

At First Glance

FIRST BAPTIST NORMAN

AUGUST 2020 • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 12



It is hard to believe that the interruptions of life brought about by COVID-19 are entering their sixth month. At the beginning of summer, we were all hoping that the rhythms of life would return to normal with the start of school. The arrival of August seems to bring with it more questions than answers and less hope that we will be able to do so.

The ministry staff has been looking specifically at what our church ministries and programs should look like in the Fall. Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights are those times we have used for worship, LifeGroups, Bible Studies, Choir rehearsals, Fellowship Meals, Evening Prayers and Children/Youth programs. As of this writing, we do not believe it wise to resume all of these at once. We would like to see how the start of school goes and how the state of COVID-19 develops over these next weeks.

In the meantime, we continue to offer worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and to develop our online worship ministry. Evening Prayers and many LifeGroups continue to meet through Zoom. For those LifeGroups ready to meet in person, we have a couple of rooms prepared that permit social distancing. These rooms can be reserved through the office.

We are looking for creative ways to gather for fellowship, like the Family Porch Picnic at Hollywood Corners on August 4. The Family Life Center continues to provide opportunities for recreation and fitness for those ready to get out.

Finally, we are also looking at ways to develop and use some of our outdoor space for gatherings and worship, especially as summer turns to fall.

I want to thank and encourage

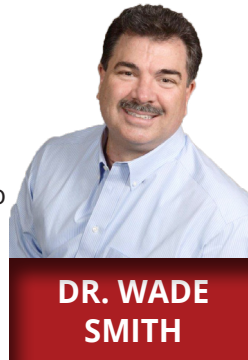
you to continue to give your tithes and offerings in obedience to the Lord and in support of First Baptist. Our year to date giving through June is ahead of our June 2019 giving. Our giving is also ahead of

our expenses for the year, but we are below our budget goal. The summer months are always a challenge, so let me encourage you to continue to be faithful over these next weeks.

Our COVID-19 precautions mean that we are no longer able to *pass the plate* as part of our worship service, but let us never forget that giving is an essential part of worship. So, whether you are placing your offering in the *Offering Pail* in the sanctuary, the Mailbox, or giving online I hope that each time you give you make it an act of worship.

If giving your tithes and offerings feels more like *paying the bills*, let me encourage you to change your mindset. Giving is an act of worship in at least three ways. First, as thanksgiving for the harvest of our work. Second, as obedience to the Lord who commands us to tithe on our harvest to the storehouse. Third, as an act of love (charity) to those in need. Tithing is a discipline that a disciple of Jesus practices. May you find joy as you experience this beautiful act of worship.

Our Worship Arts ministry is working with our Trustees and Budget/Admin. Committee to develop and finalize a plan that will allow us to move toward live streaming our worship services and to upgrade our media ministry. When their proposal is



DR. WADE SMITH

complete, we will bring it to the church for your information and support.

Finally, thank you for your support and encouragement for the Smiths over these past weeks. Gay has completed her chemotherapy. The meals, prayers, cards, and the *Ring the Bell/Honk Your Horn* drive-by balloon parade have all been wonderful expressions of your love and affection for us. You have not only blessed us, but you have been part of the Lord's healing work in Gay's life. Please continue to pray for her and us as she begins her radiation treatments.

Life is the beautiful gift of God. It is not always easy, but God promises to be with us. Let us be faithful to live life well — loving God with all that we are and our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor Wade



August 2:
Faith or Fear

August 9:
Pulpit Guest Kell Haworth
No Boundaries International

August 16:
Leaving the Wilderness
Lord's Supper & Baptism

August 23:
In Spirit and Truth
First & Sixth Grade Bible Presentations

Called to Serve team works in Enid

The First Baptist Church *Called to Serve* team, a transition from the Hands for Harvey team, has contributed 176 volunteer hours working on the Elisha House in Enid. The Elisha House is a mission project of the Cherokee Strip Baptist Association.

"We are privileged to have the opportunity to assist the Cherokee Strip Baptist Association to prepare their Elisha House for occupancy. This is similar to a Ronald McDonald House, a place where families from out of town can stay while their loved ones are in the hospital," Ron Mercer said.

