

BRANCH

August 31, 2020

WORSHIP

MidWeek Fellowship Live Wednesday, September 2

6:15pm via Livestream and Facebook Live

Jim Dant—An Introduction to Pilgrimage: Why Walk Where Jesus Walked?

Sunday, September 6, 2020

10:30am via Livestream, Facebook Live and Radio

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Scripture: Psalm 119:33-40; Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon: Treat Them Like a Gentile

Access Livestream here: https://livestream.com/fbcgreenvillesc

Access Facebook Live here: https://www.facebook.com/ fbcgreenvillesc/

Access Radio (Sunday morning only) here:

89.3-HD4, 91.9 FM, 92.9 FM

August Missions Focus

Visit the School Tools website (https://tinyurl.com/schooltools20) to learn more about this year's School Tools program and how to get involved.

Protecting Our Children

Review the policy and find the screening form and DSS Consent form at https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/protecting-our-children.



Rustlings
BY JIM DANT

Labor Day was a random marker during my childhood. My parents did not allow us to go swimming after Labor Day—even if temperatures were still in the 90s in the Mississippi Delta! To ensure our warmth, we had to start wearing t-shirts under our regular shirts after Labor Day-even if temperatures were still in the 90s in the Mississippi Delta! White shorts, pants, skirts and shoes were put away until Easter. (This applied more to my sister than to me. It also did not include white Converse Chucks.) In many ways, Labor Day was a marker.

This year, Labor Day marks the start-up for much of our church programming. Complete details will be communicated by particular ministry areas, but allow me to give you a brief overview here:

Sunday School? Most Sunday School classes (children and adult) will continue to meet virtually. Youth Sunday School is adopting a hybrid model. ONE youth Sunday School will meet each week (masked and socially distanced in a large church venue).

Wednesday Evenings? MidWeek
Fellowship will continue to be
broadcast via Livestream and
Facebook Live but will be broadcast
from the Fellowship Hall. Children's
Music and Mission programs will
begin meeting via Zoom. Youth will
alternate gathering on Wednesday
and Sunday evenings according
to age and in accordance with our
COVID-19 Covenant guidelines.
(Contact our Youth Ministry Team for
more information.)

Committee Meetings? Some committees have chosen to continue meeting virtually. Other committees have begun to meet at the church under our COVID-19 Covenant guidelines.

Worship? Churches our size face a unique challenge when it comes to being both safe and inclusive. We will continue to broadcast all services via Livestream and Facebook Live...but...I think we have some exciting news coming soon with regard to an alternative option for worship. Hopefully we can let you know by Labor Day...after all....Labor Day seems to be this year's random marker.

-Jim

Fall Programming Resumes September 9

Register children aged 3-grade 5 at https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/preschool-children-registration/

Warmest Greetings, FBG Family!

It has been a delight to begin my time as Pastoral Resident, even when church feels very different. Seminary doesn't necessarily prepare you to lead worship on camera or on Zoom, but I have been encouraged and impressed by how well FBG has pivoted and adapted to serve the church's needs. There's a joke going around my divinity school classmates about adding a course on televangelism—hah!

This transition could have been a lonely one, but you all have surrounded Matthew and me with such hospitality and welcome. Thank you for reaching out to us by email, phone, snail mail, and in person. It has made a huge difference! Scripture offers many models for hospitality, from

Sarah and Abraham feeding three strange quests to Israel's covenant to welcome the refugee and exile to Jesus' feeding and caring for the crowds to Lydia hosting Paul and his companions in Philippi. These acts of welcome not only satisfy immediate, basic needs of those seeking sustenance and shelter but establish a framework for continued relationship. Small acts of hospitality remind us of our interconnectedness and the blessing of community. In this time of personal transition, I am grateful for this community's hospitality, and I look forward to getting to know you all better.

Let's get in touch! What restaurants should we try? What local spots should we visit? What do you love about FBG? What do



you think I should know about our church community? When (oh, when) do you think it will cool off? I would love to hear your stories and suggestions. You can reach me by email at camille.loomis@ firstbaptistgreenville.com or by phone at (864) 233-2527 ext. 7511. If you have the time to get out and about, let's meet for lunch! I'm looking forward to doing life together.

-Camille

United Ministries Fruit DRIVE (thru!) @ FBG

SEPTEMBER FOCUS ON MISSIONS

Missing a few friendly faces? Wondering how the church will celebrate Jim's birthday this year without a building filled with fruit? Wonder no more. This year, we're taking our Fruit DRIVE thru the parking lot!

On September 20, between 1pm and 4pm, bring your fruit to the church for a Fruit DRIVE thru! Drive through the covered drive between the Rotunda and Fellowship Hall, and as you stay in your car, our socially distanced church volunteers will collect your fruit. Wave to Jim from the comfort of your car (instead of your couch!) to help him celebrate his birthday. Decorate your cars, make posters, play music! (This is optional. DRIVE your fruit thru no matter the car detailing!)

Last year, the church donated 2,430 cans of fruit! Each can makes a difference; bring what you can!

