s nephew) and instruct them to leave the city immediately. One crucial instruction the angels give them is to “not look back.” However, while escaping, his wife turns towards the burning city and as a consequence, she is turned into a pillar of salt. Lot’s wife thought of the riches they left behind, the life they’d established, and the plans they had for their family. Her doubts made her think that staying behind was better than trusting God.

She chose to look back rather than to look forward to God’s plans for her and her family.

Quite true to all of us, there are moments in our lives when our past holds us back. Pride, heartache, a missed opportunity, a mistake, an insecurity, or a hidden sin can hinder us from becoming who God wants us to be, we often go about our own way, looking back, not knowing that what lies ahead of us is the perfect plan of God.

This 2021, let us choose to trust God, to receive His forgiveness, and most importantly, to not look back on the things that hinder us from pursuing His purpose in our lives. Whenever pride creeps in, know that God “opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” “All things work together for good to those who love God and work according to His purpose.” Whenever a past heartache comes knocking, remember that the Lord

promises that He “is near to the broken hearted; He delivers those who are discouraged.” If a past mistake or sin condemns you, “Do not fear for God has redeemed us”; If we ask for forgiveness from God, “He will forgive our wickedness and will never again remember our sins.”

When our insecurities belittle us, God knows the plans He has for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us - plans to give us a hope and a future. God who began a good work in you, will carry it to completion until Jesus Christ returns.

May God bless us all as we have a Mindset of Hope and Optimism in the New Year.

Contributed by Romeo Limson



Sermons are now available on the church’s website, fbcdover.org under the title “Sermons”. Or, if you prefer, you may request a CD copy of a Sunday’s sermon by contacting the church office.

Please place your used ink and toner cartridges in the labeled box located under the table inside the downstairs entrance.

There is also a labeled box located in the coat closet next to the Welcome Center. First Baptist Church receives credit for each cartridge that is turned in. As a result, this reduces the cost of the church’s office supplies. Thank you.



The following printer ink cartridges are available. If you can use them, please contact Vicky Smith at 302-674-1980.

**1 HP 564 ~ 1 HP 920
Several Epson 200 & 220**

Dear Ladies: Happy New Year!

Praying that you had a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and that 2021 will be a better year for all of us. The Church has been beautiful during the Advent/Christmas Season. But with the celebration of Epiphany, the Chrismon Trees will need to be undecorated and taken down. This will happen on Monday, January 11th at 10 a.m. Please put it on your calendar. Many hands make light work. A special thank you to Harry Anthony and Richard Waltz for putting up and taking down the trees for us.

The ABWM Board met in December and made some decisions regarding our upcoming calendar. Due to the continued concerns about Covid-19, we have decided to cancel our February retreat. We will, however, still plan on preparing bag lunches for the Homeless. You will be putting them together at your February meeting. Your Circle leader will discuss the details with you when you meet in January. It was also decided that we would NOT do our Chocolate Easter Eggs this year. It was felt that getting orders and making the eggs would probably be difficult with the restrictions. We will solicit donations towards our Regional Project instead. Since we have sold all the extra eggs we had left over from last year, we have a starting amount for the Project. Hopefully, things will be more “normal” by our Spring Dinner in May and we will be able to get together.

May this New Year bring you peace and happiness. Remember to focus on God and know that He loves us and looks over us. We thank Him for the gift of His precious son, Jesus Christ. Until next month -

Blessings,

Margaret



**Mary Bonar/Rita
Chapman Circle**

Rita is a missionary to the
Democratic Republic
of the Congo

Leader: Jo Rolison

Jan. 5th , 10:00 ~ Fellowship Hall



Joyce Reed Circle

Joyce is a missionary to
IberoAmerica and the Caribbean

Leader: Sue Moore

Jan. 9th, 10:00 ~ Fellowship Hall

Ann Clemmer Circle

Ann is a missionary to Eastern
Congo & South Sudan

Leader: Lois Glading

Jan. 7th, 1:00 ~ Fellowship Hall



Birthdays

June	Katz	01/01
Bill	Myers	01/05
Milda	Limson	01/06
Lee	McCulley	01/08
Chris	Blakeman	01/09
Wilfred	Clark, Sr.	01/10
Judith	Cowan	01/11
CeCe	Cunningham	01/12
Dick	Smith	01/19
Marivic	Navarro	01/20
Brian	Gedney	01/22
Leona	Hutchins	01/27
Christine	Septer	01/27
Agnes	Robinson	01/29

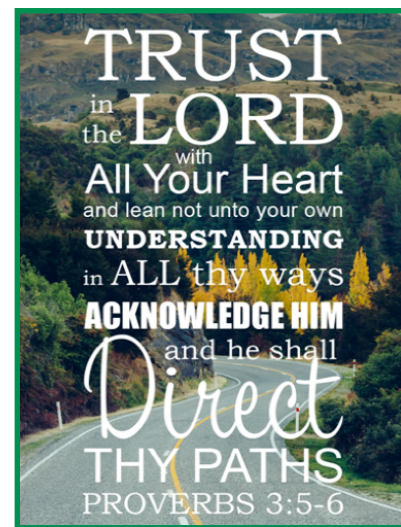
Anniversaries

Irv & Nancy	Culver	01/12 - 52 yrs.
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If anyone is interested in a free plug-in electric mower, please contact the church office or Harry Anthony.