The Director of Missions for the area, Matt Spann, hosted the group who jumped in and made great progress toward completing the remodel of the home.

"Having the team come helped give our project a second wind. It was a tremendous encouragement," Matt said.

The First Baptist Church *Called to Serve* team plans to finish several projects at the house so that it can open by early fall.



CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH APP!

ACCESS SERMONS, PRAYER REQUESTS, EVENTS AND MORE



1. Download Church by MinistryOne in App Store

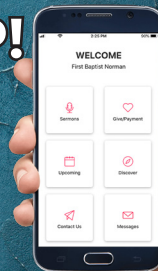


2. Search for First Baptist Norman



3. Select & Explore!

 MinistryOne



FAMILY PORCH PICNIC

— 6:00 P.M. —

HOLLYWOOD CORNERS
4712 N. PORTER AVE

AUGUST 4

ORDER DINNER AND ENJOY TIME
WITH OTHER FBC FAMILIES

ICE CREAM IS ON US!

PICNIC AREA WILL PROVIDE SPACE FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

SAVE YOUR TABLE AT FBCNORMAN.ORG

Kindred Spirits

WIDOWS
CONNECTION
LUNCHEON
HAVE LUNCH
WITH VICKIE
IN THE GARDEN OF EATIN'

WEDNESDAYS
UNTIL AUGUST 26
11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

BRING YOUR
OWN LUNCH

NUMBER OF GUESTS
AT EACH LUNCH
ARE LIMITED

RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED,
CALL THE
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
360-5300

YOUTH
BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY
6:00-7:00 P.M.
YOUTH HALL

FBC Local Partners Spotlight

As part of our ministry to our community, First Baptist provides financial support to organizations in Norman who work with individuals, families, and children. Here is a little more information about some organizations we recently supported:

Mary Abbott Children's House 231 E. Symmes

Mary Abbott Children's House is a safe place for children to share their experiences regarding sexual abuse, physical abuse, and neglect, as well as children who are a witness to crime and in drug endangered situations.

Abbott House provides services to children ages 3 to 18 years old from District 21 (Cleveland, McClain, and Garvin counties), as well as surrounding areas. In 2019, more than 1,400 children were able to begin their healing journey after visiting Abbott House.

Although a stand-alone non-profit organization, Abbott House works closely with law enforcement, the district attorney's office, child protective services, mental health care professionals, and medical professionals to maintain a child-friendly atmosphere during investigations of alleged child abuse.

Ways we can help

Donate comfort items for children:

new teddy bears, Play-Doh, washable classic fat markers, or blankets. You may bring items to our church office or to the Mary Abbott Children's House. Other needs and volunteer opportunities are listed on their website, abbott-house.org/

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children 16301 S. Western, OKC

Located in south Oklahoma City, Baptist Children's Home is a family-focused campus highlighting Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children's (OBHC) Children's Hope program.

Children's Hope was developed to help single mothers, who may have limited or no support/resources, and provide an opportunity to develop a solid foundation for herself and the children in her custody.

The goal of Children's Hope is to help families become productive and more self-sufficient by providing a safe, stable, and nurturing place to live while equipping, assisting, and teaching important skills that support the mother and the children.

Upcoming event: Online Back to School Style Show to raise funds for back to school clothing and other basic needs for children and families in OBHC's care, Saturday, August 8, 10:30 a.m. at obhc.org/StyleShow.

FBC MISSIONS MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

The Mission of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is to network the Baptist family to impact the world for Christ.

BWA has 240 member bodies working in 125 countries and territories (2017). Programs of the BWA include Baptist World Aid; Mission, Evangelism & Justice; and ministries to men, women, and youth.

In April 2020, BWA launched Standing Together: A Global Response Plan to assist its network of members with needs related to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Through Standing Together, the BWA has offered emergency grants to assist with immediate needs related to the pandemic. In addition, BWA has developed a worldwide aid and relief response facilitated through the Baptist World Alliance Forum for Aid and Development (BFAD), a network of more than 30 international aid agencies.

