

The Flora Scope

MARCH 2021

CHURCH STAFF

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Dr. Jon Daniels 601-966-0091

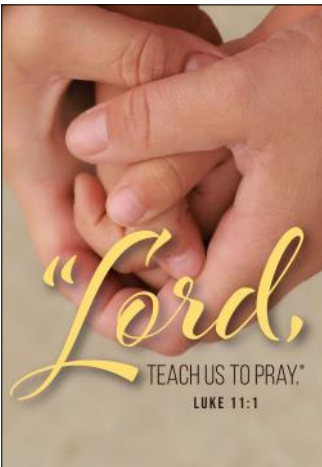
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First Baptist Flora - Making Much of Jesus

“PRAY LIKE THIS” – I hope that the “Pray Like This” sermon series is helping you grow in your walk with the Lord, specifically in your prayer life. It’s SO important that we make sure that we have a vibrant, consistent, fervent prayer life. We need it personally, our families need it, our nation needs it, and our Church needs it as we continue “Making Much of Jesus.” Tony Evans once said, *“Our victory in spiritual warfare is intimately connected to our relationship with Jesus Christ.”* We are all going to face intense spiritual warfare throughout our lives. And the primary ways we stay intimately connected to Him is through our intake of His Word and through prayer. Invite someone to join you in worship as we continue walking through the Lord’s Prayer together every Sunday morning through the month of March.

EVANGELISM TRAINING COMING SOON! I’m working on plans to launch some evangelism training opportunities soon to help you be better equipped to share the Gospel with someone. Be watching for information in the bulletin and on social media. It’s time for us to be “Making Much of Jesus” as we train to be His witnesses here and everywhere.

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT – Saturday, April 3 – This is a GREAT opportunity to invite someone to come check out what we are doing at First Baptist Flora as we continue “Making Much of Jesus!” We will have a meal, a short devotional, followed by the movie, “God’s Not Dead!” Put it on your calendar and start thinking about who you need to invite!

STARTING YEAR #2 – It’s been a WILD & CRAZY first year with you as your Pastor, and that’s putting it mildly! But I’m still so STOKED about what God is doing here and what He wants to do through this Church FAMILY! I hope you are, too!

I love y’all and am so thankful to be your Pastor

In His Grip,

Jon

From the Executive Pastor . . .

March 2020 marks the beginning of Covid-19 and the Pandemic for most of us. What many thought would last six weeks, and have limited impact, has lasted a year and resulted in extended life impacts. Some have suffered more than others, and some are still struggling with this virus. We know that it is not over, yet we are hopeful that the end is near. Faith family, you have been remarkable during this time. You have remained faithful to the Lord and prayer. You've stayed faithful in giving of yourself and your resources, and you have remained steadfast in encouraging others. Amid a problematic season, there are shimmers of light and glimpses of hope. As we look toward brighter days, there are opportunities for us to connect, serve, and continue "Making Much of Jesus."

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING:

Throughout March, we will focus on North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The week of prayer for North American Missions is March 7–14. We will have prayer guides available, and each day that week, we will highlight a missionary on social media. The North American Mission Board uses one hundred percent of the gifts given to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the United States and Canada. The prayers and financial support of our church, and others like us, is vital to the cause of reaching North America. Our church goal is \$12,000.00.

LIFE GROUP RE-LAUNCH: We have set the re-launch of Life Groups for April 11. Life Groups will meet on campus at 9:30 am and 11:00 am. If you are connected to a Life Group, you will hear soon from the leader, and if you haven't yet connected to a Life Group, this will be a fantastic time to do so. More information about our Life Groups is available at <https://www.fbcflora.org/ministries/life-groups/>.

D-NOW 2021: Our students will engage in D-Now 2021 the weekend of March 12–14. Bro. Michael has been working hard to make this an unforgettable weekend, and I am so proud of and thankful for his heart, dedication, and love for our students. As our students and leaders gather, please pray continually for them.

Serving Christ Together,

Dwayne

POINTS FROM POWELL

As Baptists we don't follow the Liturgical Church Calendar as closely as other faith groups do. We, at FBC, observe the weeks of Advent in our times of worship and perhaps in your homes. And we acknowledge the season of Lent. For many people around the world Lent is a time to sacrifice, to give up something they enjoy and to remember the suffering of Christ as a penance for their sin. At FBC during Lent we have been challenged to show love to others. We participate in the Annie Armstrong offering and Week of Prayer for North American missions. And we turn our focus to the final days of the earthly ministry of Jesus. Lent is typically a sad and somber season, repenting of our sin and preparing to receive the sacrifice of Christ. I challenged our Sonshiners to use Lent to give up the grudges we hold. To truly forgive and forget. To release ourselves from the prison of the resentments we cling to. Jesus came to love and forgive. May we show His love by forgiving others. May we show patience and kindness to one another.

