



FBC NEWS

A Publication of Fredericksburg Baptist Church
1019 Princess Anne Street Fredericksburg, VA 22401



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Being Community

While the Coronavirus Covid 19 pandemic has forced the FBC to forgo its normal avenues of ministry, the church is developing alternate methods for being the face of Christ in our community. For those able to access the church website and other social media platforms, several opportunities have been created to allow participation in worship, Sunday school, and other devotional options. As we are being directed to be more and more isolated, use these opportunities to remain connected with one another.

Some of our members, however, are unable to use this technology, making it more difficult to remain in touch with their faith community. If you know someone who is not a technology user, be intentional to be in contact with them. Give them a call and let them know you are thinking about them; share a scripture or a prayer with them; discover if they have a need for food, medicine, etc and make a church staff member aware of that need. A return to normal for our faith community is probably several weeks away. Let us all commit to maintaining a sense of community among our members.

Instead of Easter Flowers...

With the ongoing pandemic, it is very possible that we may not be able to gather in our sanctuary for worship on Easter Sunday. So, we will NOT plan to order flowers this year. INSTEAD, we will plan to continue the tradition of remembering our loved ones through a list that can be published for our newsletter, and perhaps in the worship bulletin when, in time, we are able to gather together in the sanctuary.

The names of your loved ones will be listed, along with names of those who are honoring or remembering them.

Please use the form below as a guide for how to list the names of those to be honored/remembered.

Simply send an email to ann@fredericksburgbaptistchurch.org, or mail in a note to the church office listing your information that you wish to share.

Easter Celebration Order Form

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Offered by:

Your Continuing Support is Needed and Appreciated

The Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic has made clear two undeniable truths: 1) Whether locally, nationally, or internationally we are all in this together as the virus shows no partiality; 2) To persevere through this crisis will require all of us to more intentionally come together as community.

At FBC we cannot conduct business as usual. The normal ways we have lived out our calling as a community of faith are, at least for a while, not possible. So do we just retreat into our homes remaining idle while hoping the norms are restored as quickly as possible? Of course not!

We must continue to be faithful in carrying out the work that God has entrusted to us – being the face of Christ, loving our neighbors, meeting needs, and embodying community. We just must do it in alternate ways. Your staff has worked hard to bring worship, Sunday school, and other opportunities for you and your family through technology. Please take advantage of these opportunities if you are able. Plans are in development that will help meet needs of our members while isolated in their homes. Our Thursday dinner has been suspended, but alternative methods for feeding the hungry have been developed. Donations of food and volunteers are making this happen. Our Welcome Center next week will serve as a food distribution point for students of the Fredericksburg City Public Schools until the schools are able to reopen. We might be doing it differently, but we are still focused on being the church.

For these new challenges your financial support is as important as ever. The work of the church – our work- has not diminished but is more vital than ever, so please continue to make your gifts that our work may continue. Some within the church have been severely impacted and cannot give as they wish. There are others who can continue their gifts and probably more to help make up for those who can't.

Mail in your check or utilize one of our online giving options. And when you write out your check or make your online gift, take a moment and let it be an act of worship. Thank God for His faithfulness in your life and pray that your gift may be used in life-touching ways. May all of us, together, continue to be Christ's face in our community.

Among Our Family

—In the Hospital—

MWH: David Dayton, Joy Case,
Olen Marlow

Johns Hopkins: Barbara Louthan

Woodbine Rehabilitation (Alexandria):
Martin Sparks

—Congratulations To—

Marc Spraragen & Pauline Felder in the birth of their son, Zachary Halas Felder, on March 10th. Proud aunt is Annie Felder.

—Sympathy To—

Patsy Phelps in the death of her uncle, Doyle Wingard

David Harris in the death of his mother, Dorothy Ann (Dot) Harris

Stewardship Summary

Ministry Budget

Weekly Needs	\$26,998
Sunday, March 15	\$14,714
Y-T-D Total	\$251,012
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$41,986

BUOH in Missions

Sunday, March 15	\$1,750
Y-T-D Total	\$21,006

Capital Fund

Sunday, March 15	\$170
Y-T-D Total	\$7,647

Watering the Roots

Sunday, March 15	\$90
Y-T-D Total	\$7,952

View Our Church Directory Online or via mobile app

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com or search *Instant Church Directory* at the Apple® App store Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store.

