

Cate Taylor with her completed Resurrection Garden.



Volume 78 Issue 9

April 25, 2021

From the Pastor...

Last month Dr. Anthony Fauci warned us not to “spike the ball on the five yard line.” By this he meant that we need to maintain the COVID precautions that have gained us ground in the fight against this disease (masks, social distancing, hand washing and vaccines).

Several have asked me when we will be able to fully go back to our regular ministries. The answer is that we are carefully moving in that direction, but that we won't do anything that will make us lose ground.

We are not out of the woods yet. Everyday I'm asked to pray for someone's relative or friend who is hospitalized with COVID. Worldwide COVID deaths have passed the three million mark. And, new variants threaten us all.

Yet, we have made significant progress. Many in our congregation are now vaccinated and others are making appointments. Iredell County is now on yellow alert (down from red or orange, but not yet green). Because of this, we've been able to add back several Sunday School classes.

What we will be able to do moving forward depends upon continued progress in our church and community. If you truly want to help bring back all of our ministries, **the best thing you can do for your church and community is to get vaccinated.** This not only protects you, but shows your love for your neighbor.

The Apostle Paul warned us never to use our Christian freedom selfishly, but always in love (Galatians 5:13). Churches have received some COVID exemptions, but the virus doesn't know the difference between a congregation and a crowd. It can easily spread in either.

At First Baptist Church, we know a Christian congregation is called to love and serve its community. Therefore, we will continue to do everything we can to prevent the spread of this disease. We don't wear masks in worship just because there is a state mandate. We wear masks because we are under Christ's mandate to love.

**THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CHURCH
AND COMMUNITY IS TO GET VACCINATED.**

Schedule

Sunday, April 25

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, April 26

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, April 28

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, April 29

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, May 2

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, May 3

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, May 5

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, May 6

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
Tel: 704-873-7231

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Happy Birthday

May 1

Hannah May

May 2

Angie Eubanks

Chuck Heckel

James Johnson

Kaye Martin

May 4

Vickie Frazier

Ava Waugh

May 6

Jewel Travis

May 8

Don Hawkins

May 10

Debi Martin

May 11

Kristy Mitchell

Charlene Smith

May 12

Jenevica Acosta

Lynn Deal

Hilda Lee

Brenda Wilson

Jan Wuertz

May 15

Mickey Robinette

May 17

Lauren Milwood

Web Mitchell

Derek Osborne

May 18

Grace Ashley

Neill Pardue

May 19

Rachel Beale

Elaine Bowers

Aiden Jones

Ellie McMillan

May 20

David Deal

May 21

Daniel Mitchell

May 22

Jeanie Murdock

May 23

Tom Brandon

Suzanne Osborne

May 25

Carter Hinceman

May 26

Lisa Adcox

Jack Causey

May 27

Carolyn Dellinger

Melissa Wilson

May 30

Burwell Whittenton

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of April 11 & 18, 2021

	4/11	4/18
Live Stream Views.	53	35
In-Person.	114	133
Sunday School		87

Financial Statistics

	April	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	60,460.00	529,459.00
Budget Receipts	50,380.00	460,272.00
Goals Not Yet Met	10,080.00	69,187.00
Alms	545.00	3,440.00
Designated	4,231.00	80,223.00

3 Prayers for a Nation in Crisis

(by Dave Butts)

During these days of division, anger, and uncertainty, most of us aren't quite sure how to respond. What we must not forget is that we are not powerless. Our voices are heard in heaven! We can and need to ask God to intervene and to give us insight for ways we can respond with the love of Christ.

Here are some simple prayer points that we can pray together on behalf of our hurting neighbors and our nation.

1. Protection

"Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance" (Ps. 32:6-7).

It seems that the waters across our land are rising quickly and threatening to consume our cities.

