



CHURCH INFORMATION

Worship with us at 10:45 am & 6:00 pm Sundays,
6:00 pm Wednesdays
Friday Night Freeway @ First meal 6:00 pm, service 6:30 pm
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Telephone: 417.866.7202, Fax: 417.862.4925
Check us out on the web at www.fbcspringfield.com

The First Edition is a monthly publication of the First Baptist Church of Springfield, Missouri



www.fbcspringfield.com

525 South Avenue
Springfield, MO 65806

THE RECORD SPEAKS

	Jan.	Feb.	March
AVG. ATTENDANCE	231	258	263

YEARLY TITHES TO DATE	\$185,252.73
YEARLY BUDGET TO DATE	\$218,000.00
YEARLY EXPENSES TO DATE	\$238,516.86

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR	MICHAEL OVERTON
DISCIPLESHIP/FAMILY PASTOR	DAVID STONE
WORSHIP PASTOR	TIMOTHY BURGHER
PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER	JULIE IPOCK
ADMINISTRATOR	KEN MCCLURE
YOUTH MINISTER	AARON IPOCK
ADMINISTRATION/DISCIPLESHIP SECRETARY	VALERIE PFEIL
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT	BRITTANY THOMPSON
MUSIC SECRETARY/PASTOR'S SECRETARY	BETTY AUSTIN
MEDIA DIRECTOR	CHRIS WASSAM
FINANCIAL	CELYNDA BLACKBURN
ORGANIST	BLYE MOORE
PIANIST	JANICE BRANDENBURGH
MAINTENANCE	DOUG MCKINNEY
CUSTODIANS	DAVID LAUGHLIN, ISREAL REEL
CONTRACT CLEANING	JIM SMITH

The
FIRST Edition
AT THE HEART OF THINGS DOWNTOWN

April 2020

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear FBC Springfield Family & Friends,

These are unprecedented days. No pastor alive today has led his flock through a pandemic. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement as the staff seeks the Lord's direction for how to best lead. It is my prayer that on the other side we will be stronger in our faith and more relevant in our ministries. But please hear me, the enemy will be at work during the days to come. When God's people gather as a church weekly, we benefit spiritually through the hearing of the Word and through the encouragement from our brothers and sisters. Our weekly gatherings strengthen us to stand up against the devil's schemes. Temptation will come. Stand firm. Although we cannot meet in person for the time being, we cannot stop being fed and spending time with the Lord. Your staff has planned to continue to "feed the sheep" through our social media outlets. We want to communicate with you so you can stay informed and be spiritually fed. Please let us know how we can serve you in this time of need.

Here is what you need to know:

- All church services and building usage are suspended until further notice.
- The staff will be in the offices to answer calls and to coordinate ministries.
- Each Sunday at 10:45 am we will have a live feed through our website and Facebook page.
- Devotionals will be posted to encourage you in this journey on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- www.fbcspringfield.com can be used to access virtual services and information.
- Giving can be done online or by mail.
- 'Care Calls & Care Packages' has been implemented. This ministry will focus on those from our membership that are most vulnerable to COVID-19. You will receive regular calls and please let us know how we can pray for you and if you need a volunteer to deliver to your door essential items. If you would like to volunteer, contact Julie Irock at 866-7202.

Romans 12:12 will serve as our memory verse in the days ahead and I would ask that you keep it close to you: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Keep your eyes upon the Lord, He is your hope. Be patient in this time of affliction, find your strength in the Lord. And finally, pray for one another. We have families that are impacted by the threat of this virus. We have families that will be impacted by the economic downturn. We have families that will struggle with temptation in the days ahead. Pray fervently, pray faithfully, and pray continuously. Remember, God is with us and God is for us. Be the hands and feet of Christ. Let those around you see your faith prevail in the face of this storm. Minister to your neighbors by calling them. May God be glorified through us as we walk by faith and not by fear.

In Christ,
Michael

Discipleship Pastor – David Stone

I believe that this next season in the life of our church here in Springfield as well as the capital “C” Church around the globe will be one of spiritual growth that will be talked about for many decades to come. There is one catch, though...that we don’t grow weary. The Apostle Paul writes to the Church in Galatia in Galatians 6:9-10, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” We must be diligent in that second part of verse 10, mainly that we do good to everyone, especially those who are in the Church. The enemy wants to divide us, even inside our own household! We must resist the temptation to focus on the things that divide us, not the things that unite us. Christ is not caught off guard in this whole thing and He will help us “in due season” to reap a harvest. So, in other words, please be good to each other, especially in this time of struggle for so many of us all.

