

FIRST TAKE

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Thanksgiving

November 2020



THANKFUL

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The Magazine of First Baptist Church, Dalton, Georgia

FROM THE PASTOR

Each November I commit to writing my First Take article reflecting on the things for which I am thankful. 2020 has already been an unprecedented year! (and it is not over yet.) It has been easy to focus on the things which have been taken away and not on the blessings. I hope each of you will take time to reflect on the blessings you have in your life and the things for which you are thankful.

Here is my 2020 list:

My relationship with God:

Each week we ask God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer to join us in worship. The firm foundation of my relationship with God has helped me to weather this unprecedented and difficult year. I cannot imagine what 2020 would have looked like without a close relationship with my Lord and my Savior.

My wife: Susan - Aaron and Hur lifted Moses' arms to ensure the Israelites' victory in the battle over the Amalekite army. In so many ways, you have kept my arms lifted up when I was tired and weary. Thank you for loving me through the thick and the thin. I am thankful to have you as my best friend.

My boys: Peyton, Nolan, and Boston, thank you for all the joy you bring into my life! I am thankful God brought each of you into my life and enjoy every day being your Papa. I know I don't say it enough, but I am so proud of each of you!

My Church: First Baptist Church Dalton, I didn't fully appreciate how much I enjoy worshipping with you until it was taken away. The sincerity

with which this congregation worships is truly a blessing. The authenticity and love you show each other is incredible. I am thankful to be your Pastor. I look forward to many years to come as we share the Gospel near and far and as we grow closer to God in Spirit and in Truth.

The little things: For whatever reason, the little things have been important to me this year. I have become more attentive to the caring of house plants. I love watching them grow. As many of us have spent more time at home, I have enjoyed sitting on my front porch in the early morning and drinking my coffee as I pray and watch the sunrise. I have delighted in home-cooked meals. I have been thankful for the many letters and text messages expressing love and concern as we have not been able to see each other as frequently.

I hope 2021's list looks different—filled with trips, hugs, and stories of times together! (In-Person) That being said, there is still so much to be thankful for this year.

Jonathan Barlow



Jonathan Barlow



*Visit
Our New
Website
beginning
Nov 1*

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BEING THANKFUL... FROM SOME OF OUR MEMBERS

2020 has been challenging. Even in the midst of it all, First Baptist Dalton members are THANKFUL!

I am THANKFUL for family dinners. Usually our family rarely gets to sit down to dinner together on weeknights because of practice times, games, and meetings—we eat in shifts. During these past months our family got to take turns choosing the menu, eating, sitting, visiting, and laughing together. Although I've gotten a little weary of cooking, I would never give back the time we've spent around our kitchen table. (Lynsey Bethel)

I am THANKFUL for our medical community here in Dalton and all my Christian family and friends. (Lynette Tripp)

I am THANKFUL because I have had the privilege to teach our 5½-6 year old twin grandchildren Pre-K and Kindergarten in California via FaceTime since March. What an unforgettable bonding opportunity I would not have had if not for these times! So THANKFUL! (Phyllis Sutherland)

In the midst of the most trying year in recent memory, I am THANKFUL for the down time we experienced last spring and summer. Having time to read,

working puzzles, participating in an online study of Nehemiah, and spending more time at home with my family was a blessing. As much as I love my job, I was thankful for an entire month away from school at the end of the summer since we didn't start back until mid-August. Through it all, God has been constant in His love and for that, I am THANKFUL. (Becky Jewell)

A friend of ours often says, "We are better together, and we are better for having been together." I believe that is absolutely true in the Fox household – especially this year. We've experienced challenges (as we all have), but the serene, uninterrupted time we've spent together has given us perspective, slowed us down, and allowed us to be closer than ever before. I am so THANKFUL for our girls and our marriage; I know that we will do better than just return to "normal" when this is all over. We will be better individuals, a better family and better people. And I could not be more grateful. (Graham Fox)

