

## WORSHIP

Sunday,  
April 26, 2020

10:30am via Livestream, Facebook  
Live and Radio

Third Sunday of Easter

Communion

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: The Importance of  
Remembering

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

Viral Vespers

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
at 7pm

[https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/viral-  
vespers](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/viral-vespers)

MidWeek Fellowship Live

Wednesday, April 22

6:15pm via Livestream and  
Facebook Live

Teacher: Jim Dant

John 18-21: Insider Information—  
The Church's Mandate

Saturday Night Facebook Live  
Concerts

Saturday, April 25

7:00pm via Facebook Live

Bobby Jo Valentine

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



## Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

*And now faith, hope and love abide,  
these three; and the greatest of these  
is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)*

Faith is grounded in the past. It is birthed from the testimonies of saints who have walked before us. It is shaped by our prior experiences of the perceived power and presence of God. We heard, we felt, we saw, and we believed—all past tense. We are here today as survivors of all that has happened in our past. We believe God has walked with us through each of these chapters of our lives to bring us to this moment. Faith is grounded in the past.

Hope is focused on the future. The best of what could be tomorrow often gets us through the worst of what is today. Being able to look forward is a powerful draw. If you are needing something to look forward to, here are a few glimpses into the future of First Baptist Greenville: Saturday Night Facebook Live concerts (Saturday nights April 18-May 31 on the church's Facebook page), our first Sunday back together in the Sanctuary (smiles

and tears and—in the words of a great music documentary—it might get loud), opening day of Day School, Candlelight Lessons and Carols, 2021 Churchwide Retreat with (wait...can I tell you this?...yeah...no need to keep it a secret...) guest speaker, Philip Gulley! Philip is the author of multiple books including: *If Grace Is True, If God Is Love*, the Harmony Series of novels and more. He is an incredibly humorous and insightful Quaker pastor and has agreed to spend some time with First Baptist Greenville! The best of tomorrow often gets us through the worst of today...but hope is still focused on the future.

The greatest of these is love. Love is here and now. I value the traditions and moorings of my faith. I truly look forward to our future, but holding to faith or hope alone takes me out of the present. Constantly reciting my past or wishing for my future are obstacles to living the moment that is given to me today. Love keeps me here. Love lays down the extended calendar (in both directions) and creates space for me to call you, write you, text you, pray for you, wave at you today. Cling to the faith of your past. Glance at the hope of your future. But live and love today...

—Jim

## United Ministries Needs Fruit

Thank you for your continued generosity in providing canned fruit for our neighbors through the United Ministries food pantry! You may now order and ship from home by shopping from the United Ministries Amazon wishlist: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MNF6VPVU487F/ref=cm\\_](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MNF6VPVU487F/ref=cm_go_nav_hz)  
[go\\_nav\\_hz](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MNF6VPVU487F/ref=cm_go_nav_hz). We will continue collecting on Wednesdays from 10am- 6pm until further notice in the covered drive-through between the Rotunda and the Fellowship Hall. You may also deliver directly to United Ministries from 8am-noon Monday-Friday at 606 Pendleton Street.

## Bending Into...

Perhaps you're feeling a bit like me these days—sometimes tired, helpless, listless, disconnected or lonely. I have no idea why, but I can't seem to drink enough water to satiate this thirst that I have! I mean, really, can someone explain that to me?! I'm suspecting these are all emotional and physical reactions to the grief that I am feeling, a grief that is both personal and communal. I know others are feeling this grief—a sense of loss in the wake of COVID-19, and whatever that loss may be for you, we are all feeling it in some form or fashion.

I was struck this Easter season when reading through the gospel of John about a detail of the resurrection story that I had never noticed before. In this account, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb

alone to find that the stone has been rolled away. Mary runs to get the other disciples who come, look into the tomb, see the linen wrapping lying there, and then return to their houses to ponder the disappearance of Jesus' body. Mary is the only one who stays at the tomb.

John 20:11 reads: "But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, *she bent over to look into the tomb...*"

What I noticed this time in reading through was a little footnote at the bottom of my page explaining "Greek lacks *to look*," so in the original Greek manuscripts this verse reads: "But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, *she bent over into the tomb...*"

This slight change in wording is giving me comfort in these days.

