



## Thank You Notes

Most of us were taught by our parents and taught our own children to say "thank you" when you received something, whether it was a compliment, present, or kind gesture. The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." It is wonderful to give thanks, but I am sure we can all admit it is also nice to receive thanks. First Baptist has received several thank you cards and emails from recipients of the letters and gift cards given to teachers, staff, and bus drivers of Menchville High School, Gildersleeve Middle School, and Yates Elementary School. One card was signed by all of the Menchville High School Café staff. Below are a some excerpts of the responses from various school personnel.

"Thank you for reaching out to the community to share the love of Jesus Christ."

"Thank you for thinking of myself and the NNPS staff."

"The concern and prayers from the church congregation are greatly appreciated!"

"I know that it has been a trying time for us all and for you to acknowledge specialists and educators within the school system is very thoughtful."

"Its nice to see we are noticed and appreciated in these trying days...may God continue to bless you in 2022."

"It has been a challenging few years, but with your constant dedication to all of us - we are getting through!"

"...words cannot express how surprised we were to receive this blessing!"

"It was so nice knowing that someone cared about the sacrifices given by our staff at Gildersleeve Middle School and the other schools you have blessed."

"Your thoughtfulness and generous spirit and heart has truly touched my life."

"We so appreciate your prayers and support. I hope 2022 will be a peaceful year."

"It was a wonderful surprise, and being recognized for our hard work this year was much appreciated."

"It really means a lot to know that you are concerned and took such a measure to reach out to the Menchville family and other educators in such a way!"

"The (gift card) you all provided will allow me some...peace of mind, and as a single-income household, that is priceless."

"My heart is warmed with the thoughtfulness you and your church family has shown us."

"This was no small undertaking making this gesture even more impressive and appreciated."

"I am blessed to work in an amazing school but even 30+ years of experience did not prepare me for this challenge. Knowing that you recognize the challenge and your offer of support is valued."

## **Another Great Way to Help Campbell Webb!**

There will be a fundraiser at Chihuahuas Mexican Grill (309 Oyster Point Road) to benefit Campbell Webb on Monday, January 17 from 5-8pm. Let the cashier know you are supporting the "COTA for Campbell fundraiser". Come join us and support a great cause!

# 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 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. 13** Mobile Food Bank 1-3pm Side  
Parking Lot. Anyone in need of food assistance can receive fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, and other items.

**Jan. 17** Church office closed

## Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, January 16 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-@fbcnnyouth. 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

## 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**

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  
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.

January 9

[8:30am](#)    [11:00am](#)

## 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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