Printed Copies of Our FBC Church Family Photo Directory are Also Available in the Church Office

Thursday Community Meals Suspended; An Alternative Method for Feeding Our Neighbors Needs Your Help

With concern for the Homeless and our Seniors and the possible spreading of Corona Virus at gatherings, Micah is suspending community meals until further notice beginning Monday, March 16. To continue our compassionate care of those who are hungry and homeless, however, they urge church meal teams to continue working with them to address the hunger needs of our neighbors through their hospitality center at 1013 Princess Anne St.

The following is a partial list of suggested items along with communications from Micah for churches currently serving breakfast or dinner to Micah clients. Micah suggests bringing enough for 75 people and asks that food be delivered by 8:30 am on the day after your group is usually preparing and serving a meal. The highlighted items are what we at FBC are asking that you share with us in our corporate collecting, beginning this Sunday. You may drop items off to the church office any time during office hours. Please respond with your donations.

FOR OUR THURSDAY BREAKFAST RESPONSIBILITY/ SERVED ON FRI. AT MICAH

- Breakfast Bars/Pop-Tarts
- Fruit cups
- Beanie Weanies
- Boxed juices
- Plastic spoons and forks

FOR OUR THURSDAY DINNER RESPONSIBILITY/ SERVED ON FRI. AT MICAH (Volunteers who usually come on Thursdays will be asked to prepare sandwiches in teams.)

- Sandwiches (ham, turkey, PB & J)-suggest labeling if possible
*PLEASE DONATE LOAVES OF SANDWICH BREAD, PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, LUNCH MEAT (HAM, TURKEY), ZIPLOCK SANDWICH BAGS
- PRE-PACKAGED Baked Goods
- PRE-PACKAGED Chips
- Bottled Water or shelf-stable drinks (juice, etc)
- Pop-top soups/canned pasta
- PLASTIC SPOONS AND FORKS

Further Details from Micah:

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Do not package food as a bagged meal. Bring the components for us to set out for choice of our guests and minimal food waste. 2. This is a solution we are offering specifically for our literally homeless, not the broader group that may access the community meals. We will provide a sign to the host churches explaining the change and encouraging those not currently on the street to seek other options.

VOLUNTEERS

As this added support from our hospitality center is likely to increase volunteer need, we can absolutely repurpose members of your team who would like to continue serving through this season. If members of your team are interested in volunteering, the immediate need will be Monday through Friday from 9am and 1pm. Please contact both Margie at margie@dolovewalk.net AND Chelsea at chelsea@dolovewalk.net to get plugged in. As we see how this works and what kind of help is available, we may consider altering or offering other hours as well.

This is not the only alternative measure we will need to take as a church family during this time. Please watch your email and feel free to call the church office (540-373-4402) with any questions. Also, please ask for an alternative means of communication if you desire a different option.

Slowing Down to Read the Gospel, Presenting Our Hearts to God for the Spirit's Transforming

This Sunday's lesson from the Gospel encourages us to focus on the goodness God can bring out of difficulty (John 9:1-41). The man born blind meets Jesus, follows his directions, and then he can see. Rather than be amazed and thankful, the Pharisees, the church folk, are skeptical and legalistic. They question his parents. They question him, and then put him out of the synagogue. In contrast, the one whose physical sight was restored saw Jesus with the eyes of his heart, falling down to worship him, believing that he must be from God. Even though he lost his connection to his religious tradition and probably with his parents, too, he gave God the glory for the great thing Jesus had done in him.

This week we received messages from Kirk and Suzie, thanking us and letting us know how things were going with them in their loss. They miss Suzie's Mom, Mary Ann, but they are giving God the glory for the opportunities that her life and death have opened up to discuss the Gospel with friends in a foreign land. Please pray for them as they give God the glory for working gospel good in the midst of their loss.

It can be very difficult for many of us to perceive anything good during hardship. In our country's early history, Native Americans and the African slaves who later became known as the Gullah often found themselves on the wrong side of what the European colonists called being civilized. Their very skin color gave many whites enough cause to ignore, mistreat, or even kill them. They were valued for their ability to labor. Their bodies were tools. The abundance of their lives was of no concern. They were like the blind man to the Pharisees; they, like he, had a place and his staying there let the system work without thought or concern and to the great benefit of many. Jesus puts a spike in the gears and stops the machine of certainty. After this, how would they know on sight who the real sinners were? How would they judge?

