



First Baptist Church

Worship, Grow, Serve, & Share Yazoo City

AUGUST 2021 • VOLUME 6 • EDITION 8

Church family,

I was recently in the Smoky Mountains. A number of us hiked to the top of Mount Brushy, about 5,000 feet in elevation. The long careful journey was well worth it. The view was spectacular as we marveled at God's beautiful creation. It would have been very frustrating and possibly dangerous if in the midst of our climb something caused us to retreat, slip down, or run back down the mountain. Progress made, the view at the summit, joy that filled our hearts - all of that would have been lost.

Navigating through the Covid crisis has seemed like climbing a mountain. We have made much progress through all the twists and turns. We have taken great precautions including sanitizing, fogging, spacing out, and masking. We were beginning to see more of God's beautiful creation reappear before us - that is one another, His people, the Church - as we progressed towards all being together again. People are wondering are we about to go back to where we were when this Covid crisis started. Are we going to get knocked back down the mountain? There is a major difference this time. Many people in the United States have chosen to be vaccinated. If that person still contracts Covid the cases are not leading to the point of hospitalization or death. Many have chosen not to vaccinate. To vaccinate or not to vaccinate has unfortunately become a touchy, inflammatory, and even politicized subject. Each viewpoint should be considered carefully. Some say this (**bold**) and others say this ...

I don't trust the government.

The government didn't create the vaccines. They only funded the research.

I don't trust the vaccines.

What would a drug company have to gain from making a vaccine that could potentially cost them billions in lawsuits and perhaps be the downfall of their company?

Talk to those in the medical field you trust and see what they think about the vaccine.

Talk to your Father about what you have learned and then draw your conclusion.

The vaccines did not go through the normal testing period.

Carefully research the production process of how each vaccine was made and how people are responding to each one.

Talk to those in the medical field you trust and seek their expert analysis.

Pray over what you have learned and then draw your conclusion.

I am just going to trust the LORD to keep me from getting the virus.

The LORD does amazing things for His children - including at times keeping them from getting sick and dying. There are many who walk deeply with God who get very sick and die. The LORD has revealed medical wisdom to His creation. We have vaccines and medicines that keep people alive from things that used to kill them. If you have taken one of those medications or vaccines does that mean you don't trust the LORD? Of course not.

The government is using this crisis and vaccine to condition Americans to be compliant to some future diabolical plan!

At the moment, the government is strongly promoting getting the vaccine but they are not forcing them on anyone.

If the government tells a believer to do something or attempts to force a believer to do something contrary to Scripture - then we should have a problem. Our answer as followers of Jesus Christ should be just as it was for Peter and John in

Acts 4:18-20.

I am not going to live in fear!

On this both sides in Christ should agree. Every person trusting in Jesus is His now and forever - whether a day brings life or physical death. No matter what life brings, knowing you are in Christ, enables a person to live in trust and not in fear! Take precautions as the LORD leads you and stop being afraid to breath public air whether you are vaccinated or not. Your life is in His sovereign hands.

This is just a sampling of the different viewpoints and issues to be considered. Much more could have been said. Many are still trying to navigate through these differing viewpoints and information and come to a best conclusion for themselves and/or family.

Allowing anyone to put anything into your body should be a personal decision and a well thought through and prayed over decision. For parents with non-adult children, whether that child should be vaccinated or not, is a decision that should be made with much prayer, much research, and much discussion within that family and even with doctors that you deeply trust. As your pastor, I would be more than glad to talk with you as well - if that is something you and your family desires.

Covid is leaving its ugly mark again. More masks are appearing. Events are being cancelled. People are wondering, "What are we as a church going to do?" Here are some things we are and can do:

- **Keep on moving full steam ahead - meeting together in Sunday School, Worship, and other opportunities in which we get together.**
- **Take precautions.**
 - Use the many sanitizing stations in each building.
 - Wash your hands when you think it necessary.
 - Masks are available if you feel safer wearing one.
 - Sunday school teachers may want to space out the chairs again.
 - Where sanitation is needed each week, sanitation is being done.
 - Sit further apart from other people in the sanctuary.
 - If a group or Sunday school class has a members who gets Covid:
 - Check with others in the week and see how they are doing.
 - If others get sick - stop meeting for a couple of weeks.
 - Do NOT come back to class or church until your quarantine period is complete.
- **Be respectful of one another.**
 - Respect other's decisions - to get vaccinated or not.
 - Respect other's opinions - to mask up or not.
 - Respect other's opinions - to gather with the church body or not.

