



Family News

A Servant Community: Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active
 St. John's Baptist Church | 300 Hawthorne Lane | Charlotte, North Carolina

Vol. 78, No. 11 – Week of March 9-15, 2020

What's Happening at St. John's?

St. John's
 Worship
 this Week on
 March 15,
 2019

Proclaimer:
 Rev. Dennis W.
 Foust, PhD with
Message
*The Gift of
 Forgiveness*

CANCELED-Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt

Worship Held as Scheduled WITHOUT Appearance from
 Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt

This event is **CANCELED**. We will meet for regular worship as of Thursday, March 12, 2020. Please check our website, social media, and your email for updates concerning COVID-19. We hope to postpone her appearance. For now, please follow all precautions to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH

As your Senior Minister, I want you to know your St. John's church staff and leadership are monitoring local, state, national and global information regarding the control of respiratory illnesses due to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). We are most concerned for those who are most susceptible to this outbreak – persons beyond 70 years of age and those with existing health and respiratory challenges. We are seeking to be proactive in every way possible.

An hour ago, **Katherine Schwarzenegger-Pratt cancelled this week's trip to Charlotte**. We are hoping to reschedule her visit in the months ahead. We will gather for worship at 10:30, but you will hear me offer a message about forgiveness rather than Mrs. Pratt. This worship service will be livestreamed as usual. Due to being on the safe side of this crisis, **I have also spoken with Al Staggs and we have postponed our Bonhoeffer event to the weekend of May 30/31.**

SOME OF OUR PROACTIVE PRACTICES:

Our purposes are threefold:

1. Encourage calm while we avoid escalating added danger, panic or fear;
2. Report regularly our efforts of caring for our congregational members, guests and participants in our ministries; and
3. Take actions expressing holistic social responsibility and compassion.

These are the procedures we are already practicing:

1. Every preschool and children's room furniture, equipment, toys, resources are wiped down with a disinfectant mixture. Preschool rooms are wiped down daily and children's spaces are wiped down weekly or between uses.
2. Every handwashing station is supplied with soap dispensers and paper towels.
3. Every water fountain and entrance/exit door is wiped down daily with the disinfectant mixture.
4. We have suspended the traditional 'Expression of Fellowship' at the beginning of the Sunday worship hour. We also encourage waves, smiles and elbow bumps rather than hugs, handshakes or fist-bumps until this health crisis is past.
5. We provide boxes of tissues in the sanctuary pews and encourage their use.

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Messages from St. John's Staff

These are the precautions we are adding to improve our preparedness:

1. Because it is our understanding from reputable resources that the most susceptible persons to this virus seem to be above the age of 70, our ministry staff is suspending retirement center/nursing home visits until this health challenge has lifted. We do not want to carry any unknown virus into a care facility. We have also been informed that all hospital and healthcare systems in our region have instituted a practice that only family members age 13 and older will be allowed into patient's rooms for visits. Therefore, we will also suspend hospital visits during this crisis. Instead, we will be making phone calls to our members above 70 years of age, as apropos, to check on their health and remind them of our care.
2. We are adding handwashing instructions as given by the health department to each handwashing station throughout our buildings.
3. We are adding hand-sanitizer stations in the Main Entrance foyer, Broach Hall foyer, Chapel foyer, at the 5th Street Entrance, and in the Sanctuary Narthex and entry halls.
4. We are wiping down 'high-touch' areas in our buildings every day: door handles, light switches, etc. with the disinfectant mixture.
5. We are curtailing some mission service initiatives in the community due to our conversations with our ministry partners until this health concern passes.

