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Our Church Staff

Pastor

Dr. Jimmy F. Orr

Traditional Worship Leader

Damon Skelton

Contemporary Worship Leader

Jed Cornelison

Minister of Children

Rene' Milner

Minister of Students

Eric Patterson

Senior Adult Minister

Jess Wilbanks

Weekday Preschool Director

Dina Duffey

Hispanic Minister

Alfonso Illidge

Office Manager

Kathy Wood

Facilities Manager

Dwayne Knox



June 2020

Palmetto Baptist Church is tentatively set to reopen our Sunday morning worship services on July 5th.

In the U.S., coronavirus cases have declined over the past month; every state has eased most COVID-19 restrictions; and churches are being allowed to reassemble. One might wonder why PBC is waiting so long before reopening

The short answer is we believe the health and well-being of our church family are paramount and, therefore, we are taking every precaution to protect our PBC family, especially the most vulnerable among our members, our senior citizens and children. If we err, we prefer to err on the side of extreme caution. While it is true that the number of coronavirus cases is slowly declining, that number is still high, and the death rate, though also declining, is still the equivalent of a 9/11 disaster every four days. In Georgia, restrictions blunted the increase of virus cases and deaths, but then Georgia was the first to lift restrictions even though most infectious disease experts warned that such easing of restrictions was premature and would likely lead to a second wave of cases and deaths. We hope such dire predictions will prove to be untrue, but it is too soon to know for sure. Therefore, we have chosen not to gamble on the health of our church family.

Some churches reopened in mid-April, others in early to mid-May. We certainly respect the rights of other churches to reopen whenever they see fit. But we prefer not being the guinea pig church. A majority of churches we contacted are opening no earlier than late June and most of them were not opening until July. Some churches in our area have not yet set a time to reopen, but they do not foresee opening until the fall. We talked to one church that will not reopen until 2021!

Complicating the issue is the fact that some churches have reopened early only to find that people who were positive for the virus unknowingly infected other attendees at the worship services. I know of at least three different churches that opened early only to find out that some of their attendees tested positive for the coronavirus after having been exposed to it during the church services. A few of those infected died.

Week to week cases of COVID-19 in Georgia clicked up 26% for the week ending Sunday, May 24th. Whether the increase from nearly 4,170 confirmed cases during the week of May 11 to 5,260 the week of May 18 represents a new wave in the spread of the coronavirus remains unclear. But even if the increase is due only to people having more access to testing, the fact remains that there is still an increase in the number of cases since Georgia eased shelter in place restrictions. Georgia ranks among 20 states in the nation with increases. While the number of people currently hospitalized statewide dropped during the two weeks ending May 24th, deaths rose from 201 to 221 during that same period. Additionally, new COVID-19 hot-spots are emerging in rural Georgia.

These stats confirm the decision of our church leaders to delay reopening our worship services until we have a better idea of where things are headed. When we do open, we will take every conceivable measure to ensure the safety of all our attenders.

One year from now, no church will regret opening later rather than sooner. The only churches with regrets, if there are any, will be those churches that opened earlier and as a result, congregants became sick and/or died. Personally, I do not want to be one of those churches. The last thing we want for PBC is to be known as another Albany.

Please know that none of these decisions have been made flippantly, nor have they been made with ulterior motives. These decisions also have not been made by any one person. They were made only after surveying our congregation, observing what other churches are doing, and consulting with our church staff and leaders. Our church staff and leadership thank you all for your patience, understanding, and prayers.

I look forward to seeing you all July 5th!

Jimmy O



Damon Skelton
Traditional Worship Leader



Eric Patterson
PBC Student Minister

René Milner
Children's Minister

Normally acapella means singing without the aid of instruments; but during this pandemic at PBC, it has become a way of connecting our people in music through a technological app that has brought about a new way to worship. It has been a refreshing way to have our people share their talents and celebrate God's love in our Traditional Service. This app has enhanced our hymn singing and our choir specials in a time where it has been difficult to bring people together to sing. I appreciate all the hard work that our choir has put into making this possible during these trying times. I know we will be utilizing this tool for as long as it takes us to be able to come back on stage as a choir. However, we still look forward to the day when we will be able to sing together on stage.

Now that we have set the date for our church to be able to meet in our building, we can all look forward to coming together to celebrate in worship. No matter how we feel about the situation that we are facing, we can all come together in celebrating the God who has carried us through this time and worship Him. Focus on the love that God has given us that we can share with one another. Until we meet together, find a way to share God's love with people of our congregation. Be creative, like we have been with the Acapella app, in reaching out to your church family so we can stay connected until we can meet again as one body.

With much love and God's blessings,

Damon Skelton

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Changes

Preparing for June 2020 sure is different! At this point we would normally be in the middle of last-minute preparations for VBS and the summer mission trip. Neither of those events will happen this summer. I am beyond sad at that statement. VBS this year was a concrete and cranes theme. Our mission team project was to have been construction of a new building for a church camp in Tennessee. Both of these events were about building new things with a strong foundation. Thankfully, I have a strong foundation in Christ to see me through this sad time.

Connecting with children when children cannot be together has brought about all kinds of unique ideas. Michelle Gaddy and I delivered May Day bags to the PBC Kids. It was fun for both of us. We saw most of the kids as we dropped items off and that brought some "Sonshine" to both of us. We will continue to deliver a monthly bag/kit to the kids throughout the summer months. Each bag will contain a fun craft project, a short bible story sheet, some fun toys and probably a bit of candy. The kids love candy, right?

