



Family News

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

stjohnsbaptistchurch.org | Vol. 78, No. 12 – Week of March 16-22, 2020

A Servant Community: Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active

St. John's Virtual
Worship at Home
Each Week on
March 22, 2019

Join us for online
worship experiences at
10:30am on Facebook
LIVE. Worship
resources will be
distributed for
guidance.

Stay Connected on
Social Media & Website



@sjbccharlotte



@sjbccharlotte



@sjbccharlotte



[Link to Website](#)

Connecting as a Community in Uncertain Times Learning to Be the Church at a Distance

As St. John's experiences "social distancing" along with the rest of our world, it is our goal to connect with you as often as possible. Each week in the Family News, there will be announcements that you might have seen in other emails or online. Please use this resource as a chance to review and take note of anything you might have missed.

Our Response to the Complexity of Simplicity From Dennis

When Richard Foster wrote, *Freedom of Simplicity: Finding Harmony in a Complex World*, he approached simplicity as a choice. Until a few days ago, this was our perspective; not today. We have been forced into the complexity of simplicity. We are told this "social distancing" or "shelter in place" initiative is our new normal for the foreseeable future.

Therefore, here is what you can expect from your staff:

- Tuesdays-Allison will present a Godly Play story on our [St. John's Facebook page](#)
- Wednesday or Thursday-Mallory will email a 2-page *Family News*
- Wednesdays at 9:30am- Sara Vavra will offer "[Online Yoga](#)" on the Facebook page
- Wednesdays and Thursdays- Kevin and Dennis will post music and/or devotionals on Facebook
- Fridays or Saturdays-You will receive "*Household Worship Resources*" to be used on Sundays
- Sunday Mornings- At our usual 10:30 worship hour, we will be **Live** on our [SJ Facebook page](#).
- Our worship time on Sunday Mornings at 10:30 will last less than 30 minutes.
- Sunday afternoon-You will find the service videos posted on our St. John's website

We realize everyone is not on Facebook. Yet, at this time, this is the best venue for us to use. In addition to our profession of faith in God's redemptive compassion revealed in Jesus Christ, the other good news is that the next few months is not forever. We will gather again. Until that day, we will be the 'Gathered Scattered Church' in creative ways.

Otherwise, the staff and church leaders have closed our facilities. Community Ministry partners have told us to stay away from their facilities. We are working from home, staying in touch with one another and with you, our faith community. Our staff and pastoral deacons are calling each household to discover needs and stay in touch. More than twenty of our members have volunteered to go shopping for our members age 60+. If you are 60+ and need something from a store, these members want to protect you. You will bless them by allowing them to serve you. My prayer is that we develop deeper intergenerational relationships of interdependent trust.

If you have a need or learn of someone with a need, please contact one of the ministers. Our cell numbers will be listed in each issue of *Family News*.

Shalom,
Dennis

Canceled or Postponed Gatherings

- All church meetings and gatherings in person are canceled until further notice
- All mission-oriented volunteer opportunities are closed until further notice due to the risk of spreading disease
- Elizabeth Communities of Faith Wednesday Lenten Services and Lunches are **CANCELED** for the rest of the season
- An Afternoon with Al Staggs as Dietrich Bonhoeffer has been **POSTPONED** to May 30 with him joining us in worship on May 31; Purchase your tickets [here](#).
- Worship now on Sundays at 10:30am on Facebook LIVE; Household Worship Resources will be provided weekly for you to use
- Brotherhood of the Biscuit will meet on Zoom on Friday morning at 7am. Contact [Eric McCombs](#) for details on how to join this meeting.

From the Heritage Room

Celebrating 98 Years of Learning

On March 26, 1922, the first services were held by the worshipers of a newly organized Baptist Church at the corner of Fifth and Hawthorne. At that time, the name of St. John's was chosen as the name for the new church. Now, 98 years later, we continue to be church and do church. The founders of St. John's could not have imagined all the changes that would take place during those 98 years.

Twenty-two years after the founding of the church, in a letter dated May 23, 1944 during the midst of World War II, Dr. Claude Broach, accepted the call to become the third minister of the growing congregation. In his acceptance letter he wrote, **"We shall enter upon this new relationship in a time of universal sorrow and turmoil. This shall not discourage us...It is my prayer that the ministry of this church may have a throbbing reality which will touch the whole of life... May the God of grace and glory be with us as we enter upon our new relationship. Yesterday is radiant with achievement; today is full of duty; tomorrow is abundant in promise and faith."**

St. John's members are now scattered over the city, county, and beyond. Not only do we communicate in writing, that writing is sent out through email and social media. The Elizabeth neighborhood is undergoing new development. We find ourselves in another "time of turmoil," yet we continue to be a welcoming place to all who wish to join us. As Dr. Foust reminded us in his message of March 17, 2020, we are an "actively faithful and faithfully active, intergenerational servant community."

Even though we will not be worshipping as a congregation together on Heritage Sunday, we will still be Church. The theme for Heritage Sunday 2020 is "98 Years of Learning". Opportunities for learning have been provided for all of our 98 years, beginning with Sunday School. These opportunities have included, Baptist Young People's Union, Training Union, Women's' Missionary Union, GA's, Wednesday Night programs, Roundtables for youth, Sunday Night Live, summer camps for youth and children, retreats for all ages, Sunday Night programs, and lectures and discussions with guest speakers. We celebrate and give thanks for all those who have provided opportunities for learning through the years and for all the learners who have been and continue to be a part of our community.

Contact the Staff

A List of Cell Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

- Dennis Foust- 704-359-7234; dfoust@sjcharlotte.org
- Lee Gray- 704-451-1309; lgray@sjcharlotte.org
- Allison Benfield- 828-448-8412; abenfield@sjcharlotte.org
- Kevin Gray- 803-524-0287; kgray@sjcharlotte.org
- Mallory Brown- mbrown@sjcharlotte.org
- Jacquelyn McAbee- jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org

Please call or email any of our ministers or staff members if you or someone you know has a need for which they can be of assistance.

Prayer Concerns

Virginia Allen, Emily Batts, 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; all affected by COVID-19 at this time

Sympathy to Steve Carter and family in the death of his father.

Financial Ministry Plan Report:

Week of March 9-15: \$5,500
Income through March 15: \$220,301
Annual 2020 Ministry Plan Budget Goal: \$1,175,000

Please continue to contribute financially. During these months, our ministries continue to need support. Staff salaries still need to be paid. Utility bills will still need to be paid. Along the way, as we become aware of unique opportunities or needs, we want the church's finances to be strong enough so we can respond. Your gifts to the Annual Financial Ministry Plan Budget of St. John's also support 42 different ministries.

You may mail your financial gifts to: St. John's Baptist Church, Attn. Jacquelyn McAbee, 300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, NC 28204.

State and Community Missions Offering Update:

2020 Goal: \$5,000
Received to Date: \$2,192

All contributions to this offering will go to Hope Chapel and Together for Hope with LaCount and Anna Anderson

On Wednesdays, the staff have decided to meet virtually on Zoom, an online video conferencing tool. They will continue these meetings each week during this time.



[Here is a link to Allison telling a Godly Play story online.](#)

[Here is a link to Kevin singing and playing "It Is Well With My Soul"](#)