

THE WITNESS

VOL 54 | NO. 9
SEPT 20



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
BARNESVILLE

IN THIS ISSUE:

FBC'S COMEBACK:

Read about all the steps we are taking to make our comeback safe for you and our families!

FBC KIDS:

Read information about the steps we are taking to give your children a safe and fun environment for Sunday School!

DRIVEN STUDENTS | THRIVE YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Read about the latest updates from our student and young adult ministries.

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS

Get all the information you'll need to help you and your family prep for our Sunday small group comeback.

A Message from Pastor Garth:

The first thing you'll notice about our September Witness is that it is different from past newsletters. Most of our newsletters are long on graphics and short on text. We hope to keep the eye-appeal in this month's newsletter, but we have added a great deal more text from our ministerial staff.

Navigating our way through COVID-19 has been the greatest challenge of my 36 years of pastoral ministry. There have been greater crises both nationally and locally during those years, but there hasn't been anything that so dramatically changed the way we do everything, including church! Thank you for hanging in there with us during this turbulent, confusing time as we have sought to continue to minister to our church and community. Speaking of ministry, you will read about the ministries and ministry plans that each of our ministerial staff have been involved in or are planning in this Witness.

We hope that we are seeing "the light at the end of the tunnel." Through Sunday, September

6th, we will maintain our Phase 3 schedule of Classic services (Sanctuary & Gym) at 9:00a and Contemporary services (Sanctuary & Gym) at 11:00a. Those will be done with reservations to maintain social distancing, but we are adding childcare for both 11:00 services for birth through Pre-K that will continue on.

We look forward to more fully reopening our church on Sunday, September 13th. This will be our PHASE 4 opening and will include the following features:

- We will continue to have a total of four Sunday morning services: Classic Service in Sanctuary and Gym from 9:00 to 9:50a. Contemporary Service in Sanctuary and Gym from 11:00 to 12:00 Noon.
- Voluntary social distancing practices (except for families) will be observed. No reservations are needed for any of the services.

Please read the rest of Pastor Garth's message on the inside.

FBC Kids Ministry Update

by Jennifer Zeager

After much consideration, the decision has been made to begin Sunday school on Sunday, September 13th. As excited as we all are about getting back to normal, there are a few guidelines that we must abide by. FBC will be following the guidelines set forth by the State of Ga. Executive orders, CDC, and Georgia Baptist Mission Board.

We will have staff and volunteers to come in for training on the new guidelines before we open on September 13th. It will take a couple weeks to get use to the new guidelines and to get the process

working as smooth as possible. Please be patient with us as we are all in a learning process.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the guidelines we will be implementing. Please understand that FBC will reevaluate safety policies as things change due to COVID-19.

I am personally going to reach out to each of you regarding your child's new classroom for September 13th. Promotion Sunday would have been Sunday, June 7th. We are scheduled to come back when the new church year has already begun.

Please feel free to contact myself or Russ Jenkins if you have any questions or concerns.

WE GET TO DO THIS.

Get all this information and more by visiting us online or following FBC Barnesville on social media:

www.fbcbarnesville.com

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SCAN THIS & SIGN UP TO GET THE MONTHLY WITNESS IN YOUR INBOX!

CHURCH STAFF

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RUSS JENKINS | ASSOC. PASTOR OF ED/ADM.
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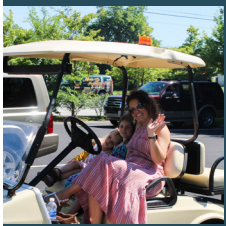
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NEW SOUL SISTERS BIBLE STUDY | STARTING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 6:30P

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SWEET MEMORIES FROM THE PAST FEW MONTHS:



A message from Pastor Garth continued

- Only main building doors will be left open from the outside. Temperatures will be checked at these doors with modern devices. Ushers will be available to help in seating you, but there will not be assigned seats. Caution tape will mark off pews not to be used in the Sanctuary.
- Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a mask since contact will be closer in Phase 4. But, knowing that not everyone will wear a mask, a “masked section” separated from the unmasked section will be available in all services.
- Sunday School for all ages is planned for 10:00 to 10:50a. Since not all classes or all teachers will feel safe being together in a classroom, some classes will combine with other classes as space permits.
- Restrooms will be open throughout our buildings. Please limit the number of people in our restrooms to three at one time.
- Offering plates will be available in both the Sanctuary and the Gym.
- Church furniture will be sanitized between services. Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrance/exit doors of our facilities.
- Everyone is advised to use their own discretion in deciding when to come back to church.

We are also planning a PARTIAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITY reopening on September 16th. This will include activities and studies for all ages that normally meet at 6:30p. We're hoping that September will be a turn-around month! Hang in there and I look forward to seeing you again as soon as possible!

