



First Baptist Church

Rev. Lara Escoffre, Lead Pastor
Rev. Dr. Karen Boucher, Christian Education Minister

Whatever You Do, Do All to the Glory of God

Lead Pastor Letter for May 2020

I don't know about you, but for me there have been moments over these past few weeks of quarantine when it feels like time is standing still. The usual things that I use to mark the days are no longer there, things like the kids going to school, going to work, or our family heading to church. So, to keep track of the days, I tick off the days on the calendar and remind myself of what day it is when I get up.

Yet just like the signs of Spring around us, the sun and rain, we are beginning to see indicators of change. Examples of how a new phase of "life" is upon us. The buds on the trees promise that there is more to come.

Governor Whitmer has announced that we are in "Phase 3" of the six-phase plan to re-open the state of Michigan and the pressure is mounting for things to proceed to the next stage. Based on this information, feedback from church members, and discussions among Team Network a plan is being formulated for how First Baptist will move forward. A small team has been formed to help create a process for what the leadership believes will be a staged re-opening of our church. It is important that we consider the many needs of our congregation, from the need for community to the need for safety. There is much to discuss. Please keep this team in your prayers!

While the team is discerning a path forward, there has been some "cutting back" of some of the ministries that have been offered during this pandemic. Here is the list of current offerings:

Sunday, 11:45 am	Worship on Zoom / Message on Facebook
Monday, 12:00 pm	Bible Interpretation Class on Zoom
Tuesday, 8:00 pm	Youth Fellowship Time on Zoom
Wednesday, 8:30am	Prayers Live on Facebook
Wednesday, 4:00pm	"Good Book" Book Study on Zoom

I will continue to post short messages on Facebook during the week; but these will be more like "teasers" for the coming sermons and not separate messages. This new ten-week series, which will begin Sunday, May 24th entitled "Now What?", will look at what happens after several different huge events in Scripture in order to help us as we seek to move beyond this life changing pandemic. We will continue to send copies of Sunday's messages to those who have been receiving it.

915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland, Michigan 48642-3772
Phone 989-835-6731
e-mail: office@midlandfbc.com



Additionally, those who have been enjoying the weekly “check-in calls” from other church members will continue to receive them. I know that these have been meaningful to many members of our body. I would like to thank all those who have made that ministry possible during this time!

Finally, as we look at coming together for worship again, I would like to address two different events on the horizon. First, Team Network has decided that the Spring business meeting will take place two weeks after we begin meeting in person. This meeting will address the Harlow Funds, the Audit, and leadership appointments. Secondly, one month after we begin meeting together in person, I will begin my fifteen-week sabbatical; during which I will work on my Doctor of Ministry project.

I am so grateful to all those who have helped during this period. First Baptist’s ministry has continued strong during this time because of the many people who have given of their times and talents. Thank you!

~Rev. Lara Escoffre