



THE WINDOW

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, North Carolina

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No.18

Routine and Momentum

As I understand the state of play surrounding the coronavirus, if people will wear a mask, that covers both the mouth and the nose, and maintain a distance of at least six feet from another person then the risk of someone catching this potentially deadly virus is greatly reduced. In the absence of a coronavirus vaccine, the mask and the distance serve to hold us over until a vaccine is both available and accessible. Due to this state of play surrounding the coronavirus (we can greatly reduce the risk of transmission) and the uncertainty about when a vaccine will be available and accessible, our church leadership decided to resume in-person worship last Sunday (October 4, 2020) with well thought out guidelines in place.

I was very pleased with our worship experience, in our freshly renovated sanctuary, on October 4. In addition to the richness of the worship of God itself, I felt safe with congregants masked and distanced. Our transition team worked hard to facilitate our safety. Furthermore, there are now plans in place to resume in-person Wednesday night adult Bible study, Wednesday night women's Bible study, Wednesday night children's activities (though no choirs at this juncture), and a nursery for our children and parents during Sunday morning worship. The Wednesday night activities are scheduled to resume on October 14th and we hope to have everything in place to offer a Sunday morning nursery on October 18th. Of course, masks will be required for all activities and social distancing practiced. In light of all the work that has gone into our "reopening", I request that participants in our congregation wear masks and maintain distance from other people during the week so that we can better keep one another safe when we gather

on Sundays and Wednesdays.

I have another request to make of our congregation. We have not gathered for in-person activities since March – that's seven months! Thus, we need to regain both our routine and our momentum. More than one person has said to me, "Pastor, going to church is a routine and we are out of our routine." Indeed. I reminded you, last Sunday morning, of all the activity we had going on from January to early March. And I shared with you some of our numbers. The last time we had a "regular" worship service was on March 8th. We had 201 people present for 11am worship that Sunday! The number 201 indicates that people were in the routine of worship participation and that our church had good momentum on coronavirus eve.

REMEMBER THE
SABBATH DAY
BY KEEPING IT HOLY.

EXODUS 20:8

I expect it will be a long time yet before we have 200 people in our building again. Indeed, our return to normal church will be slow and gradual. Nonetheless, those of you who are not high-risk and/or are comfortable returning to sanctuary worship, I ask you now to work on getting back into the routine of regular and consistent worship participation, missing no more than 12 Sundays in a year or one Sunday a month. If we are to regain the strong momentum we enjoyed through early March, we must resume our Sunday morning routine of worship participation in our sanctuary. If you are comfortable now, or when you do become comfortable, with a return to sanctuary worship, I beg of you to resist the temptation to simply watch on Facebook or listen on the radio. If a lot of our people choose this route, we will never regain our routine or our momentum.

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together
October 11, 2020
The 19th Sunday after Pentecost
11:00 am

The Gospel
 Philippians 1:12-20
 Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

Make Your Reservation for In-Person Worship



If you would like to participate in Sunday worship, please make your reservation by calling the church office (252) 332-4003, or emailing Heather Joyner at heather@fbcahoskie.org by Friday at noon. A firm number is needed to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.



Church Budget

Our Finance Committee is in the process of preparing the budget for ministry in 2021. Please hold them in prayer as they discern how we will fund ministry for the new year.



Now Available!

You can now access online giving from the homepage of our church website. Just go to our website (www.fbcahoskie.org) and scroll down until you see the box that says "Make A Contribution" and click. You may also access online giving through our church Facebook page. Just go the church Facebook page and look to your right in the "About" section. There you will see a link, "Make a contribution!" Simply, click on the link.

Christian Women's Job Corps Needs



We are in need of a donation of clothing items for a CWJC woman & children. The sizes needed are the following:

- Boy: 6-9 months
- Boy: 2T
- Girl: Size 7 slim
- Women: Size 3 or 5, and small

We are looking for a church member who will volunteer to install a new ceiling fan at the North Street House. You schedule the day that works best for you.



For more information, please contact Pat Byrd, 252-332-4122.

