



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

200 E. Parkway N.
Memphis, TN 38112-5414
901-454-1131
www.fbcmemphis.org

REMINDERS

Reopening Protocols established. Learn more on pages 2-3.

Giving Options
FBC has several options for you to financially support your church. Learn more on page 5.

Youth & Children summer activities can be found on pages 4 and 6.

Vote Details on shared space can be found on page 3.

Together

Vol 36 No 7

July 2020



Just Be

REV. DR. RANDY L. HYDE, INTERIM PASTOR

A few years ago I led a group in my church to participate in a CBF effort referred to as Dawnings. We met for eleven consecutive weeks around the central question of, “Lord, what would you have us be? Lord, what would you have us do?”

It may not appear to be so, certainly on the surface of it, but that’s a hard, hard question. Well, at least it is for me. So I will

try to be honest and rather transparent... I’m much more efficient at the doing part than at being. I’m a doer, always on the go, always with a project at hand. I’m much better at that than I am being contemplative.

Julie Pennington-Russell, senior pastor of First Baptist in Washington, D.C., writes of an encounter with her spiritual director, a woman named Charlotte. Julie was running late for one of their sessions after becoming confused about the time they were supposed to meet. “Breathe,” Charlotte said when Julie came huffing and puffing into her office, “Breathe.” And then she offered a prayer for their time together. For whatever reason, Charlotte’s prayer touched a sensitive chord with Julie, and it brought tears to her eyes.

Julie quotes Frederick Buechner. He says about tears that whenever we find them in our eyes, especially when they are unexpected, we should pay close attention. “They are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are,” he says, “but more often than not

God is speaking to you through them...”

Especially in these turbulent times of late, has God been speaking to you through your tears?

I recall having lunch with a woman who had invited me to discuss some issues with her about an organization in which we were both engaged. In the course of our conversation she reminded me of another conversation we had several years prior. She was going through a rough patch at that time and I had offered her some encouragement. As she recounted what I said to her – and I confess I had little memory of it – tears welled in her eyes. What did those tears tell me after all those years? That our encounter years before still held great meaning for her then, and her tears of remembrance encouraged me and touched my heart.

Back to Julie’s tears in Charlotte’s office... When Charlotte saw them she said, “You’ve wandered into a space in which doing isn’t the objective anymore, but being.” Julie responded as she blew her nose, “What I think I’m feeling right

Continued on page 6

WORSHIP

Protocols for Reopening FBC

COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Below you will find the protocols set for the reopening of FBC.

First Baptist Church of Memphis considers our first concern, during this time of the 2020 *COVID-19* pandemic, to be the health and safety of its members and all those who participate in its ministries. There is a theological foundation for such a concern: the church is the people, not the buildings. And, while we recognize the presence and validity of the church as an institution, our major priority is to function as a living organism, the presence of Christ in the Memphis/Mid-South region.

We will follow the guidance of appropriate governmental agencies, Church Health, and the collaboration of major congregational leaders in Memphis, to determine next steps. They will be based on the following guiding principles:

1. We will rely on the medical and scientific community as our primary resource for information.
2. We will work collaboratively to responsibly care for the spiritual needs of those who contract *COVID-19*.
3. We will collaborate to determine when returning to in-person worship is possible.

First Baptist Church will utilize a three-phase plan for the re-opening of our building:

Phase One—Began on June 21; a small group of worship leaders will gather in the sanctuary to provide a time of worship that will be broadcast via radio and social media.

Phase Two—Regular worship services will resume, and the sanctuary will be open to the congregation. Sunday School classes and small groups will not meet during this phase.

Phase Three—Sunday School classes and small groups will begin meeting.

The church will provide necessary health and safety items such as hand sanitizer and tissues. We will use appropriate

cleaning supplies to disinfect surfaces. All individuals who enter our building will be expected to wear a face covering and are encouraged to bring their own masks and other personal protective items. Those entering the building without a face covering will be provided one as they are available.

It is recommended that all people who are considered to be in a vulnerable population, such as those who are chronically ill or elderly, should at this time worship with us by means of radio or the internet. We will provide our worship services on social media, not only as a means of convenience, but also as an outreach of our worship ministry.