What YOU Can Do

1. If you meet any of the following conditions, we strongly encourage you to stay at home and participate in worship with us via our Facebook Livestream. (See Kevin's article about how to connect with our Livestream each Sunday morning at 10:30 or how to view the recording later.) Please be safe and protect others by staying at home in case:
 2. You are showing any cold or flu symptoms.
 3. You have been diagnosed with or are being assessed for coronavirus.
 4. You have been exposed to someone who is confirmed as having coronavirus.
 5. You have recently traveled to one of the areas most affected by coronavirus.
6. **Volunteer to help us on Saturdays as we wipe down our sanctuary with disinfectant solution. We will plan to meet on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Rubber gloves and supplies will be provided. Please call or email Mallory to volunteer (704.333.5428, x11 or mbrown@sicharlotte.org)**

News for Youth and Their Families from Lee Gray, Minister for Youth & Young Adults

Upcoming Events for Youth

June 15-19

Volunteering for St. John's VBS

June 21-27

High School Habitat Mission Trip to John's Island, SC (near Charleston)

July 20-25

Unidiversity Summer Camp (for all youth) in Maryville, TN

August 8-11

Middle School Local Mission Trip

Our practices mentioned above are due to the following facts. These are guiding our actions and decisions as of this afternoon, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

LOCAL: As of today, there are two reported community spread cases of coronavirus in Charlotte. County and public health officials are encouraging calm, caution and preparedness plans. If you have symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should call your health provider first rather than going directly to an emergency room. This will help to diminish the spread of the disease. Testing of persons is only being done among those at high risk, as of now. Travel is discouraged for persons with health conditions and over the age of 70. Please stay alert as any of these factors are changing daily.

NORTH CAROLINA: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) does recommend that **people at "high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid large groups of people as much as possible. This includes gatherings such as concert venues, church services, sporting events, and crowded social events."** We encourage you to monitor guidance via NCDHHS, Mecklenburg County and Center for Disease Control. Here are their website information points:

(<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>).

<https://www.mecknc.gov/news/Pages/Update-on-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>

NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY: As of Wednesday, the World Health Organization declared coronavirus a global pandemic, signaling the need to be focused less on containing the virus and more on stockpiling materials, preparing hospitals to handle an influx of patients and enacting social distancing policies. As of today, the NCAA basketball conference tournaments are being cancelled. With more than 1,000 cases of coronavirus reported in the USA, major sports leagues and large concerts are being cancelled.

We will continue to monitor all reputable information. Should it become necessary to cancel events or services, we will send out a church-wide email and ask you to help us by calling those who do not use digital social media. In the event we must cancel being The Gathered Church for a few Sundays, we will offer devotionals/homilies and musical anthems through digital social media to keep us connected to one another. Please stay in touch with our social media. Thank you for the ways you love one another, thereby showing that we are disciples of the Way of Jesus.

Shalom,
Dennis

State & Community Mission Offering
CBF Together for Hope & Hope Chapel

2020 Goal: \$5,000
Received to Date: \$1,952

News for Children and Their Families from Allison Benfield, Minister for Spiritual Growth

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Nursery/2s: This class will be cared for in the Weekday School Infant room (behind Broach Hall, there will be signs) during the Formation and Worship Hours.

PreK/K: This class will be cared for in their room during the Formation Hour and Worship Hour. They will learn about how Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. They will have time for art and play. Music is at 9:40.

Grades 1-5: 1st-5th graders will meet in the Sanctuary for music at 9:15-9:40am. Then, all grades will go to Sunday School from 9:40-10:20am. The 1st-2nd Graders will be learning about prayer in Worship 101. 3rd-5th Graders will learn about when Jesus visited a town called Bethany. 1st-5th Graders will sit together for worship since they are worship leaders.

Grace Notes, 1st-5th Graders, will be leading us in worship this Sunday. They have been working on an arrangement of "This Little Light of Mine" the last few months. Please be here on time this Sunday so we can be ready when it's our turn to practice in the Sanctuary.

Grow with St. John's

98 Years of Learning

From the Heritage Room for Heritage Sunday on March 22

Join us for worship on Heritage Sunday, March 22 as we celebrate 98 years of learning at St. John's! From the beginning, learning and growth have been key aspects of the church. As membership and attendance at St. John's grew, there was a need for additional facilities. When the sanctuary building was completed in 1926, there was space noted in the plans for children--Cradle Roll (Nursery), Beginners (Preschool), Primary (1st-3rd Grades), Juniors (Grade 4-6) and Intermediates (Grades 7-8). The lower level had six classrooms designated for adult Sunday School. (Remodeling has now expanded that space to 10 rooms). A large space was reserved for the "Young People's Department" (High School).

