

WORSHIP

Sunday, December 13

10:30am *Be At Peace*

The Peace Center and

via FBG Website, Facebook and Radio

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

Lessons and Carols

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir
Ensemble, String Quartet, Saxophone
and Percussion

Access FBG Website here:

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/>

Access Facebook 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

Advent Bookets

Please visit the church website homepage for the new in-house 2020 book of Advent meditations. If you would like a paper copy, contact Kimberly Coates (kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or 233-2527 ext. 128) to arrange a pick-up time.

AYMC Hours

AYMC Walking Track and Fitness Room are open by appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8am-12noon. Additionally, on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, appointments are available 5-7pm. Email aymc@firstbaptistgreenville.com for appointment.



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Alex Trevino and his family lived a few blocks from my house—the halfway point between my home and our elementary school. Each school day morning he would wait on his corner and join the parade of Mabry Street students already meandering toward the campus. Alex immigrated to the United States from Mexico. We morning walkers were intrigued with his language, his accent, the songs he knew, and the intrigue of having lived in another country. I primarily enjoyed the food. As our friendship grew, Alex often invited me to his home for supper. One day I told him how much I liked Mexican food and that I wish my mom would learn to cook it. In that moment—in one sentence—he explained to me the mystery of Mexican food (at least from a fourth grade point of view). Alex said, “I think all Mexican dishes contain the same ingredients, but they are wrapped up or spread out in different ways.” I’ve found this to be true with most cuisines.

It’s also true for this Advent/Christmas season...

During a normal holiday season, our congregation enjoys a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on the Sunday evening before Christmas. Along with Easter, this service draws our largest number of worshipers. Our Christmas Eve Service is another large gathering where children receive an annual gift and we all receive communion. This year, however, we cannot squeeze hundreds of people into our Sanctuary for either of these services...so...we are taking all the ingredients of these service and wrapping them up (or spreading them out) a little differently. This Sunday, December 13, we will gather for worship (or watch online) at the Peace Center and enjoy *Lessons and Carols*. On Sunday evening, December 20, we will host a ‘Luminary Drive Through’ at the church campus. The Luminary Drive Through will include: *candles* (obviously), *communion*, *a gift for the children*, *an opportunity to donate to our annual Lula Whilden Offering for World Missions* (all of which are part of our traditional Candlelight and Christmas Eve

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December 20, 6:00-8:00pm

Drive-through Candlelight Service

Luminaries, Live Nativity, Music, Communion, Children’s Gift from Jim, and Lula Whilden World Missions Offering

Senior Moments

2020 has been the most stressful year that most of us can remember, and it is beginning to appear that it will be late spring before we see a lot of improvement. We long for a time when we can gather to worship in our Sanctuary or study together in our Sunday School classes. We miss the meals together on Wednesday nights and at Friday Lunch and More programs. We miss the fellowship and the community. We fondly remember a time when we were not asked to wear masks or to social distance. How we miss the days of handshakes and hugs! When life changed in March 2020, we first thought everything would be alright by summer... then fall... and now we are beginning to hear that it will be spring or summer of 2021 before life begins to look and feel "normal." As we continue to be cut off from one another, our hope lags, and we despair.

This month we are beginning a new feature in the Branch called "Senior Moments." Various Senior Adults will write a short article about every six weeks about matters that are important to them.

The Bible speaks so much about hope. Psalm 31:24 says, "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Christopher Reeve said, "Once you choose hope, anything's possible." During this Advent season and into the new year, we pray that God will lead us and help our resolve to choose hope. Staying in touch with family and friends in ways that are safe will be most helpful. We need to persevere with all our restrictions, so that we may all stay safe.

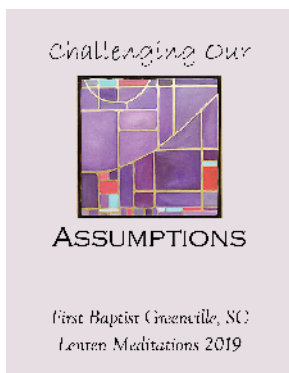
Our Senior Adult Committee is trying to facilitate better communication in our Senior Adult community and to increase opportunities for our Senior Adults to reach out to each other. We hope to hear from all of you with your ideas regarding communication. Contact one of the members of the Senior Adult Committee with your ideas.

—Nancy Kirby, Chair 2020

Senior Adult Committee:

Janet Albert
 Eve Burroughs (Co-Chair 2021)
 Anne Cargill
 Jo Carson
 Jim Cauble
 Anne Clark
 Marlene Douglas
 Tyrone Edwards Sr.
 Sandra Funderburk
 Mary Louise Green
 Nancy Kirby
 Bill Lacy
 Mary Ruth Lacy
 Brenda League (Co-Chair 2021)
 Judy Pace
 Bernie Showman
 Cindy Showman
 Barbara Stone
 Lois Stroud

Photographs and Artwork Needed for Lenten Booklet



When we reach the season of Lent 2021, it will have been a full year since the coronavirus pandemic exploded in the US, impacting our lives in profound ways. The Spiritual Formation Committee hopes that this year's Lenten devotional booklet will help us look back on our collective experience in

and artwork from the congregation that speak to our experience of the pandemic. These can be planned photographs, spontaneous candid shots, or original artwork in any form.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Michael Williamson, chair of the Spiritual Formation Committee, at michael.n.williamson@gmail.com by Friday, December 11.

