



First Baptist Church

Worship, Grow, Serve, & Share Yazoo City

DECEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 5 • EDITION 12

Church Family,

What a year this has been! To many people across this nation and world the numbers 2-0-2-0 are synonymous with many adjectives that describe life at its worst – lousy, terrible, horrendous, or just downright horrible. There is no doubt that 2020 has seen unprecedented (an overused word these days) challenges and some very hard decisions. In less than a year's time we have seen the stock market plunge thousands into the red only to rebound deeper into the black than ever before, thousands of people have found themselves jobless, local restaurants and small businesses are struggling to survive (and some have not), wearing a mask has now become mandatory to go into some places (if you wore a mask in these places before Covid-19 security would have tackled you at the door!), and people have been panicking to the point that toilet paper has seen its best sales ever!

The challenges have hit the local church hard! Churches who have never live-streamed a service before have had to scramble to install the right equipment and learn how to get the services into people's homes who were now being told you can't go to church, or it is not safe to go to church! I have had more than one church member in different places let me know - "I was watching and the live-stream suddenly stopped!" I had never had that conversation until this year.

Understandably many senior adults, including my own parents, have not returned to services at the church building. I fully understand those decisions. Hopefully with a safe vaccine becoming available, that will soon change. Church staffs across this nation have prayed and tried to find ways to minister to God's people during the pandemic. To me it has been frustrating to not be able to be in the homes of shut-ins, in the nursing homes, or at one's side in the hospital.

Pastors are wondering when all is said and done – will everyone even come back when the church doors are open once again. I have talked with many pastors during the past year and every one of them is in the same spot – whatever choices they make, some people are happy and some are not. Should we have services or not? Should we require masks to be worn or not? Who would have ever thought that a mask could cause such division? Should we allow people to sing without a mask or not? Or should people even be allowed to sing at all? Pastors and church staff have spent many hours trying to decide what is the right or wrong thing to do. I cannot speak for all church staffs but I can speak for the wonderful staff of FBC Yazoo. At the heart of every decision we make is our deep love for each of you and our desire for all of us to be able to gather together as safely as possible.

We continue to provide a clean place to gather, we encourage everyone to take the necessary precautions they feel comfortable with, and to respect other people's decisions that they make for themselves. If you don't feel

comfortable returning just yet, that is okay. We will rejoice when we are together with you again!

My personal approach has been to take the necessary precautions, wear a mask when necessary, and wash my hands and use sanitizer constantly. At the same time, I refuse to live in fear of this virus that I might contract. I understand it has been deadly for far too many people. I am a child of the living God. I belong to the LORD and I do not fear death. I have talked with a number of people who have contracted Covid-19 including a very good friend who struggled with it. I prayed for him and he fully recovered. I pray for those who are currently enduring it. I refuse to live in fear of it. As with any other ailment I deal or may have to deal with in this fallen world – I am going to trust God to see me through it – if that is what He desires. I choose to stand on God's promise, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life (that means anything that happens between birth and death, including any sickness or virus) ... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35, 37-38a)." I am firmly in the hands of my God. He has not given me a spirit of fear(ing) what happens or could happen to me. God is my Father and my every breath is in His wonderful hands!

I understand that 2020 will leave an unpleasant taste in many people's mouths. It is so easy to focus on the negatives of life, but there are many positives to my 2020. God has brought wonderful people and opportunities to trust Him into my life: a place to live in Amory, MS that He provided by His grace, wonderful people with whom we began life-long relationships, a church family who showed us abundant grace and love, and continued relationships in choir with whom we loved to worship. In 2020 God gave me the opportunity to serve as an interim pastor in two local churches. In one of those churches I was able to work together with that local church in responding to the Covid-19 shutdown.

In 2020 God called me to serve as your pastor! I cannot tell you what a joy it is to be getting to know and love each of you. Through 2020 God has once again shown me it is not so much your circumstances that matter. What matters is knowing God, knowing and taking Him at His word, and trusting Him with every facet of your existence. He is faithful to His children! I praise Him for 2020! I praise Him that He has called me to walk with Him and with each of you through 2021 regardless of what may come!

I love you and count it as pure joy to be your Pastor,

Byron



STUDENT MINISTRY

Tiki Broome



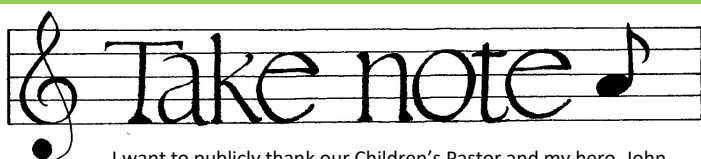
What a busy season this one has been! From Thanksgiving to now, Christmas, we have been moving a lot. I'm excited to finally be joining you all in Yazoo City; I GOT A HOUSE! But more so, I'm excited to finally have a place for you all to come and hang out! This Christmas season will be unlike any other with COVID and the year we have faced. I noticed this past Thanksgiving, many of my family members were present with masks and then many were not able to make it due to fear, it made me even more grateful for those who I did get to see. You see this year has opened my eyes in many ways to acknowledge important relationships and friendships that we otherwise neglect. I believe we get so busy that we neglect the things that are truly important. Jesus gives a beautiful picture throughout scripture of how intentional He is with ALL PEOPLE. We can learn a lot from His example of caring and simply being present in peoples lives around us. Take time this season to sit and think about who you can be encouraging or even just present for. This is the time of year we should look outward to help and encourage others. An easy way to do that is to pray for some of these things below:

Pray for the Orphan, Widow, Single Mother
Pray for the Sick, downcast, those who have less than others

Pray for those who feel alone, depressed, or suffering

& a little encouragement for you: Jesus is still on the throne! Even in all the stress and darkness, God has not left! He has not fallen asleep! He's present. So this Christmas season, refocus your heart to Christ. Trust Him more, cling to Him more, and worry less.

