

## WORSHIP

**Sunday,  
March 29, 2020**

10:30am via Livestream, Facebook  
Live and Radio

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

Sermon: The Dark Side of Friendship

Access Livestream here:

<https://livestream.com/fbcgreenvillesc>

Access Facebook Live here:

[/www.facebook.com/pg/fbcgreenvillesc/  
videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/fbcgreenvillesc/videos/)

Access Radio (Sunday morning only)  
here:

89.3-HD4, 91.9 FM, 92.9 FM

MidWeek Fellowship Live

Wednesday, March 25

6:15pm via Livestream and  
Facebook Live

Teacher: Jim Dant

John 9-10: Darkness or Difference – The  
Church's Blindspot

Wednesday Night Supper

Our caterer, Uptown Catering, will continue to provide Wednesday Night Supper for us. Visit their website (<https://theuptowncompany.square.site/s/shop>) to view their "to go" menu options. There are individual meals as well as family meals from which to choose and look for the Wednesday Night Special choice. This option is available at our regular FBG Wednesday night pricing! The special pricing only applies to Wednesday night meals, but their services are available all the time. All meals will be available for drive-thru pick up at the kitchen door—you don't even have to get out of your vehicle!



## Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

How long, O Lord? It is a question asked by the psalmist (Psalm 13), the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6) and the prophet Habakkuk (Habakkuk 1). It is a question being asked by many of you as well...so I thought I would share a few answers...

How long, O Lord...is the minister's hair going to grow before he gets a haircut?!? I often walk down the Heritage Hallway of our church and peruse the pictures of prior pastors of this great congregation. It is a stroll that always humbles me. Of course, there are lighter moments as well. I always laugh that George 'Quick' was the slowest to leave this pulpit; he served 22 years! I revel in the fact that, while I will not pastor this congregation for 22 years, I have beat Bruce Morgan's tenure of 1 year. (He's a friend. I can chuckle in his direction.) I have also noted that several pastors' hair length has far exceeded mine. J. G. Landrum, W. D. Thomas and J. C. Hiden could have been rock stars with their coiffures. (Not quite 'hair band' rock stars, but rock stars, nonetheless.) When I am gone and my picture finally makes the wall, I'm not

sure what I'll be remembered for...but I'm hoping it won't be my hair.

How long, O Lord...will people keep buying and hoarding toilet paper? Truly, only God can answer this question. I am an educated man, but I do not have an explanation for this phenomenon. I'm guessing it is somehow genetically akin to buying bread and milk when there are snow flurries. Different crises trigger this particular gene in certain people, and they feel an irresistible need to purchase and hoard certain items. Who knows what is next: earthquakes and the hoarding of Spam, an eclipse and the hoarding of shoelaces, or a dysentery outbreak and the hoarding of scented candles—okay, that one makes more sense.

How long, O Lord...will this physical distancing last? As long as it takes. For as long as it takes, we will continue: to provide services via the internet, to provide pastoral care via telephone, to provide social services to those in need through the safest methods possible and to provide lots of physical space for each other to move safely in the world. For as long as it takes, we will stay home and stay still and stay committed to the health of others as well as ourselves, and when it's all over...I might get a haircut.

—Jim

## Centering Prayer Group Invites You

The Centering Prayer Group invites you to join us in a weekly Centering Prayer practice, Tuesdays from 11:00am to 11:20am. Join us in this practice from wherever you are. We don't have to be in the same room in order to pray together! A guideline to the four simple steps of Centering Prayer can be found at <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-1>. —Susan D'Amato

## Organist's Notes

When I first meet someone, inevitably, I am asked, "So, what do you do?"

It has taken a long time, but I am finally able to reply, "I do music."

I began regularly playing the piano in my home church when I was thirteen years old, and since then I have worked in church music in some capacity. I began seriously composing and arranging when I was about sixteen years old.

For most of my adult life, church music has been a part-time job. Since working full time in music seemed like a pipe dream (I know, so many jokes), I have always had other jobs. I started in a coffee shop. I love coffee, so that wasn't so bad. I moved to retail clothing. I love fashion, so that wasn't so bad. I became a retail manager. I love bossing people around, so that wasn't so bad. I finally landed a job at a music store. Obviously, I love music, so that was much better, but it was still a retail job.

