

Last Sunday's Record - May 17, 2020

Offering: \$ 14,305.00

January 1, 2020

Requirements: \$523,177.40

Receipts: \$537,975.88

Deacon of the Week

5/24 - John Anderson, Sr.

5/31 - Tommy Cason

Sermon for May 24

"A Long Way Home"

Lamentations 3:22-26

CONTINUING PRAYER NEEDS

Margaret Roberson (1/8/20) Joe Ross' sister

Julia Joyce Horn (1/8/20) Joyce Frank's granddaughter

Susan Dunn (1/9/20)

Dottie Schachte (1/9/20) friend of Arlene Campbell

Sandra Johnson (1/19/20) friend of Sandra Dennis

Hays Monsour (1/20/20)

Emily Price (7/20/20)

Dorothy and Harry Little (1/20/20)

Les and Liz Prystup (1/20/20)

Rebecca King (1/20/20)

Lisa and Wayne Powell (1/20/20)

Ginger Richardson (1/22/20)

Carole Lewis (1/22/20)

Pat Dalferes (1/26/20) friend of Debi Perkins

Freddie Poitevent (1/28/20)

Robert and Coweela George (1/28/20)

Debra Porter's sister and brother-in-law

Jim and Gloria Addison (1/28/20)

Ken Smith (1/28/20) Linda Smith's brother

The Cobb Family

Kelly Richardson (1/28/20)

Michelle Spedero (1/28/20) Diane Davison's daughter

Leonard Jones Pam Maloney's father

Donna Rainey (1/22/19) Gaile Culpepper's cousin

Jack Follis (1/29/19)

Cindy Howell (1/27/20) Molly Ellis' niece

Danny Hill (2/3/20) friend of Ward Calhoun, Jr.

Maude Grant (2/3/20) Richard Grant's mother (ESL)

Antonia Garza (2/9/20) friend of Lisa Powell

Andrea Powell (2/11/20) friend of the VanHorns

Ellen Rogers (2/12/20)

Candy Meyers (2/12/20) Marilyn Green's niece

Jaeger Cumberland (2/17/20) Dorothy Little's great grandson

Family of Lynn Combest (2/17/20)

Cary Vaughn (2/23/20)

David Monsour (2/24/20) friend of Leonard Cobb

Louise Ellis (3/1/20) John Ellis' mother

Tony Sansone (3/1/20)

Maudie Newsome (3/1/20)

Mel Bounds (3/1/20)

Paulette Hopkins (3/1/20) David Hopkins' mother

Barbara Cleveland (3/10/20) Ingrid Price's friend

Judge Charles Smith (3/16/20) Friend of Leonard Cobb

Gray Spencer 3/20/20 Pam Gray's cousin's son

Dee Negrete (3/20/20) Joe and Betty Ross' daughter

Emily Olander (3/28/20) Gary and Sally Wilkinson's niece

Pete and Julie Bertrand (3/31/20) Albert Alston's friend

Brook Davis (3/31/20) Jennifer Williams' husband's cousin

Pete Denton (4/1/20) Ray Denton/Cathy Carpenter's father

Raymon Leake (4/1/20)

Michelle Weatherford (4/8/20) friend of Shea Leake

Jim Harris (4/8/20) Tammy Matthews' father

Debbie Adams (4/15/20) Caitlin Braud's mother

Tim Thesman (4/15/20) Carol Wink's brother

JoAnn Braddock (4/21/20)

Julia Parker (4/24/20) friend of Micki Harrison

Richard Lewis (4/27/20) Micki Harrison's father

Georgene Garrett (4/28/20)

Janice Deweese Jones (4/30/20)

Ted Rayborn (5/30/20) Tommy Allen's brother-in-law

Maria Allen (5/30/20) Tommy Allen's niece

Candy Cornish (5/7/20) Lorie Anderson's friend

Nelda Dearman (5/7/20) Gaile Culpepper's cousin

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

Family of Margaret Harrison (5/18/20)

Family of Ron Parmerton (Mary Emma Allen's brother-in-law)

Jim Singley (5/18/20)

Dr. Nathan VanHorn, Pastor

Rev. David Bishop, Associate Pastor for Music

Zach DePriest, Minister of Youth Caitlin Braud, Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Raymon Leake, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. David McCubbin, Associate Pastor Emeritus

701 26th Avenue Meridian, MS 39301 601.484.4600 www.fbcmeridian.org

THE MESSENGER



FBCM

First Baptist Church
Meridian

May 24, 2020

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"For I know the plans I have for you,"
says the Lord. "They are plans
for good and not for disaster, to
give you a future and a hope."

~ Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

FBC Re-opening
plans inside
The Messenger

Dear Church Family,

I MISS you wonderful people. By the grace of God, I hope that I don't have to miss you much longer. For the past several weeks, our staff has been thinking, praying, and planning through resuming corporate worship and gradually pursuing a return to our weekly ministries. The predictably bad news is that this will occur gradually rather than all-at-once. The good news is that we are on the cusp of a major milestone in that process.

After much consideration, we have decided to resume corporate worship on Sunday morning, June 14. Even so, we are acutely aware that we are still in the midst of this pandemic, so we will have several (hopefully) *short-term* precautions in place.

- **We will not resume on-campus Sunday School classes until this fall.** For the immediate future, we want to avoid intermingling groups in confined spaces. This means that, starting June 14, Sunday School classes will need to find a time to meet via Zoom (or the platform of their choice) that allows participants to attend corporate worship in person if desired. Similarly, we will continue to have Wednesday night Bible study online for the duration of the summer.
- **We recommend (but will not require) that you wear masks when entering and exiting the sanctuary.** If you do not have a mask, we will have disposable masks available. Additionally, we will provide hand sanitizer stations throughout the welcome center and at the entrance to the sanctuary if needed.
- **We ask that you sit only with immediate family in the sanctuary, maintaining a social distance of 6-to-10 feet between families during worship.** We will assist in this effort by marking off some pews temporarily. I know everybody has "their pew," but we humbly ask that

you grant this short-term concession in pursuit of our long-term goals. Similarly, when entering and exiting the sanctuary, please avoid congregating too closely. For those desiring additional space, the fellowship hall will be available as an overflow worship area with worship livestreamed.

- **We ask that you actively refrain from hugs, handshakes, and other gestures of affection during this time.** You will see clever reminders about this around the facility, including my personal favorites: "Spread the Gospel, not the germs" and "Love thy neighbor; sanitize thy hands."
- **We will not be passing offering plates during this time.** Gloved ushers will be stationed at the sanctuary entrance at the beginning of worship to dispense bulletins and at the end of worship to accept any tithes and offerings. Should you desire, you can still give through the drop box near the church office, online (via the ShelbyNext app or fbcmeridian.org), or by mail.
- **For the immediate future, we will not provide childcare or children's church during worship.** Caitlin will still do a children's sermon (which will be visible on the large screen), but we will ask children to remain with their parents. Additionally, we will provide a handout to help keep children occupied during worship, and the fellowship hall will be utilized as an overflow area (with worship livestreaming on the televisions).
- **We encourage "at-risk" members to take every precaution concerning their physical wellness, possibly continuing to worship from home if desired.**

We are confident that these concessions and inconveniences are only for a season. If you have any symptoms associated with the virus, please worship

from home because we want to do all we can to promote the wellness of our entire church family during this time. For now, we genuinely look forward to seeing and worshipping with you *in-person* soon. And we continue to thank God for His faithfulness—and yours—to our church and the mission of His Kingdom.

Nathan VanHorn

Sympathies to...

Benny and Anna Harrison and family in the death of Margaret Harrison.

Dwayne and Julie Sharp and family in the death of her cousin, Elaine Spence Brown.

Tommy and Mary Emma Allen and family in the death of her brother-in-law, Ron Parmerton.

JoAnn Braddock and family in the death of her sister-in-law, Elouise George.

Memorials...

Music Fund

In memory of:

Anne Furse (*Susan Hill's sister*)

Elaine Spence Brown (*Julia Sharp's cousin*)

Thank you to all the faithful givers of FBC!
As a reminder, you can mail your offering to **701 26th Avenue, Meridian, MS 39301**, or give online through our **ShelbyNext app** or through our website (www.fbcmeridian.org).

F260 WEEK 21 READING beginning 5/24/20

Monday - Jonah 1-2

Tuesday - Jonah 3-4

Wednesday - Hosea 1-3

Thursday - Amos 1:1, 9

Friday - Joel 1-3

Memory Verses: Psalm 16:11, John 11:25-26