

First Baptist Church
301 South Broad Street
P.O. Box 95
Clinton, SC 29325
January 20, 2021



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CLINTON, SC
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Electronic Service Requested

FBC church office: 864-833-2578
Emily Plowden, Financial Secretary:
eplowden@clintonfbc.us
Amy King, Secretary/receptionist:
fbcamy@clintonfbc.us

Office Hours:
Mon.—Thurs. 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Fri. 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Join us for Worship

January 24 online at 11:00 AM



(First Baptist Clinton)

No In-Person Worship this Sunday, January 24

A decision will be made weekly about
the next Sunday's in-person worship.

Sunday, February 7



**Feeding the
Community**

“Souper” Bowl Sunday joins Food on the First on February 7. We will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items during the month of February. You can drop your donations off outside the Fellowship Hall in the designated crate. These items will go to United Ministries of Clinton and the Laurens Baptist Crisis Center.

The Stream

Volume 7, Issue 2



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..."

January 20, 2021



Love

In light of the increasing heat of political division (I thought it would decrease after Nov. 3!) in our church and community, I've begun a series of messages in the New Year on the imperative **we** have (as Jesus-followers) to **love others**.

Jesus gave us a new, better command: “You must love each other just as I have loved you” (John 13:34, ERV). I know: that's setting the bar pretty high! Love like Jesus loved? Yet, that is the New Commandment from our Master, Jesus. So, in the New Year, we've drilled down to the most basic of basics answering this question: “How can we love others?” Sunday's message was the second one outlining ways our love can/ must be displayed. In short, we must demonstrate care for our local community and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Serve

After January 10's message “More Love; Less Loud” I received (several) thank yous from Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic's leadership because a church member decided to take on their landscaping issues. With a few dollars and a couple of hours invested, that need was met for one of our ministry partners. In this new year, how are you showing more love?

I pray you're already connected and committed in local ministry. Whether

you're doing the unseen work I heard about last week (some of our educators footing the bill for some students' meals) or whether you're willing to be one of those “younger” volunteers Joel Evans [(864) 923-1194] needs for Habitat for Humanity to continue its mission, or assist Bob and Linda Hudson [(864) 923-5319] continue to stuff Snack Packs for students at Clinton Elementary School please find a way to serve. You think, “They need it. Those people need me.” In reality, you need them. You'll thank me later.

So, where are you serving locally? We have an opportunity to make a big difference in our local food banks in upcoming weeks. There is now a basket available outside the Fellowship Hall 24/7 to help us collect canned/dry goods for United Ministries of Clinton. Please encourage your Sunday School classes/Life Groups to take advantage of the opportunity and pick up an extra bag of groceries every time you go and put that extra food in the basket each week/month.

Resumption of In-Person Worship

I'm using the word “resumption” purposefully. I pray we can resume our public gatherings soon. As you

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Stewardship Report

Week of January 10, 2021*

Regular Receipts	\$ 19,336.00
Designated	\$ 715.00
Total	\$ 20,051.00

Week of January 17, 2021*

Unavailable at time of printing

*Electronic giving not included.

2021 Weekly Budgeted Needs:
\$ 17,265.79

Year-to-date through 4th Quarter:

Regular Receipts: \$914,918.00
*Regular Disbursements: \$931,890.00
Budget Needs: \$873,038.00
*\$87,839.00 spent/transferred by non-budget voted on by church

To make a financial donation to FBC you can use your phone. Text ‘fbccclinton’ 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

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know, our leadership is meeting weekly to determine whether in-person, on-campus worship services seem to be a loving act during this particular phase of the pandemic. Hear me: we want to be in-person again! But the choice is not simply between “faith or fear” as some have put it. We have not ceased in-person gatherings because of fear. Not at all! We have decided temporarily to suspend public worship gatherings because of love—loving concern for our friends, strangers, community members, and church family. We are going to continue the live broadcasts of our services via YouTube and Facebook in the meantime (advantage: you can go back and watch any of the services you miss or re-watch one that your spouse says you need to work on).

