



Ideas for Innovative Invitations

by Randy Shepley

As you know, our Good Friday and Easter services are coming up this weekend. We will have the opportunity to remember the death and suffering of Jesus, and then, the privilege to rejoice and celebrate His resurrection.

Who will you invite to join us for our Good Friday and/or Easter services? Allow me to share with you a few ideas for inviting people to worship with FBCNN on Good Friday and Easter.

1. Share information about our Good Friday and Easter services on your social media pages: This one is easy, and it really builds awareness.

2. Turn Good Friday and Easter services into a family/friend event: Invite your family members to join you for an Easter service and for brunch/lunch after the service. If you have children, invite the families of your children's friends to worship, and then adjourn to your house for a cookout and egg hunt. Invite some friends to join you for the Good Friday service and go to dinner before or after.

I have already heard one person in our congregation put this idea into practice. He has invited a number of his extended family to our Easter Sunday services and to lunch together afterwards. Many of them have promised to attend even though a number of them are not regular church attendees. He is very excited. Frankly, so am I. . .

3. For Online Worship Participants (part 1): Plan a virtual watch party and invite specific social media friends to join you in watching the service and share comments with one another. If you don't know how to do this, ask a teenager, or check in with our Digital Pastor Ethan Brown and he can help you.

4. For Online Participants (part 2): If you are not able to attend services in person but are able to be around people, invite people who do not attend church to your house for breakfast and watch the Easter service together. Or, since it is online, invite them over for dinner and watch the service together, even if it isn't live. Or, if you live in a retirement community or any space that has a shared gathering room or clubhouse, set up the service in the clubhouse, invite your friends, and turn it into a game day or fun gathering.

5. Pay attention to new work colleagues and neighbors: Introduce yourself to them if you haven't met. Invite them to join you for Easter services. If they look uncomfortable or say they are not interested, respond with, "That's fine. I just wanted to offer you an

invitation. No pressure at all. . . I'm glad you are in our neighborhood and I look forward to getting to know you." Then, follow up on building a relationship with them that is not about church!

6. Word of warning (part 1): Never, ever complain or comment about only seeing people at Christmas and Easter: If you want to guarantee a person will not return to our church or perhaps any church, tease, make fun of, or judge them for only showing up on Easter. We will not celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus who died for all by judging the attendance patterns of some.

7. Word of warning (part 2): If someone is sitting where you usually sit in the sanctuary, do not ask them to move: Yes, this really has happened before, even though we do not have assigned seats! If someone new is sitting in the place you usually sit, smile, introduce yourself, thank them for coming, and sit somewhere else near them. This is the chance to make a new friend. It may be a chance to introduce your new friend to Jesus.

Randy, what if we invite people and they do not come? Friends, we must learn to only take responsibility for what we can control. We are responsibly for inviting with kindness and compassion. It is the responsibility of others to accept the invitation. So, friends, join me in prayerfully inviting others to remember with us on Good Friday and to celebrate with us this Easter Sunday.



Join us for this service where we journey with Christ throughout the events leading up to his crucifixion. Nursery will be provided for ages 4 and under.



Easter Sunday, April 17

Worship with us at 8:30 and 11 as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Please bring fresh flowers from your yard to place on the cross in front of the sanctuary entrance.

Children's Easter Activity

We will have a special activity for our children on Easter Sunday during Sunday School. Our teachers will escort the children (preschool through 5th grade) to the sanctuary at 9:55am to hear the Easter story from Pastor Randy. Then the children will place flowers on the flowered cross. Feel free to bring flowers from your yard, but flowers will also be provided. Parents, feel free to join us as we celebrate the real meaning of Easter - Jesus is Risen!

Wednesday Night Activities Resume Tonight

Midweek Café, Adult Bible Study, Preschool, Children, and Youth Wednesday Night Activities resume tonight after being out last week due to NNPS Spring Break. See you tonight!

Upcoming Events

April 14 Peninsula Mobile Food Bank will be in our parking lot at 1pm. If you or someone you know needs food assistance please let them know about this opportunity.

April 15 Good Friday Service at 7pm in the sanctuary

April 17 Easter Sunday

April 18 Easter Monday - Church Office Closed

April 24 Picnic in the Park at Deer Park City Park at 12:30pm (See article for more information)

April 29-May 1 CBF VA Mission Madness
A group of youth from FBCNN will be traveling to Harrisonburg, VA to do mission work with youth from other churches.



Ways to Help Ukraine

We are continuing to pray for the lives impacted by the war in Ukraine. We are also collecting funds for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Ukraine Relief Fund and The Baptist World Alliance Forum for Aid Development, the international disaster response work of the Baptist World Alliance. To help with this cause, send your donation to First Baptist and designate "Ukraine Relief Fund" in the memo. We will be sending these funds out on a regular basis so they can be used quickly. If you would like to learn more about the CBF Ukraine Relief Fund or donate directly, please click [here](#).



Family Picnic at Deer Park April 24 at 12:30pm

Right after the 11am service, families will pick up fast food and meet at Deer Park City Park to eat lunch together, play on their playground, walk the trails, and enjoy the azaleas, which should be in full bloom! Look for us at shelter #1.



First Baptist Preschool Now Registering!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year has started. The preschool has classes for ages 2-4 years old. If you would like more information, please contact Lindsay Rew at 757-930-0911 (ext. 222) or preschool@fbcnn.org.

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Easter Sunday, April 17 at 8:30am and 11am! Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

We have recently heard that Camp Harghita has started receiving refugees from Ukraine. As a result, we have begun to support them as part of the Ukraine relief. Continue to pray for Erika and Zoltan Joo as they are using their camp as a safe haven for others.



You can download our app on your phone, smart TV or Roku player. This will give you the opportunity to get push notifications (notifications that pop up on your phone) that will allow you to stay informed. In the event of bad weather, we will be able to notify everyone if we need to make changes to our Sunday morning services and Bible Study or Wednesday night activities. You can also watch past and present services, see upcoming events, and more. If you need assistance in downloading the app contact Ethan or a member of our Tech Team for help.

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

DONATE

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 streamed directly to our [website](#), and can be accessed by clicking on Sermon Library in the Resources tab.

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Children's Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
9:45 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

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

Thursdays

10:00 a.m. Swingin' Singers

Thanks to our new FBCNN app, we are able to stream our services directly to our website!

Click on the link below to watch the service from 8:30 & 11 this past Sunday. (Services are listed in chronological order with the most recent at the top.)

[April 10](#)

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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