At the time deemed appropriate for resuming the use of our facilities the following protocols will be maintained:

1. Use only the Welcome Center doors to enter and exit the building during phases one and two.
2. Masks/face coverings will be worn while inside the building.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering the building.
4. Please do not bring food or drink into the building.
5. We ask that everyone go directly to the sanctuary upon entering, without lingering in the Welcome Center. A greeter will be present to provide guidance and assistance.
6. Please sit in designated pews only. Some pews will be indicated as unavailable.
7. Social distancing guidelines will be in effect. Except for nuclear families, distances of at least six feet should be maintained between worshipers. These distances should also be maintained while entering and exiting the buildings. Children should remain with their parents at all times.
8. During phases one and two, there will be no

Reopening Protocols for FBC, continued

access to the area north of the Welcome Center, or south past the ladies' restroom.

9. We ask that everyone exit the building after services and not linger in the Welcome Center. A greeter will be present to provide guidance and assistance.

10. Offering plates will not be passed during the service, but will be located near the piano and organ. You are asked to place your offering there as you enter or exit.

11. Appropriate health and safety measures will be taken during communion. Instructions will be given during worship.

12. Assisted hearing devices will be assigned to individuals, and each will be kept in a separate sealed bag between uses.

Restroom use:

13. Only the restrooms in the Welcome Center will be open for use.

14. Please do not enter if there is a sign marked "Occupied." You are asked to exit the restroom and wait until the facility is available.

15. Please use the available disinfectant spray (or handwipes) to clean the toilet handle after flushing, and the faucet handle after washing your hands.

The health and well-being of our church and community is our priority. We will continue to do everything we can to make our worship services as meaningful as possible, and ask for your understanding, as well as your prayers, that the day will come when we can fellowship and enjoy the presence of one another in the holy presence of God, as we have been called to do.

These protocols will be updated as needed.

We are grateful for the dedication and work on this endeavor by our Reopening Task Force. The task force members are **Gloria Hodges; Scott Malone; Robin Miller; David Richardson; Tiffany Wright; Tom Marchand**, deacon chair and interim pastor, **Dr. Randy Hyde**.

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Mildred Houser** by

Ms. Paula McPeak

Ms. Anita Cobb

Ms. Kathleene Sims

Ms. Marge Palazzolo

In memory of **Tom Morse** by

Mark & Sally Smith

In memory of **Jim Morse** by

Mark & Sally Smith

HONORARIA

In honor of **Anita Cobb** by

Ms. Nancy Burch

CHURCH BUSINESS

Results from the Vote are In

CHURCH VOTE ON SHARED SPACE

This is an update on the vote regarding shared space in our building that was sent out via mail to church members.

The final tally is 96 YES; 10 NO; 2 abstentions.

Thank you to everyone for your consideration and participation in this effort and to all who assisted in this project.

Mike Ward, with the Task Force on Shared Space, is continuing to work on the best use of our building as we look for ways to utilize unused space and to maximize income for the church. Glenn Everton, a member of the task force, is drafting an agreement to use in further discussions.

We will update you as more information becomes available.

VBS

VBS (Vacation Bible Saturdays)

JULY 11 & 25, 7 PM

We will spend two of our Family Worship hours (Saturday July 11 and 25) having some VBS fun via Zoom.

*July 11, 7 pm
Bible Story Variety Show*

Holly will send each family a Bible Story that they will be responsible for telling in a creative way (i.e., acts out, sings about, raps about, puppet show, dances out, storyboards a Bible story).

We will view them all in a Variety Show on Zoom.



*July 25, 7 pm
Family-led Missions Activity & Celebration*

Holly will send out a missions project that you will have two weeks to complete.

A video montage, featuring about all of your projects, will be put together and we'll gather together to view them during Family Worship.

We'll celebrate our love for others with a party (minute-to-win-it games, dances, and songs.)

YOUTH

Youth Selfie Insanity

JULY 24, 3-5 PM

Youth and their families will team up for a scavenger hunt around Memphis.

Youth must send Holly selfies from each location. The first team to get them all wins a prize.