If Mary didn't bend over into the tomb to look, why did she enter in at all? Sometimes we need to enter into the darkness of our grief to find our way through. Maybe something about the cold, dark, dampness of this empty tomb was what Mary needed to feel in losing her beloved teacher and friend. In her grief, perhaps she needed to name her grief, feel her grief, enter into her grief.

The story of Easter is not that everything will be okay in this life of following Christ. The story of Easter is that the dark times of our lives can become something redemptive, something life-giving, something world-changing. It doesn't mean we avoid the darkness; it means we enter the darkness to find what life it offers. May it be so for all of us and for our world!

—Kendra

## Pastoral Care in a Covid-19 World

A late night comedian, describing what it's like to do a TV show from his bedroom while his toddlers were wrecking the house, said, "This is a sub-optimal time to be a human being." We need the jokes! I'm typing this while sitting alone in a very empty church building, yet I know many of us are somewhere hurting: legitimately lonely, anxious, dispirited... As Kendra reminds us in her article in this issue, we rarely identify our suffering for what it really is, just as we rarely identify our spiritual needs. Supposing you wanted to get some help, what is still available when in-person visits are not an option?

For now, we cannot provide the big gatherings with the handshakes and hugs that feel so reassuring, but we ministers are all still at work every day, and every week a minister is "on call" for after-hours pastoral emergencies: just use extension #199.

Our "Care & Concern Team" still meets every week to pray for the needs of the church. Visit the

"Contact Us" link on the church website or call the main office and leave a message: 864-233-2527, and tell us about which issues you'd like your ministers to be aware and prayerful.

Our Stephen Ministers are still available and visiting by phone and video-conferencing. What better time to have a companion to walk alongside you as you manage this crisis, as well as those other life-struggles that didn't take a vacation to make room for Covid-19. Let us know you'd like to investigate Stephen Ministry.

We are also still making counseling referrals, planning memorial services, and providing grief support. We are still in contact with our homebound members and residents of assisted living facilities. We are still delivering MidWeek meals and Bereavement meals to folks who need them. Does one of these have your name on it or that of someone you know?

# Inasmuch Day Thank You's

I don't know about you, but to me, Inasmuch Day on March 7 seems like it was a year ago! Here are two of many thank you notes our congregation has received following Inasmuch Day. These two, in particular, are reminders that your gifts and time are not forgotten. Perhaps now more than ever, these gifts are serving some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Thank you for your generous nature. We will keep you informed through the Branch and social media of ways we will continue to serve our community in the coming months.

—Laura

## A note from Julie Valentine Center, Carrie Nettles:

Dear First Baptist's Inasmuch Day team at JVC, not only did you clean & organize the warehouse as beautifully as we've ever seen it, that timely re-organization allowed my colleague & I to go in and pull stock for the ERs in order to have fresh supplies ready for each SANE kit during this time. *Since we're temporarily unable to accompany our victims, we wanted our SANE nurses to be able to resource the patients as best we could in such a time as this.* Because of your work, we were able to access exactly what we needed and had supplies set to go immediately. When I was a teenager working on various missions projects, I sometimes wondered if it really mattered or if we were just given busy work. Please tell your teens, it really mattered. Big, big gratitude



## A newsletter excerpt from Open Arms Hospice and the McCall Hospice House:

There are numerous community groups and churches that give, donate, and volunteer to support Open

Arms Hospice and the McCall Hospice House. I am choosing to lift up one of those groups today and will seek to lift up many more in the future.

I would like to flashback to last Saturday and reflect on the blessing of what First Baptist Greenville did for Open Arms Hospice. This wonderful group of people packed bags full of toiletries, prayer shawls, neck pillows, and other things we provide our patients and families at the McCall Hospice House and in patients homes throughout the Upstate. *Little did we know last Saturday that our volunteer program would be significantly impacted by decisions to limit persons into medical facilities.*

Because of this group's packing bags, we should be able to sufficiently provide already packed bags to our patients and families needing our care in the coming weeks. *A simple service project has made a much bigger impact than expected as we are operating with an extremely small percentage of our regular volunteer base.*

Thank you for your time, your service, and your blessing that is revealing itself in a multitude of ways. Our volunteers who are restricted from visiting thank you. Our limited volunteers who are allowed to continue serving thank you as they can focus their time on stocking medical supplies and assisting staff in caring for patients and families. Our staff thank you because they will be able to grab a bag when one is needed and volunteers are not able to deliver them.

