

LITTLETON BAPTIST NEWS

A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Congregation

"Our mission is to make Christ known, by providing spiritual nourishment, ministering to physical needs, and sharing the Gospel."

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MAY 2020

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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

In all of my years in ministry, April was absolutely the strangest. Preaching the entire month to an empty sanctuary was very different. But during this time, I have seen our church do amazing things. We have been praying for each other. We have been checking on our neighbors. We have been making sure everyone has what they need. And more importantly we have been following the social distancing guidelines that we have been asked to follow. All of these things have been ways that we can show our love for each other. This is what the church does. It loves one another.

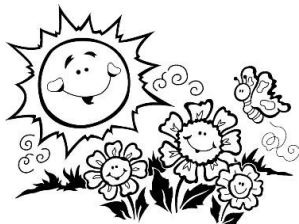
Easter was also very different. We had to change how we did our services. We had to change how we remembered the resurrection of our risen Lord. But we still did it. We still worshiped a risen Savior. For nothing we can do will cancel that fact. Nothing any virus can do will change the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. We may have had to change our services, but Easter was never cancelled.

I look forward to being able to gather again very soon. Yes gathering is nice. I love seeing everyone's faces and giving out hugs. I love seeing the children come down for our children's message. I love hearing your voices as we lift our voices to the Lord. These things have been absent this past month. But that doesn't mean that we haven't been gathering together as a church body. It has been so nice to see all of you checking in via our Facebook Live. I can feel each of your spirits in that place for I know you are with me.


As we look to the summer months, we know it will not be the same. There will be events that will have to be cancelled or changed. But nothing will change the mission of the church. Nothing we do will change why we do things. The only things that will change is how we do these things. So look for ways you can be the church. Look for ways you can show the love of God. I miss you all. I continue to pray for each of you and hope you are staying well.

Grace and Peace,

David



May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 4:00 Facebook Worship Service 7:00 Deacons Mtg.	4	5	6 7:00 Facebook Prayer & Bible Study	7	8	9
10 4:00 Facebook Worship Service 	11	12	13 7:00 Facebook Prayer & Bible Study	14	15	16
17 4:00 Facebook Worship Service Church Council Meeting (TBD)	18	19	20 7:00 Facebook Prayer & Bible Study	21	22	23
24 4:00 Facebook Worship Service	25 	26	27 7:00 Facebook Prayer & Bible Study	28	29	30
31 4:00 Facebook Worship Service						



Just a month ago I was writing my column about how we were closing church for 2 weeks and here it is a month later and we still are unable to open our doors. I was praying for a different topic of my May column..."WE'RE BACK!"....but not yet.

It is such an odd feeling to play in church at our 4:00 P.M. service with an empty sanctuary, well, almost empty. Mike is there doing sound and of course Pastor David and Sara who is taping the service. And, yes, we are keeping our distance from one another! Thank goodness for a big sanctuary! My church music is the one somewhat normal thing in my life right now and I'm glad we can bring you these services Sunday afternoons! I do miss my Adult Choir and my Junior Singers very much!

It looks like this type of service will continue for a while...hopefully a short while! If you have any song you would like to hear as a Prelude or a special please let me know and I will be glad to try and play it! You can email me at laurabkearney28@gmail.com and let me know or call my home number!

As you can imagine not seeing my Addie in 6 weeks is very difficult. She found a sweet gum tree ball on the ground and told Jordan that she had found the virus. And yes, it does look like the virus picture on TV! She keeps asking me when she can come see Lolly and PaPa and go to church and see her friends. It is breaking my heart! Yes, I miss my children too, but at least they understand what is going on in the world. Emily's little boy is due May 6th and with the way things are right now I won't be able to be there for her or hold my grandson right away. This too is breaking my heart. Please keep Emily and Nick in your prayers during this exciting yet frustrating time in their lives.

Laura



FROM THE

Pulpit

THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

**Join us for our Virtual Sunday Worship
Services on Facebook Live at 4:00 P.M.**

May 3

Summer Blockbusters

Revelation 3:14-16

Communion

May 10

I'll Love You Forever

Proverbs 31:25-28

Mother's Day

May 17

I Will Fear No More

Joshua 1:9

May 24

I Choose to Worship

Habakkuk 3:16-18

May 31

The New Pentecost

Acts:42-47

Pentecost

Deacons Meeting



Our Deacons will meet virtually on Sunday, May 3, at 7:00 P.M. Please pray for our deacons and their invaluable leadership to our church.



LITTLETON COMMUNITY VBS UPDATE

We know many of you have been looking forward to VBS 2020. Littleton Baptist was supposed to be the host this year, and we were planning on having a great year with a wonderful theme. However, with the uncertainty in the air and with many of the children we serve coming in from different areas, we have made the official decision to cancel the 2020 Vacation Bible School. This decision did not come easily, but we felt this was the best decision in light of everything going on.

