

# THE BANNER

A PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
MIDLAND, TEXAS

JULY 15, 2020  
VOL. 40 - NO. 47

**JULY 19**  
**LIVE SERVICE**  
AT CHURCH CAMPUS & ONLINE  
**1 SERVICE • 3 VENUES**

SERVICE LED BY  
**FBC'S 2020  
REC. TEAM**



# Dear Beloved First Family



Dr. Darin Wood - Senior Pastor

Grace and Peace today! As I write to you, we're about to turn back toward Texas and come home. This has been a wonderful season of refreshment and renewal – thanks for allowing my family and I the chance to slip away.

## SUNDAY JULY 19

I'll answer this question first – WE WILL RETURN TO OUR IN-PERSON SERVICES THIS WEEK. If you'd be more comfortable staying home, our online services continue as well. As has become our custom, our services will be at 10 AM in each of our three venues. For this Sunday, all of the services will be identical.

There are, however, some provisions to your participation:

- A. If you've been sick, please stay home. Your presence as a family member in worship should speak assurance to the rest of the First Family that you're being wise with our health as well as your own.
- B. A mask is a requirement. If that's a problem for you, please worship from your home. I plead with you to not force the church to ask what we will do if you come and don't wear one. This is neither a political issue nor is it a civil rights forfeiture – it's an act of loving your church family enough to release some of your own rights for the sake of serving Christ's people.
- C. We will return to the reservations system to insure we don't overcrowd our spaces. Expect an emailed invitation (perhaps even before you receive this note!)
- D. We ask for a renewed emphasis on social distancing and limited exposure via handshakes, hugs, etc.

## HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT THIS DECISION:

Two weeks ago when we made the decision to go back online only, Midland had seen a significant spike in cases. The idea we had (several area pastors) was to see if NOT meeting in person would bring those numbers back a to more manageable level. The answer is a resounding no. Virus cases have only accelerated since then. The idea was to keep people from interacting in such a way that would foster the virus' transmission. That hasn't happened either. Thus, while the situation hasn't changed and most definitely worsened, there's no promises waiting will improve things either. Even in our absence, the First Family has had positive tests so staying home isn't helping us accomplish our goals of preventing our church family from getting the virus. Staying home is simply limiting ourselves and – potentially – the Gospel at a critical time.

Please hear me clearly – this doesn't mean we won't EVER return to an "online only" model. That may very well happen, but it's not now.

As for returning Sunday School on August 9th, expect a decision soon but not yet. Likewise for our scheduled concert date with Matthew West. We'd like to keep both of those dates, but the future is more than a little murky so stay tuned.

I'm confident you'll have concerns or questions. While I'm still out of the office and on my way back this week, feel free to email me at [dwood@fbc-midland.org](mailto:dwood@fbc-midland.org) and let's talk about it. I cannot promise you'll like my answer, but it will be a prayed-over and honest answer.

A pastor who loves you,  
Darin

## 1st Family News

### FBC AT HOME

We have implemented an on-line worship guide. It is located at the following link. [www.fbc-midland.org/fbcathome](http://www.fbc-midland.org/fbcathome)

The page is available now and updated every Saturday for that coming Sunday. For your convenience, we have provided links to resources and information on the sidebar of the page.

To test drive it, simply click the link above or type it into the address bar of your internet search engine. Or, you can access the page from our home page and click the large blue button that says, "FBC At Home".



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

- 10 AM In person and streaming on our website and Facebook Live. You must register online to join us here at the church. [www.fbc-midland.org/sunday-service](http://www.fbc-midland.org/sunday-service)
- 1 PM services in Español available online
- 5 PM Online Table Talk with Christian Cotton

**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](http://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!**

Get your Take Out Church Summer Resource bag. Call Sarah Arrambide at 432-683-0633, if you would like one.

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: Find us on Zoom for Midpoint this week! Jr. High at 6:30 and High School at 7:30. Look for meeting information by email!

Sunday School: We'll send an email soon about what your class is doing for 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](http://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
- Evermore

**Facebook Live**

- Song of Solomon
- Isaac

**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](http://www.fbc-midland.org/resources/fdu)

**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**

**P91**

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

**Tuesdays at 7:00 AM - Ending Aug 4**

**Cost: Free**

**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**

**Prayer Partners**



- Pray for the funding needed to keep Human Care School open from 1st Grade to Philo.
- Pray for the graduating class of 2020 to pursue the will of God and training that will enable them to live productively in Haiti while living and speaking the Gospel of Christ.
- Pray for guidance in India as we face many persecutions and challenges as a Christian ministry functioning in a predominantly Hindu country.

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### FBC DIRECTORY

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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 .....	683.0606
Family Ministry .....	683.0612
55+ Ministry .....	683.0612
Media Ministry .....	683.0622
Membership .....	683.0616
Duplication Services .....	683.0626
Library .....	683.0625

Sunday Service In Person & Streamed Online

10:00 AM

• fbc-midland.org • facebook.com/fbcmidland • 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

### THANK YOU

I do not have enough words to express thanks to you for honoring my 50th Anniversary at FBC. Your presence made it a joyful and happy event, one that I will cherish forever. As I tried to say publicly this family of God is my earthly family and I am grateful to be a part of your individual families. Thank you for the many expressions of love and notes of encouragements. Thank you for the proclamations from the City and State. What an honor! Thank you Pastor for the celebration and the generous gift from the church, also thanks to the one who donated to the Organ Fund. Special thanks to Aaron and Chris the Music Ministry Team and to Jeff and Richard and all the Media Team for producing the sanctuary service and the live stream broadcast. It is such a joy to be a part of the Ministry team. There is nothing more thrilling to me than to accompany hymns and hear the congregation lift their voices in praise. I am truly blessed by God to serve at this church.

"Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song and His praise in the congregation of saints."

Psalm 149:1

Doris McSparran

I thank you for the contribution to Buckner's in memory of my mom, Vernelle Pirtle.

Mom had attended church and Sunday School many times throughout the years with Don and me. I know that she would appreciate your thoughtfulness.

In Christ,  
Pat Helm

Thanks to the young men (Cooper and Chapman Sims) that came and SANG to Eva Wright.

FBC

### Looking Forward

#### CHURCH CONFERENCE

July 26

Vote on candidate for the Associate Minister to Senior Adults and Women's Ministry.

#### FREE CONCERT

August 1

Matthew West in concert here at FBC. No ticket required.

#### STEWARDSHIP REPORT

July 12, 2020

Offering	Weekly	Year to Date
First Baptist.....	\$ 104,835	\$ 6,873,023
Budget Requirement.....	\$ 135,000	\$ 6,172,082
Over/Under Budget.....	\$ -30,165	\$ 700,941
Hope 1:8.....	\$ 550	\$ 20,718