



The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

March 2021 Newsletter



Contact Us

Reverend Dan Taylor - Pastor
Mike Metzger - Moderator
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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

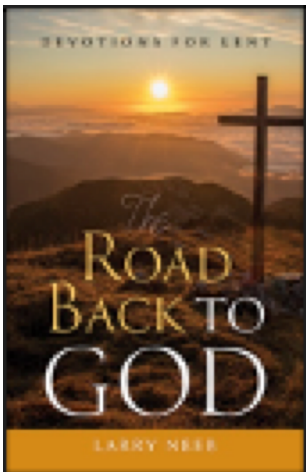


It was a year ago, in the middle of March, that the world around us changed. There had been at least 3,244 confirmed cases of COVID19 in the United States and at least 61 deaths in the country as of Sunday, March 15, 2020. On that weekend we were all instructed to stay at home and begin the routine of wearing facemasks, washing our hands, and maintaining safe distances from one another (6 feet). We cancelled worship that Sunday

and began the following week with a new process of recording a time of sharing hymns, music, prayers, and sermons. We could honestly say, "We've never done it that way before." Many of you know that we continued with the recording process until Sunday, July 19, when we opened the sanctuary with restrictions. But we continued to record and post those services online on the website, Facebook and YouTube for those who are immune compromised and others who need to stay away from contact with others. Since Christmas Eve we have been able to have our services streaming live on YouTube (First Baptist Church of Dover DE) and this has made a big difference for those in the sanctuary and for those participating from home. We are thankful for God's grace and the technology.

Step by step we are adjusting to this new normal that may be with us for a while. Some board, committee, and Women's circle meetings have been safely meeting in the Fellowship Hall. This month an adult Sunday School class will begin gathering safely distanced in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 on Sunday morning with Mike Metzger teaching. This will be a time for learning, sharing and growing together that has been missing.

During this season of Lent a small group study will begin on Wednesday, March 10 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall with Rebecca Taylor leading the group through a Max Lucado study – **He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart**. This will be a special time of discussion and sharing and is open to all who want to participate.



Each of the Sundays during March we will be walking with Jesus on his journey to the cross and to the sacrifice that he made for each of us. To help guide us along the way, a book of devotions was shared. We hope that the **Road Back to God** will be a blessing and that we can know that God is with us in the wilderness and along the road in these difficult days.

Continue to worship with us during Lent, Palm Sunday, March 28 and Maundy Thursday, April 1 as we move toward the celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 4. May this be a blessed time for you during these days.

In the Peace of Christ,



“The Entrance of Jesus To Our Lives”

The Holy Week is upon us once again. It is a good time to pause and reflect about our life.

Was Jesus a fool when He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday or the Triumphant Entry, knowing that it would lead to His death?

On the contrary, Jesus entered with the full knowledge that His entrance will cause an uproar that will lead to His arrest and execution. Nevertheless, Jesus did it for our own sake.

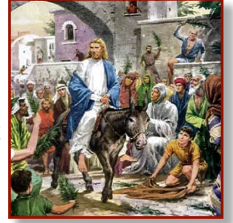
Will we let Jesus have a triumphant entry in our lives? The entrance of Jesus teaches us two things.

First – His entrance to our lives will lead to our cleansing. The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem led him to the temple in which he subsequently cleansed it by overturning the tables of the corrupt businessmen who were in connivance with the corrupt priests. For sure, there will be an upheaval within us when we let Jesus enter. Maybe some of us will not like His entrance and like the Pharisees, Priests, and Sadducees of olden times will plot for His demise in our lives. Or some of us will get angry like the moneychangers whom Jesus called thieves and robbers because of our corrupt ways. But hopefully, most of us will allow Jesus to cleanse the temple of our lives of any unclean practices.

Second – His entrance to our lives will teach us how to live humble lives. Amidst the chaos of Roman occupation, and the constant clamor of people for salvation from foreign domination, Jesus rode a donkey (a symbol of peace and humility) and not a horse (a symbol of war and success).



