

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of North East

April 2020

Newsletter

Vol. 51 No. 7

Dear church family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today. Our whole world is in a difficult situation because of this coronavirus pandemic. It has disrupted all of our lives for sure. We have had to discontinue all of our church gatherings for the foreseeable future, just as the president has asked us all to do.

The Sunday worship service at 10:30am will be streamed on our church Facebook page. So far 163 of you have viewed the service, which includes the prayers, announcements, the music of our praise team as well as my sermon. Let me encourage you all to avail yourselves of this wonderful option in this time of crisis.



The Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center has remained open, with lots of added precautions of course. Childcare is considered essential services, given permission by Governor Hogan to stay open. That can change at any time, but so far we still have 15 workers providing care for approximately 9 children. God bless Sandy Jackson as she directs and coordinates this ongoing frontline effort of our church's ministry. Please read her article for more details.

1 Peter 5:7 tells us to "cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." I have put that verse up on my refrigerator so I can read it several times a day. It is a good verse for all of us during these difficult times.

Another passage that God has impressed on my heart is Numbers 16. This is an account of Israel wandering in the wilderness. There was rebellion in the camp from a Levite named KORAH. God punished him and all of his followers. "The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron" (Numbers 16:41). In response, God sent a plague. "Wrath has come out of the LORD. The plague has started" (Numbers 16:46).

(continued on page 3)

JLMCC Update

Unprecedented. A word that has become a part of our daily conversation. It definitely applies to what is happening in our world right now! As I am writing this, Governor Hogan has reduced our state to essential personnel only. WE ARE ESSENTIAL! Some of our parents have essential jobs and we will continue to be here and do our part to support our community! Our attendance number went from 74 children to just 9 children in care, in just a matter of days!

As a childcare center director, I am faced with making decisions that affect the families in our community and the staff that work in our classrooms. The weight of this has never been as heavy as it is right now. It is stressful! It is overwhelming!! It is frustrating!!! But the one thing that I have clung to day in and day out is that, God is in control! We don't know what tomorrow holds, but HE DOES! (continued on page 2)



April Anniversaries

1	Tim & Laura Bayer
3	John & Donna Sprout
8	Tom & Grace Shores
16	Richard & Nancy Brasefield
17	Ed & Carol Evans
17	Bobby & Nancy Hudler
18	George & Betty Jackson
30	Robert & Dorothy Gregson

During this time of “social distancing” due to the virus, many are mourning the loss of being able to go out and celebrate these special occasions. Reach out to those on our lists, and wish them blessings on their special day.

(JLMCC Update continued from page 1)

As a teaching team we are standing on His promise to use ALL things together for our good! ALL THINGS!!! Even a global pandemic!

We have reduced our staff, temporarily closed two of our classrooms, and will continue to adjust as the need arises. Our mission has always been to be here to meet the childcare needs of our community with the love and compassion of Jesus! We are ALL in this together! Childcare providers are a tough bunch! A Bible Believing, Jesus Trusting, childcare provider? Well! It's going to take more than a virus to hold us back! We thank you all for your continued prayers and support! And remember, GOD IS IN CONTROL!!!

- Sandy Jackson, JLMCC Director



April Birthdays

1	Tala Rae Hodanics
3	Connie Harris
3	Liam Johnson
3	Ava Marvel
4	Kyle Hudler
4	David Mash, III
5	Gerrit Hopman
5	Kaitlyn Perry
5	Keegan Perry
9	Valeria Cornwell
9	Jim Hall
13	Maci Lotman
14	Edna Miller
14	Sophia Moyer
19	Bronwyn Bare
19	Brook Bare
19	Blake Bare
19	Janice Kennard
19	Will Robertson, Sr.
22	April Lotman
22	Ray Sommers
23	Jordan Grant
23	David Naggie
24	John Ewing
27	Jessica Holland
28	Andrew Jackson
29	Tyler Wagner



(Pastor's Letter continued from page 1)

I can't say if the coronavirus is a punishment or discipline from the Lord, but if it is, there is plenty of sin and wickedness in our world to justify it. What I can say for sure is that we can do what Moses and Aaron did that caused God to stop the plague. They "stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped" (Numbers 16:48).