What follows is a portion of this week's lesson from the Gospel. Think how someone who needs to be released from the status to which someone assigns them might hear Jesus' words. Pray for those who feel like they are less than others because of the way the world treats them. Ask God to build them up and set them free to know they are God's beloved. Remember, truly seeing and appreciating the glory of the Lord that is with us and for us leads to falling on our knees in worship.

De Nyew Testament (in Gullah) John 9:34-41

³⁴ Den dem Jew leada ansa say, "Ya done bon wid sin all roun ya. Ya da try fa laan we?" Den dey shrow de man outta de meetin house.

Dem wa Bline fa True

³⁵ Jedus yeh say dey been chunk de man out, so e gone an find de man an e aks um say, "Ya bleebe pon de Man wa Come fom God?" ³⁶ De man ansa say, "Sah, tell me who dis Man wa Come fom God, so A kin bleebe pon um!" ³⁷ Jedus say, "Ya done shim. E da taak ta ya." ³⁸ De man say, "Lawd,

A bleebe ya!" An e kneel down fo Jedus an e woshup um. ³⁹ Jedus say, "A come eenta dis wol fa jedge, so dat bline eye people kin see, an dem wa see kin ton out fa be bline." ⁴⁰ Some Pharisee been dey wid Jedus an dey yeh wa e say. Dey aks Jedus, "Ya ain mean fa say we bline too, ainty?" ⁴¹ Jedus tell um say, "Ef oona been bline, oona ain been guilty fa none ob oona sin. Bot now dat oona say oona ain bline, dat mean dat oona guilty still yet."

Walking the Good Road (FNV)

Banned from the Gathering House

The Separated Ones (Pharisees) were furious! How could this outcast talk back to them like this?

³⁴ They puffed up their chests and said, "You were born an outcast and you think you can teach us?" Then they threw him out and *banned him from his gathering house*. ³⁵ When Creator Sets Free (Jesus) heard that they had put the man out of the gathering house, he went to him and said, "Will you put your trust in the True Human Being?" ³⁶ "Honored One, tell me who he is," the man answered, "and I will put my trust in him." ³⁷ "Look at me and see the True Human Being," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, "—he is talking with you now." ³⁸ The man bowed down to him and said, "Honored One, I believe!" ³⁹ Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, "I came to show what is right and wrong about the ways of this world so that the blind will see—and that the ones who see may become blind."

Blind Guides

⁴⁰ Some of the Separated Ones (Pharisees) overheard what he said to the man. "Are you saying that we are blind?" they asked. ⁴¹ "If you were truly blind, you would have no guilt," he answered them. "But since you claim to see, your guilt remains."

Thanks From the Persons

Dear FBC family,

What a wonderful surprise to receive a packet of loving, encouraging notes from so many of you after the passing of my mom. Thank you so much!! We read every note and are just blown away by everyone's kindness during this time of grief. Thank you so much for your prayers during these past months of Mom's battle with pneumonia... we were surrounded with God's comfort and peace then and now as we are on this grief journey in trying to adjust to a "new normal." These are certainly very strange times as the whole world faces so much uncertainty and upheaval. We will pray for you as a church family as you continue to be salt and light during these rough days.

We love you and are just so very thankful for our long term relationship in this journey of life and ministry!

Blessings,
Suzie and Kirk Person

Making Your Offerings Using Online Options

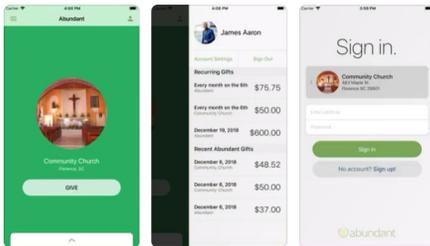
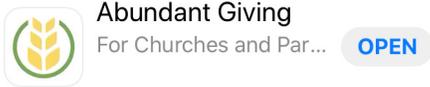
When it is not possible to be in worship it is still possible to perform an act of worship by utilizing one of our online giving options to make your offering.

Option 1

Visit the church website www.fredericksburgbaptistchurch.org, and click on the online giving link on the right hand side of the home page.

Option 2

Visit the App Store and download the Abundant Giving app on you mobile device



Option 3

Scan this QR code with your phone or mobile device  and follow the prompts

Option 4

Text “fredbapt” to 73256 on your phone or mobile device

FBC uses VANCO, the leading church online giving platform to handle all of our online gifts. They maintain the highest standards for protection of the data. Should you have any questions about these online giving options, or general questions about online giving, please feel free to contact Dennis Sacrey.