

First News

August 18, 2021



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEWPORT NEWS

YOUTH

YOUTH SUNDAY AUGUST 22

ONLY ONE ENGLISH SERVICE @ 10:30 AM

Join us as our youth lead us in worship! There will only be **one** English speaking service this day so we can all come in person or online to support our youth and future church leaders.

**Children's Ministry
Summer Fun Event**
Port Warwick Summer Concert
Series
August 18, 2021, 6-9pm

Bring your family and chairs/blanket to a fun outdoor concert. There will be food trucks and Schlesinger's offers a \$7 burger special on concert nights. Come hang out and enjoy some great music!

PORT WARWICK

SUMMER
CONCERT!

AUGUST 18TH
6-9 PM



**ANTHONY ROSANO
&
THE CONQUEROOS**



Fall School Supplies Drive!

FBCNN Family, help us love our teachers and students by contributing to our fall supply drive. Get all your donations to the church office by August 27th and we will get it to our school partners!

We need:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil Sharpeners | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Earbuds | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colored Pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> Markers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils | <input type="checkbox"/> Erasers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highlighters | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Erase Markers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glue Sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> Folders with 2 Pockets and Prongs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notebooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Wide Ruled Paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blank Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Watercolor Sets with Brushes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Sanitizer | <input type="checkbox"/> Cloth Face Masks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tissues | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Bags |

Thanks for all you do to support our community!

Facing Delta. . . by Randy Shepley

The word “Delta” has always had positive connotations for me. It reminds me of where I grew up. Delta is still my favorite airline, even if it has left Patrick Henry Field. I am hoping for its return!

Delta, of course, now means something much different. The delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is spreading rapidly throughout our nation. It is infecting unvaccinated Americans at an alarming rate, and now, we are seeing numerous “breakthrough” cases in which vaccinated individuals are infected. Thankfully, the infections in vaccinated individuals tend to present in a mild or asymptomatic fashion, but this does not change the dire situation delta has brought upon us. People are suffering and dying due to delta. The CDC has now recommended that vaccinated people wear masks inside public spaces. We thought we were past all of this!

What makes delta worse is the finger-pointing, misinformation, and ugliness that inflames and reinforces the already polarized American church. In this vein, I wanted to pass along a video provided by the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV), our longest-term mission partner at FBCNN. The BGAV is a vital resource to our staff and congregation. They do everything from providing training for our ministers, serving opportunities for our people, resources for students and young leaders, access to Fresh Expression partnerships, and of course, receiving and sending our Lottie Moon Christmas offering funds. The BGAV, along with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, have been at the forefront of helping congregations respond to COVID-19.

This video that came to me yesterday is an interview between John Upton, Executive Director of the BGAV and Dr. Danny Avula, Director of the Richmond City and Henrico Country Health Districts. Dr. Avula also serves as the Vaccine Coordinator for Virginia. He is a committed Christian and has been a major resource for the BGAV throughout the pandemic. The following video is just over 17 minutes long. It has a thoughtful, considerate tone that is greatly needed in our pandemic conversations. This video has certainly helped me, and I hope it will help you as well.

<https://vimeo.com/588462975/dde5a45734>

In closing, allow me to offer you three words of counsel. Obviously, you are free to do with them what you like. First, unless your doctor advises against it due to your personal medical condition, get vaccinated. It will keep you, your family, and those around you safer. It will make our nation safer. I am vaccinated, my family is vaccinated. I am not suggesting anything to you that I would not do myself.

Second, remember, as our church policy currently stands, unvaccinated individuals must wear masks in our church building and all persons must wear masks in the children and youth areas and hallways surrounding them. This is because children and some teens cannot get vaccinated yet. Please remember to abide by this policy for the safety of everyone.

Finally, I am returning to wearing my mask inside a building when I am in the presence of others, except when I am speaking in front of a group. This is for the safety of my family and me, but it is also for the safety of others since vaccinated people can pass along the delta variant if they are infected. At this point, this is not church policy; rather, it is my decision to follow the new CDC guidance and the guidance in place currently for our

children and adults for the next Newport News Public Schools academic year. I encourage you to consider this masking practice for yourself, even if you are vaccinated.

Finally (part 2), as we continue through this delta season as a church family, let's remember the call of 1 John 4. If you haven't read it in a while, make it your devotional time tomorrow. Let's remember to love one another, even when we do not agree. Let's remember to be followers of Jesus who live and speak love, not only on our church premises but in all of our comings and goings. Let's tune out voices that tell us belittling and hating others is an acceptable Christian practice. Let us put the energy we use to judge and denounce others into loving others, including our enemies. In other words, let's reclaim our call to love like Jesus. After all, Jesus is all we have to offer our world. . . Just Jesus.