—Susan D'Amato, Spiritual Formation Committee

"exile" and navigate the challenges of "returning." We would like the booklet to include photographs

Advent Gift Bag Delivery



A piece of Christmas came a little early for our homebound members and members in assisted living facilities! Almost 100 members received an Advent gift bag full of seasonal treats. These annual gift bags, which are prepared and distributed through the Congregational

Care lay leaders and by delivery volunteers, include a copy of the 2020 Advent devotional, a Christmas card from the Care and Concern Team members, a finger labyrinth, and a healthy handful of our favorite candy! As a newcomer to our congregation, I have

loved getting to see this example of community love-in-action. From the planning, to the bag assembly, to the card addressing, to the delivery days, each step was full of care and careful attention for our members we may not see regularly in person.

A huge thank you to our team leaders and the delivery drivers who rallied together to show Christ's love within our church family! We need each other more than ever this year. Your dedication to serve one another emboldens us to keep our face turned towards the light of Christ coming into the world. Happy Advent to all!

—Camille & the Pastoral Care Team
(Kyle, Kendra and Ryland)

Lula Whilden World Missions Offering



In the November 9 *Branch*, I shared why our Lula Whilden offering is named such and how it supports missions through the Alliance of Baptists (<https://allianceofbaptists.org/partners/hope-building-partners>), CBF (<https://cbf.net/missions>), and CBF SC (<https://cbfsc.org/mission-grants/>). We are fortunate to have Tina and Jonathan Bailey, CBF field personnel in Bali, as fellow FBG members. Here are Tina's reflections on why our offering matters:

There is so much I could write about how the Lula offering impacts lives in Bali. At this time, I will simply speak about how we encourage artists to create work that connects to their own culture. There has been an unfortunate message communicated in many countries that non-western art forms are not welcome in the church. We work hard to repair the damage that has been done by

this message. The symbols from these different cultures have meanings that are natural and help them feel connected to God. It can be by using their own kinds of musical instruments, the melody of songs from their own culture, the dance forms and styles that are unique to their culture and even the painting or drawing techniques. When the artists we work with begin to reclaim

the music, dance and visual art symbols they grew up with to honor God, then the gospel is rooted in their own Balinese soil. Exemplifying as our Balinese mentor and teacher says, "Bali is my Body, Christ is my life." God loves cultures from all over the world. It is so important to remember this. We are grateful for this offering and your support of our work.

You may give to the Lula offering at our December 20 drive-through luminary service; online or by text (see <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/give/>); or by check made payable to First Baptist Greenville, designated for Lula Offering. Let's give generously and keep Lula's legacy alive!

—Laura

Upcoming Events

(service links on church website)

- 12/9 5:00-7:00pm Middle School Christmas Decorating Party (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 12/13 10:30am (Peace Center and Virtual) Third Sunday of Advent *Be at Peace* Service of Lessons and Carols
- 12/13 5:00-7:00pm High School Christmas White Elephant Game (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 12/16 5:00-7:00pm Middle School Christmas White Elephant Game (AYMC Terrace Level)
6:15pm Longest Night Service (Virtual)
- 12/18 6:00-9:00pm College Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
- 12/20 9:30-10:15am (Zoom) Joint Advent Sunday School Series: A Conversation with Our Seminary Students— Learning to Love Again <https://tinyurl.com/fbgadventss>
10:30am (Virtual) Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 12/20 6:00-8:00pm Drive-through Candlelight Service
- 12/24 5:00pm (Virtual) Fireside Christmas Eve Service
- 12/27 10:30am (Virtual) First Sunday of Christmas
- 1/3 10:30am (Virtual) Epiphany Sunday
Jim Dant and Akif Aydin, Proclaimers

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



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!

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.

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LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 12/5
\$2,492,304

Receipts as of 12/4
\$2,224,054



Receipts as of 12/4
\$51,565

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

December 7-13
Frank Smith
268-3890 (h)

December 14-20
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, 12/7

Hospitals

The Pastoral Care Office is not aware of any hospitalized church members as of the morning of December 7.

Rehab

Patewood-Congaree: Brenda Ballard

St. Francis-Downtown: Claudia Caldwell

Discharged

Mary Wylie, Hugh Hughes

Sympathy

...to the family of Kent Brown.

...to Tandy Taylor and family in the death of her mother.

Rustlings, *continued from page 1*

services) and will also include a Live Nativity and several musical ensembles. Finally, on Christmas Eve we will broadcast a short vesper service from our fireplace in the church Parlor—ending the season with music and a meditation to welcome the birth of the Christ child. All the ingredients of our traditional Candlelight Service and Christmas Eve Service can be experienced this year; they are just wrapped up and spread out in a different way. See you there!

—Jim