

First Baptist Church

301 South Broad Street
P.O. Box 95
Clinton, SC 29325

November 25, 2020

FBC church office: 864-833-2578

Emily Plowden, Financial Secretary:

eplowden@clintonfbc.us

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fbcamy@clintonfbc.us

Office Hours:

Mon.—Thurs. 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Fri. 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



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Worship

Every Sunday

Outside Worship @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary @ 11:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship @ 11:00 a.m.



You may also watch the video any time during the week. The Facebook video link is on our website on Monday morning. Go to our website: www.fbclintonsc.com and click on sermons. It will take you to a list of videos and you can choose the one you would like to watch.



Sunday, November 29

Hanging of the Greens
@ 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent with our Hanging of the Greens service in-person or online.

The Stream

Volume 6, Issue 24

They are like trees planted by streams of water... (Psalm 1:3a)

First Baptist Church
Clinton, SC

Dr. Blake Harwell
Senior Minister



"...love God...extend His love..."

November 25, 2020

ReShape

ReShape. That's the name of the book our staff has been reading. It's written by a friend of First Baptist's (Mark Tidsworth—some may remember Mark helped guide our church through some long range planning a few years ago). Mark still has a heart for the Church and has built a ministry helping church leaders of all types. The book calls and lays out a plan for the re-shaping of the body of Christ. We have all been, as Paul encourages us, challenged to "run the race in such a way as to win the prize" (1 Cor. 9:24) and to go into training for the task that God has put before us (v. 25). Any athlete knows that, as you train, your body starts changing. We can re-shape our bodies through physical exercise.

Mark is calling for churches to re-shape their local body of Christ through some essential exercises. I'm finding it challenging, convicting, insightful. He reminds us of the joy of being part of this people-movement Jesus called the *ekklesia* (church). As we turn our hearts to giving thanks, give thanks to God for this people! I do.

Advent begins on Sunday. What does

Advent mean? It means "coming." Advent is a season celebrated by the world's Christ-followers in which we look forward to the coming of Jesus. It's focused, while we celebrate Jesus' first arrival in Bethlehem's stable, on the second coming of Christ. I love this season because it reminds me (at least annually): Jesus is coming back soon! And it encourages me to get ready. Are you ready for the coming of Christ? Advent gives us a chance to off-load the peripheral and download the essential. Join me, this Advent, in those practices that will prepare us for Jesus' imminent arrival.

#blessed. I am. You are. With all of our faults and quirks, all of our hopes and gifts, we are all summoned by God into the blessed life. That does not mean, however, that we get it right all the time. We are certainly not always going to be on our "A game." Join us Sunday (8:30 in the parking lot for a traditional, short service; 11:00 in the sanctuary for a blended experience) as we conclude this series.

Blake, bharwell@clintonfbc.us

DVD Ministry?

We are considering a DVD Ministry where DVDs of FBC's Sunday Services would be delivered to members who do not have internet or anyway of watching

the service. If you would be interested in receiving a DVD and if you would need to borrow a DVD player, please call the church office at 833-2578.

Battery and Fan Day

If you are unable to climb a ladder and would like to have a pair of FBC Deacons come to your home and replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and clean ceiling fixtures, call the FBC Office

A Ministry of the FBC Deacons

(833-2578) and make a reservation for this free service that is scheduled for **Saturday, December 5, between 8 AM and noon.** (Please provide new batteries for replacement.)

Stewardship Report

Week of November 15, 2020*

Regular Receipts	\$ 7,670.00
Designated	\$ 1,220.00
Total	\$ 8,890.00

Week of November 22, 2020*

Regular Receipts	\$ 9,967.00
Designated	\$ 896.00
Total	\$10,863.30

*Electronic giving not included.

2020 Weekly Budgeted Needs:
\$ 16,789.19

To make a financial donation to FBC you can use your phone. Text 'fbclinton' and the money amount you want to give to 73256. 1. Click the link, 2. Complete your gift. Once you set up your giving information, you can give in a matter of seconds. If you have questions, call Emily Plowden at 833-2578.

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First Baptist Clinton

www.fbclintonsc.com

Student Ministry

6th—12th graders

November 29 is the last night of TRUTH in 2020 * see you at 5:00-7:30 in the gym this Sunday as we wrap up our It's Personal series

**Angel Tree will begin November 22**

Angel Tree is up and ready. Please drop by church office during the week or Sunday morning to select a name from the tree. If unable to visit the tree, please text/call Tara Webb @ 923-9696 to select a name.



Thank you, FBC and our students, for helping us reach our goal. We delivered 107 turkeys all over our community on November 22. Our students prayed with each household (leaving a turkey and other food items as a gift). A beautiful opportunity to reflect God's love. Let's keep loving our neighbors.

