

First Baptist News

a family of faith

Week 4

Scripture Focus:
John 15:1-8

Prayer Focus:
Pray for members of the Search Committee to remain close to Christ and to truly rely upon Christ throughout the pastor search process.

First Baptist Church
a family of faith

Preparing for Sunday . . .

**“From Here to Eternity”
John 3:11-17**

“Will you engage this moment with kindness or with cruelty, with love or with fear, with generosity or scarcity, with a joyous heart or an embittered one?”

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Order of Worship—March 29th

- Words of Welcome/Call to Worship
—Erin Collier
- *At the Cross* (congregational song)—Tim Little
- Time with the Children—Bo Prosser
- Ministry Moment—Regg McIntyre
- Scripture reading & Morning prayer
—Doug Reedy
- The Lord’s Prayer - Gabby Hardee
- Music - Tim Little & Lisa Rust
—“The Prayer”
- Sermon - “From Here to Eternity”
—Bo Prosser
- Benediction - *Blest Be the Tie*—Tim Little

We'll share the weekly prompts from our Pastor Search Prayer Guide on Facebook and each week in the newsletter as well.



While most of our ministry is online right now, the one in-person ministry we are continuing is our Community Cafe on the third Saturday of the month- but in a take-out format only. As you can see from this picture, there are many ways to practice social distancing in Robeson County!

Office Hours and Administration

Our office is physically closed, but our staff is working remotely as they are able. Committees are still doing their administrative work as needed. Remote meetings via technology are strongly suggested during this time.

Staff email addresses:

- Nancy Bass: nancybass@fbclumbertonnc.org
- Erin Collier: erincollier@fbclumbertonnc.org
- Daphne Fletcher: daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org
- Tim Little: funddevdir@rcpartnership4children.org
- Bo Prosser: bprosser@cbf.net
- Kandace Ramsey: kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org
- Doug Reedy: dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org



FROM OUR INTERIM

The Next 3-4 Weeks are Critical!

Friends, we are in the thick of the Covid-19 pandemic. The next few weeks will be a challenge for us all. Thank you for your continued patience with us and for your willingness to give us grace and affirmation. We are leading and are certainly challenged as things are changing daily. However, rest assured that we are working with energy and that God is guiding.

God is bigger than any virus!

We know that all things work together for good for those of us who love God. This virus is not a spiritual calamity! This is a scientific and biological calamity! God is still working in the midst of this to bring blessing and love to God's people. God is the perfect parent of us all and we are all God's children. That is good news for us today and every day! Do not be afraid; be smart.

Look with Eyes to See!

There are blessings all around us. These blessings may not be visible to everyone. We must look for the blessings. But, rest assured, God is at work. Look for the blessings and name them in your prayers. It is a blessing we can still be connected through our newsletters and our technology. It is a blessing that Community Café had so many "drive through" for meals. It is a blessing that we can worship together. It is a blessing that we still have food and water. What blessings are you seeing?

Give as you can...not as you can't!

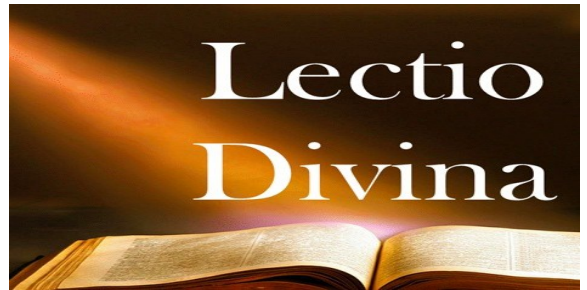
In these days the work of the church continues. Your tithes and offerings are important to us. However, we want you to take care of your family's needs FIRST! Be smart about your giving in these days. Many of us will face some economic hardships in the days to come. We will have to make smart choices and prioritize our spending. Please remember us as you make smart choices. I miss my Mexican food! But there is still plenty of Diet Coke in the fridge! (It's the little things that keep us going!)

I am so proud to be among you!

Everyday I get to brag on you and the good work we are doing. Everyday I get to thank God for you in my prayers. Everyday I know that we are one day closer to having this behind us. So, pray, pray, pray, give as you can, and stay faithful...

God IS guiding!!

Dr. Bo



In this season where many of us are spending extra time at home or extra time alone, it provides a great opportunity to add in a little extra prayer and devotional time to our schedules. To help with that, each week, we'll be sharing a spiritual discipline or practice to try. This week's practice is *lectio divina* (translated "divine reading"), which is a way of praying with scripture. The purpose of lectio divina is not to academically study and analyze a passage, but to reflect personally on scripture and listen for God's voice. Instructions are below:

Preparation

Begin by finding a comfortable and quiet place to sit, and silence your phone. Decide what passage of scripture you'd like to use – no longer than 15 verses is best. Pray, "God, help me to hear your voice." Spend a minute or two in silence.

Lectio (Read)

Slowly read the passage. As you read, see if there is a word or phrase that jumps out at you. Don't force it or analyze it; simply see what words catch your attention.

Meditatio (Reflect)

Slowly re-read the passage, focusing in on the word or phrase that jumped out at you. Then, take a few minutes to reflect on what you believe God may be saying to you through that phrase in this text.

Oratio (Respond)

Slowly re-read the passage, then spend some time responding to what you have heard in this passage. You can respond by journaling or by praying.

Contemplatio (Rest)

Slowly re-read the passage, then simply sit for a few minutes and rest in God's presence. Close in prayer.



