



*Our Vision is to be Christ to each other
and our community— doing
justice, loving mercy and
walking humbly with our God.*

ZOOM MEETING, SUNDAY, JULY 19 at 3:00pm

[Constitution of Fernwood Baptist Church 6-11-20](https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CONSTITUTION-OF-FERNWOOD-BAPTIST-CHURCH-OF-SPARTANBURG-6-11-20.pdf)

<https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CONSTITUTION-OF-FERNWOOD-BAPTIST-CHURCH-OF-SPARTANBURG-6-11-20.pdf>

and

[Fernwood Baptist Church Procedures 6-11-20](https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Fernwood-BC-Procedures-June-11-2020-2.pdf)

<https://fernwoodchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Fernwood-BC-Procedures-June-11-2020-2.pdf>

Above are links to our proposed Constitution and Church Procedures prepared by the ad hoc Committee appointed by the Deacons. The committee will present the final documents via a ZOOM meeting on Sunday afternoon, **July 19, at 3:00pm**. Click on the zoom link, or call the number and enter the meeting ID.

Matt Johnson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Church Constitution Meeting

Time: Jul 19, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91908168670>

Call In: 1 929 205 6099 Enter Meeting ID: 919 0816 8670

You will be able to ask questions during the zoom meeting. If you are not able to join us for this presentation, a recording of the meeting will be sent out by eblast so you may view it at your convenience. We will set up a day and time to vote on these documents.

Happy Church Anniversary



Mary Helen Wessinger, celebrated her 6 year church anniversary on Thursday, July 9, as our Financial Administrator here at Fernwood. We would like to thank her for all the hard work that helps keep the church running smoothly. Congratulations!

A Thank You Note

I appreciate all the cards, calls, food, concerns, visits, and prayers that the Fernwood family has sent and can't wait to see everyone again at church.

In God's Blessings, *Debbie Thornlow*

Deacons' Corner

To borrow from this passage in Revelation, ***“I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.” (Rev. 2:3)***



We all want to get back to in person worship. We want to fellowship together. But more than that we want to keep each other safe. Unfortunately, South Carolina is the third worst state or nation in Corona Virus cases per 1000 people. So once again your Deacons have voted to continue worshipping and doing the work of the Church from a distance at least through August. We hope you are staying home, wearing a mask when you must go out, and keeping a physical distance of six feet from those outside your household.

We are also concerned for our staff so the Deacon officers and Personnel Chair met to come up with the following request of our members

“As we continue to look at rising infection rates from COVID 19, we feel the health of all of our staff should remain a priority. Therefore we believe that at this time, the staff should not conduct home visits or attend social gatherings. As Deacon Officers and Personnel Chair, we are asking that you not request a staff member to attend or visit. Let us not put our staff members in an uncomfortable position to have to decline your invitations.”

We will continue to conduct the business of the Church in creative ways as we physical distance. This Sunday, July 19, at 3:00 you will be invited to join us via Zoom for a presentation of the New Church Procedures and Constitution. You will be able to ask questions or make suggested changes. After this time of discussion you will receive a recording of the discussion via email.

Once the committee is sure we have considered all of the questions and/or changes, the revised documents will be sent to you along with a ballot to vote by email. The ballot may be emailed back to the church office with your decision. We will also mail ballots to those who do not currently have email. If there are more than one in the household, just indicate who is voting and each family member’s vote. We will give a deadline to return your ballot to the church office either by email or US postage. This vote will be similar to an in person vote where you are asked to raise your hand to vote.

We hope you are enjoying the weekly calls. We will continue these. If you would like to be one of our callers let me or Matt know. If you know someone who should be receiving a call and are not also let us know.

“Let each of us look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)

Wendy Case
Deacon Chair

OUR New Post Office Box

Please send all correspondences and contributions to the address listed below. We will no longer receive regular mail at our physical address. Thanks for understanding in this matter.

**Fernwood Baptist Church
P.O. Box 7058
Spartanburg, SC 29304**



We are now in our 5th month of distanced church, with no end in sight. Our country continues to break records with new infections. South Carolina's infection rates are among the worst, not only in the United States, but in the world. It seems like we are settling in for the long haul in this new way of being and doing church together.

