



# First Baptist Church

Worship, Grow, Serve & Share Yazoo City

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Church Family,

As I was thumbing through the church directory the thought struck me once again, “Where are all these people? There are many I have never or rarely seen in a worship service.” During a recent visit, a lady commented to me, “I want so much to be at church.” It wasn’t Covid that was keeping her away. This precious lady was doing the best she could to get safely from one point to another. Over the years I have shared with many who are unable to attend worship services, “God knows your heart and that you want to be with His people. He understands your situation. Do not guilt yourself.”

It saddens my heart to think that some of God’s people have not gathered with the Church body in almost 2 years - when the Covid-19 lockdown began. Perhaps some of you reading this newsletter haven’t been to a worship service at FBC in quite some time. I understand the person who just can’t come because of physical limitations or is caring for someone in need. Is that your reasoning for not being with God’s people when they gather?

God’s heart, desire, plan, and His command for His child, is quite clear, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not NEGLECTING to meet together, as is the HABIT of some, but encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:25).”

Someone might say, “we are still in a Covid-19 crisis! I might get sick or get someone else sick or worse!” On most nights I read from a devotional book by Voice of the Martyrs. I read stories about believers around the world, throughout history and to present day, who risk their lives daily to follow Jesus. Our brothers and sisters regularly risk health, life, limb, reputation, income, etc. as they choose to obey Jesus. They will not let anything stand in the way of obeying God, proclaiming God, or gathering with other believers for worship.

I promise you I am not making light of Covid. It is a serious illness and unfortunately has claimed too many lives, even of those we know and love. There is so much information and disinformation out there it is hard at times to know what is the truth about Covid, vaccines, natural immunity, masks, etc.

I am observing more and more. People want to get back together. People are now gathering by the tens of thousands in stadiums and yet the infection rate is NOT going through the roof – perhaps due to many people having been vaccinated, natural immunity from those who have had Covid, or perhaps we are inching ever closer to herd immunity. That is great news! Still, it looks like Covid is going to be hanging around for a while longer. The numbers will go up and back down. We are just going to have to deal with it and move on with life.

From countless conversations it seems that there are a number of Covid-related reasons why church members have not re-joined the gathering of believers. For example:

**“I will come back when ...”** I get the idea that means waiting for the numbers to hit zero or at least below 50. That day may come but it doesn’t appear to be anytime soon. Are you really going to stay away from God’s people until you are absolutely sure you will not catch Covid? Shouldn’t trust in God be somewhere in the mix?

**“It just isn’t safe yet.”** Do you go to the grocery store, to Walmart, or other places? It is likely you do so with a mask which is great if that is what you

choose. Is there a reason you cannot put a mask on and come back to church? I wouldn’t be surprised if at times you see more people in Walmart than you do in a Sunday morning worship service.

**“Everyone hasn’t been vaccinated.”** True. Some of you have been vaccinated and even received a booster. Supposedly, by those in the know, you are likely to not get Covid and if you do – it will be a mild case. Shouldn’t this be a strong reason that you SHOULD gather together with other believers on Sunday and Wednesday?

**“Everyone won’t wear a mask.”** True. This is optional. Be encouraged. We have a place of safety for you. There are a number of seats you could occupy and not have anyone within 15 feet of you in any direction.

**“I don’t want to touch what others have touched.”** The medical experts have told us that Covid is likely not transferred this way. You will find hand sanitizers at every door. No one will be offended if you don’t shake hands or hug. They will simply be elated that you have come.

**“I can watch the service from home.”** We are thankful for technology that has allowed us to gather for worship in our homes during the lockdown. The lockdown ended a long time ago. Having church in our individual living rooms was not supposed to be long term. There are some who have been led to believe by Satan that worshipping on Facebook or YouTube is just as good. It isn’t. We need you. And you need the rest of the body. Straightforwardly, it is disobedience if you are ABLE to gather with believers and you don’t.

**“I can now watch the service any time when I have the time.”** This is an excuse of convenience and perhaps habit. I learned long ago that if a person does something 17 times it becomes a habit. I wonder if the reverse is true – stop doing something 17 times and the old habit is broken. Many followers of Jesus Christ have been away from church much more than 17 times. Could it be that you have just gotten out of the habit of gathering with God’s people? Again, it is disobedience if you are ABLE to gather with believers and you don’t.

These are some but not all the reasons why some believers DO NOT GATHER with their church family for worship. If it has been a while since you gathered with your brothers and sisters on Sundays and Wednesdays then I suggest you have a heart to heart conversation with your Heavenly Father. Ask God to search your heart and reveal to you what He sees in your life and then obey His word and His Spirit. If FEAR is what is keeping you away it is time to send fear back where it comes from – to hell, Satan’s lair. This fear is not coming from God. God tells us as His children, “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit NOT OF FEAR but of power and love and self-control [sound judgment /sound mind].” - 2Timothy 1:6-7 It is time to put fear and all other reasons behind you! It is time to obey God again! It is time to once again come and gather with God’s people! We look forward to seeing you soon!

In His love,  
Byron

Its the most wonderful time of the year! The next two months are my favorite time of the year. We recently had a parent meeting discussing the rest of this year and into summer 2022! The biggest thing we have coming up is Fast Food Thanksgiving. This is always a fun and hilarious event for our students. More important dates will be listed below.

