

The Messenger

MAY 2020
Vol. 62 No. 5



from the Pastor

We've learned some new vocabulary words this year. Words like Social Distancing, Coronavirus, and COVID 19 have become a part of our lives.

As I write this article, the word of the day is 're-open.' 'Re-open' is the move by leaders to loosen some restrictions on public gathering. Figuring out the balance of how much is enough and how much is too much will likely be trial and error for a time. I hope you will pray for our leaders as no one has faced a challenge like this before.

What about church? When can we re-open?

I think it's important to remember that the church never closed.

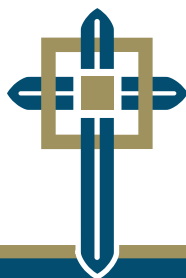
While we have stopped public meetings at our facility the church can't be closed. Church is made up of people; saved by Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, called to share the gospel for the glory of God. Church is not a building or a meeting. In the midst of 'shelter in place' and 'social distancing' the church has ministered faithfully; differently, of course, but faithfully.

We benefit from meeting together but when we can't, the church continues her work.

So, when can we begin meeting again publically? The short answer is, I don't know. Sunday services aren't really set-up to social distance. However at some point soon we'll begin a phased approach of re-opening services. Here's the guideline we will follow: The safety of our congregation will be the priority. Notice the priority is not what other churches do, what some people's opinions are, or what we have the right to do. Our guideline is to keep our congregation as safe as possible from infection and illness. We will start meeting again when we can balance the opportunity to meet with the health and safety of our people. For a time, our meetings may look considerably different but that will be ok.

Let's be wise and patient while we keep ministering to our families and community by walking in step with God's word and His Spirit.

Don



FIRST BAPTIST *Oxford*

800 Van Buren Ave., Oxford MS 38655 ■ 662.234.3515

[f](#) fbcoxford [t](#) @fbcoxford ■ [www.gotofirst.org](#)

May

WEEKLY ONLINE SCHEDULE

Sundays at 10 a.m. Youth and Adult Bible Studies will be on Zoom.

Sundays at 11 a.m. Worship Service will be broadcast on the radio on 93.7 FM and Facebook Live.

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting will be on Zoom.

Zoom meeting numbers are sent out through church-wide email prior to each meeting. If you would like to be added to our email list to receive meeting access, send a request to pcarter@gotofirst.org.

Get your yard sign this Friday!

MAY 1

Pick up at the
Atrium Door

1 - 2 p.m.

Our Hope is
in **Jesus**

FIRST BAPTIST Oxford

Happy
Mother's Day
MAY 10

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**



MAY 7 AT NOON

on Zoom and Facebook Live.

Members are encouraged to prayer walk through their neighborhoods on May 7.

We will have a luncheon at the church and prayer gathering on Sept. 3 at the Courthouse.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS wmin@gotofirst.org

Monthly Book Club Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom link sent out the day of the call. Email wmin@gotofirst.org to be added.



Going **BEYOND**
SIMULCAST

with **PRISCILLA SHIRER**

The live simulcast was on April 25, but we will have ongoing access to the event until May 25, 2020. Email wmin@gotofirst.org for the access link.

Our Family

Budget April 2020

Budget	\$203,118.28
Building	\$7,058.00
Designated	\$11,017.22
Total	\$221,193.50
Annie Armstrong	\$9,500.00

Our Sympathy

To Mrs. Brenda Carr and family after the loss of her husband, Mr. Hollis Carr.

To the Tate family after the loss of Mr. William Henry Tate.

Deacons of the Week

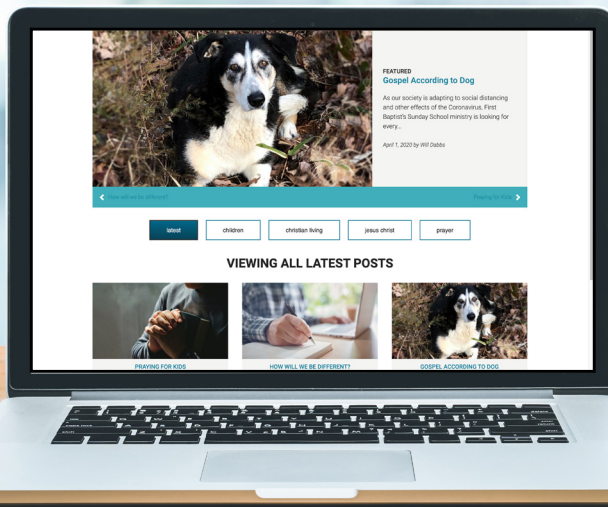
April 26- May 2	Fred Johnson, Paul Hale, Nelson Little
May 3-9	Jeff Busby, David Erhart, Michael Ferris
May 10-16	Daniel Denton, Jason Simon, Craig Kirkendall
May 17-23	Paxton Little, Ryan Overall, Kevin Bain
May 31- June 6	Brad Golmon, Jim Rose, Lane Wilson

WAYS TO GIVE

Online: gotofirst.org Text to Give: [click here for instructions](#)
Mail: [FBC, 800 Van Buren Ave., Oxford, MS 38655](#)

First Things First [FBC Sunday School Blog \(click here\)](#)

FBC Sunday School ministry has created a new blog as a method to share some of our lessons in hopes you will be inspired, challenged, and encouraged during these difficult times.