We have had Wednesday night Zoom meetings for the Adventure Kids and that is a fun way to see them. We will continue with a modified schedule during the summer months. Susie Q and friends will continue to create some fun bible story videos for the kids to view on the PBC Kids Facebook page and the PBC Kids YouTube channel. I have begun to truly enjoy doing these with Mrs. Sandra and a few other parent volunteers. Tell the kids to begin looking for a few more "friends" to join the fun each week.

I am certainly missing the kids, their hugs, and the many smiling faces of PBC!

Jess Wilbanks
Minister of Senior Adults

Have you ever wished you could slurp words back in your mouth after you uttered them or heard someone share a little too much and asked yourself, "was that really necessary?"

As a member of a rural Rotary club in South Carolina a few years ago; I came to appreciate their guiding principles. *The Rotary Four Way Test* asks: Is it the *Truth*? Is it *Fair* to all concerned? Will it build *Goodwill* and better *Friendships*? Will it be *Beneficial* to all concerned?

Some verses from Philippians 4 are good words to commit to memory and help shape us into more godly people, to help us make more Christ-like decisions; they are meant to help us determine whether or not we should say, do, or even think about things.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is True, whatever is Honorable, whatever is Just, whatever is Pure, whatever is Lovely, whatever is Commendable, if there is any Excellence, if there is anything Worthy of Praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

I'm reminding myself more than anyone; some things are best left unsaid, undone, are unnecessary, aren't hills to die on, won't bring people closer to God, and aren't what Jesus would do. So, before we live to regret one more word, thought, or deed, let's ask ourselves, is this good?

May the God of peace be with you this summer!

-Jess

So, it seems like this virus is finally starting to die down. I know that everyone is ready to see each other, but it is very important that we are careful about it. Now that I have your attention here is a bit of good news...it's about to be summer! Yes, everything right now is different, but summer is on its way. It will once again be pretty, hot, and the days will be longer. Summer is coming! I think it is very important to remember that good things will still happen.

I think for so long people have been feeling hostage to this situation in which we find ourselves. In the same way that seasons continue, so will our lives. This is not an effort to minimize our current circumstance, but just an effort to provide a reminder of the faithfulness of God. God has not stopped time, nor seasons, neither has God stopped providing us with beauty. So, as this time comes to an end, remember the faithfulness of God.

I would also suggest you use the end of this quarantine to get your heart right and do try to get better in areas in which you were failing prior to this time. I pray that we all come back better than when we left. We love and miss you.

Blessings,

Eric



June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

PBC Sundays

Traditional Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting
 PBC Bible Studies 10:00 a.m. Super Supper
 Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 a.m. PBC Kids' activities
 PBC Home Groups 6:00 p.m. Vertical Student Ministry
 PBC-Bible Study Classes
 Handbells
 Adult Choir Practice

Wednesday Evenings

4:00 p.m. PBC Deaf Ministry
 5:00 p.m. PBC Food Pantry
 6:00 p.m. PBC Media Ministry
 6:00 p.m. PBC Ladies' Fellowship
 6:00 p.m. Palmetto Baptist Weekday
 6:30 p.m. Preschool (September–May)
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Ministry
 6:45 p.m. Faith Riders

Additional PBC Ministries

My Brothers Ministry
 Men's Ministry
 PBC Mission Trips
 PBC Hispanic Ministry
 Love in Buttons
 Clothes Closet
 Upward Basketball & Cheerleading (Jan./Feb.)

June Birthdays

Kylie Glennie	01	Stanley Daniel	17
Raylin Akabar	02	Atticus Wilbanks	17
George Rainwater	02	Josie Douglas	18
Ethan Bass	03	River Harbin	18
Becky Carpenter	03	Janet Hurley	19
Chip Lawson	04	Thomas Peek	20
Joy Fletcher	06	Ronald Stover	20
Amanda Orr	07	Celia Bray	22
Lisa Skelton	07	Jenny Eidson	22
Blake Wilbanks	07	Blake Pircsuk	23
Tripp Aldridge	08	Gloria Terry	23
Alton Powell	09	Shannon Becham	24
Lichele Terrell	09	Lynn McLendon	24
Remmy Grubbs	10	Neil Baird	25
James Stephens	12	Max Schornhorst	25
Elizabeth Hagen	13	Sterling Carlisle	26
Suzanne Mullen	13	Peter Gaj	26
Brian Sepanski	13	Margaret Terry	26
Lauren Smith	13	Clara Roberts	27
Wynne Banks	14	Amanda Palmer	29
Cora Sims	14	Kyra Aycock	30
Bonnie Gould	15	Laurie Bachelor	30
Rene' Milner	16		
Sharnell White	16		

June Deacons

May 31—June 6

Norman Pickett, Kenny Thompson, Mike Robertson, David Johnston, Mike Johnson

June 7—13

Terry Hale, Erv Carter, Bobby Koehl, Casey Aycock, Jim Gaddy

June 14—20

Darrell Byrd, Jeff Cannon, Alton Powell, Gary Milner, Roger Smith

Jun 21—27

Scott Farr, Toby Potter, Frank Lambert, Eric Johnston, James White, Tommy Wood

June 28—July 4

Brent Coley, Bo Bohannon, John Lambert, Cary Chester, Kellen Moore, Neal Carson