A COVID-19 microsite was also developed providing resources to assist with remote worship, stories of how Baptists are responding internationally, and a prayer request form. A 24-hour prayer marathon was organized that included participants from 44 nations – spanning many cultures, multiple generations, and numerous languages.

Religious freedom and human rights monitoring has also been enhanced in all 125 countries and territories. This monitoring focuses on governments that might deny healthcare to religious minorities or seek to permanently close places of worship.

The Baptist World Alliance receives .5 percent of the 11.5 percent designated to missions from the First Baptist general ministry plan.

PICKLEBALL

AT THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

MONDAY

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

FRIDAY

4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

RESERVATIONS
FOR DAYTIME
HOURS CAN BE
MADE BY CALLING THE
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
360-5300



CHEF'S CAMPS

AUGUST 10-13

COST: \$80 PER CHILD

JUNIOR CHEF'S

9:00-11:00 A.M.

COMPLETED PRE-K TO 1ST GRADE

CHEF'S CAMP

1:00-3:00 P.M.

2ND-5TH GRADES

REGISTER AT FBCNORMAN.ORG

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2: Don Adkins, Nancy DeGraff, Chris Kennedy

August 3: LaDonna Hardesty, Joan Shockley

August 4: Judy Addison, Camryn James, Tony Pennybaker

August 5: Sally Elkin, Pearl Haxel

August 6: Larry Gardner, Gary Knight, Ross Pruitt

August 7: Delores Allen, Willis Small, Graeme Wilson

August 8: Yvonne Mounce-Royse, Paula Swing

August 9: Alex Taylor, Caitie Yturri

August 10: Tom Leon

August 11: Tommy Klepper, Trudy Martin

August 12: Amy Arrington, Al McCord, Giang Nguyen

August 13: Vinh Nguyen

August 14: Grace Atkins, Ron James, Theresa Strevett

August 15: Ron Evans, Asa Haworth, Marty Hubbel

August 16: Isla Bowles, Rick Cary, Mary Eve Summers

August 17: Gavin Cherry, Cara Kao

August 18: Beverly Bailey, Doris Whinery

August 19: Melanie Burchfield, Jane Close, Jennifer Graham, Anna Hixon, Kathy McNeal, Judy Sullivan

August 20: Philip Crawford, Kelly Nipper, Darlene Yousey

August 21: Donna Hays, Jack Pinion

August 22: Riley Beery, Loyce Morain

August 23: Brasen Kao, Glenda Smith

August 24: Carol Kinney, Bonnie Penny, Dinny Vishanoff

August 25: Camille Pinion

August 26: Anthony Croft

August 27: Patty Edge, Carole Hunter, Randy Richison, Abigail Walker

August 28: Larry Brown, Deanna Carter, Betty Goss, Krista Henderson, Tricia McCarty

August 29: Shannon Atkins,

August 30: Ella Grace Lee

August 31: Danni Legg, Jessie Wong

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Cathey Brownlow and Larry Gardner at the passing of her father, Norman Clark

Leslie Salazar at the passing of her father, Harold Emery

Doyal & MaryAnn Hedrick and Lynn

Murdock at the passing of their sister-in-law and aunt, Elizabeth Hedrick

To family and friends of former member Dr. Larry Canter upon his passing

John and Melisa Lesser, Julie & Catherine at the passing of John's uncle Bob Glaser



COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEEDS

**CLOTHES CLOSET
ADULT BACKPACKS**

FOOD PANTRY
CANNED GREEN BEANS AND PEAS
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED TUNA, CHICKEN OR CHILI
CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE
SPAGHETTI
BOXES OF CEREAL

At FIRST Glance
First Baptist Church
211 W. Comanche St.
Norman, OK 73069
Address Service Requested

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HOW WE GIVE



ENVELOPE

211 WEST COMANCHE ST.
NORMAN, OK 73069



**TEXT-TO-GIVE
TO THE NUMBER
405-276-4200**



ONLINE

FBCNORMAN.ORG/GIVEPAYMENT/