If you are not able to attend the DRIVE (thru!), you can always support the Fruit DRIVE in these other ways:

- You can order and ship from home by shopping from the United Ministries Amazon wishlist: https://tinyurl.com/uminfruit.
- We will continue to collect on Wednesdays from 10am until 6pm in the covered drive-through between the Rotunda and the Fellowship Hall until further notice.
- You may deliver directly to United Ministries between 8am and noon, Monday through Friday, at 606 Pendleton Street.

-Anna Woodham

Adult Sunday School Virtual Open House

ASK HOW TO VISIT!

Our Sunday School Ministry is diverse in its approach to teaching and providing community. Each class attempts to meet the individual and corporate needs of its members through study and fellowship. Many classes engage in mission projects and are active in ministry outside the class time. Our overall goal is to provide an environment of lifelong learning that enables adults to mature in faith, deepen relationships, and learn to invest their God-given gifts in ministry. We want to assist you in finding a class that meets your needs and in which you can grow and serve.

Classes are gathering virtually right now, but it is still a good time to visit them. If you would like to connect with one or have more information on how to "visit" or find a good fit, please contact me at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com, and I will be glad to assist.

For more details of the adult classes listed, visit here: https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/adults/.

-Matt



Adkins Bouton: Primarily couples in 40s and 50s

Koinonia: Couples and singles, mainly in 30s and 40s

Link: Young adults, singles, and couples, mostly in 20s and 30s, many with young children

Connections: newer members and guests to FBG to establish a community within the Church

Seminar-Corder: Mid 60s through 90s

Rose/Grace: Couples and singles with college-age to young adult children

Gayle Price: Young couples and singles in 20s, 30s, and 40s

Carson: Mid-life to older singles and couples with adult children

Hope: Mid-life couples and singles with adult children

Johnson: Women 50+

M.T. Anderson: Senior adult men

Bridge: College and 20s

First Baptist 101: Visitors and new members

Joint Summer Series

Joint Advent Series

Fall Registration for Children: 2020-21 Activities

Register children ages 3 through grade 5 for the 2020-2021 year of activities. Although things look a little different this year, we are excited to begin a new year of programming. Visit https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/preschool-children-registration/ to complete the registration form. Follow-up information will be provided based upon responses. Fall activities resume on Wednesday, September 9, and Sunday, September 13. For further information contact Becky (becky.ramsey@firstbaptistgreenville.com), Juli (juli.morrow@firstbaptistgreenville.com), Laura (laura.stout@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or Priscilla (priscilla.harris@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

Upcoming Internet Events

(links on church website)

9/2 6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Jim Dant—An Introduction to Pilgrimage: Why Walk Where Jesus Walked?

9/4-6 Youth Fall Kickoff Event

9/4-7 AYMC Closed

9/6 10:30am Proclaimer: Jim Dant9/7 Church Offices Closed inObservance of Labor Day

9/9 4:00pm Preschool Choir/ Missions (Zoom)

> 5:00pm Elementary Choir/ Missions (Zoom)

Middle School Youth (AYMC)

6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship Jim Dant—In the Footsteps of Jesus: The Annunciation

9/11 Preschool & Children's
Ministries Event: Drive-By

Frozen Yogurt

9/13 10:30am Communion Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Soloist: Darby Wilcox 5:00pm High School Youth

(AYMC)

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 8/29

\$1,765,382

Receipts as of 8/28

\$1,635,718

Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

August 31-September 6 Jim Dant 478-737-7298 (m)

> September 7-13 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."

9/16 4:00pm Preschool Choir/
Missions (Zoom)
5:00pm Elementary Choir/
Missions (Zoom)
Middle School Youth (AYMC)
6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship
Jim Dant – In the Footsteps of
Jesus: The Birth

9/20 10:30am Proclaimer: Jim Dant

1st Grader Recognition



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!

Care List Care List as of Morning, 8/31

Hospitals

St. Francis-Downtown: Brenda Ballard

Rehab

Gables on Pelham: Fran Jones
NHC-Greenville: Joan Garrett

Woodlands at Furman: Doris Clanton

Discharged

Glenda Ehrmann

Sympathy

...to the family of Norma Higgins.

Introducing

Ashley and Riley Brock, 148 Charles Drive, Piedmont 29673, joined FBG on August 2. Riley joined by transfer of letter from another Baptist church, and Ashley joined by previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination. Ashley is employed with Bon Secours, and Riley works with World Finance. They have a young daughter, Lily.

First Baptist

CICCONTICO

847 Cleveland Street,
Greenville, South Carolina 29601.4495
(864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com

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 August 31, 2020 No. 34

Shirley Wagner, 1344 Trailhead Court, Greenville 29617, joined FBG on August 23, by previous profession of faith and baptism from another denomination.

Friday Morning Bible Study

Short Stories and Sermons: A Study of the Parables (Fall Semester) and Sermons and Teachings Teachings (Spring Semester) of Jesus

Facilitated by Michelle McClendon

Fall semester: Fridays, September 18-November 20, 2020, 10-11:30am. Zoom Meeting platform. Can be accessed via phone, tablet, or computer. Zoom account not required for access.

Cost is \$50 per semester payable to Michelle McClendon via Venmo, PayPal, check or cash.

To Register for Fall contact Michelle McClendon (michellemc216@gmail. com) or Becky Bouton (beckybouton@gmail.com). The deadline to register is September 14.