We have been working diligently on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel in order to help our church family stay connected to Christ and His Church though we are not able to meet in gathered worship for the next season. One word of instruction here: The Church hasn’t cancelled; we are simply not able to celebrate in “gathered worship.” The Church of Jesus Christ is alive and well in this season of social distancing. This time may actually be a major part of our individual growth as Christians because we are forced to enter into a season of “self-feeding.” My prayer throughout this season is that each and every one of us would “taste and see (for ourselves) that the Lord is good. (emphasis mine)”

Keep your eyes out for updates on how we can still meet together in community over the phone, email, and Zoom. Tony Buchanan, our LifeGroups director, and I have been meeting to craft a plan to meet virtually in our homes to remain strong in our daily walk with Christ. We are beginning some test groups with Zoom this week. You should always look to our website (fbcspRINGFIELD.com) for the latest updates or links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel to watch our Sunday service online or the Monday, Wednesday, Friday devotionals from our staff and leaders.

We have started a new online newsletter called FBC CONNECT. You can subscribe to that service from our website. Simply go to fbcspRINGFIELD.com and scroll down to the bottom of the page; you will see a signup form in the footer to get on the MailChimp email list. Our goal is to send prayer updates on Monday afternoon, Wednesday afternoon and the FBC CONNECT Online Newsletter on Friday afternoon. You will want to really focus in on that Friday email blast as it will have the bulletin for Sunday’s livestream of our worship service.

Speaking of worship service livestreams... we will continue to have a worship service here at the church with Pastor Michael, staff and musicians (less than 10 people) that is streamed live on fbcspRINGFIELD.com and on our Facebook page. The easiest way to enjoy the livestream on Sunday mornings is to surf to fbcspRINGFIELD.com. Click on the “WATCH LIVE” link in the menu to go to our livestream page. There will be a light blue bar at the top of the screen that appears at 10:40 am that will give you a five-minute warning to get ready for the stream. If you are there before 10:40, you will see a video of last week’s stream. Once the scheduled stream starts, you will be able to watch either on our website or you can click on the video and watch it on our Facebook page.

If you have any technical questions about our website, Facebook, YouTube or the like, feel free to call the church office (417.866.7202) or email me (dstone@fbcspRINGFIELD.com) and we will try to help you in any way we can.



FBC ENGAGE is designed to help you connect with others in the life of First Baptist Church. FBC ENGAGE is the online portal to our church management software and database.

FBC ENGAGE not only provides information about the people, the groups, and the volunteer opportunities here but also allows you to view your giving records and update your contact information to make sure you receive important communication from the church. It's the communication hub for all things First Springfield.

If you're new here, click "create account" and you'll be guided through the steps of requesting a login. If your email is already in our database, you can get set up 24/7 by linking your email address with our database.

Start the process by checking to see if your email is in our system. If you (or your email) aren't found in our database "No users found for __@youremailaddress.com" (in red letters), you can create an account by clicking "Click here to create a new account."

Call the FBC offices at 417.866.7202 if you need more assistance logging-in or getting your account setup in FBC ENGAGE.

First Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
Engage

USERNAME:
dstone

PASSWORD:
.....

SIGN IN

Create account | Forgot password



A big part of FBC ENGAGE is our new **ONLINE GIVING** portal through CDM+, our church management software. You will need to first sign up for FBC ENGAGE before you begin to GIVE ONLINE. As up above with ENGAGE, but it is even more important to have the correct email address on file BEFORE you submit your gift through the website. If your email address isn't found in the database, please give us a call during normal business hours, and we will get you set up properly.

If your email is in our system and you have logged in to the site, you can simply walk through the steps to give to FBC. You can choose the type of contribution, the frequency of your contribution and the date on which your contribution can be made.

You can also TEXT TO GIVE through the same system. Simply Text a key word & amount to 417-308-0350:

- **GIVE** for Regular Tithes
- **ANNIE** for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions
- **FBCMISSIONS** for FBC Annual Missions Fund
- **HUNGER** for World Hunger Fund

Preschool and Children's Pastor—Julie Ipock

Helping Our Children Focus on the Lord

As a nation and a community, we are in uncertain times. Our generation has never faced anything like this before. So, as we walk in uncharted waters there are many different emotions that we are experiencing as adults; but what about our children? They are feeling some of those same emotions and possibly even more.

I know at my house my little one is having a difficult time: periods of crying for no reason, she is off her routine, she is asking what she will do the next day, she has a ton of energy, she has a lot of questions about what is happening and the list keeps going. So how do we address some of these things? What do we say to our children? How much do we tell them? How do we answer their questions?

All parenting styles are different and there is no right or wrong way to handle each situation we encounter. I pray that we can agree on God's word and His promises! Here are some parenting tips from Scripture:

PRAY

Never stop praying! Prayer is the foundation on which we stand. Prayer is where we hear from the Lord. Praying Psalm 91 is a great passage to pray with your family and let them hear how the Lord is taking care of us all. Try to help your children to not dwell on their feelings, but point them to the Lord and His comfort by addressing our concerns with the Lord through prayer. Help them to stop and listen, even if it is only for a short time. Always point them back to truth.

