

the Vision

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | JULY 2020

livestreaming
online

No
Sunday
School

Bring a chair or
stay in
your car

★ Outside Worship Service ★

Sun **JULY 5th** 10am

Happy Independence Day!



Where We Are, Where We Are Going And What I Learned While We Were Distancing

We reopened with two services, and with precautions, on June 14. Thank you for your flexibility as we are settling into this first phase of reentry! But the truth is, right now is the most difficult phase. We are somewhere in between “all-out” and “all-in.” Here’s what I mean.

When you learned to ride a bike, you started “all-out.” That is, you didn’t know how to ride a bike. Then you phased in. You and your parents made necessary preparations, and then you started step one. At that stage you learned to ride, probably using training wheels. But the training wheels didn’t come off until you were ready to be “all-in.”

Such “phasing in” illustrates in a simplistic way what is happening now. When we had suspended activities, were social distancing, staying home, and online streaming only, we were “all-out” and the conditions were fairly absolute. But right now we are in that in-between time, phasing in, and frankly, we are having to learn and adjust as we go. So let’s be patient. This won’t last forever, and we’ll do our best to move to the next phase as soon as we can. Then, eventually, we will move into the final phase, and we can come back with all of our ministries pumping on all cylinders, back to a predictable pace, and we will be “all-in,” and the conditions will be, again, fairly absolute.

And as we prepare for the next phase, and then for being “all-in” again, we need to make sure we will be prepared. For instance, will leaders be in place for the fall?

Remember that this is the time that we would normally be preparing for the new church year. Committees should not wait. Plan to meet virtually if you need to. Make sure that you are ready for the new church year to start in the fall. Ask for help from me, Pastor Mike, or the office staff if you need it.

The Nominating Committee has been working to renew leadership for the next church year. We need to know that when we start the church year, we will have leaders in place. I cannot stress enough how important this is, and I am grateful for those who have responded to the Nominating Committee. However, if you have been contacted by the Nominating Committee and you have not yet responded, please do so as soon as you finish reading this!

Ministries will return to the campus when we can safely phase them in. We want to be ready, with leadership in place, when that time comes.

So, also, as we look ahead, you might wonder when we will get back to “business as usual”? That’s a good question, but I don’t think “business as usual” should be our main goal.

See, distancing taught me something critical about the way we do church. And it’s the way most churches do church. That is, we are too dependent on the building to operate and function as a church. Don’t get me wrong. The building is wonderful, and we are blessed to have the location and the resources that we have. And we are instructed in the Bible to gather for corporate worship and fellowship (Acts 2:42, Heb. 10:25). But what if we could not come to the building? What if this, or something like this, happens again and we are prevented from utilizing the campus, even temporarily? We would miss it, but that should not keep us from carrying on as a church.

I believe that the most important thing we have learned in this time of distancing is that we cannot, and we must not, continue a form of Christianity that requires us to come to the building to be the church. You and I both know that, biblically speaking, the building is not the “church.” The people are. It’s time we started acting like it.

So with that in mind, I am developing new ministries that will help us stay connected, grow in Christ, and build relationships regardless of what is happening in the culture around us. These will be sustainable but flexible. I have mentioned these in past emails, but I want to update you on the first one that I will be rolling out in July, the Connection Groups.

The purpose of the Connection Groups is exactly what the name implies—to stay connected and to facilitate loving one another. I am currently recruiting leaders, and once the leaders are in place, groups of ten family units will be created. Every family unit will be in a Connection Group. These groups are in addition to the loving care you have in your Sunday School class or in other ministries, and you will get to know new people, meet needs together, and even serve alongside one another. So look for more information on the Connection Groups to come out in the next few weeks.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday, in person or online! In the meantime, keep loving God, loving one another, and loving the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Last chance to **bleed our high school graduates** with cards, notes, or gift cards to help them as they move on to the next phase of their lives. Items may be placed in the designated bags in Worship Center or dropped off/mailed to the church office. All items are due by July 25, 2020.
- A **High School Graduate Dinner & Commissioning Ceremony** will be held on July 26 at 6pm. In order to comply with social distancing guidelines, the dinner will be for graduates, parents and siblings only. For more information, contact Pastor Michael at michael@firstbaptistshallotte.com.
- **Communion** will be celebrated on July 19 during both services. At 8:30am indoors only and at 11am indoors, drive-in or streaming. For those in attendance in the Worship Center, please pick up your individually packaged supplies as you come in. Drive-in will be available with audio only where you will be provided your individually packaged supplies by a deacon with mask and gloves. If you will be joining us online, pick up your supplies at the office during office hours or give us a call and we will have them delivered.
- **Quarterly Ministry Meeting** will be held on July 19 at 6pm. Attend in person or by conference call. To get access to the conference call, sign up at fbcshallotte.org/meeting or call the church office.
- **Coming Up...Youth True Love Waits Ceremony** will be held on August 9 at 6pm. Grandparents, parents, siblings and volunteers will be in attendance. A live stream will be available for everyone else wanting to support our youth. For more information, contact Pastor Michael.

Bags of Hope Ministry

FBCS' Bags of Hope Ministry has been providing groceries to families in our community that are at high risk and not able to shop during the Corona Virus outbreak. If you would like to volunteer to help or know a family in need, visit fbcshallotte.org/hope to let us know. Donations to our Disaster Relief Fund support this ministry. Help us continue this ministry through August!





Love God.
Love One Another.
Love the World.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048 fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Sunday School online
Worship 8:30am & 11:00am

Read the Bible Beginning to End Reading Plan

1-Year Plan. It is important to understand the fullness of God's message to the churches, and a great way of doing this is reading the Old and New Testaments simultaneously. This plan, which can be completed in one calendar year, does just that. Readings from both Testaments are included from the beginning and although each reading does not contain both Testaments, the two are read effectively.

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|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/1 Job 20-21; Acts 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/12 Psalms 4-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/23 Psalms 33-34; Acts 24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/2 Job 22-24; Acts 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/13 Psalms 7-9; Acts 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/24 Psalms 35-36; Acts 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/3 Job 25-27; Acts 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/14 Psalms 10-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/25 Psalms 37-39; Acts 26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/4 Job 28-29; Acts 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/15 Psalms 13-15; Acts 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/26 Psalms 40-42; Acts 27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/5 Job 30-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/16 Psalms 16-17; Acts 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/27 Psalms 43-45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/6 Job 32-33; Acts 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/17 Psalms 18-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/28 Psalms 46-48; Acts 28 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/7 Job 34-35; Acts 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/18 Psalms 20-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/29 Psalms 49-50; Romans 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/8 Job 36-37 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/19 Psalms 23-25; Acts 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/30 Psalms 51-53; Romans 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/9 Job 38-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/20 Psalms 26-28; Acts 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/31 Psalms 54-56; Romans 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/10 Job 41-42; Acts 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/21 Psalms 29-30; Acts 23 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/11 Psalms 1-3; Acts 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/22 Psalms 31-32 | |