

WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 24

6:15pm

Via FBG Website and Facebook

MidWeek Fellowship

Proclaimer: Camille Loomis Rehnborg

Bible Study: Temptations of Jesus:
Luke 22:66-23:25

Sunday, March 28

10:30am

Palm Sunday

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Sermon: Life Flashes before Your Eyes

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Service Choir: Sanctuary Choir

Access FBG Website here:
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/>

Access Facebook here:
<https://www.facebook.com/fbcgreenvillesc/>

Access Radio (Sunday morning only)
here:

89.3-HD4, 89.7 FM, 91.9 FM

If you are having trouble viewing the stream or have had trouble in the past, please email live@firstbaptistgreenville.com. Include your name, email and description of your problem. Thank you for your continued support.

—Will D.



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Three thousand Easter eggs will be hidden on Fluor Field Easter Sunday morning. (I'm not sure they'll actually be hidden. How do you 'hide' brightly colored eggs on a well-manicured outfield? I'm guessing 'scattered' is more accurate.) I've been told the eggs will be filled with candy, toys and even money! (Personally, I'd be in it for the candy...but to each his or her own.) The service begins at 8:00am. I know it's early, but Easter happened early in the morning. (The staff also needs adequate time to return to the Sanctuary and prepare for the broadcast of our 10:30 Easter Service.) I hope you will wake up early Easter Sunday morning, rouse your little ones, put on your mask, and make your way to Fluor Field. It will be a wonderful time of in-person worship followed by a lot of fun for our children. (Maybe someone will give me a piece of candy...)

A little over two-thousand years ago, the earthly life of Jesus ended, the lifeless body of Jesus

was placed in a borrowed grave, and on the first Easter morning, a new, resurrected life began. All four gospels describe the morning in different ways. Throughout the decades, theologians have drawn our attention to various insights and varying levels of significance regarding the event. Regardless of their conclusions, the record of this event remains the greatest source of hope for people of Christian faith. It is our reminder: Death does not have the last word, no darkness is too deep for the power of God, and nothing can separate us from the love of God. Faith, not fear, is the defining core of our lives.

It has been over three hundred seventy days since our church gathered, in our Sanctuary, for in-person worship. We are hoping to regather in multiple services on Sunday, April 18. Our desire is to safely seat one hundred fifty worshipers at each service—masked and distanced. This date is less than thirty days away. We are also keeping a keen eye on COVID-19 and vaccination data provided by DHEC and the CDC to insure our plans are not hasty and unsafe. I know it's not all about the numbers...but I am counting down the days.

—Jim

AYMC Hours

AYMC Walking Track and Fitness Room are open by appointment only, Monday-Friday, 8am-12noon.

Email aymc@firstbaptistgreenville.com for appointment.

Chapel Visits

Weekdays, February 17-April 1
Come to sit, meditate, pray or visit the Stations of the Cross.

Sign up for 30-minute slot at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4daaad2da2f58-chapel>

Spring Retreat 2021

9-square, laser tag, and inflatables. Oh my! For the first time in six months, our Youth Family was able to gather in person in its entirety. Approximately 70 youth met at the Greenville Convention Center for an in-town, two-day retreat. We followed all our safety protocols in order to keep everyone safe and happy! The retreat completely revolved around regathering, rest and fun. On Friday evening, our theme was a “Glow Party,” and youth were invited to wear their glow-in-the-dark gear and play in a blacklight lit room. We played big games like 9-square, mega foursquare, capture the flag, and outdoor laser tag. There were also plenty of opportunities to participate in crafts, watch Netflix, or even play video games! On Saturday, we had an outdoor dodgeball tournament, ultimate frisbee, inflatables, a video



game tournament, a variety of new crafts, and more time to just relax and be together! It was a wonderful weekend and a much needed chance for the entire Youth Family to see each other again. We were reminded that better days are ahead, and our youth could not be more excited!

—Will Raybon

COVID Conversations for Lent

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY—MARCH 28, 2021

Text message chain from March 11, 2020

NBA canceled...

Things just got serious.

I was not expecting that...

People are going to go nuts when they wake up tomorrow morning!

This is bad

MLB is expected to suspend baseball operations indefinitely later today

NCAA tournament gone

Masters gone

All Greenville county schools will be shut down

Sounds like it's headed that way.

We will need to go to Costco. I'm almost out of toilet paper.

Psalm 31:9-14

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years

with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away. For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”

For many people in the U.S., the reality of COVID-19 did not truly set in until the sports world came to a halt on March 11. As Twitter and news sites announced decisions of the various sports organizations to suspend seasons (NBA, Major League Baseball) and cancel tournaments (The Masters, NCAA basketball), suddenly this virus we had been hearing about over there on other continents stepped into our living rooms and threatened the living of our lives. “Terror all around!” as the psalmist says, followed by, “But I trust in you, O Lord.”



God of presence, as we face more social distancing, even as both virus and fear continue to spread around the world and affect our lives and our families, we know that your healing hand is active in the words and expertise of health professionals on the front lines of treatment and care, in the actions of community servants who have embraced precautions and who lead by example, in the ministerial presence of each and every one of your followers who are praying, looking out for neighbor and stranger, and helping carry the burden of this invisible threat. Amen. (pastoral prayer from April 26, 2020)

Holy Week 2021

7:00PM, MONDAY-
SATURDAY

I read recently that ‘childlike faith’ is faith in bright colors felt with our whole body. Children are experts at helping adults find wonder in our tactile world! The yellow dandelion that grows between sidewalk blocks; the caramel smell wafting out of Poppington’s; the delight of feeling the spray from the downtown Falls. This year, we are embracing the faith of our inner children by walking through Holy Week and towards Easter Sunday with all our senses firing.