We, the pastoral staff, love each of you. We will never intentionally expose you to dangers of any kind. If we see need to take further steps to prevent the spread of this virus, then we will do so.

I am going to keep climbing the mountain. The beautiful view will be worth it! How about you?

Byron

Wow what a summer! It has been jam-packed and so much fun to see each of you grow and experience new things this summer. More so than summer, I am excited about this upcoming school year! I know that this will be the first "somewhat" normal year since COVID, but I encourage you all to take priority in being involved in church and the things going on. Above all else, we know that if we are not being spiritually nourished then we may find ourselves drowning. I pray that 3-4 months into the school year you don't find yourself in that place. Our theme this school year is "STRIVE!" This comes out of Philippians 1:27: "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel."

In the verses leading up to this, Paul explained how his suffering was for the sake of Christ, and encouraged his readers with a hope of reunion. In verse 27, Paul gives the Philippians believers one assignment in advance of his hoped-for visit: live a life worthy of the gospel. This is very similar to the teaching Paul gave in Ephesians 4:1: "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called." He says something similar in Colossians 1:10, encouraging others to live out the truth they proclaim.

Paul desires these Christians to show unity to the world. This echoes the teachings of Christ (John 17:11, 22), who emphasized the importance of love in living out the gospel (John 13:34-35). Paul is calling on his readers to live out unity, in one spirit and mind, working together "for the faith of the gospel." His goal continually remained on the gospel and its spread.

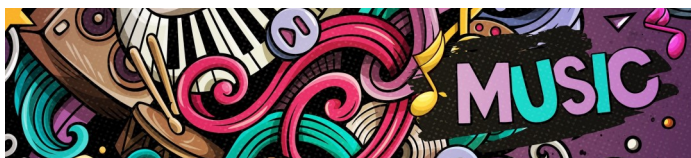
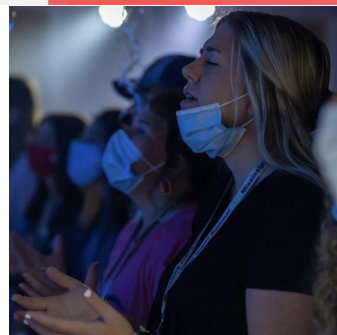
So STRIVE; what does that look like for us? Two main things we will look at this semester is first, Community.. true biblical community. My heart this semester is to see an end of consumer christianity amongst our families and students. American christians have become too comfortable with church-hopping or being very surface level Christians. So I am of the belief



that this semester we will be challenged to what that looks like not only in the church but in our very own lives. The second is being Godly examples as families and individuals. None of us is perfect and none of us have arrived. As I've been here nearly 2 years now I see a gap between a very cultural christianity, and piggy back mentality of "they are so godly ill let them do it." My prayer is that through this year we all grow as families and individuals in our heart for God. Also in our love for the Lord in our families, sparking us to serve and live out our faith within the body and beyond.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 18
Back-to-School Bash
September 4
Youth Serve Day
October 16
Youth Serve Day
October 29-30
Camping Trip @
Tishamingo State Park
October 31
Church-wide
Trunk or Treat



Col 3:15 "Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. 16 Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of him."

Selecting music and putting together a worship service is a challenging task and, when completed, is a wonderful blessing as anticipation of God's movement fills my heart.

The Bible clearly speaks of a balance of "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs". I would appreciate your constant prayers that God would always lead to enable me to maintain a "balanced" music service. And you can rest in knowing, with certainty, God has led in the selection of each song on Sunday.

Gal 1:10 "I am not trying to please people. I want to please God. Do you think I am trying to please people? If I were doing that, I would not be a servant of Christ."

Come join the choir on Wednesday night for rehearsal at 6:50 and to help us lead God's people in worship each Sunday. There is a place for you!

