

THE BANNER

A PUBLICATION OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MIDLAND, TEXAS

JULY 1, 2020
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ONE NATION
UNDER GOD
Happy

**4th of
July**

LAND OF THE FREE
HOME OF THE BRAVE

First Baptist Church wishes blessings & safety
for your family this 4th of July weekend.

From The Pastor



Dr. Darin Wood - Senior Pastor

Beloved First Family,

Grace and Peace to each of you today, especially in these challenging times. Take comfort today in the word of the Lord from Jeremiah 29:11: *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”* I’m glad the Lord knows because it’s been rather fuzzy down here.

JULY 5 and 12

Like you, I’ve watched with great concern as the numbers have escalated here in Midland County over the last two weeks. Not just the number of positive tests, but the number of hospitalizations as a result of the new cases. This trend is what led many of our partner churches in the community to return to an “online only” format for this past Sunday. As I spent this past Saturday praying through FBC’s future as well, I couldn’t find any peace in going online only for this past Sunday. To do that would’ve meant not only missing our time of worship Sunday morning, but also canceling Doris’ service as well. Doris worked HARD for that service and most certainly had earned the recognition. In spite of what others did, I felt confident we were where we belonged on Sunday. We needed to be together.

For the next two Sundays, however, after much prayer and consultation with our church staff and our Church Council,

we’ve made the difficult decision to return to ONLINE ONLY for July 5 and 12. We will not offer “in person” services for the next two Sundays. While I’m confident this will be disappointing to you, understand that it is for me as well. Our desire is / will be to serve Christ’s people passionately and with the heart of the Great Shepherd to protect the lives of our church family. On July 13th, we’ll re-evaluate and reconsider what we do going forward from there. My deep desire is to be back on track on July 19th.

In the meantime, our Sunday School zoom classes will continue, our Wednesday evening prayer meeting will continue on Facebook Live and our discipleship classes – already meeting on zoom – will continue as scheduled.

Please join me in prayer for an end to this awful disease and this incredibly challenging season. There are few “right” answers right now and I feel the burden of that. My desire isn’t to limit worship but rather to protect our church family from an enemy we cannot see and know precious little about. Please know my heart even if you don’t like our choices.

Your servant,

Darin

JOYOUS OCCASION

Pictures from the event, June 28th, honoring Doris for her 50 years of service here at First Baptist Church Midland



July 5th

SUNDAY WORSHIP

- 10 AM streaming on our website and Facebook Live
- 1 PM services in Español

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Preschool Families, one way for you to continue to disciple your kids is by accessing our weekly Sunday School materials at home! Through Lifeway, you can access a weekly video session, download an activity page, and have some great conversation starters for your whole family.

Gain access:

www.fbc-midland.org/article/lifeway-access

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry Sunday School lesson can now be viewed on the church Facebook page, Vimeo and the All Star Kids Facebook page, at 1:00PM each Sunday.

Hey families!

Grab a Take Out Church Summer Resource bag located in the Chapel foyer and the Fellowship Hall. Take Out Church Bags are for families to use while on vacation or at home this Summer. In the bag are ways your family can fellowship with others, praise God, pray, give thanks, serve others and remember Jesus.

STUDENTS

Wednesday Night: We'll have two different zoom classes on Wednesday night! 7 and 8 graders will meet at 6 pm, and 9-12 graders will meet at 7 pm. We'll have zoom games and a lesson from John-David. Watch your emails for more information!

Sunday School: Watch your emails for information about Sunday School this week.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Class led by Vernon Stokes will be available, online, for Sunday at: www.fbc-midland.org/resources/sunday-school-lesson

FAMILY MINISTRY

Sunday School (contact your leader for details.)

Meeting via Zoom

- As One
- Compass
- Luke
- Nehemiah

Facebook Live

- Song of Solomon
- Isaac

In Person

- Evermore

ADULT 55+

- Grace SS: San Smith sends a recording by email.
- Andrew SS & Stephen SS: Will meet via Zoom. Contact leaders for details.
- Rachel Department: Monday nights at 6:30; call Connie Staton for more information, (432) 559-7705
- Peter Department - Call Mike Fain for more information, (432) 557-2702

First Disciple University



We want you to discover your calling in life and how you can live out that calling everyday so that you can experience a full life in Christ. Online discipleship classes are organized in such a way where you can be on a growth track to following Christ.

All Class registrations at:

www.fbc-midland.org/resources/fdu

P91

A Men's Bible study for recently unemployed or stressed about employment.

Tuesdays at 7:00 AM

Cost: Free

DIVORCE CARE

Don't go through separation or divorce alone.

June 3 to Sept 2 (13 weeks) Wednesdays 7:30 PM-9 PM

Cost: \$20

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

When we're struck with fear, where do we turn? Katy Little leads the study "Fear and Faith" by Trillia Newbell.

