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## Rev. Lesley Spitzer Celebrates 10 Years on Staff at FBCNN

Lesley Spitzer joined our church staff on January 1, 2012 as the leader of our *Transformed* praise team. She has served on our staff in numerous capacities over the past 10 years. However, Lesley and her family have been part of our church since 2000. For many years, Lesley served in our music ministry as a volunteer before becoming part of our staff.

In the past six years, Lesley has followed God's direction into a deeper sense of ministerial vocation. She entered the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR) and completed her Certificate in Theological Studies in May of 2019 as part of the last graduating class of BTSR. She managed to complete this degree while leading music programs in two church preschools, serving as the leader of *Transformed* and worship planner for the 11:00 service, and balancing her life as a wife and mother while she studied, read, and wrote papers!

In October of 2019, Lesley was ordained to the ministry by our church family. The past few years of Lesley's ministerial journey have been a season of blossoming growth for her as she leaned more fully into the ministerial calling God has given to her. During the pandemic, Lesley has been vital to our ability to worship digitally and in person. After the retirement of Dennis Adams, our beloved Minister of Music, Lesley added the worship planning for the 8:30 service to her responsibilities. It is not a stretch to say Lesley has played one of the most significant roles in our church during the pandemic. Without her, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for our worship services, in person and virtual, to take place. She is the "behind the scenes" planning and preparation that makes our English worship services work.

Since the beginning of 2021, Lesley's title and role has changed significantly. As the Associate Pastor of Worship and Creative Arts, Lesley not only serves as the primary planner for our English services, she leads the *Transformed* praise team, the music in our church preschool, mentors the youth praise team, works with Sharon Hertzler in planning for our Kmotion Wednesday night children's events, serves as the staff liaison for our church preschool, participates in the adult choir, and serves as the supervisor for our staff music personnel. This gives you some sense of all that Lesley does, even though it does not account for all of the special projects, conversations, supporting her staff teammates, and prayers that she lifts up on behalf of our church. Lesley has grown tremendously over the past 10 years, and our church has received significant benefit from the vast array of her gifts and willingness to serve God wholeheartedly.

What I love most about Lesley is that she has a heart of fully devoted worship to God. Whether it is through choral music, handbells, *Transformed*, children, youth, or adults, Lesley longs to hear God's name praised in worship by all generations, in multiple musical styles, and in every language. We are blessed to have Lesley as a pastor on our staff who strives to grow the worship breadth of our congregation so that we bring ever greater praise to God. Happy 10 years, Lesley, and we look forward to many more!

*Randy Shepley*

# Updated Protocols at FBCNN Due to Omicron

Since Christmas, the number of COVID cases in the United States, Virginia, and in our area have skyrocketed. This is due to the Omicron variant, which is much more contagious than earlier COVID 19 iterations. Thankfully, Omicron appears milder in severity than other variants as well, but the sheer number of cases has led to escalating hospitalizations particularly among the unvaccinated, elderly, and vulnerable. Therefore, the staff and Vision Team of our church have met and approved the following new protocols for our church worship services and events. These will go into effect immediately and will be regularly reevaluated. It is our desire to balance the need for safety for our people and neighbors with the need for connection and community among our people and neighbors. Thank you for your prayers, support, and understanding as we continue to move forward following Jesus during this pandemic.

## **Sunday Mornings**

Worship Services and Sunday Morning Bible Study classes will continue in person with the following protocol updates:

1. Masks are required for everyone regardless of vaccination status.
2. Eating and drinking in church gatherings is not permitted during this season of Omicron protocols.
3. We encourage people to greet one another with waves and “air hugs” rather than handshakes and hugs.
4. If you are not feeling well, we encourage you to stay home! We want you well and all of our people safe.
5. Our Digital ministry will continue sharing our services live. You can also give online as well. So, even if you are well, you are welcome to stay home and worship online.
6. Sunday morning Bible Study Classes that would like to move to a larger space in order to space out more can contact Ethan Brown to see if space is available.
7. Sunday morning Bible study classes that would like to move to virtual only meetings or to pause meeting during this Omicron surge are welcome to do so at their discretion.

