

WORSHIP

MidWeek Fellowship Live

Wednesday, July 22

6:15pm via Livestream and
Facebook Live

Kendra Plating—Book of Job: Listening
beyond Words—What is generosity?
(closing thoughts and questions)

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 2020

10:30am via Livestream, Facebook Live
and Radio

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Sermon: Fifty Ways

Scripture: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b;
Matthew 13:44-53

Soloist: Emily Matthews

Access Livestream here:

<https://livestream.com/fbcgreenvillesc>

Access Facebook Live here:

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

Access Radio (Sunday morning only)
here:

89.3-HD4, 91.9 FM, 92.9 FM



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Without endorsing any political party, I need to give a little credit to the late Congressman John Lewis.

I was an enthusiastic, up and coming, young pastor when I met John Lewis. He was visiting Georgia State University's campus. Several 'young leaders' were invited to meet with him, and as a twenty-one-year-old, freshly ordained minister, I was among the select. He spoke for a few minutes about the struggles of his past and the then present condition of our world. Afterward, he entertained our questions. A fellow student—seated behind me—raised his hand, "Congressman Lewis, your generation marched, held sit-ins, and went to prison to bring about justice. How can we as young leaders make a statement in our world today?" Congressman Lewis answered...and I wrote. His words are written in the front of my college Bible. Some of you have heard me repeat some version of it over the years. He said,

"You don't need to make a statement in the world. You need to make a difference in the world. I don't need you in the streets or in a jail cell as badly as I need you on corporate boards, in the fabric of industry and arts, at your HOA meetings, eating lunch with the up-and-in, playing golf at the country club, and using your influence with business owners and institutional leaders. Making a statement is important. Everything we do for justice is important, but what I really need you to do is use your influence to make a difference. Even if no one ever sees you or no one ever notices."

Those words helped shape the path of my ministry. I've quietly held those words in my heart and glanced at them in my Bible over the years. I remembered them the day our church issued a consensus statement on the welcoming of all people into the full practice of faith. I remembered them the day I was called and informed I had received the Calder Ehrmann Diversity Leadership Award. I remembered them as the voice on the other side of the telephone told me that I had been named to the Martin Luther King

continued on page 4

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://tinyurl.com/uminfruit>. 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.

Meet the Staff

In the coming weeks, we will be introducing our church staff to the congregation. While many of these staff members have served First Baptist Greenville for years—even decades—newer members may not be familiar with them, and new responsibilities may not be known by the greater congregation. Knowing your church staff helps you know whom to contact when a particular need arises in your life. Today we meet...



Mary Carol Anderson

Minister of Youth and Recreation



Will Raybon

Associate Minister of Youth and Recreation



Sarah Carter

Youth Ministry Assistant

OUR YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF

Under the leadership of Mary Carol Anderson for the last five years, a vibrant Youth Family has been formed within the larger congregational family. She works alongside Will Raybon and Sarah Carter. Together, they disciple our youth in developing a faithful perspective regarding the joys and challenges of adolescence. This team has also faced the program challenges presented by the recent COVID-19 crisis by focusing on and modeling the importance of relationships.

In addition to youth ministry, this team also works to provide college ministry opportunities and internships for college/graduate school students, and they participate in the broader worship and discipleship life of the church.

—Jim

Pastoral Pandemic Putt Putt

Every Friday in July is *Pastoral Pandemic Putt Putt Day*. If you or your family need or would enjoy some time with your senior minister—for serious chat or to tell the corniest jokes you know or to just catch up—sign up on the day and hour you choose (one



participant or family per hour block), and bring your putter, golf ball, and water bottle to McPherson Park Putt Putt on the corner

of Main Street and E. Park Avenue. Everyone must wear a mask—no mask, no play with the pastor. We will enjoy a game of putt putt and some good conversation and all while staying socially distanced. If before or after our game your family wants to enjoy a picnic, there are tables throughout the park. If it rains, we'll be in contact via email.

—Jim

Location: McPherson Park, 120 E. Park Avenue, Greenville, SC 29601

Register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4daaad2da2f58-pastoral>

A New Sunday School Class

As someone who loves to see church members get as involved as they want, I am always thinking about ways to help people find their places of service or their communities within the larger church. For newer members, it can feel daunting to engage in a new opportunity in a large congregation or to visit an established Sunday School class. One solution is to start a new group, such as a Sunday School class. I have already begun conversations with several newer members looking to start a class, and now we are

ready to invite others to let us know if you might be interested in hearing more about this opportunity.

