

# The Flora Scope

FEBRUARY 2021

## CHURCH STAFF

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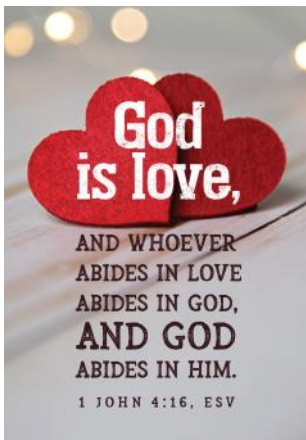
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Minister of Students &  
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Michael Nanney 662-260-2406

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## DEACONS

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## *First Baptist Flora - Making Much of Jesus*

**HOW DO YOU HANDLE DISAPPOINTMENTS?** We are all going to experience them in our lives in a variety of ways. Sometimes, it will come through a personal relationship with someone. Sometimes, it happens when our favorite sports team loses a game, or a political candidate loses an election. And sometimes, it happens when COVID interferes with our plans and activities.

That's where we are right now in the church. As much as we tried not to and as hard as we worked to avoid it, the virus just got too widespread within our church FAMILY. Our concern for you drove our decision to suspend our in-person worship gatherings for a couple of weeks to try and extinguish this pandemic "brush fire" that was gaining steam.

While there was definitely a sense of disappointment and defeat when we as the staff (with the support of the deacon body) made the call, we know that God's got this and will continue to see us through this and EVERY OTHER DISAPPOINTMENT we will face! Our "light and momentary troubles" (2 Cor. 4:17) are just that – light and momentary. No matter what those troubles are, we will press on through them in the strength of the Lord and come out on the other side stronger and more focused than ever. That's how God uses them in our lives.

So, instead of fretting and complaining about them (I know – easier said than done!), let's be thankful that God will ALWAYS be faithful to be with us every step of the way, working all things together for our good and for His glory!

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING** – I know we are past Christmas now, but I want to commend you for the amazing response to our annual offering for international missions! We are closing in on \$40,000!!! In fact, by the time you get this newsletter, I believe we will go over that amount! That is AWESOME! To God alone be the glory!!!

I love you and love being your Pastor!

In His Grip,

Jon

## From the Executive Pastor . . .

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:** We are currently over \$39,000 in our giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO). Because of your generosity, we have exceeded both our church and challenge goals. Every penny given to LMCO supports international missionaries and their work. Every penny you gave will make a difference for the kingdom. There are no adequate words to say Thank You. Your obedience, sacrifice, and generosity are a testament to your faith and God's work among us. As we think about missionaries, I encourage you to stop by the bulletin board in the hallway behind the Sanctuary. On the board, you will find the faces and names of the missionaries we are directly partnering with this year. Take a moment to memorize their names and faces, then commit to praying for them.

**Life Groups:** Many of you are asking about the re-launch of Life Groups. We are continually evaluating the re-launch. At this time, we are watching the state-wide COVID numbers and paying close attention to the cases in the Flora area. Please join us in asking the Lord for wisdom in deciding when to return and how to return safely.

**Going Before:** Have you ever stopped and observed how often the Lord goes before His people. Recently in my reading through the Bible and engaging in one-on-one discipleship, the Lord has drawn my attention to this truth. Think about creation. The days of creation came about in an orderly fashion. Before God created the birds of the air, He created the trees and grass. Why because the birds needed the trees and grass to survive. What about the famine that plagued Egypt? Before the famine came, the Lord went before his people, preparing a way. Joseph was sold into slavery, then later imprisoned; before he became second in charge behind Pharaoh. The Lord went before the people by placing Joseph in a position of leadership. A position where he could specifically help his father and brothers. In Genesis 50:20, Joseph said to his brothers, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about the present result, to preserve many people alive." The Lord went before them. What about you and me? How is the Lord going before us? Looking back on 2020, how did the Lord go before? How is he going before you now? I pray that you and I will not lose sight of this truth . . . the Lord is ever before us!

Serving Christ Together,

*Dwayne*

## POINTS FROM POWELL

During the month of February, we are bombarded with reminders of Valentine's Day and love. We are basically told that our love for someone is measured by what gifts we give them and what purchases we make. As Christians, we are held to a different standard. We are called to express our love for the Savior by showing love to others. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." "Love one another as I have loved you." "Let men see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." This Valentine's Day . . . show Christ's love to those around you. Express your love to and for Him in the way you love others. Follow the words of the old hymn . . . "but how much I love Thee, my actions will show." We love because God first loved us and sent His Son for us. We say, with good reason that the work of Christ was finished on the cross and in the empty tomb. But that leaves out an important truth of the continuing work of Jesus for us. God's word says that Jesus is in glory where, as our great High Priest, He always lives to intercede for His people.



