

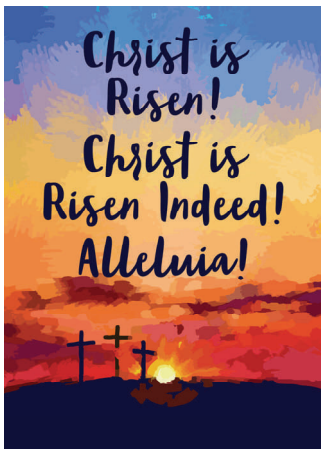
First Baptist Church

The Flora Scope

APRIL 2020

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	
Dr. Jon Daniels	601-966-0091
Associate Pastor of Music & Senior Adults	
Gil Powell	601-278-6404
Associate Pastor of Youth, Education & Missions	
Dr. Dwayne Parker	601-946-5616
Minister of Preschool and Children	
Cindy Sansing	601-259-1937
Ministry Assistant	
Janice Green	601-953-7950



DEACONS

Chairman

Fred Grogan 601-672-5978

Vice-Chairman

Randy Cotton 601-906-2920

Ray Aycock 601-906-1429

D.R. Bozeman 601-594-9429

Wade Breazeale 601-416-3319

Donnie Burgess 601-209-2005

Ricky Hardy 601-506-6493

Gregg Logan 601-573-1000

Trey Sandifer 662-528-2525

The mission of FBC Flora is to lead people to Seek, Serve, and Share Jesus Christ.

PRESSING ON! – That's what we are doing & are going to keep doing as we work our way through this pandemic. We can either give in to the fear & hopelessness that it tends to breed, or we can determine that, with our God's help, we will press on & grow through this (Phil. 3:13-14).

One of the groups of people that I'm able to see pressing on in this way is our church staff. I'm so thankful for them as I've watched them continue to press on in ministry in new ways. I know you know this, but they are awesome! I am blessed to serve alongside them.

So, **TAKE CARE!** Let me encourage you to take care of yourself in these ways:

PHYSICALLY – I know I don't have to remind you to wash your hands & be conscientious in your hygiene practices. But in addition to those things, try to get a little exercise each day if you can. It will help keep your immune system strong, clear your mind, & chase away any feelings of discouragement.

Go for a walk or jog

Do some calisthenics or some simple body weight exercises

Clean all the clothes off of that old treadmill in your bedroom & start using it

EMOTIONALLY & MENTALLY – All this downtime we are experiencing right now has the potential to cause us to get inside of our heads more than normal. Be careful to guard your thoughts & fill your mind with good stuff. The mind is Satan's primary place of attack in our lives. So think about those things that are "true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, & praiseworthy" (Phil. 4:8).

Turn the TV off & put the phone down!

Don't inundate your mind w/ a constant stream of negative news

Daily Bible intake is crucial

Listen to Christian music

Listen to or watch your favorite preachers

Read some good Christian books

I will be glad to make recommendations on books to read or preachers to listen to if needed.

SPIRITUALLY – As the saying goes, let's "keep the main thing the main thing." And your walk w/ Christ should be the main thing in your life. Fix your eyes on Him (Heb. 12:1-2) & keep growing.

Stay faithful in prayer & Bible study

Stay faithful in your relationships w/ other Christ-followers

Stay faithful to your church FAMILY – online worship, giving, serving, witnessing

WE ARE GOING TO MAKE IT TOGETHER! So, keep pressing on & take care of yourself!

I love y'all & am so honored to be your Pastor.....

In His Grip,

Jon

POINTS FROM POWELL...

