

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

From the Pastor

Now that we have been back to in-person worship for over 3 months, I thought I would take a look at the numbers. Have people come back to the sanctuary? Are people continuing to watch online now that in-person is an option? Here are some numbers for the months of May and June:

In-person attendance average: 68.8

Online attendance average: 59

(To find the online numbers, I looked at the number of views of each service from Vimeo after a week of it being up online.)



These numbers tell us a couple of things. One, it tells us that people have come back to the sanctuary, although not everyone has come back. Through the first two months of 2020, our average attendance was 83. Our current average is somewhat lower than it was before the pandemic. On the other hand, we were not counting online attendance pre-COVID at all. And we were certainly not almost doubling our attendance through online worship, as we are now. This is an amazing step forward in our ability to reach people through online worship.

One other thing I would like to note is the number of visitors we have had each week. We have averaged **five visitors each week** through the first two months of in-person worship. What's more, most of these people have told me they didn't just wander through the door of any church. They wanted to come to Fernwood because they want to go to a church that is welcoming, accepting, and loving, and they heard that's the kind of church we are. They came to Fernwood because they wanted to come *to Fernwood*.

When I interviewed for the position of your pastor, I was told that Fernwood Baptist Church was Spartanburg's best kept secret, but you didn't want it to be a secret anymore. Well, the secret's out! People are coming to our church because they have heard about the kind of church it is. They have heard it's a place where they will be welcomed and loved. Keep it up! Keep telling that story!

Matt

A Thank You Note...

Dear Fernwood Family,

Thank you to all that shared cards, calls, and other expressions of concern and support to Joan and me. We are on a journey and it is great to know that each of you are supporting us in so many ways. I will begin chemo treatments this week so it feels that we are venturing into a new stage of this journey. We are so grateful of the assurance of your love and support and God's presence as we move forward. May God bless each of you.

In Christ, **Robert Hendrix**

Donate The Gift of Life

Our next scheduled time with the Blood Connection is this coming Sunday, July 18.

To schedule your appointment go to

https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/156946

You can also contact Penny Ginn at 864-923-0232 or pennyginn13@gmail.com



Update from Ministry Team

Our Ministry Council held its regular monthly meeting on July 12, 2021. Our next Ministry Council meeting will be August 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room. A Zoom option will also be available.

The Ministry Council still has a few vacancies for Teachers, Officers, Ministry Council and Standing Committees. Hopefully, we will have the completed slate of officers and committees soon.

We will begin signing up for ministry teams on September 8, 2021 following the Wednesday night supper. Another opportunity to sign up for ministry teams will be available on Sunday, September 12, 2021. Please begin thinking of ways you can serve at Fernwood.

Please read the newsletter carefully and note the various activities and opportunities for service.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as chair of such a dedicated group.

Thank you.

Sara Gardner, Ministry Council Chairperson



Homebound Member of the Week

Russell Blackburn, Sr.
Summit Hills Skilled Nursing
100 Summit Hills Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29307



We will begin in-person ministry at the Soup Kitchen in August. We will resume our established dates (third Sundays on even numbers months) and gather on Sunday, August 15 for the first time since the pandemic disruption.

For those who wish to help, we have two time slots to accommodate various schedules and commitments: 9:00 -10:30 and 11:00- 1:00.

Please let me know.

Thanks, *Clarence Batts*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays

6 - Ansley Boggs
8 - Linda Raines
12 - Ken Barton
12 - Randy Wright
14 - Della Gibbs
16 - Russ Blackburn
17 - Mark Davis
19 - Kathy Dalton
27 - Barbara Bagwell
30 - Foster McLane

July Anniversaries

Randy and Sandra Giles
July 12, 1969

Penny and Cinda Ginn
July 15, 2014

Don and Wendy Case
July 18, 1971

Lloyd and Barbara Jean Callaway
July 31, 1976

TOTAL Ministries

Current needs include: soups (all types), jelly, grits, oatmeal, canned fruit, applesauce, cake mix and frosting, one pound bags of dry beans, peanut butter, canned meats (such as Spam, salmon, tuna, beef stew), cereals, one pound bags of rice, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti sauce and noodles(pasta), all types of canned vegetables, and toiletries.

Collection containers are located in front of the church office.

Vacation Time

Angie Quinn, our Administrative Assistant, will be on vacation from July 17 until July 24. She will have limited access to internet and answering emails. If you have an emergency, please email Matt at Matt@fernwoodchurch.org or you can call the church office and leave a message for him. His extension is 101.



Fernwood Baptist Church
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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

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Publication Notice

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