Be Strong, Be Steadfast, Be Willing
1 Corinthians 15:56-58
Love you all -Tiki



I want to publicly thank our Children's Pastor and my hero, John Yates for filling in for me for 3 Sundays in November. The first Sunday was expected and planned for, but the other two came after a last minute quarantine order for me. THANK YOU JOHN!

We never know what to expect from week to week with our new normal, but we continue to plan for two special Christmas events. The first is A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER, which is a music celebration featuring our choir, praise team, instrumentalists, and back by popular demand, the Forest Piper—Ms. Zoe Brumfield. This will be presented on December 20th at 5pm in the Sanctuary. While we won't have a full choir this year, we have a small group of choir members who are working diligently, and with a minimal amount of rehearsals, to present several Christmas musical selections. Our praise team will also be a part of this evening as will our fine instrumentalists.

The other event is our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Dec. 24th at 5pm. Lasting only about 35 minutes, this service is always a meaningful time together. We encourage everyone who attends these events to take the necessary precautions they feel comfortable with, and to respect other people's decisions that they make for themselves.



November Offering

<u>Nov 1</u>	<u>Nov 8</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Nov 22</u>
Budget Offering	Budget Offering	Budget Offering	Budget Offering
\$20,865	\$9,869	\$8,090	\$4,676
Challenge to Grow	Challenge to Grow	Challenge to Grow	Challenge to Grow
\$1,625	\$5,300	\$865	\$1,560

Online Giving thru 11/30

\$13,051

*\$16,514.73 required weekly to meet budget.

Gifts were received for the following designated funds:

Backpack Ministry in memory of Rex Brown
Capital Improvements in honor of Bobby Barton
Capital Improvements in memory of Paul Adams Sr.
Capital Improvements in memory of Thelma Jane Turner Lewis Hillhouse



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Bro. John Yates

Proverbs 22:6; "Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it."



A special thank you to all who participated in OCC. Through your efforts we contributed 129 shoeboxes. We pray these boxes will be a wonderful blessing to the children in very difficult situations.

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On Sunday, December 20, our Annual Breakfast in Bethlehem will be in the fellowship hall at 9:45. Drop your child off, ages 4 yr—6th grade for a special time. For our younger children, Sunday School will still be held in our preschool area. (babies through 3 year old) Pancakes and bacon will be on the menu with a special guest and gift provided. Please, parents, take advantage of this opportunity. Obviously, our current Covid guidelines will be adhered to for the safety of everyone.



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A special 3-part Christmas series begins Wednesday December 2nd. Everything begins at 5:45 and wraps up each evening at 6:45. Parents, please get your children to our children's worship area for a fun-filled Bible Lesson! Dec 2, 9, and 16.

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Our new Kids Program, K4C, has really been a success with music, crazy games, snacks, a mission project...all tied into a wonderful Bible Lesson. The Bible commands us to raise our children in the ways of the Lord, so I ask you to give this program a chance. We are off for December but will kick off our spring semester on Sunday night, Jan 10th @ 5pm.

This program is geared for 4 yr olds through 6th grade and meets in the Fellowship Hall.



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LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

It's time again to collect The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering! This is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to

support international missions. It is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9).

Please consider giving and joining us for the Week of Prayer for International Missions Nov 29-Dec 6!

A Great *Multi-faceted* + You Rev. 7:9



End of the Year Contribution Information:

As the end of the year approaches, please make note that any contributions you wish to have applied to your 2020 Giving Statement must be received in the offering on or before Sunday, December 27th or in the church office by

Wednesday, December 30th. All contributions sent by mail must be post marked by December 30th. If you are giving online, please allow 3-5 days for the transaction to process in order to be received by the church by December 31st. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jessica in the church office at 662.746.2471 or jessica@fbcyazoo.org.




December 2020

Sunday Services

9:45 am—Sunday School
11:00 am—Worship Service in Sanctuary
5pm—NO SERVICES

Wednesday Services (2, 9, 16)

6:00 pm—Prayer Meeting
Youth—in the Activities Building
Kids—in the Education Building

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon of the week: 6—Phillip Pope, 13—Pat Rush, 20—Thomas Shipp, 27—David Warren		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8  Ladies Ornament Swap 6pm	9	10	11	12
13 YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Breakfast in Bethlehem Choir Christmas Musical	21	22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed No services	24  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Office Closed	25  Merry Christmas	26
27	28	29	30 No Services	31 Office Closed		

WATCH US LIVE ONLINE!

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!



First Baptist Church

Worship, Grow, Serve, & Share Yazoo City

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

Phone:

662-746-2471

Website:

www.fbcyazoo.org

Email:

byron@fbcyazoo.org

john@fbcyazoo.org

tiki@fbcyazoo.org

khall@mbcb.org

jessica@fbcyazoo.org

Facebook:

Yazoo City First Baptist Church

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