

THE MESSENGER

First Baptist Church Jacksboro

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NEWSLETTER

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DEACON ELECTION - August 30th Morning Worship

CORPORATE BUSINESS MEETING - August 30th at 6pm

I know . . . My Chair at Church is still Empty



Everyone has had to deal with the difficulties caused by the pandemic. Cheryl and I, your staff, our deacons, the worship team have all had to deal with implications and complications. Before the pandemic forced us all to shelter at home, we all enjoyed arriving at church early and watching the lobby fill up with friends, families, neighbors, and guests we had never seen before! We were eager to hear how God has been at work, eager to hug and embrace our brothers and sisters and ministry partners in Christ!

It's September, and since March the lobby is empty. There is no coffee nor any doughnuts and pastries. There is no conversation, no hugs, no rich dialogue, no ministry updates in the fashion which we had become accustomed.

That's all because the risk persists and the virus is still active.

As your Pastor, I am constantly being asked about fellow members and guests! That is a good thing. No, that's a GREAT thing! It's a joyous thing knowing that God's people love and care for one another.

When people who are attending live worship ask about folks who are not attending live worship and their seats are empty, here is my response to any inquiries:

Out of love for their church and family, they feel it is best to worship from home right now.

Those who are still distancing are still worshipping, singing, praying, caring, and participating. At the same time they are taking care of their kids, their grandchildren, and at times elderly parents or relatives.

- **Don't Make Assumptions.** Missing a couple of weeks at church doesn't mean someone has left the church, doesn't trust God, or is being ruled by fear. Any of these situations could be true, but none should be assumed.
- **Pray and Reach Out.** The longer people stay at home the lonelier they become. Don't pity or judge them . . . instead, pray for them. Or send them an encouraging text.
- **Don't Label Them.** Worshipping in our church building doesn't necessarily equal greater faith; staying home might require great self-control and self-denial as well.

These days, many families are making difficult decisions about church attendance. Here's what I want the people in our congregations to know. What may be advisable for one person or family might not be for another. Instead of allowing the Enemy to use this to divide us, let's make this a time to remember the gospel that unites us as believers in Jesus and to extend grace, understanding, and patience to the people who aren't there on Sunday.

-Bill

IT'S SISTER TIME!

Ladies, Are you tired of the same old same old? What day is it anyway? Have you watched enough TV  for your entire life? Read all your books  and began rereading the great ones. We have enjoyed  gardening but that's a solitary hobby. I don't know about you but I really miss being with you. I miss seeing your faces! *I'm ready for a little Change!* Are you?

How about joining me online for a time of sharing, praying and studying Gods word? Just call the church office or send an email letting us know your contact information. We will need your cell phone number and email address and what time you prefer to meet, in the morning or evening.

We'll send you a link for a ZOOM meeting. It's super easy to get an account with Zoom (no cost) if you don't have one. Then we'll send you a time and link for us to meet online. We will practice the first meeting AKA *chat*. Then the next week we will study a passage of scripture and talk it through. We also will pray for our personal needs. If we have enough for two groups we could have one in the morning about 10:00 and possibly another in the evening. It's going to be so good to connect with you especially during these times of Social distancing. 

We will send out more info once we see how many want to meet. Please remember nothing can separate us from the love of God! Focusing on Him will give us all a greater peace and hope. We will also take the opportunity to build our faith through answered prayer!

If you would like to invite others, please send us their info. It's not Tuesday tea,  but you can drink tea, while we share. It's not Like getting dressed  to go out. You can wear your PJ's.  It's sister time!  So join us and be blessed to find you are not alone! May our love grow for Him and one another.

Love you Cheryl

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5th Tommy Overton
6th Sandra Daugherty
7th Linda Agee
10th Donna Gumroe
12th Lonzo Bolton
14th Dennis Powers
18th Melanie Ward
25th Jeremy Adkins
25th Ann Teague
29th Cheryl Arbo
29th Jake Ward
30th Mark Rinehart

Happy Anniversary

10th John & Ann LeJeune
25th Shann & Ann Teague
26th Michael & Sydney Nelson



All the kids love Ms. Carolyn and Kid's Church!
What a blessing to see all the smiling faces each Sunday Morning