One of my former youth from another place wrote this about Lent: *"Lent is not intended to be an annual ordeal during which we begrudgingly forgo a handful of pleasures. It is meant to be the church's springtime, a time when, out of the darkness of sin's winter, a repentant, empowered people emerge. Put another way, Lent is the season in which we ought to be surprised by joy. Our self-sacrifices serve no purpose unless, by laying aside this or that desire, we are able to focus on our heart's deepest longing: unity with Christ. In Him—in His suffering and death, His resurrection and triumph—we find our truest joy."*

Maundy Thursday: On Thursday, April 1, we will have our annual Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. During this service the days of Passion or Holy week will be observed. From the Triumphant Entry, to the Lord's Supper, and on to the Cross; we will remember the last days before the Resurrection.

Choir: This is a wonderful time to join the Choir! We are preparing music for the Easter season. You can sing in either the 8 or 11 a.m. service OR even better, come sing in BOTH and be doubly blessed! We practice on Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the Sanctuary building. Come join us as we sing God's praise!



SONSHINERS

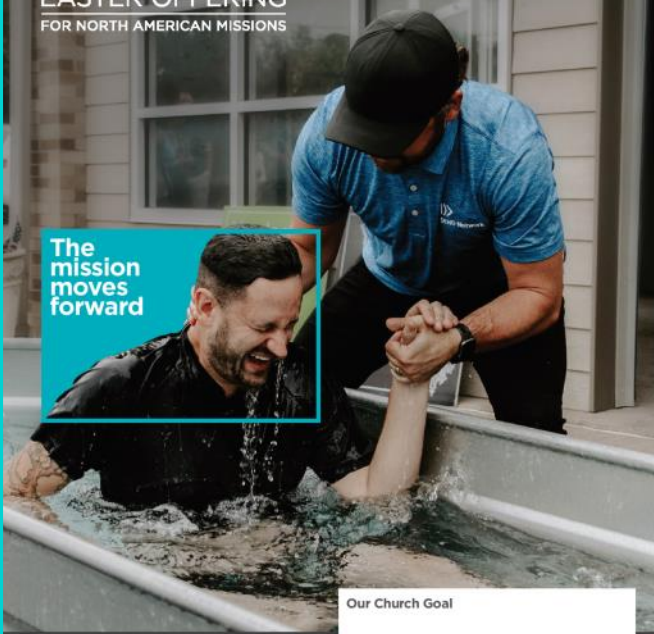


Mature Adult Ministry

Sonshiner Lunch: Our next VIRTUAL lunch will be on Tuesday, March 9. The program will be on the FBC FACEBOOK page at 11:00 a.m. Come and enjoy the fun on FACEBOOK, March 9 at 11:00 a.m. (we will NOT meet in person until further notice, maybe in April!?)

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

The mission moves forward



Our Church Goal
\$12,000

AnnieArmstrong.com
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is a registered trademark of AFMPC

North American Mission Board
100% of your gifts support North American missionaries




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

*Houston & Wyatt Mullins
Kayson Green
Stephen Rodgers*



18 families received food through our Food Pantry in February. The next pantry distribution is March 20. Extra hands are always welcomed. Be at the Jones House at 8:30 a.m. Thank you for your servant hearts as we reach out to those in our community.

CHILDREN'S CHATTER

Parents, thank you for picking up the Valentine Family Bags and sending me pictures! I pray that your family enjoyed the activities included and were reminded of God's great love for them. 


Ways you can SERVE Volunteers for childcare are still needed during our 8 a.m. Worship Service. Please consider serving in this important ministry which allows young parents to worship. Please call the church office or see me to volunteer.

I will continue in the month of March to provide a brief Life Group lesson on Facebook every Sunday at 9 a.m. and a Missions lesson on Wednesday at 6 p.m. On Sunday mornings, I am emphasizing the weeks that led up to Easter for Jesus by participating in the Service of Diminishing Lights. Each week a devotion is read and a candle snuffed out to signify the darkness Jesus faced before the crucifixion. I encourage you to watch with your children and to discuss these events.

I will be mailing out activities for March Life Group lessons. Again, I love to see pictures of your children doing these activities.

Easter TREAT BAGS I will be providing Easter treat bags filled with candy for our children. If you would like to donate individually wrapped Easter candy, there will be bins at all three Welcome Centers for you to place your donation. You can buy chocolate this time, since the candy will not be outside in Easter eggs. Your support of the Children's ministry is greatly appreciated!

I will also be providing an Easter Family Bag with activities for you to pick up at the CEC. I am also planning to host a Zoom meeting discussing Passover. More details will be coming.