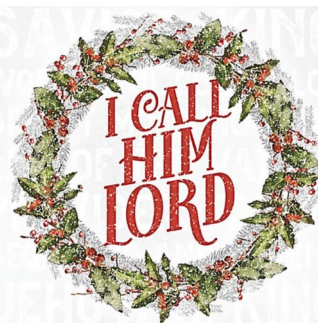
Blessings, John

July Offering

<u>July 4</u>	<u>July 11</u>	<u>June 18</u>	<u>July 25</u>
Budget Offering	Budget Offering	Budget Offering	Budget Offering
\$8,380	\$13,677	\$14,598	\$4,935
Challenge to Grow	Challenge to Grow	Challenge to Grow	Challenge to Grow
\$1,540	\$1,240	\$1,610	\$1,460

Online Giving

\$14,168



It's time! If you would like to be a part of the Worship Choir's Christmas presentation, please join us in the choir room, Wednesday night August 11 for the introduction of our new Christmas Presentation.

The program is scheduled to be presented on Sunday, December 5th at 10:50 am and 4:00 pm.



Our kids at VBS raised \$1885.40 for our Backpacks of Hope Ministry!! The girls brought in more money which resulted in John & Tiki getting a pie to the face!! Thank you to each of you who give toward this ministry!

Gifts were received for the following designated funds:
Capital Improvements in memory of James Farrish
Capital Improvements in memory of Paul & Thelma Adams
TV Ministry in memory of Mike McConnell



It's back and kicking off Wednesday, August 11th at 5:45 in the Kid's Worship Area. Join us as we explore adventures in God's Word. Elevate is geared for 4's and 5's in one classroom and 1st—6th in another. Each curriculum pack is set for an 8-week term with a video/drama lesson and class time to reinforce that lesson by class interaction activity. And, obviously, we will begin each evening with our Bible Trivia GameShow so you don't want to miss that! Invite your friends and I look forward to seeing you!

On Sunday, August 15 at 5 pm in the fellowship hall, K4C kicks off. This program is for kids, ages 5k—6th grade and includes music, Bible Study, recreation, and service projects. You will want your children to participate and, in the process, learn to think outside themselves and serve others.



Day Camp 2021, Unknown Heroes, was a success! We ended up with 17 children who learned about some lesser known characters in the Bible. Those who didn't receive the "press" of giants like Paul, Abraham, Moses, etc., but God used them in very powerful and influential ways. Through these various examples, the kids learned the true focus of serving the Lord, and that the focus is not the pat on the back or the "atta boy" but rather that God receives all the glory. A special thank you goes to each volunteer who took time from their schedule to teach, lead a track time, or provide things necessary to make the week so successful.

It's that time! The collection bins are in place in the Education Building foyer and ready for your supplies. As you read this, we are one week away from accumulating, vetting, and assembling the list of recipients for the '21-'22 school year. As we receive your items, we will try and build up our stock as much as possible before the first distribution. We will not know how many children we will be helping until the final list is completed so we must be prepared. This past year our church family came through BIG and so I ask you, if you haven't participated much or at all, to commit to helping this valuable ministry.



SIGN UP FOR OUR

TEXT ALERTS!

TEXT FBCYAZOO TO 844.787.8660

BUSINESS MEETING

08.08.2021 | 5PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL



Pre-Born!
SAVE BABIES AND SOULS

VISIT PREBORN.ORG

THE FOLLOWING MEN HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO SERVE AS DEACONS

BOB BARRINGTON
DR. DAVID JOHNSON
SHANE KILPATRICK
LEROY MCBRIDE
BILL MCGRAW
JOHN NEWTON
KYLE WEVER

PLEASE COMMIT TO PRAY FOR THESE MEN AS THEY SERVE!

DEACON ORDINATION DATE IS TBD

August 2021

Deacon of the week: 1—Phillip Pope, 8—Pat Rush,
15—Thomas Shipp, 22—David Warren, 29—Mike Williams

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Deacon Election	2	3	4 No kids or youth services	5	6	7
8 Business Meeting @ 5pm	9	10	11 Kid's Elevate starts!	12	13	14
15 K4c & youth bible study starts	16	17	18 Youth back-2-school bash	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

WATCH US LIVE ONLINE SUNDAYS AT 10:50!

Sunday morning services are available **LIVE** online. You can watch the service by going to www.fbcyazoo.org and clicking on the "Live Stream" on our home page. We are also Live on Facebook each week!



328 Grand Ave. Yazoo City, MS 39194

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED to PO Box 780 Yazoo City MS 39194

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

FRIDAY - CLOSED

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Yazoo City First Baptist Church

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