

WORSHIP

**Sunday,
May 10, 2020**

10:30am via Livestream, Facebook
Live and Radio

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
Acts 7:55-60

Sermon: Finding Pain in the Church

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-
verspers](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/viral-
verspers)

MidWeek Fellowship Live

Wednesday, May 6

6:15pm via Livestream and
Facebook Live

Teacher: Jim Dant—
The Book of Ruth

**Saturday Night Facebook Live
Concerts**

Saturday, May 9

7:00pm via Facebook Watch Party
Arkansauce

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



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

(Warning: this article contains generational references which may be meaningless to those under the age of 50. Please read with caution.)

A long, long time ago in a cultural milieu far, far away, we spent our summers watching re-runs on television. At 7:00pm, we would actually get off the sofa, walk to the television, pull a knob to turn it on, turn a knob to select one of three channels, adjust the rabbit ear antennae to receive the optimal fuzzy reception, fine tune the reception by compressing the tin foil (yeah...we didn't even call it aluminum foil back then) and then sit down to watch re-runs of: The Brady Bunch, Star Trek, Mannix, Room 222, Get Christie Love, Happy Days, All in the Family, Charlie's Angels, Bewitched, The Six Million Dollar Man, and more. New episodes of our favorite shows were broadcast in the fall and early spring, but during the summer, we watched re-runs. We truly did not mind. There were always episodes we had missed; it was a delight to get an opportunity to see them. In the episodes we had seen, there were

always nuances we had missed. We liked re-runs. Today, many of our favorite shows have been syndicated, and we watch these re-runs over and over again simply because they are our favorites.

This is the week our MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study and Prayer services typically end; however, this midweek Livestream gathering has become important to many in our current cultural milieu. We have decided to extend our offering of Midweek Services into the summer, so...it's time for a re-run! I think everyone knows my favorite biblical book is Ruth. I preached through this book when you and I first met. Preaching, however, limits me to 12-15 minutes and barely gives time to scrape the surface of each chapter. This Wednesday, May 6, I will begin a five-week, deeper study of the book of Ruth. If you've already heard me preach through the book, maybe you'll hear your favorite episode again...or maybe you'll hear an episode you missed...or maybe you'll catch a nuance that passed you by the last time. This Wednesday, read chapter one of Ruth, boot up your computer, wrap a little tin foil around the top of your screen—for old time sake—and join us for a fun, informative and inspirational re-run.

—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.

Seen and Cherished



A couple of weeks ago, Todd and I had the joy of keeping our 2½-year-old grandson, Josiah, at our house while his new baby brother was born. We also had the joy of re-learning what it's like to sleep with a preschooler. (Picture him between us, the cross

bar of the capital H in our bed!) We were delighted to be able to lavish all our attention on him, knowing he might need it with a new little person joining the family. We were right. A few days after Baby Daniel and Sarah came home from the hospital, they came over for dinner, but before we sat down, Josiah had a question: "Lala and Pappy, wanna come see me jump on your bed?" How could we say no? We all filed into our bedroom—Lala, Pappy, Uncle Sam, Mommy and Daddy, too, baby in tow—and stood around the bed, everyone clapping and laughing and cheering Josiah on.

We all want to be seen and cherished, don't we? When our world gets turned upside down, both by happy things like new brothers and by dangerous things like a new virus, we need to know that we are loved. We need to know that we matter to others, so how are you doing, with your world turned upside down?

It has been so life-giving for me to see so many of our kids and adults sending mail to our home-bound members, making calls to each other, checking in to chat, to give a listening ear and an offer to pray. It's part of the work of the church, to be the hands and feet of God who loves us completely.

I hope you're feeling seen and cherished, because you are. Not only do you matter to your church, but you deeply matter to the God who holds you so tenderly, the God who inspired the writer of Psalm 139.

You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.

²You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

⁷Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

²³Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

May you feel seen, cherished and comforted by your church and by our love-lavishing, oh so generous God!

