# he Messeng



# krom the Pastor

I was a part of a Zoom meeting recently hosted by Dr. Clarence Cooper, Pastor of Brandon Baptist Church. Dr. Cooper read Psalm 121 at the beginning of the meeting. I'm so glad he did because I was reminded of the strong message of this ancient Psalm.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Notice the Crisis. The Psalmist seems to have looked and seen the enemy all around in the hills surrounding him. He asked the reasonable question; Where does my help come from?

Never in my lifetime have I seen our world in such crisis. We see crisis any direction we look. So let's join the Psalmist and ask, Where does our help come from? Listen to the familiar answer...

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.

The Confession of the Psalmist is that the Lord is the source of help. The Psalmist's army, weapons, politics, government, ingenuity, nor intelligence were the place of help. Neither does our help come from these things. Our help comes from the Lord, the One who made all things.

Can you put your faith in the Lord? Here are some good reasons to do so...

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Comfort of the Lord is multifaceted. He holds you in place, He is engaged in our world, He preserves from evil (v. 7) and He goes with us as we face Crisis (v. 8).

The church's message comes from the Bible. The message is that our help in crisis is the Lord. He is reliable. I encourage you to seek His face and turn to Him during these days.

Don





**JULY 1** 

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom

6 p.m. GriefShare

**JULY 3** *Independence Day* (Observed)

church office closed

**JULY 5** 

8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service 10 a.m. Sunday School on Zoom

11 a.m. Worship Service

JULY 8

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom

6 p.m. GriefShare

**JULY 11** 

7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry Workday

**JULY 12** 

8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service 10 a.m. Sunday School on Zoom

11 a.m. Worship Service

**JULY 15** 

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom

6 p.m. GriefShare

**JULY 16** 

6:30 p.m. Women's Book Club on Zoom

**JULY 19** 

8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service

10 a.m. Sunday School on Zoom

11 a.m. Worship Service

7 p.m. Sunday PM for Youth

**JULY 20-24** 

6:30 p.m. Virtual VBS Worship Rallies

**JULY 22** 

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom

6 p.m. GriefShare

**JULY 26** 

8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service

10 a.m. Sunday School on Zoom

11 a.m. Worship Service

**JULY 27-30** 

Youth Beach Camp

**JULY 29** 

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom

6 p.m. GriefShare

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.

# GRIEFASHARE

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall Contact Barbara Wright at 662-801-1874 to register.

GriefShare is a weekly seminar and support group offering help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. You are encouraged to join us on any week. Sessions are self-contained.



#### **Congratulations**

Proud parents Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Corley Atwood welcomed **Mason Evans Atwood**, born on June 11. Congratulations to proud grandmother Mrs. Donna Atwood.

#### **Our Sympathy**

To Mrs. Sarah Shorter after the loss of her daughter, Ms. Doris Ann Shorter Popernik.

To Mrs. Connie Ashmore and family after the loss of her husband, Mr. Billy Jay Ashmore Jr.

To Mr. Bradley Ashmore after the loss of his father, Mr. Billy Jay Ashmore Jr.

To Miss Ashley Ashmore after the loss of her father, Mr. Billy Jay Ashmore Jr.

To the Metts family after the loss of Mr. Floyd H. Metts.

#### **Budget June 1-21, 2020**

\$142,649.12
\$ 4,555.00
\$7,265.00
\$154,469.12

Annie Armstrong \$ 17,577.00

#### **Deacons of the Week**

Deacons of the Week	
June 28-	Craig Kirkendall, Daniel
July 4	Denton, Jason Simon
July 5-11	Paxton Little, Ryan Overall, Kevin Bain
July 12-18	Dave Miller, Derrell Doss, Lanny Shackelford
July 19-25	Brad Golmon, Jim Rose, Lane Wilson
July 26-	Michael Meurrier, Bobby

Clanton, Gary Carter



book(s) to you. To see some of the books available, check out the links at gotofirst.org/library.

Aug. 1

#### **MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

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



#### **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Sundays at 7 p.m. Outdoors by Apt. 31 We are studying I Peter.

#### **ENGLISH LEARNERS' CLASS FOR WOMEN**

**Tuesdays at 11 a.m. on Zoom** *If you know someone who would like to participate, email lynndyfhurdle@gmail.com for Zoom meeting information.* 

#### MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

mm@gotofirst.org



#### **SATURDAY WORKDAY: JULY 11**

Email mm@gotofirst.org to sign up!

