

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of North East

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 6

MARCH 2021

Weekly Services & Group Meetings

Sunday

8:30am: Worship Service

9:30am: Sunday School/Bible Study (classes available for Preschool through Adult)

10:30am: Worship Service & Children's Worship

5:30pm-7:30pm: Youth (grades 6 through 12)

Wednesday

6:30pm: Kids' Klub

6:30pm: Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Monthly Business Meeting immediately to follow, 2nd Wed. of each month)

Thursday

10am: Ladies' Prayer Circle

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear church family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will all be glad for spring to come after all of this snow and ice we've had lately. Personally I like the snow, so I can get out in it with my grandkids. We have made a host of snowmen this winter and sliding down the hill for hours never gets old. But..., well you know. I like spring, too. Come spring.

As we come out of this Covid winter we hope to have some semblance of normalcy. Many of you have gotten your vaccinations (as have I) and are feeling more and more comfortable being out and about. We still must be diligent to protect each other, but the danger is lessening with each new day. We are going to continue all our services with masks and social distancing for the foreseeable future, but even that will not be forever. Although sometimes it seems like it might be for a while yet.

The 1st Saturday Deacons' meeting has been taking place all along, but we are going to add a new element starting this month. At 8 AM we will invite all the men to join us for breakfast and a short Bible Study time, until about 9:30. We will do it upstairs in the educational wing and it won't be elaborate, but all are welcome. Pastor James Area will be leading out this month, so please come.

His wife, Tanya (pronounced Tan-ya, not Ton-ya) has been busy redecorating several of our classrooms. Look what she has done to her husband's office/youth room! She is so talented and full of energy. Now she is working on the nursery, and it is shaping up nicely. Be sure to walk down the hall and see the progress. I know it will be a big encouragement to the whole church body for years to come; it surely is to me. Thank you, Tanya! (*Pastor, continued on page 3*)



What's Behind the Mask?

Last week we had a new little one join our Caterpillar classroom at JLMCC. Just barely two years old. We have had his older sister for nearly two years and now it's his turn to join our classroom of little ones. I might also add, this was his first experience with being cared for outside the home. The staff was so excited to receive him and we anticipated his arrival! Current Covid-19 guideline state that parents are not permitted entrance to our building. Only staff and children. The children are dropped at the door and a teacher receives them and walks them to their classroom. We don't like it, parents don't like it, and the children don't like it. But,...That's just how it is. Never has this new guideline been as painful as it was this past week.

This new little guy came on his first day and was handed to one of our masked teachers at the door. Mom and Dad have great faith and confidence in our staff and knew he was going to be in good hands, yet their heart broke seeing him cry as he was dropped off. We comforted his parents and assured them we would take great care of him and help him through this transition. But, the crying continued, on and off, most of the day. And his second day. And his third day. It diminished a little each day, but we could clearly tell he was still struggling. And then something happened that third day that shed so much light on the situation.

The teacher was holding him on his third day, trying to comfort him through a rough bout of tears. That's when it happened! With one quick move, (as only a two-year-old can move!) he reached up and ripped the mask off the face of the teacher holding him! All the staff in the room froze! Oh No!! A teacher's mask came off!!! What do we do?!! I gave a gesture that said, "It's ok." Then, we all noticed that his crying stopped immediately! He just stared at her face! He needed to see her face!!! He needed to see what was behind the mask! How could he truly connect with his caregiver if her face was covered and hidden from him?! When we all realized

what was happening, well, we did what any good caregiver would do. We cried.

Looking back on that moment made me realize that masks, both physical and spiritual, can keep us from the thing we need the most. Connection! Physical masks don't let us see a person's joy, pain, sorrow, or frustration. How often have you shared a smile with someone, and they smiled right back at you? How did it make you feel? That's connection in its simplest form! I miss receiving and sharing a smile with people I meet. How about you?