Address the Fear or Anxiety

These are real feelings for our little ones and/or big ones. Our kids are going to worry. They are going to worry about you, grandparents, friends and when they will return to school. Listen to their concerns. Seek to understand their questions and their fears. Remind them they are safe and that you are doing everything you can to take care of them and the Lord has promised that He would take care of them also.

Deuteronomy 3:22, "Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you." You can also point them back to Psalm 91 and the Lord's promise to protect them and care for them in a time of trouble.

Have a plan and allow them to be part of it.

Include them in what is happening. They will have a much clearer understanding of what is happening if they feel like they are a part and not blocked from it. Our children understand much more than we give them credit for. Including them in the planning will allow them to understand what is taking place. You do not have to include every detail, but make it age-appropriate and understandable. The Lord tells us in Proverbs 27:12, "A sensible person sees danger and takes cover; the inexperienced keep going and are punished." Let your child know that the Lord wants us to take action and that taking action is not scary, but it causes us to do things different for a period of time.

Keep pointing them back to TRUTH

God is faithful! Always point your children and your family back to His faithfulness. God's character will never change. When the world around us is changing fast; He is our constant. The Lord has complete control over every circumstance. James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

I'm praying for your family during this time. If you need anything, please reach out. Be on the lookout for lessons and videos coming your way!

Blessings,
Julie Ipock

Fifty Plus Director—Betty Austin

As you know we are unable to continue any of the planned activities at least until after April 24, 2020. Our spring luncheon has been postponed until the summer and the trip to Crystal Bridges is canceled for now. The June 19 date for Springfield Cardinals is still on the schedule for the time being. Teresa Calhoun, our representative, will keep us informed as to the schedule for baseball.

Please keep in touch with FBC through email or phone calls. We are here and want to help in any way we can. Hang in there! We will see you soon.

Student Pastor—Aaron Ipock

1ST Students Family,

In Galatians 6:9, the Apostle Paul writes; "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."

If there was ever a time for us to not get tired of doing good, I believe that time is now. We are facing challenging days ahead, but with God all things are possible! May we use this storm in our lives to glorify God, to grow closer to Him, and continue to be His hands and feet. May we live by faith and not by sight.

I want to encourage all of our families with students to reach out to me at any time. I am here to serve and minister to you. If there is any way that I can specifically be in prayer for your families, please let me know. Please know that I have, and will, continue to pray for your families.

One way that we could stay connected with our students is through the YouVersion Bible app. This is a wonderful app that allows you to read the Word of God, or even have it read to you. You can connect with friends through this app. It has a lot of great devotionals, and you can even do the devotionals with a group of friends.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, and please know that I am ready to serve and minister in any way I can during this time.

In Christ,
Pastor Aaron
417-880-4097
aipock@fbcspfld.com

Music Pastor—Tim Burgher

How is my worship?

With the multitude of restrictions on large meetings, our Worship Choir is postponing the presentation of "JESUS: The Undefeated One" that was planned to be presented on Palm Sunday. When we are released to again join corporately for worship, we will announce our plan to present the musical.

After several days and now weeks of physical distancing, a question you may ask is, "How is my worship?" It is easy to grow dependent upon our corporate worship gathering to substitute for our individual, sincere heart of worship. This time of physical separation is a time to work on our individual hearts of worship.

Here are three words that might help you to evaluate and focus on worship:

- **Intimacy** – God wants us to be close to Him. Worship is about drawing close to God in prayer, adoration, thanksgiving, and supplication. Without the leadership in front of you, will you take the time to express your prayer of adoration and thanks? Will you pour out your heart to God in thanksgiving and petition? Will you allow God's word to reveal His nature and spirit? Will you allow God's spirit to prompt you to action and love?
- **Simplicity** – We often enjoy the complexity of the multiple facets of church. The beautiful instruments, the wonderful choir, and the large congregation bring an atmosphere that promotes worship with which we are familiar. Without everyone being together and blending our talents and resources, we may be afraid that worship might be simple and boring. It is good to focus on the pure truth of God's word and simple expression of worship because He deserves our simple and sincere praise.
- **Obedience** – We need a constant reminder to obey God's leading and commands daily. We may tend to ignore and neglect those commands that are removed from our constant reminder. Our pastor is good to inspire and remind us of God's commands and guidance. It is good that we can stay connected by websites, social media, and emails. But, if we miss some of our electronic communication, we can know that God's word is still true, constant, and relevant for our Christian living. His commands are still calling to us. Spend time in God's word daily and seek His commands. Then, of course, obey them.

How is my worship? No matter the changes and threats in our world, let us continue to worship our God personally. Worship still relies on our personal relationship and communication with the almighty God. Seek Him.

Missing church family time,
Tim Burgher