



LIFE TOGETHER

A Virtual Small Group Investment in Your Spiritual Growth
Starts: Wednesday, October 7 @ 7:00 pm
Ends: Wednesday, November 18

Perhaps the most challenging part of the COVID 19 season has been the loss of personal connection. While we have learned to virtually gather and connect via technology, we have all struggled with the disconnect from friends, family, and our spiritual community, the church.

In his book, *Life Together: A Discussion of Christian Fellowship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer pondered how a church can deepen fellowship with Jesus and one another through the practice of the ancient ways of faith. Bonhoeffer is particularly interested in how a church grows deep community and mature disciples in a time of crisis. *Life Together* was written in 1938 and it is the reflections of Bonhoeffer on his time leading and building community in an underground seminary opposed to the Nazi movement in Germany from 1935-1937.

Starting on Wednesday, October 7, you can participate in a *Life Together* seven-week study on spiritual community. The study will conclude on Wednesday, November 18. Each group time will begin at 7:00 pm and conclude at 8:15. The meetings will take place on Zoom and include a large group seminar time and a small group time for conversation and prayer. If possible, we will substitute some in-person meeting time for Zoom connections.

Reading the book *Life Together* is part of the small group experience. You are welcome to read the book ahead of time, but there will be a reading plan that will take us through the seven weeks. Coupled with scriptural study, we will learn truths and practices of Christian community and discipleship.

A word of warning: *Life Together* is a small book, but Bonhoeffer is a challenging, provocative writer. So, be prepared! As part of our group times, we will cultivate understanding together!

If you are ready to sign up, click on this [Zoom sign up link](#) or contact Nikki Reid in the church office. We will have copies of the book in the church office for purchase.

I hope you will join us for the soul-deepening experience of *Life Together*.

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online September 20! Randy Shepley will be preaching at the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. If you have any technical difficulties watching the services on Facebook Live, please send us a direct message on Facebook so we can help troubleshoot the issue.

The following is a list of weekly events that can be accessed on the First Baptist Church of Newport News Facebook page, youth events that can be accessed on their Instagram page-@fbcnnnyouth, and young adult events that meet using Microsoft Teams. (The 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday worship services will also be uploaded to the website, fbcnn.org, each Monday, and can be accessed by clicking on the Resources tab.)

- **Sundays:** 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
(In Person or Facebook Live)
9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
(In Person or Facebook Live)
12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship
(In Person or Facebook Live)
- **Mondays:** 7:30 p.m. The Bridge Young Adults
- **Tuesdays:** 8:00 p.m. Young Adult Couples

Preschool and Children's Sunday School

Preschool and Children's Sunday School will start a new format October 4. We will have live Sunday School sessions each Sunday via Zoom. Grades 1-5 will meet at 9:30 AM and Preschool & Kindergartners will meet at 10 AM. An email will be sent to families with children closer to the start date with Zoom log in information, or you may email Susie swebb@fbcnn.org to get the information. Lessons will still be recorded so families can play them at another time if needed. We look forward to interacting more with the children through these live Sunday School sessions each week beginning October 4. (Recorded lessons will continue to be posted on Facebook for the remainder of September.)

Updates on Mission Circles and XYZ

Women's Mission Circles

The Alpha (Barbara Goff, leader) and Beta (Michele Pastor, leader) Circles normally meet monthly on the fourth and last Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm respectively. The Delta Circle (Bev Parker, leader) normally meets on the second Monday at 7:00 pm. The circles meet either in member's homes or at the church. Each circle's members choose monthly mission projects. NOTE: Due to the pandemic, these groups have not met in person. However, projects have been ongoing.

Change: Michele Pastor resigned as Beta Circle leader, and Bev Parker took over the leadership of the circle.

The following is a list of mission projects:

March: All three circles were committed to preparing 175 personal care kits for the Romania team to take to Camp Hargita. Only one circle (Delta) met before meetings were paused and collected \$310 toward the kits. These funds remain in the church budget under the Romania line item in anticipation for future Romania needs.

April: All three circles donated funds for the Peninsula Rescue Mission for meals when Mary Ann Hutchinson, deacon, mentioned there was a need. A total of \$575 was collected, an FBC check was written from the Beta and Delta Circles and mailed to the Rescue Mission. Alpha sent their donation separately.

July: Delta Circle, of which Peggy White is a member, collected funds to donate to the Parkinson's Disease Association in memory of Stephen White.

Current Project: Delta has taken advantage of the school supply sales to collect them for future use. Mary Ann Hutchinson mentioned that the principal of Yates suggested waiting until January, however, this circle's annual project for August/September has been school supplies for Yates to be delivered in January for the last several years.