My spiritual mask is what I wear when I think I am hiding away the parts of me that I don't want to face. I don't want Jesus to see those broken parts, in fear that he will be disappointed with me or maybe love me less. The longer I wear that mask, the less aware I become of its presence. The longer I wear that mask, the more separated from Jesus I become. Jesus wants all of us to come to him with honesty and truth! And here is the part that baffles me. Jesus already knows what's behind my mask! All my hurts, disappointments, regret, anger, fear, ALL of it! And yet, I still try to hide behind my mask! He wants me to take the mask off. Jesus wants true connection with all of us! Fully unmasked, honest, raw connection! He already loves us, even though He can already see what's really behind the mask! So, don't be afraid to take it off! Rip it off like a two-year-old longing for connection!! It is then that we find true JOY that only comes from Jesus!

"Face to face! O blissful moment!"

"Face to face—to see and know;"

"Face to face with my Redeemer,"

"Jesus Christ who loves me so."

(Face to Face with Christ, My Savior, Breck, Carrie & Tuller, Grant)

Written by Sandy Jackson, Director of JLMCC



(Pastor continued from page 1)

One of my favorite verses in 1 Thessalonians is 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." Each one of us can do something to fulfill these commands. All of us have something we could do with a little bit of effort and/or creativity. God's will is for His body, the church, to work together and help one another. It is one of the ways we witness to those around us of the reality of our faith. Let's all think of some practical way we could do that.

Last month Chrissy and Andrew Norton gave everyone at church a Valentine's gift of chocolate, which was so nice. But then they told each of us to take another one and give it away! We were encouraged to say a few words and maybe even invite that one to come to church. I love it! You may not be that creative, but we can all do something. Let's see what God will do through us.

I hope to see you all in church soon.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve



Please join us in welcoming some of our new members, that joined FBCNE through Baptism. We held 2 Baptism services in the last 2 months; the first on 12/27/20 and the second on 1/31/21. Congratulations and Welcome!

12/27/20

Sophia Moyer

Noah Laughlin

Dylan Francis

WELCOME New Members

1/31/21

Tristan Area

Pat Elwell



Above: Sophia Moyer waiting to get baptized, as her dad, Chris Moyer, and her granddad, Dr. Stephen Hokuf, prepare in the background, for her baptism.

Left: Pastor James Area embraces his son Tristan, after baptism.

It's Time to Get to Work

Greetings! As dust begins to settle from our transition to FBCNE, Tanya and I just wanted to take a moment to first say thank you for the warm and loving welcome that we have been given by the church. Changing churches is never easy, and it was certainly made more difficult over the holidays, but we are so thankful for all of the love that was shown to us and our family. That being said, it's now time for me to get to work, and we are really excited to see what the Lord is going to do.

Right before Christmas the youth group began meeting, and so far we have had a consistent group of kids showing up. Right now we are going through "The Chosen" series as we evaluate how we want to move forward with our program and the curriculum; but we are very much encouraged by the participation and support we are getting even during these crazy times.

As some of you may already know, my philosophy regarding youth ministry isn't traditional. I have a heart for bringing kids to the Lord. Even more than that, I want to develop relationships with parents, grandparents, and families to ensure that they are equipped to disciple the youth in an ever changing world. I say this because, as we begin to reestablish and formalize our vision for our Youth Ministry at FBCNE, we need your help and ideas. We want to establish a program that meets the needs of our church and our community, so please feel free to reach out to me and share any experiences or ideas that you might have, or places in the community where the youth can serve. It's my desire to build a program that reaches outside the walls of the church and shows the love of Christ to the young people in our area, who are searching for the answer that only the relationship with Jesus Christ provides.

Another thing that I am passionate about is men's discipleship. As men, we often do a poor job of getting together to study God's Word and building each other up, that's not necessarily a hit against us men, but rather an acknowledgment that we often fail to make ourselves a priority. So all of that being said, starting on March 6th, we are going to resume our monthly Men's Breakfast and Bible Study. We will usually be meeting on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 am, upstairs. I would also like to encourage you to bring your teenage (or pre-teen) boys along with you. My goal for this ministry is to make a place for men (young and old) to come together and learn more about Christ, as well as make a place for our next generation of men to see that in action. I really hope to see you all there!