While working at the music store, I accepted my job as organist of FBG, and I began teaching piano lessons again. As I started to take on more and more students, I was eventually able to open my own private studio. I was able to resign from the music store, and that freed up so much time to compose. For the first time in my life, I felt like I was truly working full time in music (with no sales goal).

In September 2019, I was given the amazing opportunity to be the artistic director and conductor of the Greenville Gay Men's Chorus. This is especially delightful because it combines my aforementioned loves of music and bossing people around! Joking aside, I have loved every minute of this new venture. The chorus currently consists of 27 members, and we recently had the honor of performing with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus at the Peace

Center. I am very excited about the current concert we have planned in which nine different guys will be telling personal stories about growing up, coming out, and living life as a gay man. These emotional stories will be paired with songs sung by individuals and the chorus as a whole. The concert includes humorous, heartfelt and hopeful songs. Because of COVID-19, we are hoping to perform this concert as the opening event of our tenth season in the fall.

I feel so blessed that I get to spend all of my time playing the organ, composing music, teaching budding musicians, and directing an incredible group of men. When someone asks, "What do you do?" I can finally say, "I do music." I am so happy that I get to do it all at First Baptist Greenville.

—Shelton

## Happy Birthday!

Please remember these members celebrating birthdays in April who are not always able to be with us when we gather.

April 10  
Joe Leaphart  
Woodlands at Furman  
50 Arboretum Lane, Apt. 114  
Greenville, SC 29617

April 29  
Betty Boyer  
Sarah Gossett  
27 Conestee Ave.  
Room 8-A  
Greenville, SC 29605

Due to the suspension of church gatherings until at least April 5, *First Friday Lunch and More* on Friday, April 3, has been cancelled.

The Roadrunners trip to attend the Living Gallery at Bob Jones University on April 3 has been canceled by BJU. No makeup event has been planned at this time. Payments will be refunded.

The September 21-28 (Monday-Monday) bus trip with the Roadrunners to the Dutch Country area of

Pennsylvania and Washington, DC, is STILL ON! Diamond Tours bus tour company is customizing a trip for us that combines a Lancaster Show Trip, touring the Dutch Country, and hitting the highlights of our nation's capital. The total cost for the trip is \$895 and includes motorcoach transportation, 7 nights lodging, 13 meals (7 breakfasts and 6 dinners), admission to several shows, museums and attractions. Spots are still available. Contact Shanda to sign up!

—Shanda

# Campaign Connections

“And Joseph said to Pharaoh, ‘The seven fat cows are seven years of plenty, and the seven skinny cows represent seven years of famine. You must gather in the seven good years and reserve it for the years of famine that will befall the land.’”

We didn’t even know we were doing it, but we did it. One year ago, during the Lenten season of 2019, our Stewardship Committee led us through a soft capital campaign. In conjunction with our Finance Committee—and driven by the needs requested by other program committees—they set a goal of \$400,000. During the seven weeks of Lent, you donated a little more than \$400,000 to the capital needs of the church!

A portion of this money has yet to be spent. The money appropriated to ‘transportation’ is being held until we complete our assessment of bus/van usage and can accurately project future need. The mission

money is being held, under the direction of our Missions and Affiliations Committee, for future needs. Money has already been spent on the following: golf cart ministry, new paraments (stoles and coverings for the Lord’s Supper table and pulpit) and significant technological upgrades in the youth department, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary.

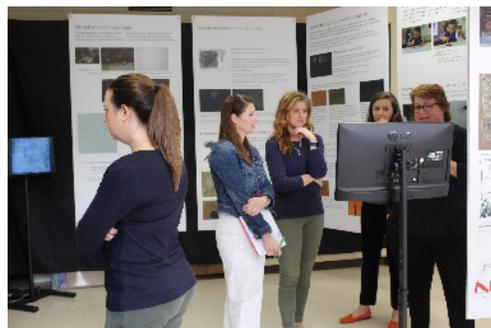
We didn’t know it at the time, but the money we gave during a ‘time of plenty’ and the technological work it accomplished is making our ministries in this present ‘time of famine’ possible! The monies you gave during our capital campaign are helping us stay virtually connected in Sunday worship, MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study, and various other ministries. I hope you’ll take advantage of these avenues of connection. I am grateful for good stewardship during times of plenty.