Checking in with the Student and Young Adult Ministry

by Jason Teal

Greetings from the Student/Young Adult Ministry! What a crazy couple of months we have experienced recently. I am certain that none of us would have ever imagined shutting life down for days on end. To quote the Shirelles, “Mama said there’ll be days like this, there be days like this, mama said.” NOPE! My mama never said a thing about Covid-19! So, here we are facing new standards, new normalcy, and new ways of doing things. As I have had to remind myself recently, do not forget what the scripture says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). That’s right, even though things are different to us, the CHRIST is still CONSISTENT. If this is true, then it is safe to say that the COMMISSION has not been CANCELED.

Our church has been faithfully finding ways to be encouragers in our community. Just a couple weeks ago, we had a couple of banners designed that simply read “Hometown Heroes”. Many of you had the opportunity to sign these banners. We

have taken those to our Sheriff and Police Departments. Our hope is that in some small way those men and women that are serving our community would be encouraged that they are doing incredible jobs. We are also hopeful that this simple gesture would encourage our community to be supportive of our Hometown Heroes. Carrying the Gospel to people can be done in simple ways.

As disciples of Jesus, we must continue to carry on the call to communicate the Gospel. Truly, it should not matter what we face, we must continue to be faithful. With that simple thought in mind, let me encourage you to continue to find ways to share Jesus with people. More than ever before, people need to hear the HOPE of the HEALER. People need to be reminded of the RESTORATION through the RESURRECTION. People need the SALVATION provided by the SAVIOR. We get to do that! We get to share these things with the people in our circles. Let us not lose sight of what Jesus says in John 20:21, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” May the Lord continue to encourage and challenge you all as disciples. May you continue to respond to Him with faithfulness.



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Sunday School Update

by Russ Jenkins

It is so exciting being a part of a church which takes Bible Study so seriously! During this Covid crisis, our Sunday School teachers have shone like never before. From preschool all the way through adults Bible study and caring for their class continued in some unique and effective ways. Our preschool division directors have been diligent in keeping our preschool teachers informed and appreciated. Our Children’s Minister, Jennifer Zeager, kept in touch weekly with preschoolers and children as well as their teachers. Each week she provided a short Bible study for the children through videos on our website, Facebook and Instagram. Some of our children and preschool teachers also participated at various times. Our students meet weekly with Jason and their Sunday School teachers on Sunday morning for Bible study on Zoom. Our adult classes have used various methods to communicate each week’s lesson. Some are using Zoom. Some have used email. Some have met together social distancing outside for Bible study. Some have used the phone, calling each other and discussing the lesson. I am so proud of our Sunday School teachers who would not allow this time when we could not meet together to stop them from sharing God’s Word together.

Another group of Sunday School teachers, I am so thankful for are those who accepted the call to teach the adult lesson on video each week since we had to stop meeting in classrooms. We have had most of our adult teachers, some of our student teachers and even some deacons take the lead and share our Sunday School lesson each week online. This is not a easy thing to do. There is no one in front of them when they are taping to ask questions to or to bounce off ideas. But each one of them did an excellent job when it was their turn. Many of those who were watching each week have expressed to me their gratefulness in having the lesson online and being able to experience the different teaching methods of our leaders.

I would like to thank all of our Sunday School teachers and leaders who have kept the study of God’s Word alive during this time. I believe you are the best Sunday School teachers and leaders of any church around!

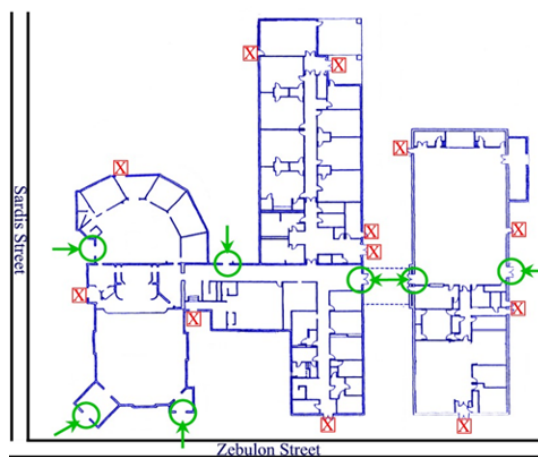


Diagram of Open Entrance Doors

Beginning September 13, green circles refer to doors open from the outside. Temperatures will be checked at these green-marked doors. Red squares with X refer to doors locked from the outside.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. All adults and students 6th grade and up are required to wear a mask for the protection of all attenders. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you at the door you enter.
2. The only doors open for entrance will be those circled in the diagram below.
3. Temperature checks will be done for everyone entering the church.
4. Go directly to your classroom (parents dropping off children first)
5. There will be no standard social distancing once inside your classroom. Where there is room, we ask everyone to spread out.
6. When class is done, please pick up your children immediately for worship or to go home.
7. There will be Sunday School for all ages at 10:00am. Preschool Sunday School and children’s worship for kindergarten and first grade will also be available at 11:00am.