June 25 to July 30 (6 weeks) Thursdays 7 PM - 8 PM

Cost: Free

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Timeless practices for Christ followers to grow a deeper spiritual life. You will gain a biblical understanding and practical how-tos in listening and obeying the Holy Spirit. Led by: Bryan Pinson

July 8th to 29th (4 weeks) Wednesdays at 7 PM - 8 PM

Cost: Free

1st Family News

ACTIVITY MINISTRY

Until Further Notice

- Activities Building will be open Monday – Friday from 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM to FBC Members only.
- The cardio equipment, weight room equipment and game room will function with limited capacity.
- The basketball court will be used only for walking or jogging. No basketball games will be played.

MOPS

MOPS Registration is open for 2020-2021! We meet the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, September through May. Please contact us for more information! We look forward to meeting you!

MOPS is looking for MOPS Kids Volunteers! If you are interested in helping minister to our moms, please volunteer to watch these sweet babies while the moms study, fellowship, and bond with one another.

mopsfbcmidland@gmail.com

MISSION MINISTRY

VIRTUAL TORONTO MISSION JOURNEY

When: July 11-16, 2020

What: A Prayer and Educational Experience about Toronto and its Peoples

Who: An IMB Missionary will be Providing an Interactive Digital Daily Prayer Guide

(including pictures, videos, recipes, and stories)

Where: We will have an opening meeting by Zoom with our IMB Missionary at 7pm on the 11th and a closing meeting at 7pm on the 16th again by Zoom. Daily opportunities to learn about and pray for Toronto using prayer guide.

How: Email mhodes@fbc-midland.org or call 683-0623 to register and receive digital or printed prayer guide

Cost: Free! Except Time Spent Praying and Learning

MEDIA LIBRARY

The Media Library is another large part of our outreach. Our library has over 16,000 printed books, CD (audio) books and DVDs available for people of all ages and interests to check out. Library resources (printed and in audio and video formats) and digital resources (audio and video formats) are available for teaching and discipleship as well as entertainment.

You can go to our website, www.fbc-midland.org/resources/media-library/ and follow a link for information of what is available at the library.

Run a search by: Keyword, Title, Author, Subject, or Series

Media Library Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00 am - Noon

Need Your Help

MIDLAND BAPTIST C.R.I.S.I.S. CENTER

The center is in need of the following items:

Family size Shampoo, Toothpaste, Deodorant (men & women), Razors (men & women), and Baby Wipes.

You can drop off these items at the Missions Office.

MOBIL MANA

Our partners in Juarez need your help.

Mobil Mana feeding program is feeding about 1000 people a couple of times a week. Most of the children do not have a face mask.



If you know how to sew, would you consider sewing (or purchasing) a few masks for the children in Juarez. We would like to send 80-100 washable, kid size face masks. You can drop them off at the Missions Office.



Happy Birthday AMERICA

On July 4th, 1776, Fifty Six (56) brave men, headed by Thomas Jefferson, signed a letter to the King of England and declared their independence. These men were successful, hardworking, dedicated Christian people who were willing to give their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to be freed from the restraints imposed by the King of England.

It has been 244 years since our forefathers signed that letter of Independence and that document was the spring board for America to soar to heights never before imagined. The signers wanted freedom from the King's rule for themselves and for all those who followed. They prayed for God to Bless America and their prayers were answered.

The signers freely gave everything that had for liberty and a free democracy. Over 1.3 million American Service men and women have given their lives to preserve this Republic and millions more have served in varied capacities to defend this great country and to uphold the Constitution of the United States. Over time we have learned that freedom is far from being free.

Unfortunately, along the course of history, we have lost our way. We have passed from the shining light of Jesus to the darkness and evil of Satan. Presently, our elected and appointed officials in government have in some way violated at least 20 of the 27 grievances registered in this document of Independence. I am appalled at the division within this country. I am saddened at the thought that God is no longer welcomed in our schools, our homes and our government. I am frightened at the social unrest within our country. Racial problems abound. We live in fear from violent protests resulting in rioting, looting, burning, destroying, and killing on our streets. We are saddened every day for the legalized murder of unborn babies. Our historic monuments and statues are defaced, mutilated and destroyed. Our nation's police force is under attack and are, themselves, politically handcuffed. Our Constitution is shredded, the disrespect for our flag and our history is disgraceful. All the while we are being told that all is well as we head toward a socialist state with third world characteristics.

For thousands of years, this world continued to operate under all kinds of turmoil but recently, the world movement was stopped by a tiny spec of a virus. In a matter of a few days, our hopes, our dreams, our right to work, the freedom to worship together and to fellowship and socialize were removed. In the blink of an eye, our forward progress stopped. We isolate ourselves in our homes and fear what tomorrow will bring.

This nation, founded on Judeo-Christian principals, is in real trouble. Man has tried to correct its problems – and failed. We have depended on this government of the people, for the people and by the people to solve our problems and we have come up short. Science has not found an answer. Economic power and military might have not been able to help. We stare into space, wring our hands, point fingers of blame and hope somebody does something that will make things better. But no relief comes. Our faith has been stomped out by fear.

