

# FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

March 5, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 3

## Pastor's Word

The word for March is "re-engage".

Re-engage is "to engage in or with someone or something again".

It was a year ago that we had to "shut down" the face-to-face worship, bible studies, and ministry team meetings.

In January (and again February), the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the churches in California by maintaining the constitutional right for churches to meet in person for worship (however, they are to follow the state guidelines).

So, we have re-engaged in the practice of in-person worship on the church campus, while still continuing the Sunday morning broadcast of "Worship and Word" on Facebook for those unable to attend.

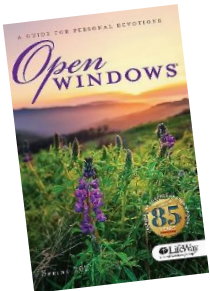
I want to engage you in praying for me and for those who will help lead in our re-engaging in several areas of the church's ministries. I want you to pray for us to have the wisdom and guidance needed in helping the church move forward.

Let's start with praying for these three areas:

1. The **Bible Study ministries** of the church. Studying the Word together in small groups is an important factor in growing spiritually. As we move forward, we want to provide a "safe environment" where we can learn to live in the truth of God's Word.
2. The development of the capability to "**Live Stream**" the **worship service** to Facebook and YouTube. This would include a strategy to develop the relationships we have with those who join us online.
3. The development of an **outreach strategy to reach "potentials"** (prospects) and connect them with the gospel and the church.

I realize that this process of re-engagement will take time. So, we need to be patient and alert to see where God is at work and willing to take the steps of faith to join Him.

*Pastor Jerry*



The *Open Windows* devotional book for Spring 2021 is now available for pick-up in the church office, or on Sundays in the sanctuary.

## March Verse of the Month

*So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.*

1 Peter 1:13 NLT

## First Southern Baptist Church

1641 W. Henderson Ave.

Porterville, CA 93257

559-784-1641

[office@fsbcport.org](mailto:office@fsbcport.org)

Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

# North American Mission Board

## Prayer Calendar – March 2021

### Derick and Cayla Sherfey

**Church Planter**  
**The Oaks Church**  
**Denver, CO**



Pray for The Oaks Church to enjoy Jesus and to live for the joy of others. Pray for continued favor as we equip and send church planters locally and globally and begin a ministry center to serve Denver.

### James and Julie Pope

**Church Planter**  
**New Vision - Encanto**  
**San Diego, CA**



Pray that we will be able to meet the wide range of needs in the community of Encanto, develop long-term relationships and have many opportunities to share the gospel and love of Christ effectively.

### Jeremy and Sarah Proemsey

**Church Planter**  
**Refuge Community Church**  
**San Mateo, CA**



Pray that God will bring us favor and opportunity in our city, transformation within our people and revival to the Bay Area.

### Zack and Autumn Randles

**Church Planter**  
**Waterfront Church DC**  
**Washington, DC**



Pray that the people in our city will continue to receive the gospel message and embrace a life of discipleship. For the past six years, Waterfront Church has been reaching the people of Washington, D.C., in a location less than a mile from the Capitol Building.

Follow us on the church's Facebook page at **First Southern Baptist Church**:

- "Worship and Word" broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays by Pastor Jerry; upon viewing you are encouraged to **Share** and **Like** so that it will be available to your friends on FB

Livestreaming of Wednesday's Bible study at 6:00 p.m. led by Pastor Jerry and/or Janice Lanford.

The church family is encouraged to continue to mail in their tithes and offerings, or drop them off at the church office during the hours listed. Thank you so much for your faithfulness in giving.

*A Pinned Note from  
the Pastor's Wife*



<sup>1</sup> *Let the godly sing for joy to the Lord;  
it is fitting for the pure to praise him.*

<sup>4</sup> *For the word of the Lord holds true,  
and we can trust everything he does.*

<sup>5</sup> *He loves whatever is just and good;  
the unfailing love of the Lord fills the earth.*

<sup>20</sup> *We put our hope in the Lord.  
He is our help and our shield.*

<sup>21</sup> *In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.*

<sup>22</sup> *Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord,  
for our hope is in you alone.*



As I read Psalm 33:1, 4-5, and 20-22 I am reminded that God is still on the throne. With this pandemic we are currently facing, I think the character that stands out is what is reflected in verse 20 – **God is my hope, my help and my shield**. Yes, we currently have social-distancing and face masks but God is the one who protects us. And He alone is worthy of our praise.

My prayer is that no matter your circumstances you will know that God is your hope. He is the one who will bring you through no matter what is happening. And as He does, you can experience joy as you trust in Him. You can make music that glorifies God and lifts Jesus up so others can know Him, as I pray that you do.

*Janice*

This is the theme for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions this month.

**The  
mission  
moves  
forward**

As you consider your monetary gift to 'the mission', also PRAY:

- 1) That times of crisis have opened new doors to the gospel.
- 2) That our missionaries, and we, would not grow weary in sharing the gospel.