Tara Webb, Minister to Students (twebb@clintonfbc.us)

Literature

December monthly literature (Journey, Stand Firm, Mature Living, Home Life, Parent Life and Living with Teenagers) is available. We also have adult Lifeway Sunday School You can drop by the church office during office hours to pick yours up.

Never the Same

"I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation." Psalm 118:21

Thanksgiving Day will mark one year since the terrible accident that injured my left hand. My hand has come a long way in its recovery, but I am having to come to terms with the fact that it will never be one hundred percent; there was simply too much damage. While I admit that things could have been worse, I am grieving the loss of a certain amount of ability in that hand and having to accept that it will never be the same as it was before. Every day, sometimes more than once, I must decide whether I will wallow in self-pity or move forward. I know that an *essential* part of keeping my mind and emotions pointing in the right direction is the regular exercise of giving thanks. Years ago, as I was trying to improve my banjo playing skills, a professional musician gave me this piece of advice, "Don't focus on what you can't do; focus on what you *can* do." I never imagined that advice would become so important, but it has. It is especially inspiring to me because that musician, a banjo player with incredible skills and ability, had experienced his own debilitating hand injury that has changed the way he plays and somewhat limits him in what he can do. Yet he still manages to make wonderful music that I enjoy listening to.

And so, I give thanks. I give thanks for the surgeon, occupational therapist, and other medical professionals who have taken such good care of me. For my wife who helped me

through multiple surgeries. I give thanks for the rest of my family and my church family who have asked me how I am doing and reminded me they are constantly praying for me. And I give thanks for what I *can* still do. Admittedly, some days that is harder to do than others, but I remind myself how important it is to keep doing that, *especially* when I am feeling down or discouraged.

This year has been hard for everyone and we are all grieving the loss of so many things—a sense of safety, security, and freedom; time with loved ones; trips and outings we had planned; and for many their jobs and income. It is natural to want things to go back to the way they were before, to snap back to "normal." But if we focus too much on what was and what may never be due to the pandemic or other challenging circumstances, we can become hopelessly paralyzed by what we *can't* do rather than on what we *can* do. So I encourage you, *especially* when you are feeling down or discouraged, to begin by giving thanks, naming even the simplest things for which you can be grateful.

The Lord made us for community, and even though we may not be able to gather in large groups right now, we can still stay connected in meaningful ways. If you are feeling down, reach out to a trusted friend or loved one and let them know. The pastoral staff is also here for you. Because while things may not be the same, they can always get better. Doug, dshenton@clintonfbc.us

**Homebound:**

Barbara Tedards, 801 Musgrove St, Clinton, SC 29325
You can send Mrs. Tedards a card/note.

Cookies for KAIROS Ministry

KAIROS Ministry is planning to serve prison inmates cookies as a Holiday Season Blessing. If you would like to bake cookies for this project, please have the cookies here by **Sunday, November 29**. They will be picked up from the church parlor after the 11:00 a.m. service. If you need "Cookie Guidelines, you may come by the church office during office hours to pick them up.

**Share the Warmth**

The Duke Energy Foundation will match dollar for dollar the first fifty dollars of each church, business, agency or individual gift given to Share the Warmth. United Ministries of Clinton will administer the funds for Laurens County. Please make the first \$50.00 check payable to SHARE THE WARMTH. If you would like to donate more than \$50.00 please make a separate check payable to United Ministries of Clinton. Last year because of your generosity, United Ministries was able to provide financial assistance to people in Laurens County who were unable to afford the cost of heating their home.

Life Groups

If interested in serving as a facilitator or joining a new Life Group launching at the end of January, please notify Chandler Black @ 923-6294 or cwblack93@yahoo.com, Amanda Davis @ 923-1297 or amanda.webb13@yahoo.com, Tara Webb @ 923-9696 or twebb@clintonfbc.us.

Budget Information Meeting

Our Budget and Finance Committee proposed a budget for 2021. You should have received the proposed budget through the mail or email. If you need a copy of the budget please email me (fbcamy@clintonfbc.us) or call 833-2578. We will be having a budget information meeting Wednesday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.

We are providing two options for this meeting: in-person in the Sanctuary or on Zoom. If you have any questions about the budget please plan on attending this meeting. If you are unable to attend and you have questions please call the church office and we will direct you to the right person.



Congratulations to Billy and Joy Laird on the birth of their son, Dawson William Dallas Laird. Dawson was born November 10, 2020.

Our church family extends their love and sympathy to Barbara Underwood and her family at the death of her mother, Joan Patricia Sears and to Joan Shealy, Pat Owens & Kathy Keadle and their families at the death of their sister, Polly Boyce.



Thank you to those who donated Prison Packets for DJJ. We had 27 packets to take to the Laurens Baptist Association.



FYI - Our Life Groups and individuals provided 7 buckets full of cleaning supplies for relief efforts at the Gulf Coast. CBF Staff delivered the buckets last week. Thank you for extending God's love.