Pastor Randy

In Sympathy

Grace King, a long-time active member of First Baptist Church, left her earthly home on August 11, 2021. Her life will be remembered and celebrated at a memorial service at 1pm on Friday, August 20, at the Mausoleum in the Peninsula Memorial Park next door to our church. Please continue to pray for the family. Click the link below for the obituary.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailypress/name/grace-king-obituary?pid=199808736>

Save the Dates

August 18: Children's Ministry Summer Fun Event

Port Warwick Concert Series 6-9pm
See article for more information.

August 18: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse from 7-8pm

August 22: Youth Sunday

See article above.

August 28: Open House

See Save The Date! article below for more information.

Staff Anniversaries & Birthdays

August 7 - Juan Garcia celebrated his **15th** anniversary at First Baptist! Take a moment to let Juan know how much he is appreciated as he spreads God's word to the Hispanic community around us.

August 10 - Ethan Brown's birthday. He's turning four!

*We thank God for
our staff!*

New Women's Book Study Take Courage by Jennifer Rothschild

The study will be on Wednesday mornings September 15 through October 27 from 9:30-11:30am. To sign up, please call Georgia Mann at 757-595-3990 (please leave a message) or text 757-570-3491 by Friday, August 20th. Hope to see you soon!

Save The Date: Open House

FBC treasures that are no longer needed by the Decorating Team are available to anyone who would like them. An open house will be held on August 28th from 9am-12pm, in room 143. Enter through the Children's/Youth entrance and you will be directed to the area. Monetary donations for items are welcome.

Handbells Are in the Near Future!

It has been a very long year and a half filled with many challenges associated with the pandemic; however, with God's Grace brighter days are unfolding. We are praying that things will continue to normalize throughout the summer and September will bring the resumption of church activities to include the beautiful ministry of handbells.

We have openings for ringers in both the beginner/intermediate and intermediate/advanced bell choirs. For more information, please contact Beth Tomassetti, 757-952-5351 (cell), btomassetti@cox.net, or Jeanette Lystlund, 757-872-7320 (home), 757-329-8998 (cell), jettlystlund@verizon.net.

A Special Wish for Marguerite Peck's 101st Birthday September 1

To My Dear Church Family,
My special wish is that instead of flowers, visitations, or presents, you would consider helping an individual(s) in need. During these pandemic times I cannot think of any wish that would bring me more joy for my birthday. Thank you.

Blessings,
Marguerite

First Baptist Preschool Now Enrolling

We're registering 2 1/2 year olds, 3 year olds, and 4 year olds for the 2021-2022 school year. There is a \$225 one-time, nonrefundable registration fee. We also have a \$225 monthly tuition: September-May.

Don't have a child this age but would still like to help? Spread the word of our fantastic preschool program. Tell your relatives, your friends, and your neighbors. Word of mouth is often the best way to get our name out into the community. Would you like to help financially? First Baptist Preschool relies on donations to support our amazing staff, to provide classroom supplies, as well as make scholarships possible so more children can benefit from a jump start on their education. If you would like to make a donation, make checks payable to First Baptist Church Newport News with a note of FBP on the memo line. First Baptist Preschool provides wonderful community outreach for the church, so please consider supporting this ministry. For more information on the preschool, visit our webpage at fbcnnpreschool.org.



Over the last year we have all seen the benefit of technology allowing us to worship together, remain connected, and interact with people who may never enter our doors. Even as we hope for more in-person interactions in the coming months, we want to continue to invest in our digital ministry and its unique opportunities to love and serve our communities in Hampton Roads and around the world.

If you have experience in graphic design, video production, audio mixing, or if you just like technology and are willing to learn or interact with people online we need your help. We want you to be part of our digital ministry team. Contact Ethan at ebrown@fbcnn.org to learn more.

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday August 22 at 10:30 a.m.! The Youth will leading us in worship.

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. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page-@fbcnn youth. The 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday worship services are uploaded to our [website](#) each Monday, and can be accessed by clicking on the Resources tab.

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
- 12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Mondays

- 7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

[FBCNN Facebook Live Videos](#)

Make a financial contribution to FBCNN today by clicking on the link below.

DONATE

Donation Opportunity for Those with IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Congress has approved a permanent charitable giving tax break, known as the "IRA charitable rollover". The rollover is available for those who are 70 1/2, though if your 70th birthday is July 1, 2019 or later, you do not have to take withdrawals until you reach age 72. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required minimum distribution.

The distribution is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. With the change in the recent Tax Legislation, the Standard Deduction has doubled thus itemized charitable deductions will no longer be needed to be kept track of. By donating all or part of your IRA RMD to the church, you receive the benefit of a reduced Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in that the RMD to charity is not taxed, which helps the opportunity of obtaining lower cost for your Medicare Part B and Prescription Drug premiums.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the church not through the owner of the account. Let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia, know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

Rick Elofson, Treasurer FBCNN

Staff Contact Info

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