Additionally, email reminders of birthdays have been sent to Beta and Delta, as well as prayer needs within each of these groups, and others within the church. A special email "You Say, God Says" encouragement handout with Bible verses was sent to all three circles.

Once we are able to meet again in person, all ladies are welcome to visit and/or join any circle. It is not necessary to be an FBC member to participate in a circle. If you want to join a group and participate in upcoming projects, please contact Bev Parker, Women's Circles Coordinator, at 757-880-8668 or bevparker@cox.net.

XYZ

The XYZ mission is to provide a venue for senior citizens to foster Christian fellowship. Luncheon/program meetings are held the third Friday of each month. All seniors, regardless of church affiliation, are invited to attend these monthly covered dish meetings. An entertaining or informative program is presented each month. Although this group has not been able to meet due to the pandemic, the following has been ongoing:

Emails about prayer needs in the group, as well as the deaths of Rube Brett and Stephen White, encouraging folks to send cards to Judith Brett and Peggy White. In addition, a special email, a "You Say, God Says" encouragement handout, with Bible verses was sent to all XYZ members. Nikki Reid has assisted in keeping the eleven members of XYZ who do not have email informed by mailing these notices to them.

Telephone Contact: Group leaders, as they are able, have been in telephone contact with the members of their groups.

Other: Rube Brett, passed away on June 14th. Two XYZ members, Bev Parker and Peggy White, attended the memorial service at Albert Horton Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Suffolk on August 28th. Gale Burcher, XYZ group leader and Compassion Ministry member, along with other Compassion Ministry members, attended as well in support of Rube's wife Judith, also an XYZ member. Peggy White's son Stephen passed away July 6th.



Every two weeks throughout the Summer and into the Fall, we would like to show support for a locally owned restaurant on or near our mile that has struggled throughout the pandemic. We encourage you to order a meal (eat in or take out) from each restaurant at least once during the two weeks, leave a good tip, and be encouraging and tell them you are from First Baptist. The restaurant for this week is Chihuahua's Mexican Grill located on Oyster Point near Planet Fitness. You can check out their menu and hours on their [Facebook page](#). The restaurant for the next two weeks will be announced on Sunday.

Peninsula Mobile Food Bank

The Peninsula Mobile Food Bank used our parking lot last Thursday for food distribution to those in need. I had the privilege of helping this month and seeing first hand what it takes to make this event happen. The volunteers with the food bank are efficient and tireless (even in the humidity). There was enough food to feed 160 families! Thank you to all of the volunteers including Walter Satchell and Sharon Hertzler.



Prayer Requests

If you have a specific prayer request that you would like the ministerial staff to pray for, you can send it confidentially to prayer@fbcnn.org. This email address is monitored only by the staff of FBCNN. If you have permission from the person and would like them added to the prayer list at church please mention that in your email.

Building Usage

As a reminder, our building is still currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. If you need to work on something in the building please check with the Church Office beforehand. We can let you know of the guidelines that are in place and remember that the mandate from Governor Northam requires masks to be worn. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Staff Contact Info

Randy Shepley, Senior Pastor: rshepley@fbcnn.org
Dennis Adams, Associate Pastor Music: dadams@fbcnn.org
Michael Adams, Associate Pastor Youth: madams@fbcnn.org
Ethan Brown, Associate Pastor Young Adults: ebrown@fbcnn.org
Juan Garcia, Associate Pastor Hispanics: jgarcia@fbcnn.org
Walter Satchell, Associate Pastor Pastoral Care: wsatchell@fbcnn.org
Susie Webb, Associate Pastor Preschool and Children: swebb@fbcnn.org
Monica Garcia, Financial Coordinator: monica@fbcnn.org
Sharon Hertzler, Ministry Assistant Preschool and Children: shertzler@fbcnn.org
Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant: nikki@fbcnn.org
Tamara Wilson, Ministry Assistant Connections: twilson@fbcnn.org
Church Office: 757-930-0911

FBCNN Stewardship Needs

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the mission of FBCNN!

There are several ways to continue to support:

- **Mail your Offering Envelopes:** All funds will go to the General Fund to cover operating expenses like salaries, utilities, etc. unless otherwise designated. We will continue to record your donations for the end of the year contribution statements.
- **Thru Your Bank Online Services:** Call your bank or go to your bank's website and select **Bill Pay**. You will only need the church's address, and you can set the amount and frequency you desire. There is no cost to you or the church.
- **Online Giving:** Go to fbcnn.org and click on the "Resources" tab and then the "Online Giving" tab.
- **Stock Contributions or Charitable Bequests:** If you wish to give stocks or charitable bequests to FBCNN, provide the church's name and address to your broker or lawyer to process the transaction.

If you need more information, please contact Monica Garcia at monica@fbcnn.org or at the Church Office, 930-0911.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8