Anyway, that is all for now. Thank you all again, for the amazing love that you have shown my family as we get settled. We are very excited about this new adventure, and serving with you for years to come.

-James Area, Youth Pastor



Celebrating
-WITH-
you

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Betty Ball
	Sonny Hayes
2	Dave Jackson
6	Sarah Walsh
7	Hunter Hokuf
10	June Bibey
	Margie Jackson
	Carol Neall
13	Donna Sprout
14	Jacob Perry
15	Tim Bayer
19	Ryan Perry
21	Marcia Roark
23	Carol Evans
24	Bernice Jackson
	Richard Jackson
25	Joy Grant
	Taylor Johnson
26	Mark Gray
	Marcia Murray
28	Chrissy Norton
30	Linda Thornton

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1	Clint & Joyce Blithe
27	Ralph & Judy Veasey



Please help us support local Cecil County families in need. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at our community egg hunt, at the designated station. Food can also be brought to Sunday services, on Palm Sunday; Sunday, March 28th. Place food in boxes provided.

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28 James Area is preaching. 5:30pm: Youth	1	2	3 6:30pm: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30pm: Kids Klub	4	5	6 8am-9:30am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study followed by Deacon's Mtg in Education wing.
7 5:30pm: Youth	8	9	10 6:30pm: Prayer/Bible Study & Business Meeting 6:30pm: Kids Klub	11	12	13
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 5:30pm: Youth	15	16	17 6:30pm: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30pm: Kids Klub	18	19	20 SPRING ARRIVES
21 April 2021 Lamplighter articles due! 5:30pm: Youth	22	23	24 6:30pm: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30pm: Kids Klub	25	26	27 10:30am-12pm: Drive-thru Egg Hunt (see page 6 for details)
28 PALM SUNDAY James Area is preaching.	29	30	31 6:30pm: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30pm: Kids Klub	1	2 7pm: Good Friday Service & Communion	3
4 6:30am: "Sonrise" Service @ the park EASTER SUNDAY (Communion)	5	6	7 6:30pm: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30pm: Kids Klub	8	9	10 8am-9:30am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study followed by Deacon's Mtg in

Join us for our first ever **DRIVE THROUGH EASTER EGG HUNT!**
A Covid-19 friendly approach to a traditional community experience!

Where: First Baptist Church of North East, MD 21901

When: Saturday, March 27, 2021
10:30 am-12 pm.

We will be hosting a Non-Perishable Food Drive. (details on page 4)



Drive through "stations" where you will receive:
A "family goodie bag", snacks and water, crafts, a goodie/candy bag for each child attending, a bag of eggs with random prize tickets enclosed with the possibility to win one of our numerous prizes, & a special opportunity for a family to win our grand prize!
(Details provided at the event)



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

★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ Non-Profit Org. ★
★ U.S. Postage ★
★ **PAID** ★
★ North East, MD ★
★ 21901 ★
★ Permit No. 19 ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The mission moves forward

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering

Church Goal: \$1,400

SUBMIT
YOUR
ARTICLES



**April 2021
Lamplighter
articles are
due no later**

than Sunday, March 21st.

**Please email articles to
Jess Wagner @
fbcne@verizon.net.**

The Lamplighter

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.

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Dr. Stephen D. Hokuf, Pastor
Dan Mohler, Associate Pastor
James Area, Youth Pastor

Jess Wagner,
Editor/Ministry Assistant

Budget Analysis

Budget/General Fund Weekly
Average as of 2/21/2021

(8 weeks): **\$2,369**

Needed Weekly: **\$3,897**

Budget Status: **-\$12,228**

Maintenance/Building Repairs
Fund: **\$3,725**

Building Fund for New Garage:

Received to date: **\$0**

Church goal: **TBD**

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Received: **\$0**

Church Goal: **\$1,400**

To give online, please visit
www.fbcne.org/give/