Our family remains THANKFUL for Father God's perfect love and for His peace that surpasses all understanding, which is readily available to us through our relationship with Yahshua Messiah. His perfect love casts out our fear, and His peace guards our hearts and minds as we live in Messiah Yahshua. We are also THANKFUL for the newness of life He provides for us through the leadership of His own Holy Spirit, and for our family, friends and diverse groups of people He places in our lives to ensure His perfect will for us is done. (Richa Dene Johnson)

I am THANKFUL for God's continued demonstrations of faithfulness to me when I have felt faithless this year. In the midst of longingly waiting on God's plan for me to go and serve in Kenya, I am THANKFUL for His provision of precious and quality time with so many people I love. (Jennifer Brubaker)

I am THANKFUL for many things in my life, which include my family, friends, a roof over my head, food and water, God in my life, my dogs, horses that I get to ride and much more. I am also THANKFUL for so many opportunities in life and how I get to try new things. This is just a small list of all of the things for which I am THANKFUL in my life because these are the things that I value. (Campbell Fox, 7th grader, 12 years old)

I am THANKFUL that God has given us the gift of sharing friendship. During this time of separation, it has been so meaningful to me to be able to keep in touch with friends. Sometimes I have done the reaching out and other times I have been on the receiving end. A card, a note, a call, a text, a smile or wave while taking a walk - all of these I treasure as gifts from God. For each, I am THANKFUL! (Helen Nix)

I am THANKFUL for the youth group. We have been able to meet and be a community while begin socially distant or virtual. The activities have served as a way to come together and have fun and take our minds off of the stresses of this time. (Jack Kersey, 13 years old)



News from Carson and Lauren Foushee

When we announced our decision on social media that we would postpone our return to Tokyo in March due to concerns about the coronavirus, we were met with encouraging words from friends around the globe. One such message came the senior pastor of FBC Greensboro, NC. On behalf of the church, he offered us housing as we waited to go back. Thinking we would be leaving within a few months, we turned down the invitation and decided to stay with Laura's parents until our departure. As you can imagine, this short-term plan turned out to last much longer.

Over the last seven months, a lot has happened.

Our ministry shifted gears from in-person work in Tokyo to connecting virtually with Japanese Baptist partners in Japan and in America.

It saw us begin private Japanese



language lessons online. Our daughter, Ada, underwent surgery which was originally scheduled for in April in Japan. After exhausting all resources to return amidst travel restrictions, we decided that a move from Laura's parents' home may help us find a sense of normalcy. We reached back out to our friend and were overjoyed to receive an invitation to stay in an apartment beside FBC Greensboro. We were especially grateful because Greensboro lies halfway between our two hometowns, giving us a little more time with family before returning to Tokyo.

Knowing that the Japanese government could ease restrictions any day, we packed only essential fall and winter clothes, pulled out wedding china that had been stored away for seven years, and borrowed furniture from parents. Upon our move in September, we felt the warm virtual embrace of this CBF congregation and a sense of peace to work and live, no matter how long or short the duration. It actually looks to be on the shorter side as Japan has recently allowed new applications for long-term residential visas. We have begun the paperwork for this and hope to be returning in the coming months.

Like everyone else, COVID-19 threw us for an unexpected loop. In the most blessed of ways, it has caused us to pause and consider new ways that God may use us in Japan while we connect with CBF congregations on the same time zone a little longer. In the most difficult of ways, it has challenged us to face the fact that we are not in control while also confronting the privileges we have compared to many displaced people across the world, such as those who are forced to flee abusive homes or violent communities without knowing where they will end up. This period has brought about discomfort and frustration, but we are grateful for a new sense of empathy for God's children in dire situations around the world. We pray this will make us better advocates for them in the years ahead.



This month we are also thankful for you, FBC Dalton, because even though you face your own struggles during this pandemic, you continue to serve those among you who battle unemployment, food scarcity, lack of mobility, and lack of childcare. This is beyond the ways you continue to provide faithful witness through worship and Bible study in-person and online. May God bless us all in our ministries by helping us to perceive the needs of "the least of these" among us and calling us to give what we have with open hands and grateful hearts.