My heart has been captured by Ephesians 4 in recent days. I encourage you to read it for yourself. A church Paul knew well (he spent at least two years there—working, discipling, living, loving) receives some of Paul’s best advice on relationships in the church. The beginning (vv. 1-3) and the end (vv. 28-31) of the chapter form perfect bookends—pillars, if you will—setting up what Holy Spirit-driven behavior

will look like in God’s people—humble, gentle, patient, seeking unity, helpful, considerate of others, kind, forgiving, beneficial—and what it will not look like—angry, bitter, raging, malicious, unwholesome, unkind, resentful.

What struck me was that, while those two “pillars” are holding up the entire structure of the chapter (and Christian relationships!), a “master key” is smack in the middle of the chapter—“speaking the truth in love” (v. 15). Sisters and brothers, we must do both, be loving and be truthful. It’s what a true friend would do for another. It’s what Jesus did for his friends! Remember Jesus’ confrontation with Simon when He called him “~~Peter~~” “Satan” (you Bible students will get that strikethrough—it’s the SAME story)?! Talk about speaking the truth in love!

Being loving doesn’t mean being spineless. It doesn’t mean weakness. It means caring enough to be honest and caring enough to say it with love. It means doing the things necessary to benefit the other person.

Blake, bharwell@clintonfbc.us

Literature

February monthly literature (Journey, Stand Firm, Mature Living, Home Life, Parent Life and Living with Teenagers) is available. You can drop by the church, call the office (833-2578) and we will bring it out to you..

Understanding the Cultures of the Bible

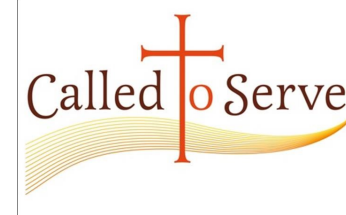
Have you ever read a passage from the Bible and asked, “Why did they do that?” While the Bible is God’s eternal word, we also have to remember that it was written by people and about people living in cultures that were very different than our own. And because the Bible is about real people who lived in real places at a real point in time, it’s important to understand the cultures in which they lived.

Several years ago, I led some of our Sunday school teachers through a study of a very insightful book called “**Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes**,” by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O’Brien. Those of us who read it agreed that it really helped us

understand the cultural context of the Bible. As you may know, so much in a culture goes without saying. (I’m still trying to master the nuances of “Bless your heart”!) The authors of that book have just come out with another one that is equally insightful and easy to read, called “**Misreading Scripture with Individual Eyes**.” (Those lists of “begats” in the Bible are a lot more important than we realize!)

As you seek to grow in your understanding of God’s word and its original context and cultures, I encourage you to pick up a copy of either of these helpful books.

Doug, dshenton@clintonfbc.us



Homebound:

Martha L. Young
801 Musgrove St, Clinton, SC 29325
You can send Mrs. Young a card/note.

Cookies for Essential Workers

This year Girl Scout Troop 1016 is asking for your help to honor essential workers in our community by buying Girl Scout cookies for them. These cookies would go to healthcare workers, police departments, first responders, etc. If you or your Sunday School class would like to participate you can donate \$5.00 for a box, \$30.00 for 1/2 case (6 boxes), \$60.00 for a case (12 boxes). Make checks payable to GSSCMM. You can bring your donations by the church office, place in the drop box in the Fellowship Hall kitchen door or mail to the church: FBC, P.O. Box 95, Clinton, SC 29325 Attention: Amy T. King.

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.



From the Church Office

Because of the increased COVID cases and for everyone’s safety we are limiting access to the church buildings (including the church office). If you need to drop something off or pick something up, please

call the church office (833-2578) and we will come to your car. Reminder: we have a drop box in the Fellowship Hall kitchen door for mail-size items. This box is checked regularly.



Congratulations to Corey and Amber Graydon on the birth of their daughter, Rory Isabella Graydon. Izzy was born January 13, 2021. Izzy’s big brother’s are Emmett and Roman.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the food, cards, prayers and phone calls during James’ illness and recent death. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.
With Love, The Daniel Family



Our church family extends their love and sympathy to Charlene Tollison and Dawn Edge at the death of their husband and father, Gerald Tollison.