

# THE HOME VISITOR NEWSLETTER



## Hello May

*May 2020*

### Office Hours

M-Th-8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday-Closed

308-532-6772

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Pastor Clint Walker

### First Baptist Church

100 McDonald Rd

North Platte, NE 69101

### Worship Hours

Sunday School-9 a.m.

Worship-10:15 a.m.

### On Returning to the Sanctuary

Last night our Church Council met. By unanimous consent, we decided to take the step to offer one service in the sanctuary, where we will be following guidelines put forward by the state and the ABC-USA. We have decided the date of that return will be May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We will still be working hard to provide online communication through Facebook Live, as well as transmitting out into the parking lot through our FM Transmitter.

This development requires some forthright, frank conversation on the logistics of how worship will be done, particularly worship in the sanctuary.

About half of you are not feeling comfortable gathering as a congregation in the sanctuary yet. We want you to know that we understand your concern, we know you need to do what is best for you, and we support you. We also support our brothers and sisters in Christ who need to gather in a more live, connected gathering provided we can adhere to social distancing guidelines.

As we gather as a congregation in the sanctuary, many things will be different for a season, and may feel awkward, and more controlled. Please, don't get too concerned about this. My motto lately has been "Embrace the Weird". Admittedly, for an awkward person like me this is easy to do.

Also, realize that we have ALL had to have some give and take to make this happen, including myself. Try and remember, as you navigate the changes from your normal routine, to

intentionally make those changes out of love for the other, and the desire to protect and care for them.

The implementation of the guidelines are as follows:

- Persons with vulnerable health concerns are encouraged to wait to attend sanctuary worship until a safer time.
- People are to sit in households based on who you live with. Thus, if you are a single person, you are considered a household. If you are uncles or grandparents living separately from your extended family, you are not considered a part of those households.
- People will be sitting two households per open pew. Any more gets us closer than 6 feet.
- Ushers will offer a socially distanced greeting and lead you to a seat that you will be assigned to. You will need to stay in that seat for the service, and not move to another. As we are concerned about germ transmission, it will not be helpful to get up and offer a seat to another household once seated
- More rows than not will be blocked/taped off and not be available in order to allow for social distancing. Please don't push into those rows.
- Use of hymnals, bulletins etc. are prohibited. Much like the online services, you will follow the lead of worship leaders up front
- Doors to the building will be propped until the service begins and after the service ends. Please wait to enter the building until the front doors are propped open. Please allow for spacing between households as you enter the worship space.
- There will be no passing of items including but not limited to: offering plates, attendance sheets, communion elements, and publicity.
- The state has explicitly restricted nursery service at this time. Children's church and children's messages will not be done at this time either. Children are to remain with their household during the service.
- Persons will be dismissed row by row, in a socially distanced fashion (kind of like a wedding or funeral)
- Restrooms will be limited to one household using the restroom at a time.
- If you arrive late, and the sanctuary has no more seating you may be politely asked to move to an adjacent room or encouraged to listen to your radio in the car. This is not a personal decision. It is a first come, first served decision.

Other recommendations and considerations:

- Consider wearing a face-covering at least upon entering and leaving the building, and perhaps for the entire service. You may also consider wearing gloves. Neither are going to be forced upon you. Ushers will have both.
- Remember that even if you are comfortable in being lax in violating social distancing guidelines, many around you are not. In fact, many may feel behaviors like sticking your head in someone's window outside, or getting closer than 6 feet, or touching someone's shoulder a threat to their well-being.
- It is wise for everyone to have the attitude that they could be an asymptomatic carrier of COVID, and lovingly deal with others with this attitude of compassion and protection.

I know this is a lot, and there may be more to think about in the future. If attendance is over the ability to accommodate given our guidelines on the 17<sup>th</sup> or any other Sunday, we may consider adding worship services.

Pastor Clint

## **DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP AND COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES IN COVID TIME**

For the first little bit of our social distancing during COVID, we had transitioned opportunities for discipleship and communication that were already in process to online platforms like Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. Several of those programs are transitioning to a summer schedule. As we continue to deal with social restrictions, it has become clear to me that we need to plan for a new normal, offering differing online options for folks as long as we have to gather in that way for communication and online activities. Therefore, I have developed an ambitious schedule to lead our church in discipleship during this period. This is all experimental, so some of it may stay, and other parts may be here for a season. We will attempt to record all "live" activities. Here they are:

### **Unscheduled, but regular Programming and Communication**

#### **What's Up?**

A 1-2 time a week check in with news that FBC folks can use about our fellowship and other happenings. This be prerecorded, and then shared on the church's Facebook and YouTube

#### **Talking the Walk**

I am hoping to have myself, an FBC person, and an outside guest share in a conversation on the Zoom Platform that will then be recorded and shared to Facebook and YouTube. Due to people's schedules, the official time of LIVE broadcast will be a fluid situation.

### **Regularly Scheduled Ministry OnlineAge-Group Ministries**

**Discover Kids** has one more week of gathering on Zoom. Other activities may be planned by Pastor Clint and children's folks throughout the summer.

**Epicenter** continues to meet digitally on Sunday with a flavorful mix of digital communication that works for them. McDaniels are coordinating

**Young Adults** are continuing their ministry on Thursdays through a phone based meeting model that also seems to work for them. McDaniels are coordinating.

#### **Pastor Led Study Groups (all start the week of May 10)**

On **Sunday at 11:15 a.m** Pastor Clint (and maybe a guest) will lead a dialogue on Facebook Live about the Sunday Scripture and the content of Sunday's message called **Chatback**.

On **Weekdays at 9 a.m.** the pastor will share a daily devotion posted on Facebook and YouTube. This may or may not be live. This is called **DevoTime**

On **Wednesdays at 9 p.m.** the Pastor will lead a Zoom/Facebook Live simulcast study of the book of Romans. This is called **Digging Deeper**. It will last 30-60 minutes.

On **Thursday at 9:30 a.m.** the Pastor will lead a Zoom/Facebook Live simulcast small group with content still to be determined. This is called **Coffee with Clint**. It will last 30-60 minutes.



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.



For Covid-19 Response, Safety & Recovery

Government Leaders

Missions and Ministries

Religious Leaders

Camp Moses Merrill

The Connection

Salvation Army

Blake Hinton/Rehab/Centennial Park

The Falkena Family

Dorothy Power