Music Ministry Updates

A Virtual Hanging of the Green

In just my first four months in Dalton, I have heard stories from so many of you about our Hanging of the Green service, and the service's significance has become immediately apparent to me. For so many of us, the Hanging of the Green service has journeyed alongside our ever-changing lives, as we have looked forward to adorning our sanctuary with chrismons, poinsettias, garland, and wreaths each and every Advent season. Perhaps, some of us can even say that we have participated in the service as a child, youth, and adult! As we approach the Advent season in light of the changed landscape of our world, this timeless tradition will look just a little bit different in 2020.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we will be releasing our Virtual Hanging of the Green service. This pre-recorded video will still include the adorning of our sanctuary, Christmas carols, and readings, and will even culminate with our customary intergenerational choral piece, "Sing Noel." The only difference is that we will be inviting you to watch this service from home, as such a large-scale service simply cannot occur in-person.



Still, preparation for this service is a large task! With collaboration from our tech team, we have outlined a recording schedule for our children's choirs, Youth Choir, First Light, Sanctuary Choir, and New Horizons. Throughout the month of November, these choirs will meet separately so that we can record them singing and decorating their respective parts of the sanctuary. Please note the recording schedule, which includes dates and times you or your child might be needed at the church. Cherubs, Music Makers, and Young Musicians will be provided robes for their recordings. For everyone else, remember to dress in your favorite Christmas-y outfit—it is perfectly acceptable to get ready for Christmas in November!

Sincerely,
Adam

RECORDING SCHEDULE

Sunday, Nov. 8

4:00 pm Cherub Choirs
5:00 pm Music Makers

Monday, Nov. 16

4:00 pm New Horizons

Wednesday, Nov. 11

7:00 pm First Light

Wednesday, Nov. 18

5:30 pm Youth Choir
6:00 pm Young Musicians
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir



November Youth Events

We continue to plan each month one at a time and publish it in First Take along with the Parent Email.

Nov 1: Family Scavenger Hunt
The Scavenger Hunt will begin at 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Each family will receive a list of items to complete and a riddle/puzzle that leads to a new location. Parents, this event is intended for you to do as a family. Parents will drive their own vehicles.

Nov 4: Virtual Wednesday Night Bible Study

Nov 8: Sunday Night Zoom Games at 5:00 p.m.

Nov 11: Virtual Wednesday Night Bible Study

Nov 13: MS Breakfast @ FBC Dalton starting at 7:00 a.m. (socially distanced) Will meet in the Fellowship Hall

Nov 15: HS Lunch @ FBC Dalton 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall

Nov 15: Socially Distanced Youth Choir starts at 5:00 p.m.

Nov 18: Virtual Wednesday Night Bible Study

Nov 18: Youth Choir Recording Hanging of the Green at 5:30 p.m. (wear appropriate attire)

Nov 25: Virtual Wednesday Night Bible Study

Nov 29: Sunday Night Zoom Games at 5:00 p.m.





IN-PERSON WORSHIP DETAILS



ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

We will begin in-person Sunday School on November 29th. You will receive a postcard in the mail with specific details about your class. We will practice social distancing and face masks will be required. Temperature checks will be done as you enter your classroom. Several of our classes are offering a hybrid of in person and virtual classes. If you need more information on your specific class plans, please contact Suzanne Hooie.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is resuming on November 29th. During this time, we will continue to practice social distancing. Students will wear facemasks in their Bible studies. We have added a new class for the high school girls also, which will help

with space issues for the upper classes. If your student is planning on attending Sunday School, please contact Justin as we continue to make preparations.



In-person Sunday School begins November 29th

It's TIME to gather for Sunday School! Our Children's Sunday School teachers are excited to be with our children, as we learn about God's Story for our lives. We are taking extra precautions to be as safe as possible when we return.

Classrooms will be disinfected prior to each Sunday. Children, ages 3 and up, are required to wear masks, along with their teachers. Rooms will be arranged for appropriate social distances. Each child will have their own art supply box, with their name on it, to be used solely by that child each week.