Destination Dig VBS As of now, we are planning on having VBS on campus the week of June 13-17, beginning with a meal at 5:30 p.m., and ending at 8:30 p.m. Many volunteers will be needed to help our children uncover the truth about who Jesus was and why He came. They will be challenged to dig in God's Word and discover that God reveals Himself to those who seek Him with all of their heart (Jeremiah 29:13). Sign-up sheets for teachers and volunteers will be out in the CEC Welcome Center on April 11. If you already know where you would like to serve, I will be happy to go ahead and put you down in a position! Please consider serving in this evangelistic opportunity with our children in Flora. 

CentriKid camps I am excited that as of today, 51 children have secured their spot for CentriKid Camp. Camp can't get here soon enough for me! I do have a few spots available if anyone is interested in going July 15-19 to Timber Creek in Pulaski, MS. The total cost is \$329, minus the \$60 deposit.

I am anxiously awaiting the return of your children! Thank you for your prayers and support during the time.

From the Minister of Students & Single Adults . . .

It is crazy to think that we are already three months into 2021. It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the New Year and now we are gearing up for Easter. This is just another example of how time flies. As I was writing this, I was challenged by this thought: "What have you done for My Kingdom in the past two months?" Life is short and time flies. We are not promised tomorrow so let's make sure that we are Making Much of Jesus in ALL that we do!



DNOW (March 12-14) is just two short weeks away! If your student has not already signed up, it is not too late! We would love to have them join us for this weekend of worship. If your student plans to attend, we are asking that they bring canned goods and non-perishable items, as we will be making and delivering care packages for those in need in our community. As a church, I encourage you all to pray for the students and leaders involved in this weekend. Pray that God will work in mighty ways. Pray that lives will be changed for His Kingdom. Pray for open and receptive hearts in our students. Pray for the DNOW Speaker who will be bringing the word during our Large Group Worship services. Pray for the DNOW Band as they prepare to lead us into the throne room of God through song.

Summer is right around the corner and that means it is time to start thinking about summer camps! This year we will have two separate camp experiences (one for grades 7-9 and one for grades 10-12). The 7th-9th graders will attend FUGE Camps at Union University in Jackson, Tennessee the week of June 7-11. The 10th-12th graders will attend FUGE Camps at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida the week of June 21-25. If your student wishes to attend camp this year, a deposit of \$100 per student is due no later than April 1st. This deposit will secure your students' spot for camp this year. If you cannot make that deposit deadline, but your student still wishes to attend camp, please let me know and we will work something out. We will not let finances be the reason someone cannot attend camp. FUGE camps have a very special place in my heart. It is an awesome time for our students to focus their hearts and minds on Jesus with other students from all over the nation. I encourage every student who is able, to attend; it is truly a lifechanging experience.

I am grateful to serve with you all here at FBC Flora. I am excited to see what God is going to do in and through the lives of our students and this church this year as we seek to Make Much of Jesus here in this community and abroad. If there is anything I can do to pray for you or help you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out.



HOLY WEEK
MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE
APRIL 1 AT 7 P.M.

During this service the days of Passion or Holy week will be observed. From the Triumphant Entry, to the Lord's Supper, and on to the Cross; we will remember the last days before the Resurrection.



Grades 7-9

June 7-11, 2021
Union University
Jackson, TN

\$100 Deposit Due
by April 1

Grades 10-12

June 21-25, 2021
Jacksonville University
Jacksonville, FL

\$100 Deposit Due
by April 1

For more information about FUGE
visit www.fugecamps.com



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We're on the Web
www.fbcflora.org

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Sunday

Early Worship in the Sanctuary	8:00 a.m.
REFUGE Contemporary Worship in the CLC	9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

REFRESH Mid-Week Service	6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:30 p.m.

We are currently having in person worship on Sunday morning and REFRESH Mid-Week Service and Adult Choir on Wednesday night. We hope to re-launch Life Groups at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. beginning April 11. Be watching for details to come.

MARCH DEACON ON CALL

Friday thru Sunday should a critical need arise

5-7 D.R. Bozeman	601-594-9429
12-14 Wade Breazeale	601-416-3319
19-21 Randy Cotton	601-906-2920
26-28 Mike Green	601-672-7763



MASK-IN MOTION POLICY

What does this mean?

- ⇒ We ask that you wear masks while coming into, going out of, and when moving about the buildings on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- ⇒ We also ask everyone to exit the buildings immediately after each of the services and reserve fellowship time for the parking lots.
- ⇒ We will continue sanitizing all our meeting spaces immediately after services and classes, as we've been doing since June 1, when we began regathering on campus.

We want you to know that we are seriously concerned about your safety and well being. This is just another way for us, as a Church FAMILY, to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout this pandemic!



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



Services are broadcast on Sunday morning and Wednesday night on C-Spire Channel 726 and the FBC Flora Facebook page. You can also listen on WYAB 103.9 FM Sunday at 11 a.m.