In the midst of our horsepower-driven society, we sometimes forget to acknowledge God as the source of everything. When we make ourselves as the center or the starting point of our successes, we are committing the sin of pride. Let us be reminded that the center letter of the word sin and pride is “I”. There is an illustration that tells about the story of the donkey that Jesus rode. The donkey was so fascinated by the event of the triumphant entry that he excitedly told his mother later that the people were praising him and extolling his humble virtues. His mother wanted to teach him a lesson about humility. So she asked him to ride the trail again all by himself. The result, the donkey went home unhappy and learned his lesson: “We are nothing without Christ.”



“Have a blessed Holy Week”

Contributed by Romeo Limson

Sundays at 9:30am Sunday
School with Mike Metzger in
the Fellowship Hall
beginning March 7th.



Greetings from the Board of Christian Education!!

The Board has been meeting regularly and working on developing discipleship opportunities while staying within COVID guidelines. It’s been a challenge, but we are happy to announce that Mike Metzger has agreed to teach adult studies beginning in early March. Be watching for more details.

While we are not meeting in person for Sunday School, materials have been delivered and also made available for continuing studies at home. If you need anything for your studies, or have questions, please reach out to a staff or board member or one of our talented teachers.

Valentine bags were put together and distributed with an insert explaining the meaning of Valentine’s Day. A Christian celebration of love and an opportunity to be an encouragement to others. During this difficult year, that proved to be a much needed boost!! We can all certainly use an extra dose of encouragement and love!!

Are you looking for a place to serve at First Baptist?? There are several vacancies on our board and we’d love your input and help!!



Top 'O the Mornin' Ladies,

March is here. Hopefully that means that spring will soon be upon us. However, the groundhog did see his shadow in February, which is supposed to mean six more weeks of winter. But someone needs to tell that to my daffodils. They started breaking through the ground in late December and are now at least 4-5" tall. They have looked very strange sticking out of the snow we have had.

Thank you to all of you for completing our Overland White Cross Project at your February Circle meetings. Sixty-six bag lunches were taken to the Homeless Shelter on Feb. 9th. They were very happy to receive them. It was so nice that we were able to do a project this year that benefitted our own community. I know the homeless will appreciate having these food items available for them.

It seems strange to not be making Chocolate Easter Eggs at this time. We have done it for so many years. But, hopefully, we will be able to make and sell them next year. They have been a great fundraiser for us for our Regional Project. But our "normal" isn't "normal" anymore and may never be. But we know that God is good all the time and that His love and care for us is unending.

Looking forward to seeing you at your meetings. I so enjoy being part of them. Stay safe.

Blessings, *Margaret*

NO CHOCOLATE EASTER EGGS THIS YEAR



Due to the Pandemic and the restrictions, the ABWM will not be able to carry out their annual Chocolate Easter Egg Fundraiser. The purpose of this fundraiser is to provide funds to our Regional ABWM Project. The project for 2021 was carried over from 2020. It is entitled "Brighter Days for Brazilian Youth" and the American Baptist Women of Pennsylvania and Delaware are raising money to help renovate, decorate and open a *thrift shop* in Vitoria, Brazil. This Regional Project will assist the poor youth of Brazil that often choose life on the streets to escape the poverty of the slums and, more often, to escape abusive families. On the streets, they are exposed to HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, child prostitution, substance abuse, and violence. If you would like to make a donation to this project in lieu of ordering Chocolate Easter Eggs this year, please make your check payable to ABWM of FBC and write "Regional Project" in the memo section. They can be placed in the offering boxes on Sunday or mailed to the church office. We apologize for not having our Chocolate Easter Eggs this year and hope to have them available again next year.



