

# At First Glance

FIRST BAPTIST NORMAN



SEPTEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 1

And now my life has changed in oh so many ways. These words from the 1965 Beatles song, *Help!*, summarize the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on us.

Our lives have changed in numerous ways over the past months and we are still realizing the effects of this virus as schools resume, many businesses continue to struggle and the development of a vaccine takes time.

As such, many are crying out, *Help! I need somebody! Help, not just anybody. Help, you know I need someone.*

*Help!* is the name of our current worship series. And beyond COVID, our nation continues to polarize over social issues and the quickly approaching November elections. *Help!* We need help from the loneliness, confusion, fear and brokenness of our lives and society.

And we need help, not just from anybody. I'm reminded of Hebrews 13:6 that proclaims, *The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid.* The good news to the bad news of our day is that The Lord is our Helper. We do not walk alone, but with Jesus who is the same yesterday, and today and forever.

I hope you will join us in worship either in the sanctuary or online over these next weeks. I pray that you will find the help you need as the Lord reaches out to you through His grace, mercy and abiding presence. I pray that through His Body, the Church, you will find faith, hope and love in community and in friendship with others. In Jesus, there is help!

**Sundays in September offer several opportunities for fellowship.** On September 13, we will share together in an *Outdoor Evening of Praise* at 6:00 p.m. Bring your lawn

chairs and invite your neighbors to join us.

We will close Comanche St., so there will be plenty of room to practice social distancing as we worship the Lord.

Then, on September 27, we will enjoy a ***Porch Picnic at Hollywood Corners*** beginning at 5:30 p.m. Order your food and then join us in their spacious outdoor eating area.

On Sunday, September 20, we will host a ***church conference*** immediately following worship in the sanctuary. We have not met for conference over the last months due to COVID.

We will offer a financial report, updates on the sale of Common Ground, and the anticipated media and live-streaming recommendation for our online worship and growing media ministry.

Also, on September 20, **Preschool and Children Lifegroups will resume** at 9:15 a.m. Suzette and her team have been planning and preparing to receive our children into a safe learning environment. Each Sunday, children will do a safe check-in outside the library before making their way to their classroom.

This means that Lifegroups for parents will also be able to start again. As such, we will encourage as many Lifegroups as possible to resume meeting at the church on or by September 20. Lifegroup directors



**DR. WADE SMITH**

can reach out to Suzette as we work to create spaces that allow for social distancing. Of course, there will still be Zoom Lifegroup options for those not ready or able to meet in person.

It has been exciting to see our sanctuary worship numbers increase over these last weeks. Yes, there is still the need for caution and some need to continue to isolate themselves from crowds as much as possible. But, for those who have been able to return, we have enjoyed our fellowship with each other and the Lord.

On a personal note, thank you for your continued prayers and support for our family. Gay is scheduled to complete her radiation treatments in September. The Lord is our Helper and we have seen and experienced His help as you have come along side us during these days.



**LABOR  
D • A • Y**

**MONDAY, SEPT. 7**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE AND  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
WILL BE CLOSED**

# FBC Community Spotlight: Food and Shelter

As part of our ministry to our community, First Baptist provides financial support to organizations in Norman who work with individuals, families and children. This month we contributed to Food and Shelter, 201 Reed Ave., [www.foodandshelterinc.org](http://www.foodandshelterinc.org).

Food and Shelter was founded in 1983 by a group of compassionate members of McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church lead by Harriet Leigh and Kathryn Selmon.

They began distributing meals to hungry people in community parks but soon it became clear the need was greater than anticipated and McFarlin UMC brought in a coalition of volunteers to expand services.

In 1987, Food for Friends opened in their original location at 104 W. Comanche St. which is where services were located until the new campus opened in 2017.

Though services offered have



grown and expanded over the years, the heart of Food and Shelter is still one of a caring group of people who want to help moms, dads and children have better lives through accessing food and shelter.

Food and Shelter was built by our loving community and is supported and sustained by volunteers, community

givers and loving donors who believe all people deserve a home and meals to eat.

Want to help? View their website for ways to volunteer and updated donation needs (under GET INVOLVED).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wings of Hope  
Virtual Fundraiser  
- 21 Days of Hope  
September 1-21**

Their goal this year is \$100,000 to help support the increased needs in our community due to COVID and its economic impacts — as well as offset funding losses due to cancellation of all scheduled fundraising events this year.