Littleton Baptist Church will host the 2021 VBS and we will keep the same theme as we were planning on for this year. The dates will be **June 21 - 25, 2021**. We continue to pray that this will be a success, even if it is a year later than we had planned. Also, if you had not already planned on helping us, please take this year to pray on how you can help make our 2021 VBS a success.



Missions - how do we carry on the mission of our church to make Christ known, provide spiritual nourishment, minister to physical needs and share the Gospel when we are sheltered in place and have to be very careful in all social settings? First and most important is to remain in contact with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is our direct link to God. God is in control and knows where all of this will take us. Remain close to Him and His will. Let others see Jesus in you. Read your Bible daily. Study His word, pray for guidance. Read your Sunday School lesson and look for ways to apply it to your everyday life. Nourishment comes when we partake of the spiritual food that is at our fingertips. Be open to ways to safely help others. Make a phone call, send a card, bake cookies and leave them at the door, go grocery shopping for some with small children or an older adult are a few of the things we can do while we keep our social distance. John 3:16 is a great way to help others. They need our help to keep supplies coming in so they can keep them going out. Nonperishable food items, disinfectant wipes and money are some of their needs. Missions is us!! We can continue to share Christ's love as we remain safe and healthy.

At this time, we do not know how soon we will return to a more normal situation but we can keep each other in our prayers and thoughts. The Children's Carnival will be held. The Food Pantry will again fill bags with a days meal in them. Mission trips will resume. Visits to the sick and lonely will be done. We will enjoy fellowship around the table and in our church building. Our children and youth will again bless our congregation with their laughs and enthusiasm. We will join together to share hugs, smiles or a pat on the back. Keep focused on the positive. We are the church no matter where we are. God's love is in us and with us. Remain strong in His love.



As we continue trying to figure out how we do church, so it goes with our youth. We are attempting some new ways we as a youth group can meet. We are trying out how to do Zoom Meetings. Exact days and times are still to be decided on, so look for texts and e-mails as we try out different things. I miss and love each of you.



Remember beginning with our June newsletter, we will be converting to sending them electronically over e-mail. However, for those who do not have e-mail we will still be sending hard copies through the mail if you notify us that you would like to continue receiving them. They are also available on our website.

Please make sure you notify us. E-mail our secretary at office@littletonbaptistchurch.org if you want them emailed or you can leave a message at the church office (252) 586-5330 if you would like them mailed. We appreciate your cooperation during this change.



JOHN 3:16 CENTER NEEDS

The John 3:16 Center has been incredibly blessed to serve so many during this unprecedented time. The faithfulness of donors has afforded their organization to consistently fulfill an essential need for our community. Food insecurity has presented itself as a concern for many of our local families.



To continue serving our community they need:

Non-perishable food items, such as canned vegetables, fruits, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, canned chicken, tuna helper, pancake mix, pancake syrup, cereal, grits, breakfast bars, macaroni and cheese and soups.

Perishable items such as fresh apples, oranges and vegetables.

Activities for children including crafts, coloring books, basketballs, Frisbees, etc.

Small boxes (approximately 12"x16"x10") or similar.

Disinfectant spray.

You can also make a monetary donation to help.

If you would like more information please contact the John 3:16 Center at 252 - 586 - 1802.



Church Council will meet on Sunday, **May 17**. The time has not been set yet. If the committee is not able to meet at church following Worship Service they will meet using Zoom. Members of Church Council are: Sid Shearin, Chairperson; Laura Kearney, Betty Anne Shearin, Melinda Harris, Mike Crawley and Mike Blanton.



Mark your calendar for **July 28 - August 1**. Our church will be participating in repairing homes damaged from Hurricane Florence. We will be traveling to Rose Hill. Youth (13 and up) are encouraged to go. (Background checks are required for all adults if youth are present.) Volunteers can come part of the week if their schedules do not allow them to work the whole week. Medical forms (and permission slips for youth) will need completing. Contact Sid Shearin for more information.

Littleton Baptist Church
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MAY

<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	
2 Dale Meyer 6 Sandra Lynch 6 Carolyn Price 8 Robbie King 8 Indie Parks 10 Mike Currin 18 Josephine Myrick 21 Memphis Crews (10 yrs) 24 Jordan Tripp 26 Annie Hilliard 26 Margaret Neville 27 Greg Fussell 28 Elizabeth Hockaday 28 Gerleen Pitchford 29 Billy Blanton	17 Mike & Betty Blanton (29 yrs) 17 Robbie & Beth King (12 yrs) 21 Nicolas & Emily Pulliam (4 yrs) 23 David & Kay Tripp (33 yrs) 24 Daniel & Stephanie Iles (12 yrs)	