So, tell me.. what is your go-to comfort? Is it social media? Food? people? All too often we find ourselves in situations where we have to run to "our comfort". This is extremely prevalent in the life of teenagers. They are under many stressors in today's society. These past couple of months we have been creating a foundation of quiet time with the Lord. We have journeyed through two studies already and began our 3rd at the end of October. Out of this, I'm encouraged to see the influence it is having on those participating. We will be taking it to the next level over the next two months as we dive into discipleship.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered Him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father." - John 8:31-38

You see their "belief" is shown to be false in the course of the story (see John 8:33-47). To abide in Jesus' word means to continue believing what Jesus has said and walking in obedience to Him (1 John 2:6, 28; 3:6). This verse shows that continuing to trust Jesus and obey Him is one test of who are truly His disciples. This verse is frequently quoted out of context, but the connection with John 8:31 shows that Jesus is only talking about one way to know the truth, and that is by continuing to believe and obey His word. This will set you free from the guilt and enslaving power of sinful patterns of conduct.

Discipleship is incredibly important and I look forward to walking with our students through this aspect of their faith.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

FAST FOOD THANKSGIVING  
NOVEMBER 17TH

CHRISTMAS PARTY  
DECEMBER 12TH



AND BE THANKFUL

JOIN US FOR CHURCH FAMILY THANKSGIVING  
Sunday, November 14th following morning service



young adults &  
young married couples

join us for

friendsgiving

Saturday, November 6th

Tiki's House

6pm

## October Offering

<u>October 3</u>	<u>October 10</u>	<u>October 17</u>	<u>October 24</u>
Budget Offering \$12,084	Budget Offering \$5,577	Budget Offering \$12,843	Budget Offering \$6,531
Challenge to Grow \$2,770	Challenge to Grow \$5,590	Challenge to Grow \$2,644	Challenge to Grow \$3,860

Online Giving thru 10/25  
\$9,865

Gifts were received for the following designated funds:

- State Missions in memory of Hazel Johnston
- State Missions in memory of Frances Mistich
- Backpacks of Hope Ministry in memory of Bobby Bentley



This is an evening for all ages. There will be hotdogs, s'mores, candy, a bonfire and lots of fellowship. Come join us! Bring your lounge chair and sit with others around the fire. Invite your friends.

David and Sandy Warren have graciously offered their place once again. 4095 Cox Road, Benton, MS. Plan now to attend and invite others!

There's still time for you to grab a box or two...or more and have them returned to the church by Nov 14.

Come on...participate and receive the blessing of being a part of this huge ministry. You can find boxes in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Thank you!



It has been quite the adventure aboard the Submarine, Steadfast, with Captain Sandbar already. Please come join the mission and see how God wants us to live by studying passages from the book of James. We have 5 lessons remaining in this 8 part series.

Our Wednesday Elevate program begins at 5:45 each Wednesday evening.

We will begin each evening with our Bible Trivia GameShow so you don't want to miss that!



HOW TO PACK A BOX!



1 GRAB A BOX!

These preprinted boxes are available to pick up in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall!

2 GET YOUR LABEL

These are in the pamphlet inside of your provided boxes or you may find them online to print at home. Whichever you choose, use the label to indicate on your shoebox whether it was packed for a boy or girl and which age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.



YOU'RE INVITED!



SENIOR ADULTS FUN EVENING!

Friday, November 5, 5pm

in FBC Fellowship Hall. Catfish dinner and entertainment by BTJ TRIO. There will be a \$5.00 charge. Advance tickets will go on sale October 3 through October 31st. BTJ Trio builds their distinctive sound on the classic combination of fiddle, bass and acoustic guitar. Their vocal harmonies and instrumental arrangements cover the music spectrum from Bill Monroe to the Everly Brothers to the Old Crow Medicine Show.

TICKETS ARE \$5 | SEE TIM & MARIE MANOR OR JESSICA IN THE OFFICE TO PURCHASE

55 years +

3 FILL WITH GIFTS

Select a medium to large "wow" item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Don't forget to also include a personal note and photo—sometimes these are the child's favorite things to receive!

4 PRAY

Most importantly, "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17) for the child who will receive your shoebox gift. Pray also for their family to be receptive to the Gospel.

5 RETURN YOUR BOX WITH \$9

Return your box no later than **November 14th!** A donation of \$9 per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs.





### Sunday Activities

Sunday School—9:40am  
 Worship—10:50am  
 Adult Small group, k4c, youth bible study—5pm

### Wednesday Activities

Backpacks of Hope packing—5:45  
 Elevate Kids—5:45  
 Youth & Adult Bible Study/Prayer Meeting— 6:00  
 Choir Rehearsal—6:50

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Friendsgiving @6 Tiki's House
7	8	9	10	11 	12	13
14 Church Family Thanksgiving following service	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Last PM Activities for the semester	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30				

#### WATCH US LIVE ONLINE SUNDAYS AT 10:50!

Sunday morning services are available **LIVE** online. You can watch the service by going to [www.fbcyazoo.org](http://www.fbcyazoo.org) and clicking on the "Live Stream" on our home page. We are also Live on Facebook each week!



328 Grand Ave. Yazoo City, MS 39194

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED to PO Box 780 Yazoo City MS 39194

#### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**FRIDAY - CLOSED**

Phone: 662-746-2471

Website: [www.fbcyazoo.org](http://www.fbcyazoo.org)

#### Email:

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#### Facebook:

Yazoo City First Baptist Church

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