## **Wednesday Nights**

1. All Wednesday night activities and groups are postponed for Wednesday, January 5 and Wednesday, January 12.
2. We will re-evaluate after Wednesday, January 12 to determine when Wednesday night activities will resume.

## **Church Building During the Week**

1. Masks are required in the building.
2. Only essential personnel and activities will be allowed in the church office.
3. We encourage all official church meetings (committees, teams, etc.) to be held virtually during this Omicron season.

## **Preschool**

Will follow the schedule and protocols of NNPS.

## No Midweek Café, Kmotion, or Youth Group Tonight or Next Wednesday, January 12

Midweek Café, Bible Study, Kmotion, and Youth will not meet tonight, January 5. See article above for more information.

## A Great Way to Help Campbell Webb

Church Family,

Many of you know that Susie and Jeff Webb's daughter, Campbell, has been battling leukemia since the spring. The family has suffered tremendous heartbreaks and prolonged hospital stays, but on September 7th, Campbell was blessed with a bone marrow transplant. The journey will continue to be long, and challenges no doubt lay ahead, but we are rejoicing about Campbell's road to recovery.

As your prayers have been the greatest gift, cards, Facebook messages, and gift baskets have also blessed the Webbs. That being said, many of you have asked about other ways to support this special family.

In response, Jeff and Susie have partnered with the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). COTA is a nonprofit organization that receives tax deductible contributions to help offset transplant-related expenses. Transplant families, like the Webbs, are the beneficiaries of COTA funds.

If you would like to find out more about this organization or give to COTA in Campbell's honor, please visit [www.COTAforCampbell.com](http://www.COTAforCampbell.com). The site also features personal updates and future fundraising events specific to COTA in honor of Campbell. Contact Lisa Mason for more information, [lmason@fbcnn.org](mailto:lmason@fbcnn.org).

## Staff Work Anniversaries

**January 1** - Lesley Spitzer - 10 years!

**January 31** - Wendy Buck

Take a moment to thank these two for the work they do for the Lord and FBCNN!

## Save the Dates

**Jan. 13** Red Cross Blood Drive 1-6pm Payne Fellowship Hall. Click [here](#) to sign up to donate. Volunteers are also needed to help check in people as they arrive. Contact the church office or Val Wolfe for more information.

**Jan. 17** Church office closed

## Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, January 9 at 8:30am or 11am! Randy Shepley will be 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 11 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  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

## New Online Giving Platform

As we move forward, we would like to inform you that we are switching our Online Giving Platform to Subsplash. This new platform offers substantially lower transaction fees, ACH transactions, and an option for donors to cover the cost of online giving so that your entire offering can go to the work and ministry of the church. Subsplash will also provide a phone and TV app for our church that will integrate with our website and become a home for our sermons, media, group messaging and notifications, and event information. We are excited to go on this new journey with you! Click on this [link](#) to give now. Please let us know if you have any questions.

**If you need offering envelopes for 2022 please contact Monica at [monica@fbcnn.org](mailto:monica@fbcnn.org) or 757.930.0911.**

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

**DONATE**

11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4  
12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

### **Mondays**

7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

### **Wednesdays** (Not meeting for 2 weeks)

5:00 p.m. Library Open

5:30 p.m. Mid-Week Café

6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Adult Spiritual Formation Groups

6:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering and Worship

6:30 p.m. Children's KMotion (Music, Missions, and Fun!)

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **[FBCNN Facebook Live Videos](#)**

If you do not have a Facebook account you can watch services on our Vimeo page by clicking on the link below.

December 24 [7:00pm](#)

December 26 [10:00am](#)

January 2 [10:00am](#)

## 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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