I've been very proud of how Fernwood has responded and adjusted so far. We have successfully transitioned to an online worship service, but that was just the start. We have also added a weekly adult Bible Study lesson from Gerald Keown, a weekly children's bible study led by Lee Anne Bailie, weekly calls are being made to all our members, Wednesday night Bible study is online, we had drive-through voting for new deacons, we are providing meals to community partners, and all meetings have migrated to Zoom.

This past Sunday, a group of folks from the church were able to drive by and visit some of our members, many of whom don't have as much access to or facility with our online options. We all stayed outside and wore our masks for safety, but it was still a wonderful blessing for both visited and visitors alike. I hope we can do more of that in the future.

We are also meeting via Zoom for a weekly discussion on Howard Thurman's book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Our first discussion was both informative and inspiring. I'm looking forward to the next four weeks. Join us on Tuesdays at 7 if you can. These videos are also being made available after the meeting.

We are planning on holding a church wide information and question session about proposed changes to our procedures on Sunday, July 19, at 3:00 pm on Zoom. A vote on these documents will follow.

Finally, some of our ministry teams are discussing ways in which we might invest in technology improvements that will both make our online worship better now and allow us to continue with a quality online presence when the time comes for us to worship in-person again.

We have come a long way in five months. We are doing things we might have never thought we would or could in the past. I hope as we look to the future, considering both the possible duration of this pandemic, and what life and church will look like on the other side of it, we will take the lessons we have learned with us. So many things are possible if we set our minds to it. Some things we didn't value before seem so important now. And some of the things we spent a lot of time and energy on before seem to have little value now.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Even a pandemic is an opportunity for God to work for good, through people just like you. I'm thankful for your continued ministry to and through our church. Stay safe and stay faithful!

Matt

Sermon Series

A Ministry of Color:

Celebrating 25 Years of Fernwood's Faceted Glass Windows

The Ministry Council continues to meet virtually online through the church's Zoom account. We have not missed a monthly meeting all year. Many of our members are getting very good at using this technology including our secretary, Norma Whaley, who has been using recorded meetings to render our minutes and reports.



The Ministry Council is very pleased with the results of our recent Member Visit Parade. We thank Sara Gardner (chair-elect), Barbara Jean Callaway, and Penny Ginn for their work on coordinating this event. It was a blessing to those visited as well as those who traveled around in caravans to drive by!!!

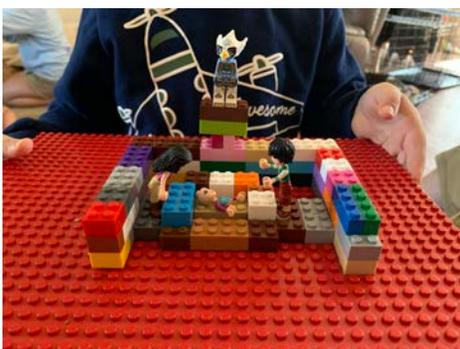
We are working now to finalize our efforts to realign our Ministry Teams with the four core practices of the church: Worship, Belonging, Serving and Investing. This will involve some consolidating of existing ministry teams as well as forming a few new ones. We are poised to begin the 2020-2021 year with this new structure in place.

We are very proud of how well our church and its members are engaging through our WEEKLY online community options. Fernwood Baptist produces a full-length worship service featuring involvement of members in singing, praying, scripture reading and sharing Children's lessons; records and posts an Adult Sunday School lesson led by Dr. Gerald Keown; facilitates a LIVE mixed-age children's Sunday School lesson led by Lee Anne Bailie and other children's ministry workers; and features a bonus "Between Two Fernwoods" video interview on Wednesday nights. No one can say that we aren't having church! Our online engagement is top notch and we are showing a strong online presence with a steady participation of close to 250 people viewing our services.

Let us know by calling Angie if you need help accessing these online services.

Lee Anne Bailie
Chair

The Children's Corner News...



Each week the children meet online for a LIVE Sunday School class. We always begin with a ROLL CALL SHOW AND TELL. This past week was our Christmas in July lesson where we studied how Mary, Mother of Jesus, treasured the things that occurred at Jesus' birth. We created our own nativities. Pictured are a couple of the displays created by children and teachers.



Stay at Home Order UPDATE Procedures for Fernwood

CURRENT OFFICE HOURS ARE:

Monday: 9am until 1pm Wednesday: 9am until 1pm

We will not be redirecting the church phone to Angie's cell anymore.

Ways to get information to us:

1. Call the church office and leave a message on the answering machine. We will check on Mondays and Wednesdays when in the office.
2. If it is information which is needed before we return to the office or an emergency, you can email Angie or you can call her cell 864-978-7404.

We are also asking that if you are coming to the church to drop off your offering or to pick up something, please know that Angie or Mary Helen will meet you at the door to help you. We are asking that no one enter the building during this time to keep us all healthy and safe. Thanks for understanding in this matter.



Family Night Supper and Missions Update

Mobile Meals of Spartanburg is no longer accepting any outside food due to the new procedures which have been put in place during COVID 19.

The Mission Ministry team has decided to go to one of our other missions here in town to see if they need help with food. They contacted the Hope Center for Children and they are excited and pleased to receive meals. The meals will be a little different than before. Tina will be preparing larger casserole type meals along with sides. They have 3 residential homes that she will be preparing for. These meals will be hot and fresh and delivered on Wednesday afternoon at 5:30pm at each location.

Are you willing to continue to pay for your meal, but allow it to be served to your neighbors? If you would like to help pay for some meals, you can write "Family Supper" on your check or choose "Family Supper" when you give online. Please give generously and help spread the word to others. Thank you to those of you who continue to support this important ministry!

The Choral Corner

This coming Sunday, we will once again visit the well-known scripture of Psalm 23. Its familiar words have been set to music by many composers, and the search for one to share with you proved challenging because so many were worthy of being featured. But I finally landed on a setting by a composer who has written music that our choir has sung, namely Z. Randall Stroope. This performance is one from the 2011 Texas All-State Women's Choir concert, which is presented with a beautiful photomontage that includes the texts. Stroope intersperses throughout the Psalm the word "Lauda," which means praise. I find this to be a stirring, youthful performance, and I hope you enjoy it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVEIndw35r4>

Stafford Turner

FERNWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH OPERATING FINANCIAL RESULTS Year-To-Date June 2020

	Actual	Budget	Actual Better or (Worse) Than Budget
OPERATING RECEIPTS			
Contributions Received	\$152,641	\$193,000	(\$40,359)
Use of Building Receipts	\$5,675	\$0	\$5,675
Interest Income	\$485	\$0	\$485
Processing Fees	\$134	\$0	\$134
Other Income	\$161	\$0	\$161
Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Receipts	\$159,096	\$193,000	(\$33,904)
OPERATING EXPENDITURES			
Total Personnel Related	\$84,822	\$88,365	\$3,543
Children / Youth Ministry	\$113	\$916	\$803
Music Ministry	\$1,377	\$2,350	\$973
Community Ministry	\$9,746	\$11,575	\$1,829
Ministry Teams	\$3,002	\$5,450	\$2,448
State & World Missions	\$6,340	\$7,725	\$1,385
Operating Ministry	\$78,429	\$76,619	(\$1,810)
Total Operating Expenditures	\$183,829	\$193,000	\$9,171
OPERATING RECEIPTS MORE(LESS) THAN OPERATING EXPENDITURES			
	(\$24,733)	\$0	(\$24,733)

Lloyd & Barbara Jean Callaway
and
Akshya & Shashi Pareek

joyfully announce
the marriage
of
their children
Sarahann and Samidh
on Sunday, July 5, 2020.



Ceremony performed by The Reverend Dr. Jim Rentz
at the Callaway's Home

Their address is
Mr. Samidh Pareek and Dr. Sarahann Callaway
1620 S Michigan Ave.
Unit 705
Chicago IL 60616



FACEBOOK LIVE

Bible study every Wednesday Night
at 6pm.

Sunday Morning Worship Time
every Sunday at 11am online
We will be uploading the video on our [website](#) each
Sunday
and also will be on our Facebook page.

Fernwood Baptist Church
P. O. Box 7058
Spartanburg, SC 29304

OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Please call ahead for availability.
(864) 582-7467

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Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, July 29, 2020**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at Noon**.

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email (angie@fernwoodchurch.org) or through the church office. Please do not submit any information over the phone. Information submitted after the deadline will not be published until the following issue (no exceptions). Thank you for your understanding!