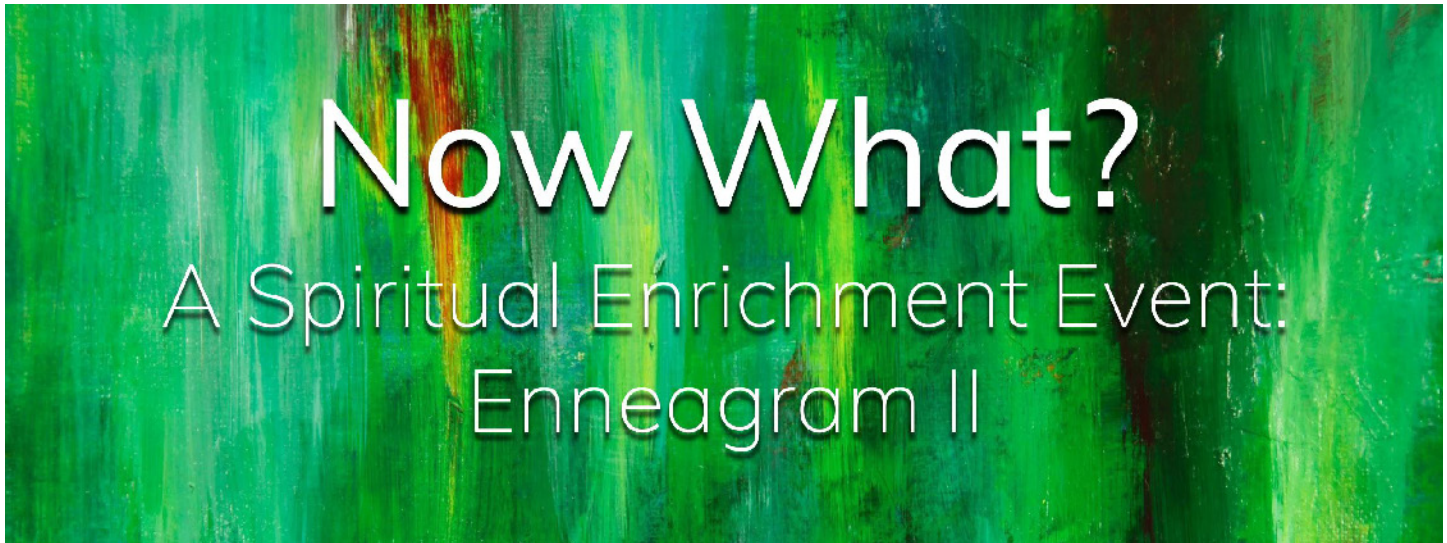
The idea for this new Sunday School class is to provide an option for relatively newer members looking both to create community in smaller circles and to become more involved in the larger church, almost like an extension of First Baptist 101.

I personally have been a part, in one way or another, of forming five

of our current adult Sunday School options, so to me, starting a new class is fun and exciting, and the timing might be just right for it.

If you are interested, please email me at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com, so I can add your name to an interest list and make sure you are invited to the initial information session (a Zoom meeting) in August.

—Matt



Tuesday, August 4, 6:00-8:00pm

The Enneagram is a psychological and spiritual tool that uses the framework of nine distinct personality types to describe the preferred ways we make our way through the world. On Tuesday, June 23, Rolyn Rollins, an Enneagram workshop facilitator for the Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection at Furman University, led participants through a discovery and exploration of their own Enneagram types, including healthy ways to use this new information in daily interactions with others. Now we are planning another offering of the retreat on Tuesday, August 4, for those already familiar with the Enneagram looking for a deeper understanding of it and how to use it to become more self-aware and to better understand the perspectives of others. The cost to participate is \$10, which includes a copy of *The Essential Enneagram* if you don't already have one.

Class size is limited, so register today at firstbaptistgreenville.com/enneagram.

—Matt

Upcoming Internet Events

(links on church website)

- 7/20 Virtual Vacation Bible School for Rising 2nd-6th Grades
- 7/22 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study
Kendra Plating—Book of Job: Listening Beyond Words—What is generosity? (closing thoughts and questions)
- 7/26 10:30am Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Jim Dant, Proclaimer
Emily Matthews, Soloist
- 7/27 Virtual Vacation Bible School for Rising 2nd-6th Grades
- 7/29 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Bible Study—Jim Dant



Meals to Go

Uptown Catering continues to provide meals to go as well as Wednesday Night Specials at FBG pricing! Visit their website (<https://theuptowncompany.square.site/s/shop>) to view their menu options. 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!

AYMC Walking Track

AYMC walking track hours, by appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8am-12noon. Email aymc@firstbaptistgreenville.com for appointment.


847 Cleveland Street,
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
(864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com

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 July 20, 2020 No. 28

LIVING GENEROUSLY Financial Needs as of 7/18

\$1,453,844

Receipts as of 7/13

\$1,268,420

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

July 20-26
Frank Smith
268-3890 (h)

July 27-August 2
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

Care List as of Morning, 7/20/2020

Hospitals

Prisma-Greenville
Memorial: Wylina Holder

St. Francis-Downtown:
Brenda Ballard, Jimmy
Stewart (Corrinne)

Rehab

Woodlands: Pat Stephens

NHC-Greenville: Joan
Garrett

Sympathy

...to the family of Freddie
Foster.

...to Frank Webb and
family in the death of his
brother.

Rustlings, continued from page 4

College of Preachers by Morehouse College for my work in civil rights. I remembered them as I sat at the Tribeca Film Festival and watched First Baptist Greenville appear on the screen. I remembered them when the Peace Center premiered the film 'Gay Chorus, Deep South' and later invited the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus for a return visit to Greenville. I remembered them as I stood at the National AIDS Memorial in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and saw *First Baptist Greenville* etched in stone there. I remembered them when the leadership of Springfield Baptist Church sat in my condo—eating beef stew and cornbread—planning our next joint venture. I remember them every time I receive an email from someone who has found their way back to faith because '....First Baptist Greenville is not like any church I've attended before...'

"You don't need to make a statement in the world. You need to make a difference in the world." Rest in Peace, John Lewis...and thank you.

— Jim