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July 1  
2020

# the LINK

First Baptist Church Newsletter

## *America the Beautiful*

We can be kingdom focused and still love and pray for America. The fact that the God of the Bible shows no partiality with regard to nationality, race, or ethnicity does not justify anti-American sentiment. That would be like saying, "since God loves all people we must not hold any special fondness for our own immediate family." Such thinking does not square with Scripture, nor does it even make good common sense.

Biblically, we know the kingdom of God stretches beyond all geographic and cultural boundaries. The Creator is assembling worshippers to exalt His glory from every tribe and tongue and nation (Rev. 7:9-10). Followers of Jesus share our Lord's compassion for everyone on planet earth. However, this global reality does not necessitate that we look with disdain on our own geographic location or cultural context. We must work hard to promote the wellbeing of our diverse and beautiful country.

Followers of Jesus should pray for the peace, prosperity, and safety of our nation. The prophet Jeremiah went against the grain of prevailing prophetic voices when he wrote and told the exiles in Babylon to settle down, enjoy their lives, work, and pray for the success of their new place of residence (Jer. 29:4-7). This did not mean the Hebrews ever stopped loving their beloved homeland or city of Jerusalem (Ps. 126).

A few years ago, I held the trembling hands of a World War II veteran who had left his new bride and baby behind to invest three years in the war effort overseas. With tears in his eyes he said, "I missed three of my son's birthdays... but it was worth the sacrifice." To men and women like him we say, "thank you." Let us all pray that God sees fit to continue blessing the United States of America!

Such themes will be woven throughout our communion service this Sunday. Pick up a sealed juice and wafer cup on the table in the Foyer or in The Gathering Place before you find a seat for worship. We are still wearing masks and sitting in every other pew.

Les



# A Prayer For Our Nation

Father God, a battle is raging for the hearts and minds of a generation. But we have reason for hope today. You revealed Yourself as Jehovah Sabaoth—the Lord God Almighty—captain of the angelic forces. Your name is a strong tower into which we run today to find safety and confidence.

You alone are majestic and supreme ruler of the universe. You alone are worthy to receive glory and honor and praise. So along with all of creation and those heavenly beings that surround your throne, we lift up praise and adoration. We are awestruck in wonder by Your astounding beauty and absolute supremacy. Oh, God we love you.

In contrast to Your lovely face we find ourselves living in a moral wasteland as a nation. Violence, rebellion, hatred, and injustice scar the landscape of these United States. Voices of innocent children cry from the soil, those given over to perversion encroach on every front— the valley is full of dry and fractured bones.

But there is also a stirring in the land. The breath of the Almighty breathes on the valley. Out of the dust arises the spotless Bride of Christ to fulfill her destiny in these last days. Purchased and made clean by the blood of the Lamb. A holy remnant who walks in Your truth and shines like stars in a dark world.

She is moving and motivated by Your Holy Spirit: protecting the helpless, standing for justice, caring for the widow and orphan. She returns to the ancient paths of holiness. She rebuilds the age old foundations that have crumbled by neglect. She restores decency and dignity and righteousness – to prepare the way for the return of Your Son—King Jesus.

Send forth a great awakening, a spiritual fire, from the Crossroads of the nation to the ends of the earth. Today, kindle spiritual zeal so hot that the powers of darkness will melt like wax before Your Church.

By the authority of Jesus and His holy word we pray.

Amen



## Stewardship

Thank you to those who have remembered the church with your tithes and offerings. Our offering plates are on the table in the foyer on Sunday mornings or you can mail your gifts to Jesus in support of our church to 202 W. Cherry Street.

June 21, 2020  
Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$3,490.00
Missions	\$270.00
Building and Mtn.	\$310.00

**Total** **\$4,070.00**

June 28, 2020  
Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$3,823.00
Missions	\$190.00
Building and Mtn.	\$40.00

**Total** **\$4,053.00**


Please note: There will not be a newsletter next week.



4<sup>th</sup> Ted Ellis  
 Carolyn McBride  
 8<sup>th</sup> Debbie Cantrell  
 15<sup>th</sup> Earl Brickley  
 Barb Smekens  
 16<sup>th</sup> Ted Shady

17<sup>th</sup> Larry Tschannen  
 19<sup>th</sup> Judy Grove  
 20<sup>th</sup> Ed Higgins  
 21<sup>st</sup> Janet Heyerly  
 28<sup>th</sup> Mike Chaney

# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 CHRISTIAN ED MEETING 6:30 p.m.	3	4 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 DEACON MEETING 6:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19	20 TRUSTEE MEETING 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



**Sunday Worship at 10:15 a.m.**

[fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)

**First Baptist Church**

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