

Engaging Our World through Racial Justice and Hand Sanitizer

by Randy Shepley

In the last few weeks, we have spent time in First News remembering the 3 E mission of our church: Embracing God, Equipping Christ-followers, Engaging Our World. Today, we will look at two specific ways our church is Engaging Our World.

Last Fall, I had the opportunity to participate in an online racial justice conversation with a number of black and white pastors across Hampton Roads. During that conversation, I met Dr. Kevin Swann, Pastor of Ivy Baptist Church, a historically black and significant church in the East End section of Newport News. We developed a fast friendship and through conversation and prayer, became convinced that God was calling our two churches together for racial dialogue. We decided to begin by developing small groups of church leaders that would pray, listen, and grow in friendship as we discussed racial justice from within our shared relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Beginning on Monday, March 1, four groups of adults and one group of teenagers from FBC Newport News and Ivy Baptist Church will begin a seven-week time of conversation and prayer around the themes of racial justice and reconciliation under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We will meet virtually each Monday night between March 1 and April 26, excluding the Mondays of Holy Week and Spring Break.

Each group will have 8 members: 2 facilitators (one from each church) and 6 participants (three from each church). Each church has chosen staff and lay leaders to participate in these groups. Our hope is that this group will be a pilot venture that will set the table for future conversation, fellowship, worship, and serving between our two churches. I invite you to pray for these conversations and groups over the next two



Lenten Journeys Starts Tonight

During the season of Lent we remember the hopelessness and futility of life without Christ. Truly, "we are dust and to dust we shall return."

Lent is often known as a time of fasting in which we give up something good to taste life's bitterness. Yet Lent is also a journey as we see Jesus demonstrate true faithfulness on the road to Jerusalem and the cross. This journey is one in which we are all invited into. It is only in this journey to the cross will we find the life and redemption of Easter.

For the next six weeks of Lent, join our ministers each Wednesday at 7 PM as we discuss a spiritual practice for the week. Meeting on Zoom, we will spend 30 minutes learning a new practice and sharing our stories and experiences from the previous session. Together we will explore what it means to be faithful and human during these times. Just follow the Zoom link below. I hope you will join us on the road.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94585114534?pwd=Tnc3QnFIV3pyL1BTRTdNejVrODVUUT09>

Meeting ID: 945 8511 4534
Passcode: 252385

months. Please pray especially for the following group members from our church:

Group Facilitators: Mike Adams (youth), Lisa Mason, Harvey Perkins, Alice Shepley, and Matt Tilley

Group Participants: Monica Garcia, Mary Ann Hutchinson, Chris Johnson, Kolby Keller, Paul Morris, Terri Morris, Pricilla Parson, Lesley Spitzer, Anthony Wardensky, Susie Webb, Peggy White, and Val Wolfe

Youth Group Participants: Zoe, Samuel, Drew, Landon, and Hannah

I am so excited about these racial justice and reconciliation groups. Racial justice is one of the highest trending topics among unchurched and church youth and young adults in our country. Since real reconciliation is found in Christ, it is most appropriate that we as followers of Jesus set an example in building racial relationships of reconciliation. It is an absolutely vital way that we must Engage Our World.

Hand Sanitizer for Yates Elementary

As you heard in worship this past Sunday morning, we have discovered through our Yates Elementary action team, led by Mary Ann Hutchinson, that the teachers at Yates Elementary would love to have individual 2 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer for every student in the school. So, we have set a goal of getting 375 2 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer for Yates Elementary by Thursday, March 3. You can pick up these 2 oz. bottles when you are out shopping or order them online. Please bring them to the church office Monday – Thursday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. If you would like to have your hand sanitizer shipped directly to the church, please include the church address in your online order from Amazon, Wal-Mart, or other favorite online ordering location.

Let's Engage Our World by loving our mile, starting with Yates Elementary! Let's find all the 2 oz. bottles of sanitizer we can for the children and teachers!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Randy



Hand Sanitizer Collection for Yates Elementary

Our Yates Elementary Action Team let us know of a way we can help the teachers and students at Yates. We are collecting 2 ounce bottles of hand sanitizers for every classroom. Teachers would like to give one to each student who is returning to in person learning and they need a total of **375 bottles!**

If you are ordering them online you can have them shipped directly to the church or you can bring them to the church office during office hours. A group of volunteers will package and deliver them to Yates.

In order to get them to Yates in a timely manner we need the sanitizer by the morning of Wednesday, March 3. If we receive more than 375 bottles, we will donate the extras to another local elementary school.

We have already collected over 100 bottles! *Thank you!*

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who brought donations for our church food pantry for Souper Bowl Sunday! We are thankful to be a place our community can count on when they are in need of food.

We appreciate your support during our special events like the Souper Bowl and your support throughout the year!





**Red Cross Blood Drive
March 3 1-6PM
Payne Fellowship Hall**

Help the Red Cross help others by supporting in one of three ways:

1. Donate blood. You can sign up online by clicking [here](#) or calling 1-800-Red-Cross and let them know you would like to donate at First Baptist Church Newport News on March 3. All donors will receive a COVID antibody test and the results will be emailed to them within 2 days.
2. Be one of two volunteers needed from our church to sign in and register donors as they arrive. **We only need one more volunteer!** You can sign up to volunteer by clicking the link above or calling 1-800-Red-Cross.
3. Pray for those volunteering, donating, and receiving.

Their goal is to receive 30 successful collections. Let's help them reach that goal! Contact the church office for more information.

Worship SCHEDULE

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship online February 28 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Randy Shepley will be preaching. If you have any technical difficulties watching the service 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-@fbcnnyouth, and young adult events that meet using Zoom. The 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday worship services are uploaded to our each Monday, and can be accessed by clicking on the Resources tab.

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Pre-K & Kindergarten S.S.
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Mondays

- 7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

Tuesdays

- 7:30 p.m. Young Adult Couples

[FBCNN Facebook Live Videos](#)

If you missed Sunday's service and do not have a Facebook account, you can click [here for 8:30](#) or [here for 10:30](#) to watch it on our Vimeo page.

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of Phyllis Walton who passed away February 20. Please keep her grandson, Jerry Lee Walton, and their family in your prayers.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Bob Porterfield who passed away today, February 24. Please keep his wife, Julia, daughter, Nikki Reid, and their family in your prayers.

Staff Contact Info

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