Through our local missions giving, FBC Norman will make a contribution. We would love to go beyond this by teaming up with you to match this donation. If you would like to support their work, donate through this link: [www.classy.org/fundraiser/2849686](http://www.classy.org/fundraiser/2849686).

*Outdoor Evening Of*  
**PRAISE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 13**  
**6:00 P.M.**  
BRING A LAWN CHAIR AND JOIN US ON COMANCHE ST.

**CHURCH  
CONFERENCE**  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 20**  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
**SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE COVERINGS**

**GAME DAY  
PARKING**  
**SEPT. 12**      **SEPT. 26**  
**MO. STATE**      **KANSAS STATE**  
TIME TBD      TIME TBD  
**\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION**  
**BENEFITS FBC MINISTRIES**  
**NO SHUTTLE WILL BE OFFERED**

**FAMILY PORCH  
PICNIC**  
**SEPT. 27**  
**5:30 P.M.**  
**HOLLYWOOD CORNERS**  
**4712 N. PORTER AVE.**  
ORDER DINNER AND ENJOY  
TIME WITH OTHER FBC FAMILIES  
**ICE CREAM IS ON US!**  
**FUN AND YARD GAMES**  
**SAVE A TABLE AT [FBCNORMAN.ORG](http://FBCNORMAN.ORG)**

**JOIN OUR  
TEAM!**  
**THE FBC CHURCH  
OFFICE SEEKS  
A PART-TIME  
RECEPTIONIST**  
**20-25 HOURS/WEEK**  
**IDEAL CANDIDATE  
WILL BE PROFICIENT  
IN MICROSOFT OFFICE**  
**INQUIRE IN CHURCH OFFICE**

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH LIFEGROUPS



**WELCOME**  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

**HIKING/NATURE**  
EXPLORE EVENT  
SAT. SEPT. 19

**FUN DAY**  
**FELLOWSHIP**  
FRIDAY, SEPT 25  
HOME OF KELLY  
HENDERSON

**COMING EVENTS**  
UNIVERSITY BIBLE STUDY  
LUNCH BUDDIES  
FALLS CREEK RETREAT  
PICKLEBALL

**KELLY HENDERSON**  
UNIVERSITY TEAM LEADER  
405.642.1129

## **PRESCHOOL** BABIES-GRADE K

SEPTEMBER 20  
9:15 A.M.  
FIRST FLOOR  
PRESCHOOL AREA

## **CHILDREN**

GRADES 1-5  
SEPTEMBER 20  
9:15 A.M.  
SECOND FLOOR CHILDREN'S AREA

A check-in for  
all children will be outside  
the first floor library

- Parent/child sign in sheet
- Temperature taken for all children
- Hands Sanitized
- Mask provided if child does not have one



# RESTART

## **YOUTH** GRADES 6-12

RESUMED  
AUGUST 23  
9:15 A.M.  
YOUTH HALL

• A Zoom option  
is available for those  
who don't feel comfortable  
attending in-person

• Justin and Traci Mullinax,  
Caleb Jackson and Kallie Smith,  
will teach 6th-8th grades

• 9th to 12th-grades will be taught  
by Phillip and Dedra Redwine  
and Robby Hare

• These groups could change with larger  
numbers to maintain social distancing

**DURING LIFEGROUPS, WE WILL CONTINUE  
TO REQUIRE MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING**

## ***FBC Missions Ministry Spotlight — Tammie and Kell Haworth***

Thanks to your regular tithes and offerings to FBC, we can provide Kell and Tammy Haworth support as one of our mission partners.

Tammie and Kell Haworth, FBC-Norman members and full-time missionaries with No Boundaries International, primarily work in an area of Oklahoma City that is known for human trafficking (Capitol Hill).

"Though we are involved in anti-human trafficking, we believe that dying without knowing Jesus is the greatest human tragedy of all. With our hearts broken for victims of human trafficking, we strive to carry the torch

of evangelism wherever we go. We are called to share the love and true nature of Christ to the broken and hurting of all walks of life. We do this through occupational therapy, pastoral care, outreaches of compassion, and evangelistic preaching," Kell said.

