

Last Sunday's Record - July 19, 2020

Offering: \$24,634.29

January 1, 2020

Requirements: \$758,607.23

Receipts: \$741,750.94

Deacon of the Week

7/26 - Brian Sellers

8/2 - Ronnie Smith 8/9 - Allan Tolleson

8/16 - Gary Wilkinson 8/23 - John Culpepper

8/30 - Mark Williams

CONTINUING PRAYER NEEDS

Raymon Leake (4/1/20)

Michelle Weatherford (4/8/20) friend of Shea Leake

Jim Harris (4/8/20) Tammy Matthews' father

Tim Thesman (4/15/20) Carol Wink's brother

JoAnn Braddock (4/21/20)

Richard Lewis (4/27/20) Micki Harrison's father

Ted Rayborn (5/30/20) Tommy Allen's brother-in-law

Maria Allen (5/30/20) Tommy Allen's niece

Candy Cornish (5/7/20) Lorie Anderson's friend

Family of Margaret Harrison (5/18/20)

Margaret Roberson (5/21/20) Joe Ross' sister

Sandra Johnson (5/21/20) friend of Sandra Dennis

Hays Monsour (5/21/20)

Emily Price (5/21/20)

Dorothy and Harry Little (5/21/20)

Les and Liz Prystup (5/21/20)

Rebecca King (5/21/20)

Lisa and Wayne Powell (5/21/20)

Carole Lewis (5/21/20)

Freddie Poitevent (5/21/20)

Robert and Coweela George (5/21/20)

Debra Porter's sister and brother-in-law

Jim and Gloria Addison (5/21/20)

Ken Smith (5/21/20) Linda Smith's brother

The Cobb Family

Leonard Jones (5/21/20) Pam Maloney's father

Kelly Richardson (5/21/20)

Michelle Spedero (5/21/20) Diane Davison's daughter

Donna Rainey (5/21/20) Gaile Culpepper's cousin

Jack Follis (5/21/20)

Lowry Rush (5/28/20) Jill Williams' father

Alan Akin (6/1/20)

Lorie Anderson (6/5/20)

Ginger Richardson (6/3/20)

Adam Foreman (6/10/20)

Frances Dickson (6/14/20)

Pat McCubbin (6/22/20)

Mike Covert (6/23/20)

David Webb (6/23/20)

Ellen Rogers (6/23/20)

Betty Lou Jones (7/2/20)

James Mann (7/6/20)

Neisha Alexander (7/6/20) friend of Gaile Culpepper

Matthew Stokley (7/6/20)

Debra Parker (7/6/20) former employee of FBC

Rev. Jerry Meggs (7/6/20)

Phil Kelly (7/7/20) friend of Ward Calhoun, Jr.

George Hayes (7/7/20) friend of Ward Calhoun, Jr.

Louise Ellis (7/7/20) John Ellis' mother

Tony Sansone (7/7/20)

Maudie Newsome (7/7/20)

Mel Bounds (7/7/20)

Paulette Hopkins (7/7/20) David Hopkins' mother

Judge Charles Smith (7/7/20) Friend of Leonard Cobb

Dee Negrete (7/7/20) Joe and Betty Ross' daughter

Pete and Julie Bertrand (7/71/20) Albert Alston's friend

Geffery Swanson (7/9/2020) formerly of Meridian

Jim Singley (7/9/20) Louise Williamson's nephew

Frances White (7/15/20)

Nancy Ray (7/15/20)

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

Family of Debbie Woodall (7/15/20)

Mary Evans (7/15/20)

Marie Jackson (7/15/20) Fay Adkins' sister-in-law

Family of Ward Calhoun (7/15/20)

Dr. Nathan VanHorn, Pastor

Rev. David Bishop, Associate Pastor for Music

Zach DePriest, Minister of Youth Caitlin Braud, Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Raymon Leake, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. David McCubbin, Associate Pastor Emeritus

701 26th Avenue Meridian, MS 39301 601.484.4600 www.fbcmeridian.org

THE MESSENGER



FBCM

First Baptist Church
Meridian

July 26, 2020

Volume 92, Number 29

*Give us this
day*



*our
daily bread.*

Matthew 6:11

Dear Church,

Since the last week of December 2019, I have done daily videos for our year-long Bible reading plan, F260. This Monday, I finished the book of Nehemiah by doing a video on the final chapter of the book. For the sake of context, the books of Ezra and Nehemiah are written AFTER the exile and focus on remembering Israel's covenant with God by rebuilding (the Temple, the wall, and the city), restoring (spiritual integrity), and renewing the covenant. By Nehemiah 13, Nehemiah's "work" seems to be completed, and he has returned to the imperial capital...until he gets distressing news about conditions in Jerusalem only a few years later! When he makes a second trip to Jerusalem, he finds that conditions are even worse than he imagined. ALREADY, he finds the nation committing the same errors that led them into exile! Checking into one "symptom" gave him a broader view of the overall situation.