Lastly I thank you for the time you gave us that is coming back tenfold or more! I enjoyed my time with you and am so very blessed you chose to serve our program for a second year as part of Inasmuch Day.

Please share my heartfelt words with your church family.

## Pastoral Care in a Covid-19 World, continued

Also, remember that you are a minister too! Don't let the distancing keep you from reaching out to someone who needs a friend right now. While none of us can visit our hospitalized members, we can communicate with them in other ways and support their families at home. PRISMA/GHS has an internal system for sending cards to patients who can't be visited at: <https://www.ghs.org/patients-visitors/>

egreetings/. Caringbridge is a website that enables you to keep up with patients and send your well-wishes and prayers to them. Your own call, cards and emails mean more than you know.

Pastoral care is alive and well—and more important now than ever. We care about you. Let us know what you need.

—Kyle

## Upcoming Internet Events

(links on church website)

- 4/20 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/21 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/22 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study
- 4/23 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/24 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/25 7:00pm Saturday Night Facebook Live Concert: Bobby Jo Valentine
- 4/26 10:30am Third Sunday of Easter
- 4/27 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/28 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 4/29 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study
- 4/30 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/1 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/2 7:00pm Saturday Night Facebook Live Concert: Adam Nitti
- 5/3 10:30am Fourth Sunday of Easter
- 5/4 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/5 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/6 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship

## Wednesday 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! Make your reservation by noon Wednesday.

### April 22

Pulled Roast Beef au Jus, Corn Casserole, Seasoned Green Beans, Heirloom Tomato Salad, Rolls, Dessert

### April 29

5 Cheese Lasagna with Meat Sauce, Salad, Italian Green Beans, Italian Bread, Lemon Texas Sheet Cake



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### LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 4/18

\$778,845

Receipts as of 4/15

\$670,723

### Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

April 21-26

Jim Dant

478-737-7298 (m)

April 27-May 3

Frank Smith

268-3890 (h)

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.”

### Care List as of 4/20/2020

#### Hospitals

MUSC-Charleston:  
Gayle Aiesi

St. Francis Downtown:  
Rosalind Tedards

#### Rehab

Brookdale-Greenville:  
Betty King

NHC-Mauldin:  
Jim Childress

Recently Discharged  
Nancy Sanders, JR  
Christy, Cindy Kenney-McIntyre

#### Sympathy

...to Chris Johnstone and family in the death of his mother.

#### Congratulations

...to Sarah Ramsey-Smith and Paul Smith on the birth of a son, Daniel Todd Smith, born on April 7, 2020. Daniel’s older brother is Josiah. His grandparents in our church are Becky and Todd Ramsey.

### Beautiful Messes

*Stories written by our Youth Family of the beautiful messes in their lives.*

A beautiful mess in my life was my senior project. I visited the special education classrooms at Beck Academy once a month to share my love of music and to teach them about music, an area of interest that goes underexplored in the special education program. Each child was their own beautiful mess. Whether they struggled to speak, struggled to move, or simply struggled to coexist with one another, each child was messy in their own way. Their messes, however, helped teach me the beauties in life. When I would visit the classroom, the mess faded away and the beauty shined through. Each child was exactly that. They were still a child. They had interests, hopes, and dreams. Each student was unique and provided a special view on life no one else could. Every smile or laugh shared what beauty they saw in the world. The class showed me that there was more to them than the stigma placed on them for things out of their control. My lessons ended up being more than just a music seminar. They became a safe space for everyone to be a little messy. If I made a mistake during a song or a lesson, the kids would just smile and keep singing or dancing along. If one child stood up and danced, no one criticized them. Instead, others would join in to make sure they were not alone. There was harmony in the class, despite all the issues or disorders the students had, and that was beautiful. Even after I had my last lesson with them, the kids were still messes. No matter what I taught them, they would still have messes in their lives I could never clean. In the end, what will stick with me is not that they were a special education class. Instead, I will never forget the beauty they all have beneath their messes. No amount of mess will ever suppress the beauty contained within us all, and if the children at Beck Academy were not messy, I would have never been able to see the beauty within.

—Forrester Gibbs,

12th Grade, Greenville Tech Charter High School