Our workday will be the second Saturday of each month. Meet at the CLC at 7:30 a.m.

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS wmin@gotofirst.org

Monthly Book Club Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.

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

#### STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

#### **Beach Camp 2020** July 27-30

Pray for our students participating: Derek Anderson, Sam Bain, Jack Busby, Matthew Roberts, Josh Erhart, Jeb Mooney, Cody Quarles, Drew Russell, Caiden Cox, Any Patton, Jake Roberts, Mason Shelton, Matthew Addy, Davis Warrington, Michael Kincaid, William Kincaid, Currie Rogers, Cole Kelly, Zoe Boos, Aniya Jeans, Caroline Brownlee, Lizzy Cobb, Emma Erhart, Emma Jones, Lynnlee Ewing, Grace Garneau, Caroline Parker, Darden Crowe, Molly Jones, Madalynn Watts, Sierra Davis, Ella Beth Hurdle, Elizabeth Simon, Brooks Sipes, Hayden Moore, Van Thornton, Michael Harvey, Anthony Hawkins, Cory Daniels, Larry Price, Courtney Woodard, Gracie Tidwell, Hallie Davis, Ana Brooke Watts, Caroline Kincaid, Harlee Quarles, Hattie Busby, Emerson Crowe, Mimi Crowe, Caroline Busby

#### **COLLEGE NEWS**

@FirstOxfordCM

**2020 College Beach Retreat.** August 2-6. Laguna Beach, FL. \$150 per person includes all costs except meals while traveling. Questions? Email Pam Carter at pcarter@gotofirst.org. *There's still room*.

#### PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS



First 4 Kids Worship

Sundays at 11 a.m. for K - 4th grade in the Old Fellowship Hall

Tentative Kick Off July 12

# Virtual VBS July 20-24

Tune in to **gotofirst.org** to watch live Worship Rallies 6:30 p.m. each night!

This year's Vacation Bible School
Offering will support the ministry
of Rolando and Luci Canazas serving
on the Amazon River in Peru.

The Canazas family ministers to families in several villages and to military officers in their region. Your support of the VBS Offering will enable them to provide bibles to members of the military, study bibles to area pastors, and food relief to families in the area.



# Give online: gotofirst.org/give

Click on give online. Under Select a Fund, choose Vacation Bible School Offering.

## or give at the church July 21-23

Drive up by the Atrium at 800 Van Buren Ave. Tuesday, July 21 from 2-4 p.m.; Wednesday, July 22 from 9-11 a.m. and Thursday, July 23 from 9-11 a.m.

We will have folks there to collect the offering.

# JULY 2020 MONTH OF PRAYER

#### July 1

#### **Prayer for Families** by Christine Hellums

- Lord, we pray for gentle, loving honesty and understanding. We need patience. Our family is a precious gift.
- We pray for unity. We are all different. But You call us to live in unity and love.

#### July 2

 We pray for a Christ-centered marriage. We know there are so many things, good things and bad things, vying for our attention. Please help us be laser focused on Your will. Let us take the needed time with You in prayer and listening to Your words.

#### July 3

 Pray for us to seek wise, godly counsel. We need encouragement. We are doing the very best we can for our family. The devil fights us at every corner.

#### **July 4/5**

 We pray to not let our pasts define our future. God defines us as loved, redeemed, and forgiven. Let us cling to the truths God says. Pray we repeat God's truths over and over to ourselves and our family.

#### July 6

#### Prayer for Our Community by Gary Carter

• From the beginning, Lord, You created all things and brought order to chaos. Daily our greatest need is for You, and one way we experience You is through the order you have blessed us with. Grant, O Lord, that You will continuously provide civil authority that submits to You, and we will know Your blessings because of them.

#### July 7

 Ours is a time of material prosperity, yet of spiritual poverty. Temptations and corruption may abound, but our prayer today is that men and women in places of leadership will seek You out and govern according to Your principles so that we may daily live in peace.

#### July 8

- When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan. (Proverbs 29:2)
- Father, protect our leaders from wickedness and the temptation that would lead them away from the just performance of their duties. Show them daily what you desire from them and give them courage and the desire to serve uprightly.

#### July 9

 O Lord, the temptations and pressures brought upon those entrusted with governance are great and cause some to stumble. We ask on their behalf that you watch over our leaders and strengthen them to lead with wisdom and integrity.

