

WORSHIP

Sunday,
May 3, 2020

10:30am via Livestream, Facebook
Live and Radio

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Psalm 23, Acts 2:42-47

Sermon: Finding Christ in the Church

Access Livestream here:

<https://livestream.com/fbcgreenvillesc>

Access Facebook Live here:

[www.facebook.com/pg/
fbcgreenvillesc/videos](http://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 29

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, May 2

7:00pm via Facebook Live

Adam Nitti

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



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

I've become accustomed to the teasing, and I assure you I don't mind. Recently, a family member inquired if I planned to collect an offering at my daughter's upcoming wedding! I assured them I had not planned such... but now that they had mentioned it...

A lot of ministers—television ministers, reputedly—talk about money out of greed. I talk about money from a context of poverty, need, spirituality and principle. I spent the greater years of my childhood below the poverty line. I see the needs in our church and community. I know that generosity is a spiritual practice that strengthens our dependence on God and our connection with humanity. I do not make money a matter of conversation out of personal greed.

It is also a matter of principle...Baptist principle. Many of you have asked if our church will take advantage of the government assistance programs being offered to businesses and non-profits. The church staff, deacon officers and core committee chairs have all discussed this option and have

decided not to apply for these funds. The reasoning is as follows:

1) In principle, it breaches the cherished Baptist idea of separation of church and state. We do not judge other churches who feel differently, but we do not feel the church should lean on the government for her support.

2) Ethically, there are other businesses and non-profits who are not as solvent as we are. If we took funds—when we really do not need them—we would be depriving other entities of needed funds.

3) Practically, if funding is received by businesses and non-profits, and they are able to retain their employees, these employees can in turn support the work of their respective faith communities with their tithes and offerings. This is as it should be.

We are each feeling the impact of the Covid-19 crisis to different degrees. If you are able, continue to be faithful in your regular gifts or give a little more than you typically give. I am not comfortable asking our government for money, but I do not mind encouraging you to support the work of your church. She is at the height of her relevance and efficiency during times of crisis. We are faithfully continuing to create spaces for God to do God's work.

—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_go_nav_hz. We will continue collecting on Wednesdays 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.

Worship Is Different Now...

And I cried about that today.

Tears of longing came—
because I cannot hear the
collective voices of a full
sanctuary singing hymns and
responses,
I cannot feel the collective
energy of my church family
worshipping beside me...

But tears of consolation also
came—
because I was still able to sing
those hymns today
and know that others were
singing right along with me...
wherever they might be.

Tears of sadness flowed—
for the loss of hugs and smiles
from the children and youth that I
love so much...

But tears of joy also flowed—
because I can still see images of
the creative gifts of love and
care
that they are still offering...
to those who so desperately
need that love and care now.

Tears of grief poured—
because I could not physically

be with my church family
today...

But tears of comfort also poured—
because my church still made it
possible for us to connect and
worship together.

My worship participation today
was on a Facebook page—
singing and crying alone...
But commenting and chatting with
my friends—
posting hundreds of hearts and
laughs and smiles.

Thank you, First Baptist Greenville.

Thank you, God.

Amen.

—March 29, 2020

I wrote that poem weeks ago...
when this “new normal” had just
begun. I was struggling but trying
to focus on the positive.

When all this began, I was grieving
the fact that worship didn’t feel
right to me...because I wasn’t
able to be there (in that Sanctuary
where it happens.) I wasn’t able
to participate alongside my fellow
staff members, the choir, my
friends and my church family. It is
difficult and sometimes breaks my
heart, but that morning, I found
a new way to worship...and in
my own way, I could participate

along with my church family. That
morning, I watched worship live on
Facebook...and sang the hymns
and read along with the scriptures
and commented and posted lots
of “hearts” to express my gratitude
for the words spoken and sung.
It’s what I can do now.

On Facebook, you can see which
of your friends are watching with
you...it is such a comfort to see
names of my church family pop
up on the chat bar, and I am so
excited to also see names of my
friends who live far and near who
are now able to watch our service
right along with me. I have also
begun to watch other services
online, too—like my former
church home, Highland Baptist in
Louisville, and even churches I’ve
always wanted to attend like The
Washington National Cathedral.

My friends and members of my
church family may not be right
beside me, in the same Sanctuary
where it happens...but we still
can worship together...and God is
there—right beside us all.

“For where two or three are
gathered in my name, I am among
them” (Matthew 18:20).

—Amy Joye

Focus on Missions: Virtual Diaper Drive

During the month of April, First Baptist is partnering with the Diaper Bank of the Carolinas /Downtown Outreach Ministry to collect diapers and wipes for local families. As we know, clean diapers are essential for the health and well-being of young children. Babies left in soiled diapers experience developmental delays, behavioral issues and health concerns such as persistent diaper rashes and urinary tract infections.

There is no government assistance available for diapers and diapering supplies, and many low-

income families cannot afford the \$100 plus per month to adequately diaper an infant or young child.