In subsequent years, every time new space was added, this added new places for learning. By 1950, the church membership was 1,650 and Sunday School enrollment was 1,365. A brick apartment house on First Street (approximately where our back lawn is) had been purchased in 1948 and was being used for children. This building later became a Youth Center. A newspaper article from 1950 describes the decision to build an addition to the existing building due to "the steady expansion of the church program". This new Education Building (now the building which houses the chapel area and Lasater Hall) added eleven Adult Sunday School rooms. The older children's classes and the Young Peoples' Department were moved to the third floor of the new building. In 1957, an apartment building on Hawthorne Lane (presently the playground and gym building) was purchased. The lower level was used for children's Sunday School. In 1967, as the church expanded service to the neighborhood and inner-city, Dr. Broach told the church "...we must be bold and creative in our approach...we have serious problems [with buildings and facilities] ... we must begin now to provide new and better space... we need these facilities now. It is our turn to maintain and enlarge our church for those who will follow us." The church authorized the building of a Youth Ministries Building adjacent to the sanctuary. This space was the new home to children's

classes, a gym, offices, choir, and a child development center. Upon completion, the church began a week-day school. The Broach Hall building completed in 1992 contained additional space for children and adult learning.

Again, join us on Sunday, March 22 for Heritage Sunday as we celebrate 98 years of learning in the life of St. John's!

Like and Watch Us on Facebook A Step-by-Step Guide

How do I like the St. John's Facebook page?

1. Log into your personal Facebook account (You have to have or create a Facebook account to do this)
2. In the search bar at the top, type in "St. John's Baptist Church." There, you will see our green logo appear in the search results.
3. Click on our page.
4. Click the "Like" button at the top of our Facebook page.
5. This way, you can watch the live stream of the worship video on Sunday mornings if you cannot be here for worship.

I don't have Facebook! If you do not have Facebook, the worship video is ALSO posted on the website with the week's worship bulletin on Monday mornings. You don't have to have Facebook to watch this video.

Reach Out with St. John's

Homeless Team Volunteers Needed

Can you serve OR make banana pudding?

On the third Friday of each month we need servers and banana pudding makers for our time to provide a hot meal at the Men's Shelter. Will you add your name to the list of potential volunteers to be contacted by Joy Jarrett when she is scheduling the helpers for this ministry? to join with other St. John's folks in service and ministry.



Let Mallory in the office know if you would like to have your name included on Joy's contact lists, either for banana pudding or for serving the meal! Upcoming dates are March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19.

Easter Outfits Collection

For "A Child's Place"

Starting now, St. John's is collecting new or gently used children's outfits for A Child's Place. We are collecting NEW boy and girl outfits, sizes 5-14, with new socks and underwear with each outfit. The collection point for outfits is the main entrance by the gym. **Please have all outfits in by March 29.**



St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane | Charlotte NC 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Ministers

Every participant in God's Servant Church

Equipping Ministers

Minister for Spiritual Growth.....Allison Benfield
ext. 18 - abenfield@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Worship and Music.....Kevin Gray
ext. 14 - kgray@sjcharlotte.org
Minister for Youth & Young Adults.....Lee Gray
ext. 15 - lgray@sjcharlotte.org
Senior Minister.....Dennis Foust
ext. 12 - dfoust@sjcharlotte.org

Church Staff

Administrative Assistant.....Mallory Brown
ext. 11 - mbrown@sjcharlotte.org
Administrative Assistant.....Derek Henson
ext. 10 - info@sjcharlotte.org
Church Administrator.....Jacquelyn McAbee
ext. 20 - jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org
Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Debora Thon
Graded Choirs Director.....Anna Ball
Organist.....Noel Lance
nance@sjcharlotte.org
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted
ext. 39 - weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm;
Friday 8:30am-12:00 noon**

Prayer Concerns

Virginia Allen, Emily Batts, RD Bond, Byron Bullard, Carol Drye, Teri Franklin, Don Furr, Camille Green, Carolyn Hall, Polly Hull, Johnnie Morcock, Carl Phillips, Gene Poole, Elma Thomas, Betty Thompson, Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military

Sympathy to the family of Carolyn Hicks who passed on March 4, 2020. A memorial service will be held at McLean Funeral Home in Gastonia, NC at 11AM on Saturday, March 14.