Mary Bonar/Rita Chapman Circle

**Rita is a missionary to the
Democratic Republic
of the Congo**

Leader: Jo Rolison

March 2nd, 10:00 ~ Fellowship Hall



Joyce Reed Circle

**Joyce is a missionary to
IberoAmerica and the Caribbean**

Leader: Sue Moore

March 6th, 10:00 ~ Fellowship Hall

Ann Clemmer Circle

**Ann is a missionary to Eastern
Congo & South Sudan**

Leader: Lois Glading

March 4th, 1:00 ~ Fellowship Hall





For the Purpose of Equipping Saints

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

The theme for the AFC 2021 Offering is “For the Purpose of Equipping Saints” based on Ephesians 4:11-13: “The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.” American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2021, which seeks to raise \$1,000,000 (National Goal)

to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Your generous AFC gifts support our mission—connecting our partners to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities across our nation and Puerto Rico. Your contributions share God’s love by:

- Cultivating Leaders — Strong leaders advance the mission of faith communities. Equipping Disciples — Broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- Healing Communities — We believe the power of Christian love can—and will—change the world.
- How is the AFC Offering used? The offering is distributed in three parts:
 - 59% supports the ministries of ABHMS
 - 12% supports the offering’s promotional and deputation costs and
 - 29% supports regional ministries. (ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with American Baptist Churches USA regions.)

Envelopes for this offering will be available at the main table when you enter the church or you may indicate in the memo section of your check “AFC Offering.” Gifts for the AFC Offering will be received during the month of March. Pray and give generously.



Birthdays

John Kelly, Jr.	3/03
Rose Tumey	3/03
Daniel Macklin	3/04
Theresa Thornburg	3/05
Brian Jones	3/08
Marsha Kemp	3/10
Christopher Cottrell	3/12
Lisa Clark	3/13
Karen Blakenman	3/14
Yessah Dennis	3/16
Scott Septer	3/20
Sue Moore	3/26
Laraine Harris	3/27
Richard Waltz	3/27
Brian Cunningham	3/31

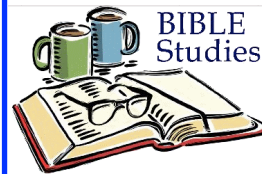
Anniversary

Aaron & Charity King	15 years - 3/11
Donald & Ramona Scott	36 years - 3/16
Norman & Lisa Clendaniel	43 years - 3/17
Tom & Pat Roberts	68 years - 3/28

Comfort Shawl Ministry



This March, 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.



BIBLE
Studies

Beginning Wednesday,
March 10 at 6:00pm Bible
Study led by Rebecca
Taylor for five weeks.



**Join our Church
Services
Online**

YouTube.com at
First Baptist Church of Dover DE



Christian Education Committee Meeting
March 16th, 2021, 6:00 PM

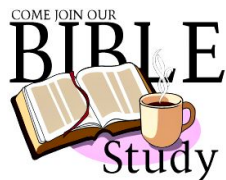
Here's What's Happening at our Church!



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!

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.



Wednesday Evening Bible Study & Prayer Time Dinner at 6PM

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

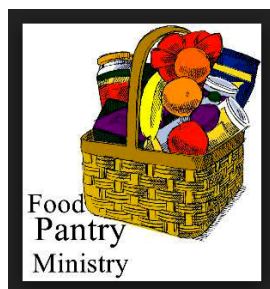
ON HOLD FOR NOW



**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

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 March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 Bonar/ Chapman Circle (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 Board of Deacons	3 6:00 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	4 1:00 Ann Clemmer Circle (Fellowship Hall)	5	6 10:00 Joyce Reed Circle (Fellowship Hall)
7 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	8	9	10 6:00 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	11	12	13 9:00 Coordinating Committee 
14 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	15 April Newsletter Articles Due  1:00 Comfort Shawl Ministry	16 6:00 Board of Christian Education	17 6:00 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	18	19	20
21 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	22	23	24 6:00 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)	25	26	27
28 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	29	30	31 6:00 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)			
<div>Scheduled activities subject to changes. Check with the Church Office for final dates and times.</div>						

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.