This January, we will gather in Fellowship hall for a time of encouragement, fellowship and prayer. We welcome anyone who would like to share in this ministry to join us. Even if you aren't "crafty" there are many other ways you can support this ministry, so if you have any questions, please contact Sue Moore. Most importantly, if you know of someone in need of God's comfort in the form of a hand-made shawl, please contact the church office.



Christian Education Committee Meeting
January 19th, 2021, 6:00 PM



Sanctuary Flowers



Anyone wishing to give flowers for the church worship services for the year **2021** may complete this form and mail it too the church office or place in the designated box in the Narthex. **You must fill out a separate sheet for each date you request.** The cost for the two vases is \$40.00.

If you have any questions, contact Margaret Steinhoff at 302-228-9301.

Your gift of flowers is a contribution to the church and is greatly needed and appreciated. FYI: Some flowers are more expensive (i.e. roses).

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Date Preferred _____

Type/Color of Flowers _____

What you would like your dedication to say _____

***You will be contacted if the date you request is already taken. Every effort will be made to give you the date requested. Please complete a separate sheet for each date requested. **Thank you!**

Here's What's Happening at our Church!



If you are interested in directing or just volunteering for a particular event, please contact us. We have a lot of talented people throughout our church that can help in various aspects of our events from planning, publicity, purchasing, set-up and leading.

We welcome your involvement!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study & Prayer Time Dinner at 6PM

in the Fellowship Hall
followed at 7PM by Bible
Study and a Children's
Program.

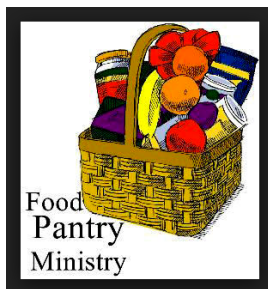
ON HOLD FOR NOW



**About the church or one of our
programs? Stop by the Welcome
Center for the answers.**

Stuff the Pantry @ First Baptist

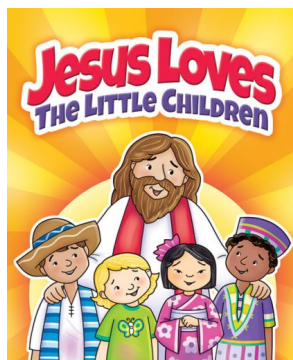
Grocery bags are located just outside the sanctuary and include suggested items needed to stock the FBC Food Pantry. Return the bag the next Sunday and place it under the Food Pantry sign in the narthex. This is a mission outreach for our needy residents in the community.



ATTENTION
*Read all about it!
Don't forget the
deadline for
newsletter
submissions is the
15th of each month.*



Please email your articles to Vicky Smith at
secretary@fbcdover.org



Fairview Elementary School's **Good News Club** Pray for the Children

**Volunteers needed to share in this ministry.
Come, sit and enjoy getting to know these
precious children. No skills required.**



Sanctuary Flower Arrangements

Would you like to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion by providing the worship service flower arrangements? If so, please contact the church office at 302-674-1980.

Need a little extra help in monitoring your blood pressure? Contact the church office for more information about having your pressure checked by one of the FBC nurses.

This activity is sponsored by the American Baptists Women's Ministries.



Here's what's happening in January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed	2
3 11:00 Worship	4	5 10:00 Bonar/ Chapman Circle (Fellowship Hall)	6	7 1:00 Ann Clemmer Circle (Fellowship Hall)	8 10:00 Board of Missions (Fellowship Hall)	9 10:00 Joyce Reed Circle (Fellowship Hall)
10 11:00 Worship 12:15 Trustees	11 10:00 Take down Chrismon Trees (Sanctuary)	12	13	14	15 February Newsletter Articles Due 	16
17 11:00 Worship	18 1:00 Comfort Shawl Ministry	19 6:00 Board of Christian Education (Fellowship Hall)	20	21	22	23
24 11:00 Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 11:00 Worship Annual Business Meeting		<p>Scheduled activities subject to changes. Check with the Church Office for final dates and times.</p>				

How would you prefer to receive your newsletter?

In vivid color on the website (<http://www.fbcdover.org>) or black & white in the mail.

To respond, one may contact the office at 302-674-1980
if the preference is by mail.

Please be sure we have your current email address.