— Jim

# FBDS Hosts Reggio Exhibit

First Baptist Day School is currently hosting an exhibit from Reggio Emilia, Italy, called “Mosaic of Marks, Words, and Materials.” This exhibit is a collection of works by young children in Reggio Emilia which call attention to the importance of mark making, or drawing, and storytelling. The exhibit will be in our school until early June. FBDS has recently hosted an initiative for educators to study the exhibit and participate in a hands-on experience with various drawing materials and supports. Part of our educational practice is for educators to experiment with materials that the children will be using. The FBDS educators have also participated in the atelier experience. When the church reopens, we invite you to come and visit the exhibit in the school.

— Kathy, Dewanda, and Rosemary



# Ten Pandemic Commandments

Given the recent announcements of 'States of Emergency' in our nation and state and given the ethical responsibility we have to slow the spread of CoVid-19 in our immediate community, we have decided to intentionally set the following path forward:

- 1) **ALL** scheduled 'gatherings' of the church congregation will be suspended until Palm Sunday, April 5. The situation will be reassessed at that time and the closure will either end or be extended. (This includes but is not limited to: worship, Sunday School, MidWeek Services, Youth, Children's and Preschool Events, Committee Meetings, Circle meetings and all other scheduled activities of the church.) Cleaning crews have already implemented enhanced cleaning and sanitation measures.
- 2) Other groups leasing or using our facility (Einstein School, Greenville Youth Jazz Ensemble, Greenville Gay Men's Chorus, Chicora Voices, Greenville Symphony Orchestra, etc.) will be allowed to set their own policy with regard to closure except those groups meeting in the AYMC.

- 3) The AYMC will be closed until April 6, and **ALL** groups using this facility will cancel meetings.
- 4) First Baptist Day School (FBDS) will continue to follow the closure schedule of the Greenville County School District.
- 5) Worship will be provided via Livestream, Facebook Live and radio. Minsters and soloists will come to the Sanctuary each Sunday at 10:30am to provide an hour of worship leadership for those who access these media sources. MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study will also be provided via Livestream and Facebook Live.

6) All pastoral care visits will be made via telephone, email, Skype or other electronic means. Ministerial Staff will not visit hospitals, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities except in the case of emergencies. Every effort will be made to ensure members in need of pastoral presence will be contacted. Please continue to call the church to keep us up to date about needs of which you become aware.

7) The offices will be open on a normal schedule. Ministers will be available to ensure the ministries of the church continue, social service needs are met and mission endeavors are pursued. Any employee with childcare needs due to subsequent school closure may work from home without penalty. We also encourage any employee or member who is sick to stay home and not come to the office.

8) We will encourage Sunday School classes and other small groups to remain in contact with each other, encourage each other and provide service to each other when possible.

9) We will encourage all members to continue their financial generosity via mail or electronic giving.

10) We will continue to pray for our neighbors and our world.

In the end, it will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be quite apparent if we under reacted or did too little.

## Need a Ride to the Doctor's Office?

The Medical Appointment Transportation Committee offers rides for members to and from medical appointments. Request a week in advance when possible. Contact Committee Chair Mary Rankin rankinma@yahoo.com or 630-2894.



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## Care List as of 3/23/2020

### Hospitals

**St. Francis Downtown:** Rosalind Tedards, Betty King

**Greer Memorial:** Shirley Smith

### Recently Discharged

Sharon Benston

### Sympathy

...to Nina Hallissy and family in the death of her aunt.

...to Kim Paschal and family in the death of her father.

...to the family of Gene Cantrell.

...to the family of Bobbie Chapman.

...to Nancy Kirby and family in the death of her cousin.

## LIVING GENEROUSLY

### Financial Needs as of 3/21

\$571,153

### Receipts as of 3/16

\$453,456

## Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

March 23-29  
Frank Smith  
268-3890 (h)

March 30-April 5  
Kyle Matthews  
551-0829 (m)

If you are unable to reach this minister at the above number, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number "199" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies."