



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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**The Blood Mobile will be here in the front parking lot on Sunday, May 2
from 9 until 12:30. More information to come.**

Zoom “Coffee time in the Concourse” every Sunday, from 9:30am until 10am.

A Zoom link will be sent in our weekly worship email. This will be a time for members to see and talk to each other having their juice or coffee at home before Sunday School begins online at 10am.



Book Group Information

The Fernwood Book Group will reconvene on Tues. April 20, at 7 PM, by ZOOM meeting. The meeting will last until 8-8:30 PM, depending on how the discussion is moving along.

We will be discussing *“Enrique's Journey”* by Sonia Nazario. It is a nonfiction book about the immigration issues in our nation, and promises to be both an interesting and informative read. Wendy Case will be leading our discussion. The title is available in an Adult and a Youth Edition, and you are welcome to read either edition. for discussion in the group. For more info, contact Nancy Easler at [email](mailto:) or 680-8518.



Churchwide Gathering – Saturday, April 24 – 3 to 5pm

Bring your lawn chairs and gather behind the chapel. This will be a time to catch up with each other and socialize (with social distancing). We will also be saying Goodbye - to the Patton family which are relocating to Illinois for a job. Drew has taken a position as Pastor of a church. You are welcome to bring a card or a gift to wish them well on this great adventure.

You can bring your own food but NO Sharing. You can park in front of the chapel or across the street in the parking lot.

Anniversary Celebration

Larry & Geri Moore will be celebrating their 67th Wedding Anniversary on **Saturday, April 17**. Send them a card and let them know you are celebrating alongside them on this special day. Congratulations, Larry & Geri!

White Oak Assisted, Rm. 208
400 Webber Road
Spartanburg, SC 29307



Present Office Hours

Monday: 9am until 1pm

Tuesday: 9am until 1pm

Wednesday: 9am until 1pm

Anyone entering the building MUST have a mask on.



From the Pastor...

As we prepare to resume in-person worship in May, we need to reflect on what we have learned over the past year, and we need to talk about what it means to be the church now in a post-pandemic world. I found that Karl Vaters's article, "Will the Congregation Come Back? Should Not Be Our Biggest Concern" had six good questions that can focus our discussions over the future and during this time of transition.

Last month, the Ministry Council and Deacons discussed the first two questions and this month we discussed the second two questions:

"What have we learned - and what are we still learning?"

- We have learned a lot about ourselves, our community, and how to be the church in the past year. Casting aside these learnings would be like the third servant in Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). There is a lot we can learn through and from our experiences. Those lessons are like a great treasure. Don't bury them, invest them in kingdom work.

Some responses:

"We can minister outside the walls."

"The importance of 1 on 1 contact."

"A lot of people are watching online."

"We have been good neighbors."

"We are resilient and flexible. We monitor and adjust."

"We are generous: to ourselves and others."

"Online ministry is real outreach."

"We can use the memory of this time as a source of strength for the future."

“How can we better serve the people at home?”

- Many people will not come back to in-person activities at first (or maybe ever?) for various reasons. We shouldn't criticize or pressure them. Instead, how can we continue to reach out to them with love, kindness, and compassion? We should bless people where *they* are instead of getting them to come where *we* are.

Some responses:

“We should continue making calls and sending cards.”

“We should start to visit nursing homes in person now that it is allowed.”

“We should keep track of who isn't coming back and make an extra attempt to reach out.”

Matt, Senior Pastor



Choral Corner

Happy Easter! I love the music that this season brings to us, and the message that it reflects... the Lord is risen, the Lord is risen indeed! This week's Choral Corner selection is one of my favorite anthems, and it was written by one who is often referred to as America's first composer. William Billings was born in Boston in 1746. He was a self-taught musician and singing master, although this was not his profession, he was a tanner by trade. He was an unlikely candidate for a musician and composer... he had one sightless eye, a withered arm, legs of unequal lengths, a raspy voice due to smoking, and a generally sloppy appearance. Yet he was enthusiastic about singing, and his music was highly regarded. Billings composed one of

the two most popular songs of the Revolutionary War time, which was called Chester, and served as a rallying hymn tune for the colonists against the British troops. (The other most popular song of the era was Yankee Doodle.)

In 1770, Billings published the *New England Psalm Singer*, a collection of 120 original hymns and choral pieces. The first edition was engraved by Paul Revere. Before this publication, there were fewer than a dozen choral pieces written by Americans, and with one stroke, Billings increased that number ten-fold. He died in September of 1800.

One of the choral pieces in the *New England Psalm Singer* is the Easter Anthem, sometimes called *The Lord Is Risen Indeed*. The video link below is a performance by the Florida College Chorus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ef3eDN3tn8>

I had a hard time deciding between two post-Easter selections for this week's feature, so here's a bonus. The following link is from 2019 and features the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Bells, and Gabriel Trumpeters in the hymn *He Is Risen*, arranged by the conductor, Mack Wilberg.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QXYzb7PQww>

He is risen indeed!

Stafford

FROM THE DEACONS BENCH

The deacons approved resumption of in-person worship beginning May 2, 2021. Special protocols will be in place and it will not be what we once considered “normal.” Everyone will be asked to wear a mask. Please bring your own, though masks and sanitizer will be available at each entrance to the sanctuary. There will be no congregational singing and pew Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the pews. Please bring your own Bible or electronic device if you wish to follow along with scripture readings. The sanctuary and other traffic areas will be fully sanitized in advance of May 2. You are asked to maintain social distancing and avoid physical contact with those outside of your family group. Ushers will assist everyone in finding appropriate seating. Please avoid socializing until you are outside of the church building, even though we want nothing more than to catch up with friends we have not seen in such a long time. In the open air is a better and safer place to do that.



It has been a long time since we were together in our sanctuary for worship. I wish to thank Mary Phillips, Russ Blackburn, Lee Anne Baillie, and Lloyd Callaway for their efforts in putting everything necessary in place for this to occur.

The worship services will be live-streamed for those who are unable to be present or not yet comfortable with gathering in the sanctuary. If you have a chronic health condition, or have a compromised immune system, unless you have been vaccinated, we suggest you not put yourself at risk by attending.

In other news, the Children’s Ministry Team and Family Ministry Team are in the process of developing plans for a new children’s playground. Their work is in the beginning stages, but stay tuned for further developments.

Finally, I want to thank the Fernwood family for your continued generosity in meeting our church’s financial needs. We have exceeded our Ministry Plan in each of the first three months of this year. That is cause for celebration in this time of so many challenges. The pandemic has confronted us with circumstances none of us ever dreamed we would have to face, but it has pushed us to learn ministry in new and exciting ways. We continue to worship, belong, serve, and invest together as the people of God. I look forward to seeing you in person on May 2.

Gerald Keown, Deacon Chair

Homebound Member of the Week

Martha Ann Carter
Eden Terrace, D-103
2780 E. Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29307



Mission Opportunity at Spartanburg Opportunity Center

What resources do they provide at the Spartanburg Opportunity Center?

Case Management, Multi-Purpose Seating Areas, Mail Room, Showers for Men & Women, Laundry, Day Center, Food Service, Resource Referrals, Media Room, Library, Storage Area, Phone Charging Station, Work Clothing.



So, what can Fernwood do to support Spartanburg Opportunity Center? A tub has placed on the office hall so we can donate items for their wish list, which include the following:

Socks – Athletic Preferred

Clean Blankets & Towels

Men's Jeans

Backpacks

Sleeping Bags

New underwear for Men & Women

Deodorant

Sturdy Ponchos

Reading Glasses

Hotel soaps and shampoos or other toiletries (in zip lock bags)

Please visit their website www.spopcenter.org to find out more about this wonderful organization and to donate much-needed funds. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

CBF NEWS...



**Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship of South Carolina**

**Prayers of the People Highlights
April 11-17**

**Scarlette Jasper
Somerset, Kentucky**

www.cbf.net/jasper

**Prayers of the People Highlights
April 18-24**

State & Regional Organizations

www.cbf.net/states-and-regions

FERNWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
 OPERATING FINANCIAL RESULTS
 Year-To-Date March 2021

	Actual	Budget	Actual Better or (Worse) Than Budget
OPERATING RECEIPTS			
Contributions Received	\$94,631	\$96,500	(\$1,869)
Use of Building Receipts	\$150	\$0	\$150
Interest Income	\$35	\$0	\$35
Processing Fees	\$108	\$0	\$108
Other Income	\$196,735	\$0	\$196,735
Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Receipts	\$291,659	\$96,500	\$195,159
OPERATING EXPENDITURES			
Total Personnel Related	\$42,513	\$45,777	\$3,264
Children / Youth Ministry	\$0	\$463	\$463
Music Ministry	\$1,182	\$950	(\$232)
Community Ministry	\$4,563	\$5,790	\$1,227
Ministry Teams	\$201	\$1,550	\$1,349
State & World Missions	\$3,792	\$3,860	\$68
Operating Ministry	\$23,393	\$38,110	\$14,717
Total Operating Expenditures	\$75,644	\$96,500	\$20,856
OPERATING RECEIPTS MORE(LESS) THAN OPERATING EXPENDITURES			
	\$216,015	\$0	\$216,015

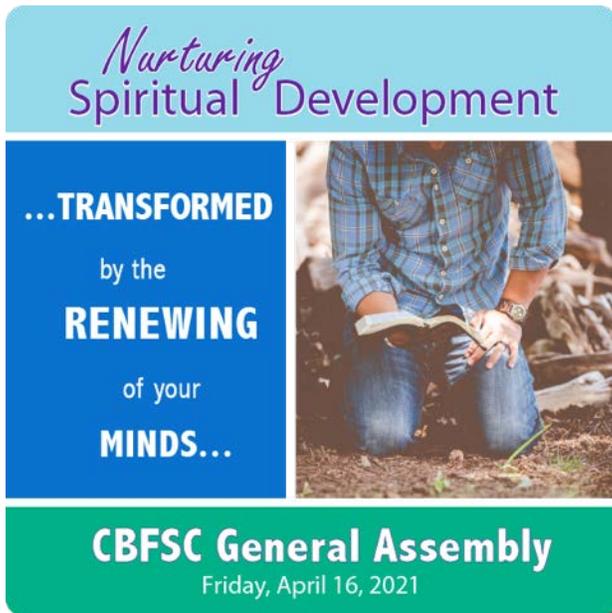
2021 Newsletter Publications

January 13 & 27
 February 10 & 24
 March 10 & 24
 April 14 & 28
 May 5 & 19
 June 16 & 30
 July 14 & 28
 August 11 & 25
 September 15 & 29
 October 13 & 27
 November 10 & 17
 December 1 & 15 & December 29 (End of the Year news)

Thank You Note...

Through thick and thin - so many things have happened in my family and you have been there. Just like when my father died unexpectedly last month and I returned to Iowa. Thank you for your calls, texts, cards, and prayers.

Kim Hutzell



Nurturing
Spiritual Development

...TRANSFORMED
by the
RENEWING
of your
MINDS...

CBFSC General Assembly
Friday, April 16, 2021

"Join us for our virtual General Assembly April 16 as we explore the call to nurture spiritual development from our mission statement. Business, workshops, and worship will invite us into spiritual growth for our post-pandemic future. Register today:

<http://www.cbfsc.org/ga>

We start at 2:00 p.m. with a devotional service led by Baptist Women in Ministry of South Carolina. CBFSC loves this annual General Assembly kick-off tradition led by clergy women.

Our business session that features budget and nominating votes as well as reports from committees and partners follows at 2:15 p.m.

A choice of breakouts begin at 4:00 p.m.

The General Assembly worship service begins at 7 p.m. The gifted Kyle Matthews, minister of pastoral care at First Baptist Church Greenville, will provide musical reflections. CBFSC Coordinator Jay Kieve will deliver a brief sermon. Friends from across our Fellowship will lead worship elements in this inspiring and meaningful service. Register today:

<http://www.cbfsc.org/ga>

Family Night Supper Support - Will You Help?

We are supporting a local mission with meals. The Hope Center for Children are excited and pleased to be receiving these meals. 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!

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

OFFICE HOURS

Mon - Wed: 9am to 1pm
Please call ahead for availability.
(864) 582-7467

FOOTSTEPS (USPS 456270)
Published weekly except Christmas and New
Years by Fernwood Baptist Church, P. O. Box 7058,
Spartanburg, SC 29304
Periodicals Postage PAID, Spartanburg, SC
Postmaster: send address changes to FOOTSTEPS,
Fernwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7058,
Spartanburg, SC 29304 (864)582-7467

STAFF

Rev. Matt Johnson
Senior Pastor - 502-974-4480
Matt@fernwoodchurch.org

Angie M. Quinn
Administrative Assistant
864-978-7404
Angie@fernwoodchurch.org

Dr. Stafford Turner
Director of Music Ministries
sturner14@gardner-webb.edu

Mary Helen Wessinger
Financial Administrator
Maryhelen@fernwoodchurch.org

Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, April 28, 2021**. Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 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!