—Becky

AYMC Pulse

Have you seen them yet—the fitness challenges? Caleb Avery and I want to keep you moving. Each weekday on Facebook (AYMC, *First Baptist Greenville, SC*) and Instagram (@aymc_fbc), one or both of us is challenging

you and three others to do a specific activity. It may be walking, running, squats, push-ups, cart wheels or a host of other fun things. Be sure to check those out every day, and please pass the challenge along to your friends, too. Don't wait for us to tag you to do them!

Also, we want to see what you are doing to stay active, including but not limited to these challenges. Next time you are taking a virtual class, walking in your neighborhood or doing whatever fitness activity you do, tag us at #ThisIsAYMC. I can't wait to see what you're up to these days.

—Mittie

Congratulations, High School Graduates!

On Sunday, May 17, the graduates of 2020 will be celebrated during morning worship.

Pictured here are those high school graduates who contributed pictures. Next week, college and graduate school pictures will be shared.

—Mary Carol, Will R. and Sarah



CHASE BEEBY
Greenville Senior
High School



FORRESTER GIBBS
Greenville Technical
Charter High School



RACHEL GIRVIN
St. Joseph's Catholic
High School



CARTER JANSE
South Carolina Governor's
School for Science and
Mathematics



CHARLIE MCDONALD
Greenville Senior
High School



MICHELLE MOON
Greenville Senior
High School



MATTHEW WRIGHT
JL Mann
High School

Beautiful Messes

Our Youth Family wrote stories of the beautiful messes in their lives to share on Youth Sunday. In the next weeks, we will share some of them here:

Beautiful messes are found all throughout life, but an impactful beautiful mess in my life began in 2016, when my mom was diagnosed with cancer, which was marked with a lot of stress, fear, and uncertainty. My mom, who is undeniably one of the most important people in my life, was suddenly in and out of the hospital, going to different appointments, and receiving her chemo treatments and a stem cell transplant. It was very scary, and definitely messy. But what made this challenging time in our lives beautiful was the outpour of support and love from those around us. Our extended family, neighbors, friends, and church family would all check in on us, bring us meals, help get my sister and I from place to place, and pray for my super strong mom and

continued on page 4

Upcoming Internet Events

(links on church website)

- 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
- 5/11 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/12 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/13 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study
- 5/14 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/15 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/16 7:00pm Saturday Night Facebook Live Concert: Kyra Zhang
- 5/17 10:30am Sixth Sunday of Easter
- 5/18 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/19 7:00pm Viral Vespers
- 5/20 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study

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.

May 6

Chicken Divan, Steamed Vegetables, Salad, Bread, Dessert

May 13

Meat Lasagna, Italian Green Beans, French Bread, Salad, Dessert



THE BRANCH (USPS No. 597060) is published weekly January thru December (except one week in July and December). Periodicals postage paid at Greenville, SC 29602. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BRANCH, 847 Cleveland Street Greenville, SC 29601. (Phone 864-233-2527). Kimberly Coates, Editor.

Vol. LXI May 4, 2020 No. 18

LIVING GENEROUSLY Financial Needs as of 5/2

\$882,691

Receipts as of 4/30

\$811,387

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

May 4-10

Matt Rollins
346-0971 (m)

May 11-17

Jim Dant
478-737-7298 (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 5/4/2020

Hospitals

As of the morning of 5/4/2020, there are no hospitalized church members of whom we are aware.

Rehab

Brookdale-Greenville: Betty King
Heartland East: Dann Kirby

Recently Discharged

Rosalind Tedards, Jim Childress

Sympathy to

...the family of Henry Barton.

Beautiful Messes, *continued from pg 3*
our family. It was really great that so many people helped us during such a difficult time and we were, and still are, incredibly grateful. All of the people who came together to support my family truly helped us see beauty in a messy time.

—Abby Wilson

11th Grade, Mauldin High School

My beautiful mess is my friendships. I love every single one of my friends, but sometimes, things can get messy. For example, I have had my best friend since kindergarten, but we both started to go our own ways and things got messy this year. So, I sat with her and we decided to take a break from each other. Now our friendship is beautiful and great, but it will always be messy. All my friends are here to support me, and I am there to support them. We have each other, and we're there through the messy and beautiful.

—Blake Dennis

7th Grade, Hughes Academy