God told us how to solve our problems, but we don't listen. The message is clear – but we, as Christians, are not receptive. We seem to take a cafeteria interpretation – choosing only that which pleases us – and that approach has not been very effective. If God could provide food and water for two million Israelites and their livestock for forty years in the desert, He can solve our problem with the snap of his finger. He said - "If you will, I will". Our survival is not up to God, the responsibility belongs to God's people.

2 Chronicles 7:14 is not a suggestion – it is the solution. **IF MY PEOPLE** – God is talking to Americans who have made a profession of faith and are truly children of God. **WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME** – and only you know if you are included on this list and if you are, you have a tremendous responsibility. **WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES** – this means to approach the throne of grace, emptied of self and filled with God's Spirit. This means to become broken, and repentant of our defiant attitude and repetitive sins. **AND PRAY** – that is to communicate with the Almighty – Not telling God what to do but asking HIM for guidance, strength, wisdom and direction; then, God expects us to listen and respond to His will. **AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS** - God tells us that we must reverse the path we are on and return to obedience to His commands. We know what we are doing wrong – and we know what we should do – but are we willing to make that sacrifice? Are we willing to make the commitment and sacrifice that was made by our forefathers and our fallen heroes? Until we do, our prayers will not be heard. **THEN (and only then) WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND.**

I believe that God still has a purpose for America. I think He has spoken to us in many ways to show us His love as well as His wrath. Until we, as a nation, realize that man is folly and God is the answer, we will continue on the path of destruction. And I believe that we will either turn from our wicked ways or we will be brought to our knees by God's wrath. This fact has been proven, time and again throughout history – so why would God treat us any different?

For every storm cloud that this nation has faced over 244 years, it has always been followed by a rainbow. A rainbow can only be observed in the bright sunlight, therefore, to enjoy God's blessings, we must walk in the "light" provided by Jesus Christ. I pray that every Christian in this nation will humble themselves and ask God for forgiveness.

As we celebrate our Nation's 244th birthday, we give thanks for the blessings of years past and we earnestly pray that God will once again Bless America. On our Nation's birthday, let us join together as a Nation United and humbly ask God to Bless America.

"While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free, let us all be grateful for a land so fair, as we raise our voices in a solemn prayer: God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her through the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans, white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home, God bless America, my home sweet home."

Dean Rippetoe

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Church Midland



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Prayer Partners

PRAYER

Our Missionary
in
Portland, OR



Mike Thibodeaux
Simplicity Ministries

- Pray for creativity and innovation to develop new ways to minister, equip leaders, do discipleship, and preach the Gospel online especially over the next two to three months considering the coronavirus pandemic.
- Pray for God to open doors for ministry with churches here in the Northwest.
- Pray for Rwanda that God may show mercy to them and keep the coronavirus from spreading across this third world nation. It could be devastating otherwise.

WAINSCOTT/ LACY SCHOLARSHIP

For students attending a Baptist college, university, or seminary in the Fall 2020.

Contact: supham@fbc-midland.org

APPLICATIONS DUE 07/15/20

FBC DIRECTORY

www.fbc-midland.org

Main Phone - 432.683.0600

Main Fax - 432.683.0660

Prayer Line - 432.683.0683

Pastoral Ministry	683.0604
Missions Ministry	683.0623
Music & Worship Ministry	683.0618
Administrative Office	683.0616
Activities Ministry	683.0647
Business Office	683.0615
Children's Ministry	683.0609
Preschool Ministry	683.0611
Child Development Center	683.0638
Children's Day Out	683.0632
Student Ministry	683.0610
Family Ministry	683.0612
55+ Ministry	683.0612
Media Ministry	683.0622
Membership	683.0616
Duplication Services	683.0626
Library	683.0625

Sunday Service Streamed Online

10:00 AM

• fbc-midland.org • [facebook.com/fbcmidland](https://www.facebook.com/fbcmidland) • [vimeo.com/fbcmidland](https://www.vimeo.com/fbcmidland)

Sunday Service Televised at

7:00 a.m. on KOSA (CBS) Channel 7

10:00 a.m. on MyTV, Channel 16 (or DirectTV Channel 40)

Televised services are on a one-week tape delay



Join us in giving online at our church

- Must add your name for your year-end report.
- Must use a new browser: Windows Edge, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox

fbc-midland.org

one-time gifts
recurring giving
credit card
bank giving
manage account



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

June 28, 2020

Offering	Weekly	Year to Date
First Baptist.....	\$ 90,290	\$ 6,673,211
Budget Requirement.....	\$ 135,000	\$ 5,902,082
Over/Under Budget.....	\$ -44,710	\$ 771,129
Hope 1:8	\$ 0	\$ 20,068