Father, we ask for Your hand of protection to be upon our nation during these days of unrest and anger. Protect the lives of the angry as well as the officers and military personnel who are trying to restore order. Calm hearts and minds and bring restoration through justice and acts of repentance, humility and extraordinary love. Sing Your song of deliverance over our hurting nation, Lord.

2. Presence

"I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people" (Lev. 26:11-12).

The Presence of God changes lives and meets the deepest needs—not just those of individuals, but also the needs of a culture. Welcoming the Presence of the Lord into our nation should be an essential part of our prayers.

Make Your Presence known Lord! In the midst of darkness, confusion and despair, may the light of Your glory shine. We welcome You and ask You to walk among us. Change lives, bring unity and stir Your people to be the image bearers of Jesus in this troubling hour! We long for Your presence to permeate our culture and transform our nation.

3. Peace.

"Peace, peace to them, both near and far, for I will heal them all" (Isaiah 57:19).

In the midst of a badly divided nation from top to bottom, we desperately need God's peace. He has placed His Church in a position of godly authority to stand for righteousness and justice...and to be instruments of His healing in our world.

Prince of Peace, come and walk through the streets of our cities. Rest upon the hurting, the angry and those who are bent on destruction. Awaken Your Church! Give us courage and kindness in order to be the peace-makers You designed us to be! Help us to demonstrate justice for all people and the unity of a people who is one in You, because You created us equally. We long for Your peace to come to our nation, Lord!



God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Genesis 1:31



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Announcements

A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

On April 10 we were able to help 44 people with our extra opening of the Clothes Closet. Though this doesn't sound like a huge deal, what is really important is nine families that we served we had never served before. It was a great time of fellowship and loving in our community. Special thanks to Brenda Falter and her team for their leadership and love. The Clothes Closet is now accepting both men's and women's summer clothes.

As we look to the summer there are so many different ways we can be the hands and feet within our community. Though we are not doing a big mission trip this summer that does not overshadow the fact that missions happen in our daily life if we look for them. Do neighbors need childcare for a day or weekend? Do friends need an extra meal because they are used to meals at school? What is needed in the area around you that can reach people and help them walk with God? Look for those things. It is my prayer that God brings those situations and those needs to our attention as we continue to join with one another in support and love.

Many thoughts and prayers,
Elizabeth

"Flowers appear on the earth;

*the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is
heard in our land."*

SONG OF SONGS 2:12



Sylvia Jolly's 85th Birthday

Long time member Sylvia Jolly will celebrate her 85th birthday on April 26. Sylvia moved to Mars Hill a couple years ago to be close to her daughter, but she misses her church family very much. To help Sylvia celebrate this birthday, please send her a birthday card. Her address is 1280 Banjo Branch Rd, Mars Hill, NC 28754.

Returning to Sunday School

Crosswalk

Returned April 4
S208

Teacher: Lynn Barker
Middle Adults

Fellowship

Returned April 11
Heritage 2

Teachers: Don Hawkins &
Gale Hall
Older Adults

Emanons

Returned April 4
Adams Hall

Teacher: Angie Travis
Roberts
Middle & Older Adults

Esther

Returned April 11
S117

Teacher: Jerry Campbell
Older Adults

Horizons

Returned April 4
E211

Teachers: William Barnard,
Ken Marsh, Jeff Templeton
Middle Adults

Children

Returned April 18
Children's Dept.
Nursery - Grade 5

Heritage Hall

Returned April 4
Conference Room

Teacher: Tom Brandon
Middle & Older Adults

Youth

Returned April 18
Youth Cafe
Grades 6 -12

Pioneer

Returned April 4
Heritage 1

Teachers: Jeff Templeton,
George McLeod, Jesse
Jackson, & Valerie Granade
Older Adults

Seekers

Returning April 25
S101

Teacher: Carol Hunter
Middle Adults

*Return plans for the
Adventurers,
Bob Burns, and Joyful
Voices classes will be
announced
at a later date.*

Adams Hall

Returning April 11
Library

Teachers: Ralph Bentley &
Libby Purcell
Older Adults