



1 VIRGINIA STREET  
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

## THE FIRST WORD

April 2020

First Baptist Family,

Who knew we were going to have to give up so much for Lent? The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic has interrupted life for nearly everyone on the planet. Across the country, buildings have closed and things have been moved online, including schools and churches. All of this has been done to prevent the spread of this highly contagious and deadly disease. And we, as a church are doing our part. We are now streaming our worship services online and having Sunday School and Bible Study through Zoom. We are encouraging people to regularly check their email, the church Facebook page, and the church website so they can have the most up-to-date information. In essence, we've been forced to completely shift the way we do church in a very short period of time. And I think I can speak for all the church staff when I say, this shift has been exhausting. The fact is, though, the anxiety this virus is causing, the uncertainty it's creating, and the disturbance and disruption it's causing to our daily lives, all of that has made all of us weary. We long for the day when things can return to "normal," when we can gather together in person, when children can return to school, when we can restart our routines. I firmly believe, however, that God can cause blessing to bloom from the ground of tragedy, and I believe that if we look hard enough, we just might find blessing here. Recently, I was reading a book entitled *Spiritual Classics*, and in it, I read something by Karl Rahner. Rahner was a well-known Catholic theologian, who was one of the chief architects of the Second Vatican Council. In his devotional, he writes, "I should like to bring the routine of my daily life before You, O Lord, to discuss the long days and tedious hours that are filled with everything else but You. Look at this routine, O God of Mildness. Look upon us men, who are practically nothing else but routine. In Your loving mercy, look at my soul, a road crowded by a dense and endless column of bedraggled refugees, a bomb-pocked highway on which countless trivialities, much empty talk and pointless activity, idle curiosity and ludicrous pretensions of importance all roll forward in a never-ending stream." During this time in which our routines have been disrupted, I encourage you to fill your time with God. Begin a new spiritual practice. Embrace the simple joys found in this time of physical distancing. Every Saturday morning, Clary and I allow both Isaac and Sara Lyn to come into our room, get in our bed, and play. It's one of the highlights of my week. Lately, since things have been so bleak, we decided to have that highlight every day, and it's been a ray of sunshine we have desperately needed. It's also reminded us of the many blessings that God has given us. I invite you to discover your rays of sunshine, find your reminders of God's blessing, and hold fast to the Resurrection that we know is coming soon.

Grace and Peace,  
Kris

## FBC Business Meeting

To all 2020 Team or Board Chairs

### **FBC Bylaw Amendment Changes:**

The following two Bylaw changes were proposed at the January 2020 Business meeting:

(1.) Article III; Section 1; Paragraph 2:

The Board of Administration's finance spending limitation from "\$2,500 to \$7,500."

(2.) Policy 32: Emergency Operations: Delete: "...if either Bristol, VA Public Schools or..."

These two amendment changes to the Bylaws will be discussed and voted on at the April 2020, Business meeting.

Thanks to all who served during this past year and those who will serve in 2020.

Gene Eller, Church Moderator



For those who prefer print as opposed to digital books, this is a really terrible time for libraries to be closed. We didn't see our church closure coming in time to allow members to get a supply of reading materials for the stay-at-home days ahead.

Recently, Dave and Joyce Crockett

donated a large number of books to our library which included the almost-complete Mitford Series by Jan Karon. If you've missed reading these books, you've missed a real treat as well as a blessing. So, when we get back to church, don't miss your chance.

Also among their donated books was Bill O'Reilly's/Martin Dugard's ***Killing Jesus***--one of their Killing Series, a work of nonfiction that changes the way we view this time in history. O'Reilly,

anchor of *The O'Reilly Factor* details the events leading up to the execution of the most influential person in history. Nearly 2,000 years after this beloved and controversial young revolutionary was killed by Roman soldiers, more than 2.2 billion individuals believe he is God and attempt to follow his teachings. ***Killing Jesus*** will take readers inside Jesus' life, recounting the seismic political and historical events that made his death inevitable and changed the world forever.



Our **Quarterly Business Meeting** will be held on Sunday, April 19 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Join the Zoom meeting by clicking on this link and entering meeting ID and password below:

<https://zoom.us/j/858704477?pwd=STVDUFFHK0ZrYXJWJTU5POGxQMjFzZz09>

**Meeting ID: 858 704 477**

**Password: 045544**

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,858704477# US (New York)

+13126266799,,858704477# US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York) +1 253 215 8782 US  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 301 715 8592 US  
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) or Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aqkc2Z34m>

Meeting ID: 858 704 477

According to our church's by-laws, chairs of teams and boards are asked to give a quarterly report of the group's activities. The report can be either written or oral. If the report is written, please give a copy to the church office so copies can be made for the membership. Please submit the report no later than April 23. The information you share will be helpful in keeping the membership informed of what is happening in our church.