The hunt will end with ice cream treats for everyone.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Promotion Sunday

AUGUST 16

Rising Kindergarteners, 3rd Graders, and 6th Graders will be honored during morning worship as is our tradition.

They are then invited to come enjoy frozen treats under the Welcome Center port-a-cache, where they will be presented with their new Bibles.



GIVING

FBC's Giving Options

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

During these uncertain times, First Baptist plans to be there for each of its families by providing ministerial guidance, spiritual comfort and leadership, connecting our members to each other, and more.

As well, First Baptist needs your help. The church needs all those who are able to continue your financial support so to continue its ministries. Though we are not physically worshipping together during the week and on Sundays, allowing you the opportunity to place your gifts in an offering plate, your support can be easily sent to FBC via several convenient options.

Mail

You may continue to mail your check to the church, FBC, Attn: Financial Administrator, 200 E Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112.

Online via our website

You may give via our website, fbcmemphis.org/giving, using a credit card.

Online via your bank's bill pay or ACH Payments

If you already pay your household bills through online banking, you can simply add First Baptist Church as a new additional payee. The address you would use for payment is 200 E. Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112.

Phone # 901-454-1131. You will need to put your FBC member envelope number in as your payee account number. If you do not know your member envelope number, email Lisa Butts at lbutts@fbcmemphis.org and she will send it to you. You can put in an amount to send automatically each time period (you decide the time period), or you can simply go in each week/month/etc., and have the amount sent to us just as you would other bills.

For those who would prefer to have an automatic payment set-up from your bank account or credit card, you can request ACH Form from the finance office, complete it, sign, and return to the finance office at FBC, 200 E. Parkway N., Memphis, TN 38112. The form will lead you through completion. You have the option of specifying what account you want to the amount to be deducted from, how much, how often, and whether or not you want an ending date or until otherwise notified. Once Lisa receives your form, she will read it over and call you if there are any questions.

If anyone has questions concerning these giving methods, please email Lisa Butts (lbutts@fbcmemphis.org).

God Bless and stay healthy!

CHURCH

Letter

Dear First Baptist Memphis,

One of the good things that had come out of this horrible time for us has been that we have been able to worship with you again.

I have loved hearing the organ and the music by Ray and Trudy Hatton, listening to the children's time by Holly and Janie Hatton, hearing familiar names like the Richardsons and Cathy Wilhelm and seeing the beautiful blue windows. Your interim minister brings excellent messages and as the service ends, we know we have worshipped.

Thank you for your ministry that through the miracle of the internet reaches us in Indiana.

Sincerely,

Lydia Burton

Together
First Memphis
200 E. Parkway N.
Memphis, TN 38112-5414
901-454-1131
www.fbcmemphis.org

Published Monthly by
First Baptist Church
200 E Parkway N
Memphis TN 38112

Please send address changes to:
TOGETHER
200 E Parkway N
Memphis TN 38112-5414

Email: bellis@fbcmemphis.org

a different way to be Baptist

Just Be, Continued from page 1

is relief. I've been running fast, as I often seem to do. And as I run, out of the corner of my eye, I sense God running with me, like a deer.

I perceive the presence of God, yet I keep running because that's where I seek my validation as a pastor—in the check-list, in productivity. Until I come to a room like this one where the deer and I meet in the stillness, thank God, and I'm reminded again of what's real, and what is illusion or idol."

I wear an Apple watch. No, it isn't because I'm into the latest gadgets. What it does is enable me to turn off my

phone ringer. The watch vibrates when I receive a call or text or other notification and hopefully no one else is the wiser. It's less intrusive, especially if I'm in a meeting or a conversation with someone.

But the watch does something else as well. Occasionally, it will alert me to the need to breathe. "Breathe," my watch tells me, "breathe."

From now on, I think I will take that as a reminder to be—just be—even when there are no tears.

YOUTH

Youth Friends-day Wednesdays

WEDNESDAYS, 7 PM

The Youth have enjoyed their Friends-day evenings in June. Depending on the weather, these events will either take place outdoors (socially distant seating) or via Zoom for July.

Our Bible Study will be provided by Passport Camps. Parents, I will be sending out a sign-up genius for backyard hosts. —Holly