"Jesus, being in the very nature of God...made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...He humbled Himself and became obedient to death-even death on a cross!" Philippians 2

As the Lenten season comes to a close our attention is drawn to the cross. God calls us to look at the cross, its violence and shame. It is difficult to view. And still, we must face Christ's death and count the cost, for until we claim the cross as our own, until our sins are "crucified with Christ", we miss the essence of what it means to call ourselves "Christians". The power of the cross is that it is not an ending, but rather, a beginning. For in the shadow of the cross, there is an empty tomb. Jesus Christ walked out of death's tomb alive, bringing life out of death. As we gather at the foot of the cross, may this not be a story of long ago and far away, but a very real encounter that transforms our lives in the present tense, today, right now, right where we are. Celebrate the Risen Savior and the victory promised to those who are crucified with Him and are saved by His blood. We will have a Celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Yes, it will be in a different form, but we will Celebrate our Risen Savior. In reality every day is a reminder of His resurrection and His living presence in our lives. Max Lucado wrote: Let us ask our Father humbly, yet confidently in the name of Jesus, to remind us of the empty tomb. Let us see the victorious Jesus; the conqueror of the tomb, the One who defied death. And let us be reminded that we too, will be granted that same victory! *"I want to know Christ and the power that raised Him from the dead. I want to share in His sufferings and become like Him in His death. Then I have hope that I myself will be raised from the dead."* Philippians 3:10-11

SONSHINERS

Mature Adult Ministry

SONSHINERS: All Sonshiners activities are cancelled until further notice. Please take care and stay safe. Please continue to be the church as you check on one another! Continue to pray for and encourage one another.

SPRING TRIP: The Branson Trip will be rescheduled. I'm hoping to have our deposits refunded which will allow me to return your deposit to you. Stay tuned for more details!



Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020

Sonrise Service 6:30 a.m.
Easter Worship 10:30 a.m.

Broadcast on CSpire Channel 44 or 726
and FBC Flora Facebook Page



Several classes and Bible studies are now being offered through social media. Below is a list of the ones we are aware of. If your class is meeting via social media, please let us know.

- Monday night Ladies Study with Michelle Jones. Contact Michelle at 601-966-3342 or wovenwomen@fbcfora.org
- Friday Night Ladies Bible Study with Christie Saxton. Contact Christie at 601-540-8734 or christiesaxton@yahoo.com
- Sunday School taught by Tim Stewart via a Conference call at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. The number is 515-604-9615, and the code to enter is 283693.
- Sunday School taught by Michelle Jones on Facebook Live.
- Sunday school taught by Jeffrey Lewis on ZOOM. Contact Jeffrey at 601-850-0658.

Large Group Sunday School Opportunity

Beginning April 5, through the end of the month, Dr. Randy Cotton, Tim Stewart, D.R. Bozeman, and Jeffrey Lewis will lead one week of Sunday School on ZOOM. If you would like to join this group the link is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6732134184>

From the Minister of Youth, Education and Missions

Like many of you, over the past two weeks, I have found myself at a loss for words. How do I make sense of COVID-19? How do I explain it to children and teenagers? What precautions do I take with my elderly parents? What should my response be to this pandemic?

Even now, I struggle with what to write and how to encourage you. Yet, The Holy Spirit continues to remind me of these verses and truth in Romans 8:26-28, "In the same way the Spirit helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*."

What encouragement to know that when we are speechless, our Heavenly Father hears our groanings! He knows about the heavy burdens on our hearts. The Holy Spirit knows the very issues that consume our thoughts and cause us anxiety. He knows, and He intercedes on our behalf. Did you grasp that truth? YOUR Heavenly Father is praying for YOU! You and I should take comfort and rest in this truth.

I am praying for you and miss seeing you!

Dwayne



LOCAL MISSIONS

24 families received food through our Food Pantry in March. Over 60 families were also taken a bag of food that would provide lunch for their family and 255 weekend snack bags were also prepared for EFE children. Thanks to those who helped with these mission projects. The next food pantry distribution is April 18, at 9 a.m. Bill Breeden's SS class will be assisting. Please be at the Jones House by 8:30 a.m.

CLOSED – CANCELLED – IS ANYTHING OPEN??