Sunday, March 15

Deacons: Chuck Howard, Deacon Jones, Libby LeVie, Jeff Levie, Gary McFarland, During Moore, Jane Newman, Casey Perkins, Greg Rodden, Judy Sanford

Greeters: Main-Ed Turner and Ken Hungate; 5th St./Narthex-Vanessa Boling; Elevator-Marvin Carter

Tellers: Marvin Carter & Jeff LeVie

Ushers: Arnold Philemon, Marvin Carter, Bobbie Hahn, Bobbie & Don Hinson, Susan King

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of March 2-8: \$16,830
Income through March 8: \$214,217
Annual 2020 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,175,000

Ministers on Call:

March 9-15: Allison Benfield 828-448-8412
March 16-22: Lee Gray 704-451-1309

Loaves and Fishes Food Drive

Thank You!

The Loaves and Fishes Food Drive has been collected and delivered to the Galilee Center. They were impressed with the quantity and variety—especially the cereal, laundry detergent, and diapers. Once again, you were a generous congregation, donating 500lbs of food and several checks for perishable items! Special thanks to Pauline Carter, Al, and Treva Bridges for help with promotion, maintenance, and delivery. Rod Spence provided a truck to pick up the grocery carts. If you know of anyone who can help get the grocery carts back in a truck, let Eva Lee know at 704-375-3647.

Help Friendship Trays in Response to COVID-19
Donate Food Today!

[Friendship Trays](#) is in need of your help in response to COVID-19! With the Coronavirus in North Carolina, quarantine may be necessary for our area. To keep our elderly and ill clients safe from this potentially deadly virus, we're asking for **thousands of canned goods to create meal packs. We'd like to provide our 750 recipients with a variety of food that will enable them to stay safely at home for 2 weeks.**

We need the following:

- Canned Tuna • Canned Chicken • Canned Vegetables
- Starches • Canned Fruit • Peanut Butter • Low-sodium soups • Individual packaged cookies/crackers

We also need coolers. Click on [this link](#) to purchase one or drop off any sort of cooler that can be used to keep food cold.

Please bring your items to Friendship Trays at 2401 Distribution Street. Thank you and please stay safe!

Calendar for March 15-, 2020

Complete calendar online: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

Sunday, March 15

9:15am.....Sunday School & Worship 101 (Classrooms)
10:30am.....Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:30am.....Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
2:00pm.....South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
5:00pm.....Sunday Night Live (Gym, Lounge, 3rd Floor)

Monday, March 16

8:00am.....Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
11:45am.....Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
5:45pm.....Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:00pm.....Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
8:00pm.....Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, March 17

10:00am.....Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
11:00am.....Bible Study (Room 209)
4:30pm.....Preserve Mecklenburg Inc. (Lounge)
5:15pm.....SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
6:15pm.....Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:30pm.....Search Task Force (Lounge)

Wednesday, March 18

6:30am.....Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am.....Yoga (Room 114)
12:00pm.....Elizabeth Communities of Faith Service (Sanctuary)
12:30pm.....ECoF Lenten Lunch (Broach Hall)
1:00pm.....Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
5:30pm.....WOC Board Meeting (Conference Room)
6:00pm.....Membership Resource Team (Lounge)
6:00pm.....Belmont AA (Room 114)
6:00pm.....Handbells (Handbell Room)
7:00pm.....Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
7:15pm.....Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, March 19

8:15am.....HeadStart Staff Meeting (Lounge)
12:00pm.....Novant Managers' Meeting (Broach Hall)
1:00pm.....HeadStart Training (Lounge)
7:30pm.....CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, March 20

6:30pm.....Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
5:00pm.....Room in the Inn (Gym, Lounge)
5:30pm.....Volunteers at Men's Shelter (Offsite)
8:00pm.....Eastway AA (Room 114)

Saturday, March 21

7:00am.....Benton Basketball (Gym)
9:30am.....Metropolitan Music Ministries Auditions (Chapel, Choir Room, Sanctuary)