

the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Spring Cleaning Our Souls

This crazy corona virus has forced us into spring cleaning areas of our houses or apartments we barely knew existed. Consider some edited suggestions from Indiana blogger Valerie Keinsley on accomplishing a little spring cleaning of our souls this season.

Purge negative thoughts and feelings - Scripture reminds us that "we take every thought captive" (2 Cor. 10:5). To make space for more joy in our lives, we have to intentionally "take captive" every negative thought and actively let go of it.

Clear the clutter of unmet expectations and unanswered prayers - Are there letdowns we can put on the table? Offer them to God. The Lord can carry the weight of deep disappointments or an uncertain future far better than us.

Dust away old resentments and past hurts - Are we holding on to resentments or grudges? They take up space in our minds and hearts, leaving less room for joy and peace. Ask God to scrub our hearts clean as we forgive and receive the forgiveness provided through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Kick a bad habit to the curb - This is, of course, easier said than done. Bad habits are clutter in our lives. We are all works in progress. This is not about striving for perfection or beating ourselves up about *all* the things we'd like to change. It's simply an opportunity to consider what bad habits may have crept in over the long winter.

Evaluate our current spiritual routines and adjust as needed - Taking stock of where we are currently is the first step in creating a closer walk with Jesus. Let's agree to ask ourselves what an ideal spiritual life looks like in practical terms. Only then can you and I can make a plan to get from point A to point B.

This spring, let's meet God in the midst of our sorting and pitching, mopping and sweeping, dusting and decluttering. Invite Christ to show us what needs to get cleaned up in our lives in order to be more joyful and fulfilled. Let's agree to cling to those things that matter most in life and spark joy within us. ~ Les

Condolences

Phyllis Shady, beloved friend and wonderful servant at First Baptist Church, went to be with her Lord and Savior sometime in the night of April 20, 2020. Phyllis was sitting in her chair when a nurse brought in her Sunday evening medications. Then early Monday morning another nurse discovered Phyllis still in her chair, having passed peacefully away of natural causes at some point during the night. Her passing was not related to Covid-19. The family will hold a private service on Thursday, April 23. Please keep Clyde and his family in your prayers.

I know I speak for all of us in giving thanks for this dear woman, a wonderful Christian, a cherished friend to many, and a beloved member of our FBC family. After all these earthly years, she has now departed and stands complete, healthy, and whole - rejoicing in the presence of her Lord forever and ever. We shall truly miss her.

My love and prayers,

Les



2020 Graduates

We haven't forgotten our 2020 graduates! The Christian Education Board plans to honor our graduates whenever that is possible. Please let us know of high school or college or other post high school graduates in our church. You can call the church office and leave a message or send an email to firstbaptist@adamswells.com.

Stewardship

Thank you to those who have remembered the church with your tithes and offerings. Please continue mailing your gifts to Jesus in support of our church to 202 W. Cherry Street in Bluffton. Here are the two latest giving reports:

March 30, 2020

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$8,967.00
Missions	\$255.00
Building and Mtn.	\$50.00
Deacons	\$50.00
Total	\$9,322.00

April 13, 2020

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$11,640.00
Missions	\$450.00
Building and Mtn.	\$475.00
Deacons	\$80.00
Total	\$12,645.00

C hrist
O ver
V iruses and
I nfectious
D iseases
19 Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Wash and Sing

Sing the Doxology while you wash your hands. It will take you about 20 seconds which is the recommended wash time. Wash away the germs and praise the Lord!



Doxology
Praise God from whom
all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures
here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son
and Holy Ghost.
Amen

FBC Plan Updates

Governor Holcomb has extended our stay at home policy through the end of April. He will then make decisions every two weeks going forward into May. FBC will not begin our corporate gatherings for Sunday school or church at least through Sunday, May 3rd.

The Deacon Board will meet this Sunday, April 26 at 3 p.m. to discuss our future corporate gatherings. We will meet in the Gathering Place to keep with social distancing policies. Please call or text your deacon or Les if you have input to share at our meeting.



Watch our service online!

fbcbluffton.com

First Baptist Church

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