I believe God is calling all Christians to be prayer intercessors; to stand between the living and the dead. Each of us should repent of any sin in our lives and pray to God for mercy. Pray for yourself and pray for your family. Pray for our church family. Pray for our nation. Pray for our world. You can intercede with God for others just like Moses and Aaron did.

This should be a wake-up call for us all. The tragedy will be compounded if we fail to heed God's call. In the tribulation prophesied in Revelation 9:18-21, God will send 3 plagues upon the earth. But the sad epitaph written over that is they "still did not repent of the work of their hands...worshipping demons...their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immoralities or their thefts" (Revelation 9:20-21).

We are not yet in that great tribulation that shall come upon the whole world. We do not have to be like they will be – unrepentant. What does God need to do to get our attention? Will you join me in a daily prayer of intercession? Intercede for your family, our church, our nation, and even the world. God will hear your prayers. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

I believe God is gracious, merciful and loving. He wants to forgive our sin and heal our land. The real question is, will we do our part? Will we humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways?

As never before, we who are Christians need to work together and be his witnesses. A lost and dying world needs what we have in Christ. We can make a difference. We can help those (or someone) that God brings across our way. Let's all try to be a blessing today.

Your brother in Christ in this crisis,

Pastor Steve

Dr. Stephen D. Hokuf



For the most up to date information, please...

- Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FBCNE)
- Visit our website @ www.fbcne.org

We will be adding a new feature to our website...**Online giving**. It should be available within the next week. This is an easy way to tithe, not just during this time, but in the future as well. A link will be posted to our website. If you wish to do so, please use the link and follow the prompts to set up. It is **easy** and **safe**. You have the choice to set up directly from your bank account, or from a bank/credit card.

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Published 10 times a year.

An electronic version of our newsletter is available on our website as a pdf file and may be emailed to you upon request. It will be emailed to you instead of a mailed, printed copy.

First Baptist Church of North East

206 Mechanics Valley RD
North East, MD 21901-3824

Phone: 410 287-6247

E-mail: fbcne@verizon.net

Website: www.fbcne.org

Find us on Facebook

Dr. Stephen D. Hokuf, Pastor

Dan Mohler, Associate Pastor

Tim Bayer, Youth Associate

Jess Wagner,

Editor/Ministry Assistant

Mailing Assistants: Linda Gocolinski,

Bernice Jackson



We have all been affected by the COVID-19 virus epidemic, and have had to adjust the way we go about our everyday lives. For the time being, we can not meet within the walls of the church building. However, that doesn't mean we must miss out on our time of worship. It just means that our worship time will look a little different than it did before. Please follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FBCNE), where you can find words of encouragement throughout the week, as well as worship live with us at 10:30am every Sunday (or view the video at a later time), until we can once again worship together, face to face.



First Baptist Church of North East
206 Mechanics Valley Road
North East, MD 21901

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES/EVENTS

Sunday

8:30am

WORSHIP

9:20am

Breakfast *(1st Sun, monthly)*

9:30am

📖 **Sunday School/Bible Study**

10:30am

WORSHIP/Children's Worship

Tuesday

6pm

🎵 **Praise & Worship Team Practice**

Wednesday

6:30pm

Kids' Klub

6:30pm

Youth

6:30-7:30pm

📖 **Prayer/Bible Study**

BUSINESS Mtg *(2nd Wed—after Prayer Mtg)*

Thursday

10am

Fold Lamplighter *(Last Thurs of the month)*

10am

Ladies' Prayer Time

(Please note: All weekly services are cancelled until further notice.)

Budget/Attendance Analysis

Budget/General Fund Weekly
Average as of 3/22/2020
(12 weeks): **\$2,994**

Needed Weekly: **\$3,820**

Budget Status: **-\$9,915**

Maintenance/Building
Repairs Fund: **\$3,645**

PARKING LOT FUND:

Received to date: **\$43,550**

Church goal: **\$47,745**

Annie Armstrong Easter
Offering: **\$180**

Average morning worship
attendance:
2/16/20—3/15/20: **60**