NBI has a sensory room in one of its Capitol Hill locations where Tammie uses her skills, as an occupational therapy professional, to provide pro bono services to neighborhood children who have sensory issues.

"She also has been providing services for someone who was first trafficked at the age of 14. The good

news is that not only has this person been freed from trafficking, but has also started their own ministry, even while dealing with their past trauma," Kell said.

Both Tammie and Kell are planning mission trips to NYC and internationally, once COVID-19 restrictions allow.

"FBC-Norman has been a tremendous support to us both prayerfully and financially. We are truly grateful for this support! To subscribe to our newsletter, please visit: <https://haworthmissionaryfamily.epistle.today/>," Kell said.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**September 1:** Wanda Blake, Frank Gatewood

**September 2:** Naomi Nakamura

**September 3:** Al Bass, Barbara Ferris,  
Chuck Lawrence

**September 4:** Greg Alexander, Olivia Bedwell,  
Mary Nipper

**September 5:** Katherine Brooks, Greg  
Ferguson, Emmaline Sullivan

**September 6:** Maddie Farris, Egawati Panjei

**September 7:** Luke Edge, Elijah LeBlanc,  
Marilyn Naylor, Haley Price, Susan Warren

**September 8:** John Antonio, Brandon  
Arrington, Elizabeth Clancy, Betty Wells

**September 9:** Kerrie Hudson, Blanche  
Johnstone, Morgan Rogers, WhitneyRose  
Upchurch,

**September 11:** Lorraine Baugh, Carol  
McDade-Conley, Connie Norton

**September 12:** Leslie Haxel, Mike Lang,  
Mark Wright

**September 13:** Paige Portwood

**September 14:** John Lesser, Amos Nunnally

**September 15:** Bill Conner, Colin Hoepfer,  
Carson Wallace

**September 16:** M'Lynn Emanuel, Dennis  
Schwabe, Wilson Smith

**September 17:** Brad Badgett, Jan Hodges,  
Leanne Warren, Colton Wirth

**September 19:** Dino Koutsoukos

**September 20:** Sandra Brown, Shirley  
Glitsch, Payton Henson, Micaiah Mukete,  
Traci Mullinax

**September 21:** Janie Dilks, Mary Hale,  
Hannah Jones-Harp, Tyler Hudson

**September 22:** Arya Buffington, Mary  
Hartsock, Jennifer Marcum, George Wilson III

**September 23:** Addy Deering, Linda Dill,  
MaryAnn Gardner, Al Graham

**September 24:** Sue Matheny, Sally Wade

**September 25:** Carl Ketner, Carol Price

**September 26:** Chester Ketner, Shelba  
McGowen, Olivia Nees, Elmer Roberts,  
Charissa Smith

**September 27:** Judith Conklin, Cheryl  
Love

**September 28:** Stephanie Croft

**September 29:** Sue Carrell, Nolan LeBlanc

**September 30:** Christianne Gray, Kin Pirtle

## DEAR FIRST BAPTIST...

Dear FBC,

Thank you for your recent support of the  
2020 Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children  
Style Show.

We appreciate your understanding of

the importance of supporting these children.  
Their future is brighter because of you.

Greg McNeece,  
President Oklahoma  
Baptist Homes for Children



## COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEEDS

### CLOTHES CLOSET

ADULT BACKPACKS • MEN'S JEANS WAIST SIZES 28-34  
WOMEN'S ATHLETIC SHOES • BLANKETS • TODDLER BOYS CLOTHING

### FOOD PANTRY

40 OZ BOTTLE LAUNDRY DETERGENT  
CANNED SOUP • CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE  
CANNED MEAT (TUNA, CHICKEN, CHILI)  
DRIED PASTA • BOXES OF CEREAL

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## SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church  
family wishes to extend  
sympathies to:

Morgan and Marley Rogers at  
the passing of Morgan's father,  
Fred Binkley

Ellen Wood at the passing of  
her son-in-law Doug Crews

Cheryl, Katie, Justin & Spencer  
Love; Jack & Gynonne Smith, Pat  
& Kathy Smith Family and Nathan  
& Staci Sheldon Family at the  
passing of their uncle Vernon  
Eastepp

Lisa and Paige Portwood at  
the passing of their brother-in-  
law and uncle

Jim Lester at the passing of  
his wife Victoriya Lester