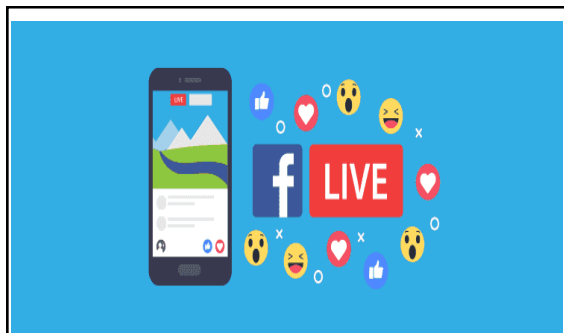
We are living in uncertain times. Many are saying our world has suddenly become chaotic and unpredictable, but the truth is it already was. It is also fair to say the volume of chaos has been turned up quite a bit over the last few weeks. My request for you this day is to find some quiet, center yourself, and go to the Lord in prayer.

Pray for our senior adults and others whose lives are most at risk. Pray not only that they survive the virus, but that they survive the loneliness and isolation as well. Pray for the Boomer generation, the ones whose risk is higher than most, but may still need to work in environments that expose themselves to health dangers during this time.

Pray for Generation X, as we balance concern for our elderly parents and the children still in our care. Pray for the Millennial Generation, who may be losing employment right as their careers were beginning to find traction. Pray for Gen Z, especially the class of 2020, as the only world they have known suddenly changed without warning and meaningful milestones of their lives have been lost. Pray for the youngest among us, who see and feel the anxiety their parents are experiencing, but are least equipped to process it.

Let's not blame each other for any of this. Let's love one another, for we are in it together. If we look and listen hard enough, we may see God in it with us as well.

Doug



Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights on Facebook Live

Sunday worship at 10:00 am
Wednesday devotion at 6:30 pm

All on the church Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc/>

Zoom Meetings for Youth!

Each Sunday until we are able to meet in person again, the youth will meet via Zoom.

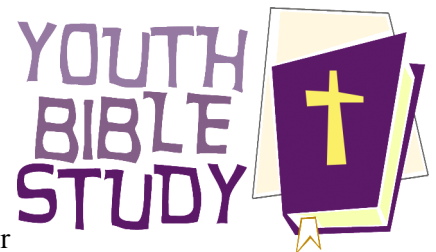
Sunday School at 11 a.m.
7th-9th Bible Study at 6 p.m.
10th-12th grade at 7 p.m.

Contact Doug at dougree@fbclumbertonnc.org for your log on information so that you don't miss anything!

And . . .

Zoom Meetings for Children!

Preschool and School-Age Zoom Calls are ongoing. Contact Erin—erincollier@fbclumbertonnc.org— for the latest details and log on information!



Dear Church Family,

I am stunned by the impact of the Coronavirus, and I am sure you are as well. We face uncertainty, fear, loneliness, and each and every one of us face financial hardships at some level. Meanwhile, our church is now faced once again with a setback. For me, the greatest disappointment from the perspective of our church is that I was beginning to feel our church family was starting to gain some positive momentum under the direction of Dr. Bo Prosser. As we move forward through the uncertainty of the Coronavirus, Dr. Bo, Erin, Doug and Tim will work harder than ever to keep the framework and foundation of our church alive and well so when we emerge from this terrible disease we can re-establish our path to better and brighter days at FBC Lumberton. Meanwhile, even though the church doors are closed on Sunday mornings, the bills continue to come and the need to support missions still exists. So, we do need your continued financial support to the level you can realistically consider. Only you know your financial situation, and you should consider giving only to the level that does not place you and your family in a financial hardship during this time; but if you are able to continue giving, please consider the fact that the church needs tithes and offerings to continue providing services and support to the congregation.

We have many ways you can continue making a gift. We offer bank draft, you can mail in contributions, you can give on-line and beginning Monday, March 30th we will establish a tithing time in which you can hand deliver a financial gift to the church at a set time; between 1:00 and 2:30 each Monday. During that 1 ½ hour time period each Monday, a staff member will be at the 6th Street entrance (at the place you generally go for BBQ plate pick up) and they will meet you in your car to receive your financial gift. Just drive up, stop in that area, stay in your car, and they will come out of the church building to meet you. We realize the physical act of delivering your financial gift in person is important so we want to provide a means for you to do so while respecting the integrity of social distancing. Also, please understand that due to the nature of the situation we cannot accept cash, we will only be able to accept checks.

While we may feel down and out, I believe we are also most fortunate to have leadership from Dr. Bo and an amazing staff that have shown their worth in ways stronger than ever. There will be better days ahead and I cannot wait to see you again on Sunday mornings.

James W. Gore

Introducing Monday School!

Dr. Bo will be sharing Sunday School lessons via Zoom Call each Monday night at 7:00 p.m. To participate please contact Doug at dougredy@fbclumbertonnc.org.



CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org
www.fbclumbertonnc.org

Mrs. Nancy Bass — Financial Coordinator

Rev. Erin Collier — Associate Pastor of Families and Worship

Mrs. Daphne Fletcher — Administrative Assistant

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities

Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent

Dr. Bo Prosser — Interim Pastor

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant

Rev. Doug Reedy — Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions

Person of the Week

Page Sawyer
328 Windsor Rd.
Lumberton, NC 28358

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance to
our special person this week!