

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

March 25, 2020

FBC church office: 864-833-2578

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eplowden@clintonfbc.us

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fbcamy@clintonfbc.us



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Pray...

...for your neighbors and community.

...for our church and leaders.

...for our state/country and leaders.

...for our world!!

From the Church Office

As a precautionary measure we are closing the church office except for **Wednesdays 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon and by appointment**. If you need to drop off a tithe or other donation you may bring it by the office during the Wednesday morning time. If you cannot come by on Wednesday morning, you may call and leave a message for Emily. She will call you and arrange a time for you to come by the church office or she can come to your house to pick it up.

If you need something, please call the church office (833-2578) or email (eplowden@clintonfbc.us or fbcamy@clintonfbc.us). We will be in and out of the office checking voice messages and emails.

The Stream

Volume 6, Issue 7

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..."

Strange Days, Same Lord

March 25, 2020

We are living in strange days, brothers and sisters. You already know that. We (and those we love) need some things right now that we may not have (thought we) needed a few weeks back. May I offer some suggestions?

Hand-washing regimens. The CDC has remained consistent in pushing a focused, detailed process (at least twenty seconds) of hand washing. No matter how you feel, wash your hands, OFTEN.

Physical Distancing protocols. Six feet away seems a loooooong way away for this serial hugger. But, according to the best medical minds around, that's the CLOSEST we should be to people. If this virus is going to be minimized we all must practice this distancing. According to several studies, the primary carriers of the illness are younger adults with no symptoms at the time of transmission. That's why we're not physically meeting as a church body, Sunday School class, or any other capacity. No matter your age or how you feel, and regardless of what politicians say, please stay home. Listen to the medical experts. If you must get out, keep the six feet distance and clean the things you're going to touch (or wear gloves). On that front...

If you have a stockpile of latex gloves around, you might want to **consider sending them** to a hospital/nursing facility that may truly need them! Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, gowns, etc.) are in short-supply in places hard-hit by the virus. South Carolina will, inevitably (if we don't practice the physical distancing recommended) be facing a similar scenario in coming days.

Worship services are now online and in video (Facebook [at First Baptist Clinton] and YouTube [search First Baptist Church, Clinton SC]. Please "Like" our

Facebook page if you're on Facebook and watch/participate as you have time). We want to continue to minister to you and stay in touch during these days. Please call us. (864) 833-2578. Even if the church office is closed, we are checking in and getting messages.

Pastoral Care: please know that we (your church staff) care! We have, however, decided to limit our physical contact with church members unless the need is dire. We are trying to be as compliant as we can with the Governor's (and CDC's) requests/guidelines.

We want to encourage you to **minister to each other and your neighbors**. That includes your Sunday School classes but also our wider world. Keep your eyes open and spiritual antennae up for these opportunities. No matter your age, you probably have a neighbor that might need something from the grocery, etc. ASK before you go out: "Is there something I can get for you?" Caring for people IS our mission, Church!

Give to missions and your church! We are RIGHT NOW in our Season of Prayer and Giving for North American Missions. Please use the envelope you received last week and send in your missions/regular/new building gifts.

In another strange day, an ancient writer encouraged people with these words: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Let Him be your rock of consistency in these unusual days. Blake, bharwell@clintonfbc.us

Stewardship Report

March 8, 2020

Regular Receipts	\$ 14,332.57
Designated	\$ 3,632.00
Total	\$17,964.57

March 15, 2020

Regular Receipts	\$ 9,315.00
Designated	\$ 1,378.00
Total	\$ 10,693.00

Week of March 22, 2020

Regular Receipts	\$ 5,562.00
Designated	\$ 2,675.00
Total	\$ 8,237.00

Thru February

Regular Receipts

Year-to-date: \$134,089.85

Regular Disbursements

Year-to-date \$152,872.07

Budget Needs

Year-to-date \$127,159.00

Over/under Budget

Year-to-date: \$6,930.85

Attendance Report

March 15, 2020

10:30 am Worship: 274
9:30 am Bible Study: 236

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First Baptist Clinton

www.fbccclintonsc.com

Student Ministry

6th—12th graders

No face-to-face meetings for at least the next two weeks; however, we will continue to “meet” virtually. We don’t want to lose our connections or interactions! So **checkout our plans.....**

Virtual TRUTH starting March 29 @ 7:00pm (checkout our SM social media pages and Re-mind for the details later this week)

TRUTH Chats will begin immediately following *Virtual TRUTH* this Sunday (your small group leaders will contact you with the link information to join the group chat)

Service Projects – we have several opportunities to serve our community (within the safety guidelines and recommendations of our Governor and CDC). Be on the lookout for these opportunities and serve wherever possible. You will be informed through your *TRUTH Chats* and our SM social media pages.