This edition of **THE SCOPE** contains more announcements of events that are cancelled. Every day we are confronted with more restrictions on our activities. More things are closing, so, what is still open? **EASTER** is about opening our hearts, our minds and our souls – our entire being – to celebrate the new life that we have been given in Christ's resurrection. **EASTER** is about accepting the grace of Jesus and letting go of the things that hold us back from being all God wants us to be and to do. We want to be in control of our lives and it's difficult to let go of what we know and can see in order to walk in the unknown in faith. There are many who prefer to stay in darkness and confusion. We wish you a blessed and joyful Easter season with our Risen Savior! May we open our lives to let Him show us how to make a new beginning and turn our lives around.



Mission trips to the Dominican Republic/Haiti and Montana are canceled for May and July. If you ordered a t-shirt, those are being printed and will be available in a few weeks. Deposits will be refunded.



We want to recognize our graduating Seniors. If you have a child graduating from high school or college in May, please send their name, school name, and degree (college students) to dparker@fbcflora.org

It's all about the gospel

**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
for North American Missions**

**Our Goal: \$12,000
Given to date: \$5,950**

THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Dear FBC Flora Family,

Over the past 15 months, Cheryl and I have been amazed with your faithfulness to the Lord and His church. You are truly a loving and caring family and our lives have been enriched by your love for us. I want to thank you for your attendance in worship and your encouraging words as I preached each week. Thank you for your witness and generosity in giving. Thank you for reaching out to the community and church as we saw many additions through salvations, baptisms and people joining the church. It has been a remarkable journey.

We don't know how to adequately express our gratitude for the generous love offering you gave us. We were stunned and surprised—WOW! Once again, you have blessed us. We are very thankful for the gift but perhaps even greater is your friendship and making us a part of your church family. Especially, I was taken back when the children entered the sanctuary on my last night with you. As you know, I'm usually not short on words but I was speechless to say the least. I will never forget the card and the love of those kids! It is a memory forever embedded in my mind and heart!

We are thrilled that God has led Dr. Daniels and Vicki to serve you. He is a gifted practitioner of all things of all things biblical. Please know that we are praying for God's harvest and blessing among you as you take the gospel to your community and to the world.

With a Grateful Heart,

Steve and Cheryl Stone



We welcome these who have recently joined the FBC Family. Pray for them and make them feel at home!

PROFESSION OF FAITH FOR BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

A.J. & Rena Lunsford

Cody Saxton

Brody Thompson

Maily Jourdan

Millie Rivers

Landon Utroska

Drew Queen

Conner Ross

Logan Paul

Alysa Crigler

TRANSFER OF CHURCH LETTER

Curtis Utroska

Joey & Lauren Milner

Brandan & Robin Coleman

Ava Coleman

T Coleman

Mason & Erin Boone

Kylee Creel

David & Becky Fisher

John Jolly

Jon & Vicki Daniels

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

102 Jackson Street
P.O. Box 163
Flora, MS 39071

Church Office:

113 Center Street
Flora, MS 39071
Phone: 601.879.8022
Fax: 601.879.8029

We're on the Web
www.fbcflora.org

A PLACE FOR
YOU
COME AND SEE!

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 5
Flora, MS

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Early Worship	8:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Classic Worship	10:30 a.m.
REFUGE: Contemporary Worship in the CLC	10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Men's Prayer Breakfast	6:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Supper	5:45-6:30 p.m.
Mission Friends, GA's & RA's	6:30 p.m.
CrossOver Student Worship	6:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study in the Sanctuary	6:30 p.m.

APRIL DEACON ON CALL

Friday thru Sunday should a critical need arise

3-5	Gil Powell	601-278-6404
10-12	Trey Sandifer	662-528-2525
17-19	Ray Aycock	601-906-1429
24-26	D.R. Bozeman	601-594-9429



For the foreseeable future our worship services will continue to be limited to broadcast only. Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. will be broadcast on CSpire Channel 44 or 726 and the FBC Flora Facebook page.



If you would like to receive the Flora Scope via e-mail, instead of a paper copy, please email Janice at jagreen@fbcflora.org.



To receive text message updates about church events text FBCFLORA to 95577