To support this year’s diaper collection, shop from home by following the link to the Amazon diaper registry: <https://tinyurl.com/FBGDiaperBank>. At checkout, make sure to choose the shipping option which goes directly to the **Diaper Bank of the Carolinas**. Representatives from the Diaper Bank will distribute items to local families. Thank you for your generosity!

—Laura

Happy Birthday!

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

May 1

Joan Garrett
Westminster Place
11 E. Augusta Place
#132
Greenville, SC 29605

May 9

David Evans
224 Dupont Drive
Greenville, SC 29607

May 11

Rachel Mullinax
Rolling Green
8 Creekdale Court
Greenville, SC 29615

May 13

Janelle Rogers
2838 Fork Shoals Road
Piedmont, SC 29673

Winnie Williams
35 Hickory Way
Clemson, SC 29631

May 19

Marie Clay
Shepherd's Care
2100 N. Pleasantburg
Dr.
#143
Greenville, SC 29609

May 24

Maude Maddox (103)
Sarah Gossett
27 Conestee Ave.
Greenville, SC 29615

May 31

Mareon Stall
Rolling Green
3 Hoke Smith Blvd.
#B210
Greenville, SC 29615

Due to the suspension of church gatherings, many events have been canceled. That being said, the fall bus trip with the Roadrunners is STILL ON! September 21-28 (Monday-Monday), a group from First Baptist will travel to the Dutch Country area of Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. Diamond Tours bus tour company has done a great job 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. People have started to sign up, but there is still room for you now.

—Shanda



Tech Tips

Hello! For those who don't know me, my name is Will Dodson. I am the Director of Media and Technology, AKA the guy behind the scenes. Since we are relying on technology to keep us

together, I thought I would offer some tips and tricks to make it easier and keep us sane!

- To begin, the two places you can find our live worship services are [livestream.com](https://www.livestream.com) and Facebook Live. You can find the orders of worship on the home and Sundays pages of our website.
- You can access all of our video content (Viral Vespers and Livestreams) on our website.
- You can also listen to our worship services on the radio on 92.9 and on the TuneIn Radio app.

- Our content is available across most platforms both mobile and desktop. For the best quality, connect to a stable internet source or use a device that has a hardwired internet connection.

I wanted to end our time with a gentle reminder that I often have to think about for myself. While we are living in a time where we are encouraged to stay in our homes and away from others, it is very easy to turn to technology to find something to do, whether that's watching movies on Netflix or browsing Facebook. Challenge yourself to find time away from your phone or computer—take a walk, spend time outside or try a new hobby. I'll be the first to tell you that technology is great, but it can also keep you from seeing the world around you. I hope to see all of you soon.

Until then,
Will Dodson
The Tech Guy

Upcoming Internet Events

(links on church website)

- 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 Bible Study
- 5/7 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/8 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/9 7:00pm Saturday Night Facebook Live Concert: Arkansauce
- 5/10 10:30am Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 29

Pulled Roast Beef, Corn Casserole, Green Beans, Heirloom Tomato Salad, Roll, Dessert

May 6

Chicken Divan, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread, Dessert



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LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 4/25

\$830,768

Receipts as of 4/23

\$727,154

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

April 27-May 3

Frank Smith
268-3890 (h)

May 4-10

Matt Rollins
346-0971 (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.”

Care List as of 4/27/2020

Hospitals

St. Francis Downtown: Rosalind Tedards

Rehab

Brookdale-Greenville: Betty King

NHC-Mauldin: Jim Childress

Heartland East: Dann Kirby

Recently Discharged

Mason Garner, Gayle Aiesi

Stories by our Youth Family of the Beautiful Messes in their lives.

A New Horse: For most of my childhood I’ve ridden horses. I began as a small child just riding horses around on my grandfather’s farm to more recently competing in hunter jumper shows. I’ve always loved horses. I love riding on the back of a huge animal as it jumps. Having to be one with the horse so you don’t fall off.

This past fall, I was about to begin my third year of horse competitions with my IEA team when I had an accident. I had a really bad fall (not on a horse), and ended up with a significant concussion. All I could do for almost a week was stay in bed. I was nauseated, dizzy, and had headaches. My doctor told me not

to worry that rest was the best thing to do to help my brain heal, but then she gave me some upsetting news. She said I could not ride horses for at least six months because my risk of getting another concussion was very likely. I was devastated. I was just about to start a new season—What would I do? Riding horses and running cross country were the only sports I’ve ever done. I expressed these feelings to my doctor, but she gently reminded me that I only have one brain. She explained that my brain does not heal like a muscle or a bone, and that I needed to take care of it.

Several weeks passed and I was finally cleared to return to run cross country. Some of my friends on the team began to encourage me to come try lacrosse. I thought why not? So I began going to all of the conditionings and practices, and guess what—I loved it! I have enjoyed meeting new friends, playing a team sport, and learning to work with a group of people for a common goal.

Through this experience I have learned that life doesn’t always go as planned. You can either give up or get back on your horse, or in this case a new horse. Life doesn’t always go as planned and it’s messy, but if we look hard enough there is beauty in it.

—Carter Fayssoux, 9th Grade,
Eastside High School