HELP NEEDED!

As our community and church gradually enter into the “new normal” of life, we need your help. In ordinary days, we have many who support in ministry on Sunday mornings—from greeters, to ushers, to teachers, to worship support, and beyond. As you will likely understand, some of our people who typically serve in these capacities are still journeying through when they will return to in-person gatherings. In the meantime, we need additional help to cover our Sunday morning ministry needs until we are more “settled.” Of course, serving our church in these capacities is always a need!

Under the SERVE tab on our website at DiscoverFBC.org/serve, you can find more explanation as to the opportunities. Listed there you will find specific ministry team members you can contact to volunteer or clarify the opportunities. And, to make it easy, feel free to email Cyndi Busby in our church office at cbusby@fbcaugusta.org and she can redirect your email to the appropriate staff member.

Thanks for helping us in this transitional time! We look forward to seeing more and more folks as we enter into the “new normal.”
Dear Church,

While you will read this letter at the beginning of April, I am writing it in the middle of March, and I can’t help but think about our lives just one year ago. It seems like an eternity but it was, in fact, March 15, 2020 that COVID-19 officially interrupted the life of our church. That Sunday was the first time that we worshipped “online only.” I remember thinking that it would be a few weeks before things were back to “normal,” that the pandemic would be a momentary disruption in the life of our community. It turns out I was wrong! We worshipped “online only” for thirteen weeks, with one of those services being Easter Sunday, the greatest celebration of the Church year. I will never forget waking up on that beautiful day of Resurrection and feeling a sadness deep in my bones, because I wasn’t spending the day with the people I love. I wasn’t with you. Yet, in the midst of my sadness, that morning taught me something incredibly important. As I sat at my desk, with my cup of coffee, spending time in prayer, I heard the still small voice reminding me that nothing, absolutely nothing, not even a pandemic, can keep Jesus Christ in the tomb! If there were fifteen hundred people in the Sanctuary, Jesus is alive! If the contemporary worship venue was filled to capacity, Jesus is alive. And just the same, sitting all alone in my office, I was reminded that Jesus Christ has conquered death. Because of Jesus and the Resurrection, God is in the process of renewing, redeeming, restoring, and recreating all things. On that day, in particular, I needed to hear that word spoken to my soul. It was true on that first Easter morning and it is just as true on Easter 2020.

It’s hard to believe that a year has passed. Much has changed, hasn’t it? Our lives have been rearranged to a different rhythm, with many of us spending the last year moving at a much more deliberate pace. A year ago, almost every single one of us was home, deeply concerned with what was going to happen next as a result of the pandemic. Fear was running rampant in our city, nation, and world. But we are now beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel. Each Sunday morning, literally, greater numbers of people are coming back into our spaces, ready to begin gathering to worship the Crucified and Resurrected Lord. There is an energy and excitement on Sunday morning that I have missed for far too long. Instead of worshipping in my home this Easter, we will once again gather on our campus to celebrate our greatest day, Easter Sunday! I am so incredibly excited. Yes, it is true that much has changed. But one thing, no matter where we are or what we are facing, has remained the same. Jesus Christ is alive. For that fact, I am grateful. I hope to see you on Easter Sunday.

Much Love,
Will Dyer, Senior Pastor

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2021-2022 OPENINGS

A few spaces remain in our Mother’s Day Out and Kindergarten Classes for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are interested in joining the wonderful FBC Weekday Staff please contact Martha Kate Hall, Director of Weekday Education at: mhall@fbcaugusta.org

Positions are available for Mother’s Day Out Teachers, Paraprofessionals and Preschool Teachers.
VBS is June 7-11 9:30am-11:30am

Registration for K-5th grades opens April 1st. Go to DiscoverFBC.org to register.

We need you to help make this a great year at First Baptist Kids VBS- Knights of North Castle.

All activities will be outside (weather permitting) Volunteers are needed to help as Round Table Guides for K-5th grade Knights.

• Crafts  • Bible Story  
• Snacks  • Recreation

If you cannot help in person we need to borrow 30 canopy easy up tents (tailgating tents). We will get them back to you on Friday June 11th. We will also need help with set up and decoration of our tents. We will do the set up after church on Sunday June 6th from 12 pm-4 pm.