SONSHINERS



Mature Adult Ministry

**Monthly Lunch:** Our next VIRTUAL lunch will be on Tuesday, February 9. The program will be on the FBC FACEBOOK page at 11:00 a.m. Our program will feature all the events in February from Ground Hog Day to Valentines, to Presidents Day to Mardi gras and everything in between. Come and enjoy the fun!! The Valentine theme will remind us that all love comes from God. I hope you will join the FACEBOOK broadcast on February 9 at 11:00 a.m. (we will NOT meet in person until further notice).

**Joyful Noise:** Obviously, we are not able to meet for practice, much less to go to sing and minister each month. As recently as last week I spoke with the Activity directors at two area facilities who expressed how much the residents and staff miss having you come to visit. I miss our outings together and anxiously await the day that we can sing, minister, eat and fellowship together!

**SALT:** The Senior Adult Leadership Team will return in 2021 to assist in planning, evaluating, and implementing our Mature Adult ministry. Please let Gil know if you would be interested in serving on this team.



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

*Brian & Felicia Crigler  
Brian & Krissy Beattie, Jonah  
Payton & Brantley Heidel  
Tristan & Kirby Saxton, Kolton & Tayte*



30 families received food through our Food Pantry in January. The next pantry distribution is February 20. Mike Green's Life Group class will assist. Please 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.



### FACE MASK REQUIRED

Due to an upsurge in COVID cases both inside and outside of our church family, we are implementing a "mask-in-motion" policy. What does this mean?

- ⇒ We ask that you to 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.

As we implement this mask requirement, 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. Thanks you so much for your support and encouragement throughout this pandemic!

## CHILDREN'S CHATTER



**Valentine Family Bags** In an effort to Make Much of Jesus, the Children's Ministry will be providing Valentine Family Bags on Sunday, February 7. The bags will be available to pick up in the CEC drive through all day beginning at 10 a.m. These bags have a devotional thought and family activity for each day. There is a cookie mix, cookie cutter and a cookie box inside for your family to bake cookies for someone else and deliver to them. This is a way that we can share the love of Jesus with others. There is also a craft for each child and candy! If you have extra crafts or candy, have your child share with a friend. It is my hope that as you participate in the devotional activities that you will be able to share your love for each other and discuss God's great love for us all that was demonstrated on the cross. I would love to see pictures of your family involved in these activities!

I enjoyed seeing and talking to the children who were able to join me for the Zoom Happy Birthday Party. Thank you for letting me stay connected to your children during this time. I will schedule another Zoom event soon and will notify you by email.

Parents, if you are not receiving email from me, please send your email address to [csansing@fbcflora.org](mailto:csansing@fbcflora.org). Also, I am trying to update my birthday lists so I can make sure every child gets a birthday card.

I will be mailing Life Group activities for February and continue to do a Facebook lesson on Sunday at 9 a.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m. Parents, let me encourage you to take advantage of these activities as tools to engage your children in biblical conversations.



Last month I mentioned that I was attending the VBS preview at GARAYWA and I know the children will enjoy this year's archeological theme as they visit sites in Israel. I am excited that the Bible study is focused on the truth of Jesus which we can all agree is needed in our world. Our VBS will be June 13-17, so mark your calendars and begin to pray about where God would have you to serve.

**CentriKid** As of now, CentriKid Camp is scheduled, and we are registered at Timber Creek in camps Pulaski, MS the week of July 15-19. The total cost is \$329 and a \$60 deposit will hold your child's spot. The registration deadline has been extended to February 28. This camp is for those who have completed 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The 2021 theme is The Discovery, and the focus is on becoming imitators of Christ. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer as a chaperone or have questions.