### **Online ZOOM Meetings**

FBC Choir Rehearsal on April 8 at 7 p.m.

FBC Quarterly Business Meeting on April 19  
at 12:00 p.m.

Board of Administration Meeting on April 20  
at 5 p.m.

Deacons' Meeting on April 20 at 7 p.m.

## 2020 FBC Lent Schedule

<b>Palm Sunday</b> Sunday, April 5	“When the Lord Needs It” Matthew 21:1-11
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Thursday, April 9	Video via FBC Facebook page
<b>Good Friday</b> Friday, April 10	FBC Facebook page
<b>Easter</b> Sunday, April 12	Zoom video and YouTube



Check your email and/or the church Facebook page for Maundy Thursday video which will include scripture readings, a brief devotional thought, and an invitation to communion (you'll be invited to use elements from your home).



\*Dress up in your Easter best, take pictures, post on social media using #FBBTogether, and email them to the church office at [info@fbcbristol.org](mailto:info@fbcbristol.org)

\*Join us for Sunday School via Zoom and stream the worship service from either the church Facebook page or the church YouTube channel (search for First Baptist Bristol and click on the channel rather than a particular video)

Space for blurb for FBC Services and phone charging station operations during coronavirus



### Notes from Leigh...

Mark and I enjoyed our time in Egypt. This is a picture of us at the Giza Plateau. Right after this picture was taken, we both took a camel ride! It was a blessing to take this trip of a lifetime.



We left the States when things were relatively calm regarding the COVID-19 virus. The situation, however, began to change rapidly while we were away.

Fear and panic began creeping in and robbing us of our peace and joy. So, we paused in our hotel room and prayed for God's peace to overcome our fear. I am not trying to sound over "godly"; we knew that we had absolutely no control over anything. But we know ***The One*** who has control over everything, and we poured out our fears to Him!

Why does it take a catastrophe for us to rely on Jesus for our every need? Why does it take isolation for us to recognize that we are "stronger together?" Why does it take our church doors closing for us to realize the building has never been the church?

Y'all, I have no idea what tomorrow holds and neither do you. But I trust fully in these words from Hebrews 10:23. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Be strong and safe.

Blessings and Love,  
Leigh

## Youth News

### TENTATIVE CALENDAR EVENTS!

**Graduate Recognition Sunday on May 10.**

**Vacation Bible School on June 7-10** for First Baptist Bristol kids and community.

**Youth/Adult Mission Trip to Mission, TX on June 13-20.**

We will be helping a family in Mission, Texas to get into a home and sponsoring a 4-day VBS at a local church. Required registration, \$50, medical release form, and 9-hr fundraiser work and train hours towards cost of trip.

**First Baptist Bristol Picnic on June 28.**

**Terrific Tuesdays on June 30 and July 14.**

**Youth Summer Camp - "Uni-diversity 2020" July 20-25** at the Maryville College in Knoxville. Registration fee of \$50

and another \$125 balance (due by June 25) as long as they participate in eight hours of church service to members of the community. Set up your service times through Ben at 423-217-8934 any time between now and camp trip. If anyone needs to help with the registration or balance payment, this can be worked out. Just let Ben know! If a student chooses to not work eight hours of church service to offset their cost of camp, they will be responsible for paying the \$365 cost of camp to Uni-diversity. (*FBC never wants a youth to be restricted from participation because of financial commitments.*) **To Register by website or phone:** Registration is open now until March 15 with a \$50 deposit. After March 15 The cost of registration goes up \$35 to include a late fee.

## Our Staff

Dr. Kris Aaron  
Rev. Ben Ondrak  
Mrs. Jackie Burnette  
Rev. Leigh Clark

Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Pianist  
Minister of Music

Mr. Dennis Thomas  
Mrs. Marcine Robinette  
Ms. Terri Thomas  
Ms. LaVerne Brown

Sexton  
Parish Nurse  
Church Administrator  
and Financial Secretary  
Administrative Assistant



**Church Phone : 276.669.8191**

Fax: 276.669.5082

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

E-mail: [info@fbcbristol.org](mailto:info@fbcbristol.org)

Website: [www.fbcbristol.org](http://www.fbcbristol.org)

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1 Virginia Street  
P.O. Box 116  
Bristol, VA 24203

#### FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

Apr. 4-5	Dr. Kris Aaron, 803-225-0795
Apr. 11 -12	Ben Ondrak, 423-217-8934
Apr. 18 - 19	Dr. Kris Aaron, 803-225-0795
Apr. 25 - 26	Dr. Kris Aaron, 803-225-0795

#### Usher for the Month of April

Head Usher: Joan Guest, 423-361-6446

#### Deacon of the Week for April

April 5 - Gene Eller  
April 12 - Steve Talbert  
April 19 - Tom Makres  
April 26 - Nelson Gwaltney