We look forward to having you join our quest to find and put on THE ARMOR OF GOD.

**Easter SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH**

9AM – Worship on the Lawn* 
10AM – Contemporary Worship (MAC) 
11AM – Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

*Bring your lawn chair or blanket. In the event of rain, please check the church website at DiscoverFBC.org for an adjusted schedule with more indoor worship opportunities.

**Sunday MORNING SCHEDULE**

9:00AM—Contemporary Worship 
10:00AM—Bible Study  
11:00AM—Traditional Worship

*Please see altered Easter schedule.

**Financial Snapshot**

As of February 28, 2021, tithes, offerings, and other income for the year totaled $499,274 towards our 2021 budget of $2,868,357. Our expenses through February 28th, totaled $430,810 leaving a balance of $68,464 of income over expenses.

For ways to support the mission and ministry of the church, visit us at DiscoverFBC.org/give

Camp Lakeside
Clarks Hill Lake, GA

JUNE 13-18

RISE Youth Ministry
In Romans 12:9 Paul writes, “Your love must be sincere.” At First Baptist Church of Augusta, Benevolence Ministry is a key way our church expresses a sincere love for others. Benevolence, defined as “an act of kindness” or “a generous gift,” takes on deep meaning within a ministry that seeks to offer support to community members. Whether in need of food or financial assistance, it is the charge of the Benevolence Ministry to listen to the story of others, give aid to their needs, share The Gospel of Jesus Christ, and pray for the person. The activities of Benevolence Ministry by virtue of the pandemic have changed but certainly not slowed. Our surrounding community’s needs have only increased requiring our ministry team to make themselves available by means different than their traditional face to face interactions.

As such, the ministry continues to communicate with community members by phone and email for financial assistance and has also coordinated food drives. The Benevolence Ministry celebrates that the financial support and donations from members of First Baptist Church remains strong! This enables the team to meet the needs of everyone that has requested help! One such individual was a single, seventy year-old woman whose heat had been cut off during the winter cold. The Benevolence Team, in partnership with United Way, paid off the balance of her utility bill and got her heat turned back on. This is one story amongst many others which speaks to the important role this ministry serves in the life of our church – a ministry which you can support in several ways!

First, you can support financially by placing a donation in one of the green envelopes or give online and designate your gift for Benevolence Ministry. Second, continue to bring in food donations throughout the year. The ministry team ensures that all food is distributed to those in need. Third, consider being a volunteer on the ministry team. As the Covid chapter ends, the way in which this ministry team operates will largely be determined by the volunteers which are available. Volunteers are guaranteed to receive far more than they could ever give!

Please prayerfully consider your involvement and reach out to the Benevolence ministry team to sign up or ask more questions at:

benevolence@fbcugaugusta.org or 706-733-2236 (ext. 292).

On February 26, my granddaughter was born. As I entered her home, I was overwhelmed by the sight of the generous and sacrificial gifts from friends and family.

It made me think about the motivation behind my own giving—especially to the church. Giving (not the price tag) is an expression of my love and how much I care and value the relationship. My gifts allow me to love others by sharing from my own resources. I recently read, that “you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”

Giving is my response to God’s goodness and an opportunity to say thank you and to acknowledge that my security comes from my relationship with Christ and not material goods or my checkbook. James 1:7 says, “Every good gift, every perfect gift comes from above.”

And, maybe, celebrating is the best reason of all to give! Easter provides me with a wonderful reason to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life through a special offering.

Ultimately the answer to the question of why I give is this: I give because I want to become more of who God designed me to be--to live in connection and in community with others. And as I sacrificially give a portion of what I already have, my faith gets stretched as I step out of my comfort zone.

Simply put, although my giving impacts and changes the lives of others, my life is changed even more.

I encourage you to experience this life change for yourself by establishing the practice of giving to the church or by increasing your offering. You may learn more about ways to give by visiting our website at discoverfbc.org or email me at krose@fbcugaugusta.org.