A word from the **FBC LIBRARY**

Read something everyday. Reading helps reduce stress! “Reading is found to decrease blood pressure, lower heart rate, and reduce stress to significant degrees.”

— *World Literacy Foundation*

Read things that edify. Philippians 4:8 ~ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Practical ideas on how to read something everyday:

1. Sign up to receive an encouraging email everyday. There are countless options. The [Daily Encourager](#) is a great one.
2. Start reading the book of John with a friend or a family member. Set a time each day or week to call each other and discuss.
3. Swap a book with a neighbor. Ask your neighbors if they want to do a book exchange. You might find a new book series or author that you like, and you can build relationships with your neighbors at the same time!
4. Sign up for a instant [First Regional Library card](#) and checkout an e-book or an audio book.



Staying Home Because of Health Concerns? Don't want to get the kids out of the house? Need some groceries, a bill paid, some meds picked up?

Let our FBC Oxford Errand Runners Help! Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons! Call the church office at (662) 234-3515 to schedule your personal Errand Runner today!

If you can volunteer to be available to help by going shopping, picking up medicine, paying a bill, visiting the bank, etc. please call Pam Carter in the church office at 662-234-3515. You will be needed from 1:30-4 p.m. on the day/days you volunteer. We will meet at church at 1:30 p.m. each day to get assignments.

MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Questions? Contact Jeff Holeman at 662.234.3515 or wigtake@gmail.com

*All international trips are on hold until travel restrictions are lifted.
More info to come.*



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays at 5 p.m. on Zoom.

We are studying 1 Peter. If you are interested in joining this study, email lynndyfurdle@gmail.com for Zoom meeting information.

ENGLISH LEARNERS' CLASS FOR WOMEN

Mondays at 10 a.m. on Zoom.

If you know someone who would like to participate (learning or leading), email lynndyfurdle@gmail.com for Zoom meeting information.

COLLEGE NEWS

@FirstOxfordCM

COLLEGIATE WEEK!

Open to College Students and Graduating Seniors

Dates: August 2-6, 2020

Cost: \$225, Down Payment: \$75

Need Down Payment by May 9, 2020.

Platform Guests

Matt Carter



Jackie Hill-Perry



Grant Partrick



Breakaway Worship



2020 Collegiate Week. August 2 to 6. Falls Creek Conference Center, Oklahoma. \$225 per person includes all costs except meals while traveling. \$75 deposit is due before June 1. At Collegiate Week, college students and leaders from across the country gather to experience deep teaching and worship with the best in collegiate ministry. Focused small group sessions offer in-depth Bible study, and a variety of recreation and fellowship options help form friendships that extend far beyond the week. Students will leave refreshed and focused for the semester ahead, ready to impact their campuses for Christ. <https://www.lifeway.com/en/events/collegiate-week>

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS

Preschool Sunday School Lessons are posted on Facebook each week @FirstBaptistOxfordPreschoolMinistry

Children's Sunday School Lessons are posted on facebook each week @FirstBaptistOxfordChildren and access to Gospel Project videos and resources are available at gotofirst.org/children

6th Grade Milestone Celebration will be online May 31.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS 2020, originally scheduled for June 1-5, is being postponed to a later date.



STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

Class of 2020 Update!

- **May 17** will be our Online Graduation 2020 Celebration during the 11 am worship service. Invite your families to join us! There will not be a breakfast banquet because of social distancing guidelines.
- **July 26** will be a church wide reception to honor the Class of 2020. Your memory tables will be displayed in the Atrium.

The Big 7 Trip (7th and 8th graders!) has been moved to Fall Break. **October 9 to 12.** Cost is \$150 per person. Laguna Beach Retreat in Panama City Beach, Florida. More details to come.



Beach Camp 2020 (for all youth) will be **July 27 to 30** at Laguna Beach Retreat in Panama City Beach, Florida. Cost is \$150 per person. More details to come.

weekly online schedule...

Sundays...

- 10 am... Sunday AM! (on Zoom)
- 11 am... Worship (YouTube and Facebook Live)
- 9 pm... Learn and Live Bible Study! (on Zoom)

Mondays...

- 9 pm... Learn and Live Bible Study! (on Zoom)

Tuesdays...

- 9 pm... Learn and Live Bible Study! (on Zoom)

Wednesdays...

- 6 pm... MIDWEEK! (on Zoom)

Thursdays...

- 9 pm... Games With Friends! (on Zoom)

Congratulations Class of 2020



Aubrey Bishop



Dylan Christman



Hallie Davis



Tyler Gardner



Cole Marsh



D Rogers



Jamie Torrent



Mary Marshall Waller



Courtney Woodard

If any photos are missing please send to the church office as soon as possible.