#### July 10

 Father, You know the leaders of our community face difficulties daily. Let us remember to lift them to You daily that You would supply their needs and direct their efforts on our behalf.

#### **July 11/12**

• He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8) As our leaders struggle with varied interests and issues, we ask that you help them to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You.

#### **July 13**

### **Prayer for our Teenagers and Families** by Matt Moore

 Our youth are inundated by pressures of the world, their friends, school, and other areas.
 Pray that the youth of Oxford and Lafayette County will seek to honor God and God alone.
 Pray that we as parents will be sensitive to the challenges our youth face today, encouraging them, strengthening them, and committed in prayer for them.

#### July 14

 We all want to pray for our children, and we want them to be safe and free from harm. More importantly, may we pray that when challenging times do arrive, our youth will respond by placing their dependence on God and rely on His strength and wisdom.

#### **July 15**

• Sometimes we feel as though we are all alone, trying to navigate parenting a youth in a vacuum. Help us to remember that we are never alone. First and foremost we have the God of the Universe to help guide us.

#### **July 16**

 Because we are human, we are often tempted to compare our youth against other youth — either good or bad. Pray that we would not try to hold up our youth against their peers, but instead, encourage, love, and cherish the God-designed individual spirit within our youth. May we be thankful that He knit them uniquely while they were still in the womb, and they are designed to be different than their peers.

#### **July 17**

 Parents of youth face significant struggles in their relationships with their kids. Transitioning from "child" to "youth" is hard for everyone. Transitioning from "youth" to "adult" is similarly challenging. Pray that as parents, we recognize those God-ordained transitions. May we help gently guide our children rather than restrain them from being who God designed them to be.

#### **July 18/19**

 Once we have "finished our race" as youth parents, may we always be ready to provide a word of encouragement, a listening ear, or time on our knees for those parents coming behind us.

#### July 20

#### **Prayers for Children and Parents**

by Dina Addy

 Pray that the children in our community would have the opportunity to hear that Jesus loves them.
 They may not have parents who are believers, but we pray you will place someone in their lives who can share the gospel with them.

#### **July 21**

 Pray that children would understand that the world does not define their worth. Their heavenly Father who created them says they are precious, loved and created for a purpose. Pray that God would find ways to show them these truths.

#### **July 22**

 Pray that God would place a hedge of protection around our children. May He guard their hearts and minds against evil influences that they may come into contact with on social media, video games and television.

#### July 23

 Pray that children would be kind to one another, lift each other up instead of tearing each other down. Our society is so quick to judge and condemn, but help our kids to be different. Help our children speak words of encouragement to a child who is sad or upset.

#### July 24

 Pray that parents would guide their families in values that are faithful to God. Pray that God would open their eyes to see the truths and values that would be pleasing to Him and that would point their children into a relationship with Jesus.

#### July 25/26

Pray for the lost parents in our community. Pray
that we as believers would be a witness to them
and would point them to Jesus. And pray that
God would open their hearts to receive salvation.

#### **July 27**

#### Prayers for the Lost by Beth Fitts

- Lord God, I pray for seeing eyes. Help us to see with our hearts the lost around us and to be aware of those who need Jesus.
- Jesus, I pray for our hearts to be fully centered on You, Your will, and the salvation You offer today for the lost so that we are spiritually ready to speak the gospel.

#### July 28

 Father, I pray for our mouths to be full of wisdom to know when and how and with whom You would have us speak the truth of Jesus' sacrifice to save them.

#### **July 29**

 Jesus, I pray for our hearts to CHOOSE to move our feet to go — go anywhere You send us to anyone You send us to. Near and far. Help us to go with Your purpose and Your passion for the lost.

#### July 30

- I pray for our ears so that, Lord, we will do as You did. That we would listen to the deep needs of the lost and truly love them.
- I pray for the ears of the lost, Father, to hear Your words of love for them and, by Your Spirit's power, to understand fully the message of salvation to them.

#### **July 31**

- I pray for the hearts of the lost to be moved. That the Spirit would move them to surrender and commit to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- I pray for their feet and hands to move to want to understand more and to know You better. And in the knowing to surrender to doing — to serve You, to spend time with You, and to take the message to others who are lost.



FIRST BAPTIST Oxford Impacting Lives - Building Community - Changing the World 800 Van Buren Avenue • Oxford, Mississippi 38655-3844

Periodical Postage paid at 800 Van Buren Ave., Oxford, MS 38655-3844 (USPS 571-680) Published Monthly by First Baptist Church