Deacon Nominations Sunday, October 18

Resident church members will receive in the mail this week a list of persons who are eligible to serve as deacons for a three year term beginning January 2021. You are invited to prayerfully consider who you feel may be gifted for deacon ministry. On October 18th, you will have the opportunity to nominate five persons.



October 4, 2020

Weekly Need	\$ 9,130.28
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,065.57
Difference	\$ -1,064.71
YTD Needs	\$ 365,211.20
YTD Offerings	\$ 301,495.05
YTD Difference	\$ -63,716.15
World Hunger Offering	\$ 45.00
Capital Campaign Offering	\$ 65.00

Please remember to be generous!

Further In-Person Activities Resume

Wednesday, October 14

5:00pm-5:45pm Children's Music & Missions
Group 1: Age 3 to Kindergarten
Group 2: Grades 1—5
Details may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

5:00pm-5:45pm Women's Bible Study
Contact Kari Pierce for more information: (252) 217-8017.

6:00pm-7:00pm Adult Bible Study
Sanctuary

Sunday, October 18

Nursery available for children up to kindergarten.
For details, please contact Debbie Magette at (252) 209-7021 or dmagette@hotmail.com.



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

It is already that time again this year for Operation Christmas Child and we are still a go for the week of November 16-22, 2020.

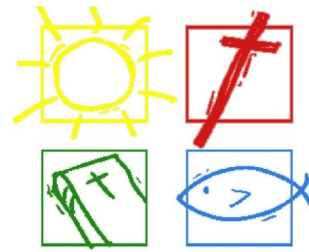
This month is a good time to buy your soap and open it to dry. It will last longer on its journey, and during use for a child. Also, school supplies are being marked down.

Our goal this year is for our church to do 100 boxes! We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let's help share the Good News of Christ through a gift-filled box, bringing hope to a child in need.

For more information, please contact Melanie Byrum, OCC Coordinator for FBC.

Children's Music & Missions Resumes October 14



We are pleased to share that on Wednesday, October 14, we will be resuming Children's Music & Missions for children age 3 through kindergarten. As expected, we will do so with specific guidelines in place to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children and their families.

Alas, there will be no singing. Instead, we will engage the children in age-appropriate bible activities and CBF missions education.

Temperatures will be taken at the West St. entrance. Masks for children age 3 and older are required at all times. All leaders will be masked. Social distancing will be observed.

Time: 5:00 to 5:45 pm

We have shortened the time by 15 minutes.

Place

♦Age 3—Kindergarten

Rooms 104 and 105, or, if we expect a large group, we'll move to the fellowship hall.

♦Grades 1-5

The choir room and room 300.

Leadership

Suzanne Newbern and Rita Bula are co-leaders of the age 3—kindergarten children. Anita will lead grades 1-5. We are grateful for other volunteers who will assist each Wednesdays.

Reservations

... are required by 5 pm each Monday. In order to prepare appropriately, we need to know how many children in each age group to plan for. Please call the church office (252) 332-4003, or text or email Anita to make your reservation: (252) 395-0061 or anita@fbcahoskie.org.

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of October 11-17, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Penny Rose, 287-8531

Andy Woodard, 396-1599

Sound System—October 11

Walt Pierce & Chris Slachta

Floral Offering—October 11

Family of Mary Frances Johnson

Food Pantry—October 16

Henry Byrd & Margaret Winn

Week of Oct. 18-24, 2020

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

Buzzy Swain, 395-0255

Margaret Winn, 209-1495

Sound System—October 18

Rick Burns & Josh Brinkley

Floral Offering—October 18

Henry & Pat Byrd

Food Pantry – October 23

Jack & Millie Britt

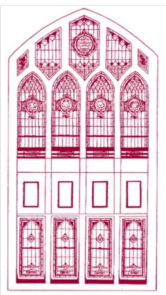
The FBC Ministers

Trey Gilliam, Pastor

trey@fbcahoskie.org • 252-398-7321

Anita Thompson, Associate Pastor

anita@fbcahoskie.org • 252-395-0061



The Window

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Main and West Streets

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