Beginning on Monday of Holy Week (March 29), ministers will be sharing daily (virtual) vesper reflections on the story of Jesus’

walk to the cross through one of the five senses, one sense per day, but this isn’t your average church video series—we will be recording out in the community! We’ll start on Monday by hearing the story of the Anointing at Bethany (think fancy perfume being poured on Jesus’ feet) through the sense of smell. Taking guesses now...where do you think we’ll broadcast from?

We’ll circle back to the church building for Wednesday’s vesper service of a foot-washing liturgy for you to practice at home and stay in familiar territory for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. For Maundy Thursday, we’ll livestream an evening service from the Sanctuary experiencing the story of the Last Supper through the sense of taste—including sharing

communion together. On Good Friday, we will broadcast an adapted Tenebrae service from the Sanctuary—a combination of meditation, simple music and Scripture telling the story of Jesus’ arrest and crucifixion. Holy Saturday—the day when the church remembers Jesus’ experience in the tomb – will find us back outside the walls of the church.

As we remember Jesus’ walk to the cross this Holy Week, bring your whole self—fully alive, fully embodied, and full of wonder. I hope you’ll join us.

—Camille

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

This week, March 21-28, our church is virtually hosting families who are in the IHN program at United Ministries by providing rental assistance, care packages, recorded picture book read-alouds, funds for special family outings and meals, and other needed items. During non-COVID times, IHN families stay at our church with volunteers helping to provide meals, set up bedrooms in our church, and visit nightly with these families. One of our volunteers, Priest Fuller, shares his experiences with volunteering at our church:

“My small part of the week’s activities is helping with an evening supper along with others in the Hope Class. IHN started putting actual names and faces on the homeless for me. Each week there is a truly different and interesting group of adults and children.

One evening at supper we were sitting at the table with a family of four. They were a couple in their 30’s with two especially well-behaved children. I noticed when they arrived earlier there always seemed to be a smile on his face, which was

unusual to me considering the circumstances. As we talked across the table, he explained he had been laid off

in Maryland and got a part-time job as a forklift operator. While he described his situation, she was smiling, and his children were listening quietly. He then looked over at me with a sincere grin, moistening eyes and announced that he got put on full-time at the warehouse that day. Well... everyone within hearing distance started clapping and went over to shake their hands. That was a special time! Each time I have gone I have gotten much more out of the experience than I ever put into it.”

Please pray for these families and also consider volunteering as we are able to resume taking our turn to host the IHN families! Read the April 12 issue of the Branch for another volunteer reflection.

—Cam McDade,
First Baptist Greenville IHN Team Coordinator



Upcoming Events

(service links on church website)

- 3/21-28 Host IHN Guests
 3/24 4:00pm Preschool Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Elementary Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Wednesdays for Youth—High School
 6:15pm (Virtual) MidWeek Fellowship: Camille Loomis Rehnberg—Temptations of Jesus: Luke Luke 22-23
 3/26 Fifth Grade Night
 3/28 10:30am (Virtual) Palm/Passion Sunday
 4:15pm Vocare Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 5:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth—Middle School
 5:00pm LGBTQ & Friends (Fellowship Hall)
 3/29 7:00pm Monday of Holy Week Virtual Vespers
 3/30 7:00pm Tuesday of Holy Week Virtual Vespers
 3/31 4:00pm Preschool Choir and Missions (Zoom)
 5:00pm Elementary Choir and Missions (Zoom)

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 3/20
 \$592,306

Receipts as of 3/15
 \$492,716

Pastoral Care

On Call Nights and Weekends

March 22-28
 Kyle Matthews
 551-0829 (m)

March 29-April 4
 Frank Smith
 268-3890 (h)

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."

- 3/31 7:00pm Wednesday of Holy Week Virtual Vespers
 4/1 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Virtual Vespers
 4/2 AYMC and Church Offices Closed
 7:00pm Good Friday Virtual Vespers
 4/3 7:00pm Holy Saturday Virtual Vespers
 4/4 8:00am Early Easter at Fluor Field
 Proclaimer: Jim Dant
 Brass Quartet
 Preschool and Children—Easter Egg Gathering



Meals to Go

Uptown Catering continues to provide meals to go as well as Wednesday Night Specials at FBG pricing! Visit <https://theuptowncompany.square.site/s/shop> for menu options. Available for drive-thru pick up at the kitchen door!

Care List

Care List as of Morning, 3/22

Hospitals

As of the morning of 3/22, there are no hospitalized church members of whom the Pastoral Care Ministry is aware.

Rehab

Patewood-Congaree: Brenda Ballard

Cascades: Claudia Caldwell

Sympathy

...to the family of Lisa Stamm.

...to Hailey Caldwell and family in the death of her aunt.

March Focus on Missions

Throughout March, we are accepting donations of much-needed cleaning supplies for IHN participants. Typically, IHN involves various religious organizations in the Greenville community taking turns to provide emergency shelter, food and fellowship to families who are experiencing homelessness.

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The structure of IHN has been forced to shift temporarily to avoid endangering anyone involved. Those seeking emergency shelter are in separate apartments for the time being. Our whole congregation is invited to help by donating any of the following items throughout the month:

- Paper towels
- Multi-surface cleaners for kitchens and/or bathrooms
- Toilet bowl cleaner (like Ajax®)
- Duster kits (like Swiffer®)

Deliver to FBG Reception Area Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm OR order online and ship to:

First Baptist Greenville
 c/o Amy Joye
 847 Cleveland Street
 Greenville, SC 29601

Questions? laura.stout@firstbaptistgreenville.com