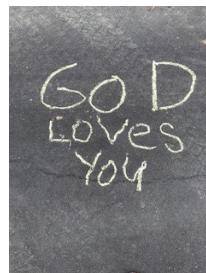
New Series, Happy Easter

Start your daily devotions this week. Checkout the YouVersion on your Bible App for the *Happy Easter* series.

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

A Note from Mrs. Melissa

Parents and Children,
I want each of you to know that I am praying for you and I miss you terribly. I am in awe of the blessings I am witnessing in these days. Continue to come together, friends, and love one another. I will be posting lessons and family resources on our Children's Ministry Facebook page in the coming days. Please access if you have not done so already. I know this is a time of uncertainty for all of us, but remember that God is in control. "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." Psalm 56:3 Mrs. Melissa



Melissa Chandler, Minister to Children (mchandler@clintonfbc.us)

Apart But Not Separated

Do you Zoom? Some of our Sunday School classes are staying connected and “gathering” online using Zoom, Skype, or other videoconferencing programs. This past weekend, I hosted one and sat in on another. Believe it or not the conversations were very rich and it was fun to get a peek into people's home lives. It is so important that we stay connected even as we remain apart. Our church is planning as many opportunities as possible for our adults, youth, and children to meet with one another virtually. Even if your Sunday school class is not comfortable using something like Zoom, I encourage each class to be as intentional as possible about its ministry to one another. De-

pending on the size of your class, recruit “phone deacons” who will call a reasonable list of other class members to check on them and pray with them. If you haven't been attending a Sunday school or Bible study group, this may be a great chance to try one out from the literal safety of your home. Contact me and I will put you in touch with one. And don't forget to email us pastors or the church office with your prayer concerns. We want to know how to be praying for you.

Doug, dshenton@clintonfbc.us, (864) 939-9478



Thank you very much for the love and support from my church family, also for the cards and bereavement supplies. Please continue praying for us all during the worse time of our lives.
Love, Mary Beth Truelock, Jasmine Truelock & Austin Cogsdill

Ministry OpportunitiesOFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS**North American Missions Offering**

Pray for missionaries serving in North America and give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and/or the CBF Global Missions Offering. FBC Goal: 5,000.00; received as of 3/24/20: \$649.00

Homebound

Velma Burnett

801 Musgrove St, Clinton, SC 29325

Take time to send Mrs. Burnett a card/note.

Mission Project for April

Youth Missions

First Baptist Church

P.O. Box 95, Clinton, SC 29325

No Ministry

Health Kits

needed for 2020

Safe Home needs

Safe Home currently has 10 children living in the home which leads to a lot of needs. They are looking for the following items: **Cleaning Supplies, 13 gallon trash bags, Paper products (including toilet paper), Snacks, Craft supplies, Board games for children (mainly under 10), Playing cards, Adult coloring books, Word search, Sliced bread, Cake mixes & frosting, Legos**

If you are able to make a donation, please contact the Church Office or Tara Webb (923-9696) to schedule a pickup. We will come and do a porch pickup so you don't need to come out. Obviously some of these items are hard to find in the stores so if you have an extra supply and can spare one or two of these items to help a group of women and children that are basically quarantined in the same house, that would be very helpful.

He Keeps Me Singing...**Wait on God and Hope in Him (Psalm 27: 7-14)**

Remember back when we used the term “waiter” and “waitress” for people who helped us at restaurants and diners? These days they go by the title “server.” Isn't that interesting? Maybe in these days of “waiting” on God, God doesn't want us just standing around. Maybe serving is the best that we can do.

But that's not all. Here are some other things we can do while we are in this waiting season. Done well, I think, they will change your life!

1. Worship God

Worship has gotten me through the darkest times of my life. Right now, you may feel like you are in a prison of depression, loss, devastation, and hopelessness but, through the power of worship, you can break free. Paul and Silas were imprisoned for sharing the gospel in Acts 16, but, when they worshipped, the Holy Spirit broke through so explosively, He caused an earthquake! Worship can shake your world! Don't give up or throw in the towel, but break through in the power of worship!

2. Walk with the Holy Spirit

The best times I've ever experienced weren't while walk-

ing on a South Caroling beach, hiking in the Grand Tetons or being on vacation. Those were great times for sure. But for me, the best times I've ever experienced have been in my quiet times with God. There's nothing quite like hearing the sweet whisper of the Holy Spirit and having friendship with God.

Colossians 3:23... Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

3. Work Hard

When I say, “Work hard”, I'm not talking about the “9-to-5” routine... although being a good employee or boss is a biblical thing and it's extremely important. Remember the waiting on God thing (we don't call people who bring us or food in restaurants “waiters or waitresses” anymore; we call them “servers”)? I've discovered, if we serve while we wait, we are much happier and fulfilled. **The success in waiting is in serving!**

Joy!

Pastor Mark (mmcmahan@clintonfbc.us)