It's not that the people of Nehemiah's day were especially evil—they were only all too human. **When they ceased the intentional pursuit of God's plans and purposes for them, their spiritual health diminished.** Reading that chapter, I could not help but reflect on the spiritual condition of our country, beginning always with the churches and homes of those who identify themselves as God's people. Needless to say, this has not been the year that any of us anticipated. But I wonder if the condition we readily see might lead us to reflect on some symptoms and conditions we have overlooked for too long?

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, I began to exhibit several symptoms associated with the coronavirus; so, yesterday morning, I went to get tested (thanks again to John Temple for filling the pulpit on extremely short notice). In the process, other measurements were taken—like blood pressure. Confession: my BP was substantially higher than it should be at thirty-five years old. Naturally, I didn't set out to be unhealthy. I took courses on health, exercise, and fitness in both high school and college. In college, I jogged twenty-four miles a week on average and spent another 10-to-12 hours a week in the gym; but

when seminary came, I fell into a sedentary pattern of study and stopped being intentional about physical fitness. Sunday morning, however, I had a Nehemiah 13 moment: testing for one condition I suspected (COVID-19) forced me to confront a broader reality, my overall health. (PLEASE NOTE: Covid test was NEGATIVE.)

I sincerely wonder if the ongoing pandemic might serve to open our eyes to areas where we have lost intentionality with God. After all, we too are human. Last week, the Barna research group published a report that 1/3 of American Christians have not participated in worship *at all* (online or in-person) since the pandemic began. Despite most of us having more time (not less), many of us have struggled to intentionally engage God's Word on a regular basis. So many have told me how much the pandemic has highlighted a lack of discipline in their prayer lives. The list goes on. **By the way, every word of this is written in love, not condemnation.** I promise, there's no judgment here: I'm thirty-five and have high blood pressure. I must recommit and recapture the intentionality that promotes good physical health. And the same is true spiritually. As your pastor and brother in Christ, I implore you: in light of the many uncertainties of this season, be certain to prioritize spiritual renewal through intentional prayer, Bible study, worship, and witness (in word and deed). I sincerely pray that God will bless you, me—US—as we do so. **Blessings, NV**

F260 WEEK 31 READING beginning 7/26/20

Monday - Luke 1

Tuesday - Luke 2

Wednesday - Matthew 1-2

Thursday - Mark 1

Friday - John 1

Memory Verses: John 1:1-2, John 1:14

Thank you to all the faithful givers of FBC!

As a reminder, you can mail your offering to
701 26th Avenue, Meridian, MS 39301,
or give online through our **ShelbyNext app** or
through our website (www.fbcmeridian.org).

Sympathies to...

Sam Forbert and family
in the death of his wife, Aline Forbert.

Ron and Pam Maloney and family
in the death of her step-mother, Judy Jones.

Mark Gagliano and family
in the death of his father, Sam J. Gagliano.

Memorials...

Music Fund

In memory of: Margaret Harrison

Ward Calhoun, Jr.

Aline Forbert

Jerry Heblon (*Sherry Snowden's mother*)

H.L. "Pete Denton

(*Ray Denton and Cathy Carpenter's father*)

Missions and Ministry


In memory of: Harvey Ray

Margaret Harrison Ward Calhoun, Jr.

Benevolence

In memory of: Eleanore Catledge

Harvey Ray Ward Calhoun, Jr.

 Children's Ministry Trip
WHEN: Thursday, July 30
WHERE: Rain Out Re-do
at Grand Paradise Water Park in Collins, MS
Leave at 8:30 a.m. and return by 5:00 p.m.
Cost: \$25 or your rain voucher. Bring \$ for lunch (approx. \$10), swimsuit, towel, sunscreen and change of clothes



Remember our FBC Seniors!

Make a call, deliver a meal, run errands or write a note. We all need encouragement during this time, especially our Seniors who are isolated more than ever. What a blessing to serve the older members of our church family! Stay safe! (If you need current addresses or telephone numbers, use your Shelby app or call the church office at 601.484.4600.)