## From the Minister of Students & Single Adults . . .

In a time where it seems like nothing is really happening--we can't have youth bible study, we can't have Life Groups, we can't really plan any events, and as of right now, in person worship is temporarily suspended--God is still working. Did you know that the time between when the Old Testament ends, and the New Testament begins is approximately 400 years? During that time, God was silent. He did not speak through prophets; He did not reveal himself to anyone at all for 400 years. But does that mean that he wasn't there? Absolutely not! In fact, he was working, preparing for the coming of his son! During those 400 years, Alexander the Great conquered all of the known world. That may not seem significant, but I want to show you just how significant that was. Because he, a Roman, was in power over the world, he established a system of highways to make travel easy for all people. He made Greek the common language. If you don't know, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew so now because the language of the people was Greek, that meant that not everyone could read the Old Testament. Instead of leaving it that way, Alexander had the Old Testament translated to Greek, which is known as the Septuagint, so that now EVERYONE could read and understand it. Now everyone was able to read about this coming Messiah who would deliver his people. Also, during this time, the Jews were dispersed among every region of the world. These Jews were known as the Diaspora which simply means "dispersion." Now if you don't get why that's important let me show you: 1) there is a common language for people to understand 2) there is a system of roads for people to travel 3) the people of God were dispersed all over the world. Now fast forward to the birth of Jesus at the beginning of the New Testament. Because they had a common language, people were able to read about this coming Messiah. Because of the new road system, people could travel to tell other people of the good news of Jesus Christ. These roads would also be used by Jesus during His earthly ministry to travel from city to city proclaiming the gospel. Because the Jews were dispersed throughout the world, they were able to help people understand what they read in the Old Testament.

You see, just because we may not be able to see exactly what God is doing or how He is working doesn't mean that He isn't. I strongly believe that God is getting ready to do something HUGE here in Flora, but not just here, all over the world through His people! So, in this time of waiting to get back together, let's make sure that we're not just being lazy and doing nothing, but we're preparing for Him to use us when the time comes. Farmers don't wait for the rain to come before they prepare their fields. Let us, as ministers of His gospel, prepare for the "rain" to come.



As I'm sure you know, DNOW is next month, March 12-14. After much prayer, thought, and consideration, we have decided that it would be in the best interest of the students and the church to make a few changes to DNOW this year. Don't worry, DNOW is still happening, BUT, sadly, we will not be utilizing host homes this year. Instead of utilizing host homes and running the risk of more families coming in contact with the virus, we will be doing a drop-off/pick-up method for DNOW weekend. This means that you will drop your student off at the church on Friday afternoon for the events of that evening and then come and pick them up that night after we are done. On Saturday, you will drop your student off at the church in the morning and pick them up that night when all events are done. Typically, on that Saturday, the students will travel to an off-campus mission site to partake in a local mission project. But due to COVID, many mission sites are not letting any outsiders in to help. Our DNOW schedule has been updated to accommodate for these changes and can be found on the church website under the Youth Ministry tab. Please don't let these changes keep you from signing up! It is NOT too late to register! I can promise that this is a weekend that your students do not want to miss! If you haven't registered already, you can do so through the church website under the Youth Ministry tab. The cost for DNOW is now \$90 per student. If money is a problem, please let me know. We will not let money be the reason someone can't attend DNOW. This is certainly not how I imagined DNOW to go, but we feel that this is the safest thing for our students, and all involved. If you have any questions or concerns about DNOW please don't hesitate to reach out and I will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Every Tuesday at 8am, I release a weekly podcast where I discuss some of the issues that teenagers struggle with today. The world they are growing up in is significantly different than the world that many of us grew up in. It is my prayer that this podcast will be a resource for your students and you as you navigate some of these struggles. The podcast is called Crossover Conversations and can be found wherever you listen to podcasts.



It is a blessing to serve with you all as we make much of Jesus both here in Flora and abroad. I look forward to how God is going to use this church in the coming months and years and am so excited to be a part of it.



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We're on the Web  
[www.fbcflora.org](http://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.

Due to the upsurge in COVID cases within our community and church family, all in-person activities have been suspended through February 14. During this time services will be on our Facebook page and CSpire Channel 44 or 726 on Sunday at 10 a.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY DEACON ON CALL**

*Friday thru Sunday should a critical need arise*

5-7	Gil Powell	601-278-6404
12-14	Trey Sandifer	662-528-2525
19-21	John Stevens	601-951-1909
26-28	Ray Aycock	601-906-1429

For God so loVed the world  
 thAt he gave his  
 onLy  
 begottEn  
 SoN,  
 thaT whoever  
 belIeves  
 iN him should not perish  
 but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

On Valentine's Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.



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 44 or 726 and the FBC Flora Facebook page. You can also listen on WYAB 103.9 FM Sunday at 11 a.m.