KEEP THESE THINGS IN MIND

As we restart Sunday School/Bible Study on Sunday, November 29th, here are some important things for you to keep in mind:

1. Masks will be required for all participants (teachers and class members) over three (3) years of age.
2. Temperatures will be taken for all persons entering the building (or entering their classroom). If an individual has a temperature over 100.4, they will be asked to return to their home.
3. Specific entrances to the building will be posted.
4. We will practice social distancing in all spaces.
5. We encourage hand washing for all participants.
6. We will do our best to assure that areas and rooms are sanitized in between weekly meetings.



THE STORY

Book, Bible, and Prayer Schedule

Week Thirteen—Beginning Monday, November 2

Book—The Story	Bible	Weekly Prayer
The King Who Had It All	1 Kings 1-8, 10-11	Pray that we will be led to truth, freedom, and hope.
Read Chapter 13-Solomon	2 Chronicles 5-7 Proverbs 1-3, 6, 20-21	

Week Fourteen—Beginning Monday, November 9

Book—The Story	Bible	Weekly Prayer
A Kingdom Torn in Two	1 Kings 12-16	Confess our lack of attention to His word.
Read Chapter 14- Rehoboam/Jeroboam		

Week Fifteen—Beginning Monday, November 16

Book—The Story	Bible	Weekly Prayer
God's Messengers	1 Kings 17-19 2 Kings 2, 4, 6	Pray for spiritual growth in our church.
Read Chapter 15-Prophets	Hosea 4-5, 8-9, 14 Amos 1, 3-5, 9	

THANK YOU CANDI

On behalf of the staff committee, I want to express our deep appreciation for Candi Deal's service as the interim director of the CLC. Candi came out of retirement to help us at a crucial time for the CLC. She facilitated opening the CLC this year, she assisted us with multiple new hires, and she provided us with invaluable knowledge and experience in seeking our new director. We have been blessed by Candi's presence, and we are profoundly grateful for her work.

Jonathan Bledsoe
Chairman, Staff Committee

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Do you have questions or suggestions for First Take? Contact Phillip Cannon at pcannon@fbcdalton.org or connections@fbcdalton.org.





Lydia's Market

Please plan to do some of your holiday shopping with our virtual Lydia's Market. Our ministry partners, like many other businesses, have suffered financial hardships due to the pandemic. Our FBCD website has a Lydia's Market page that will guide you

to your favorite vendors. The virtual market will be available from November 1st through the end of December. Please contact Suzanne or one of the Lydia's Market Team if you need help finding your favorite products.

Red Tubs

The Red Tubs are back! We plan to fill the Red Tubs for families that are food insecure at Westwood Elementary School and other schools in the city and county. We have sister churches in our area that are joining us in this project this year! The tubs will be distributed after the worship service on November 15th. If you are not attending in person worship and would like to pick your Red Tub up earlier, please call the Church office starting November 9th.

Shopping list will be available containing food items that will feed a family during the holiday break. It costs approximately \$80.00 to fill a Red Tub. We will do the shopping for you if you would like to make a donation instead. The Red Tubs are due back at the Church by December 1st. We plan to deliver the Red Tubs on December 13th after the morning worship service. Please let us know if you are willing to deliver a Red Tub to one of our families.

Greater Works



We need volunteers to help serve dinner at Greater Works on Monday, November 16th. Please contact Suzanne to volunteer.

Drive by Gratefull On Monday,

November 23rd from 11:30AM until 1:30PM, we will show our gratitude for Greater Dalton with a "Drive by Gratefull" where we will collect shelf stable items for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank to be distributed among their agencies here in Whitfield County. This event has been changed from the Gratefull Feast last year to a food collection due to the pandemic. If you are able to volunteer to work the event, please contact Suzanne.

Sign Up for FBC Text Alerts

Stay informed of all announcements related to the ministries and activities of First Baptist Church by signing up for FBCD Text Alert. *Text FBCD to 313131 to join!*

First Baptist Church

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