

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

April 5, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 4

Pastor's Word

The word for April is **"gratitude"**. **Gratitude** simply means "the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness."

I am thankful for all the birthday wishes, cards, gifts, balloons, and songs you gave me for my birthday. Thank you!

I am grateful for the Easter worship service we shared last Sunday. I appreciate my church family and the way you love and support each other and Janice and our family.

Motivational speaker Tony Robinson counsels that we should "live everyday with an attitude of gratitude!"

This can be challenging. We are living at a time where we are bombarded with fake news, opinions, messages of ungratefulness, and the voicing of how dissatisfied we are with how life is. Having an attitude of gratitude can become challenging when we spend too much time listening to the wrong voice(s). If we are not careful we will begin allowing the wrong influences to affect our attitude.

God tells us in Proverbs 4:23 (NIV): **"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."**

How do we guard our heart? By staying in the Word, in church, and in prayer. Our hearts are guarded when we express our gratitude to God for all He's done. God "will guard our hearts and minds as we live in Christ." We guard our hearts when we fix our thoughts on what God tells us to think about. Philippians 4:6-8 (NLT) says it this way:

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. ⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

So in April let's choose to live with an attitude of gratitude – being thankful with a readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. God bless,

Pastor Jerry



As always, thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the special mission offerings. We are pleased to report that giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering during the month of March was \$990.00.

Thank you again for your faithfulness.

April Verses of the Month

But – When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7 NLT

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

A Pinned Note from the Pastor's Wife



Quick thought: We have made it! Yes, over a year in quarantine, mask-wearing, social distancing and, of course, hand-washing!

I was looking back at FB posts I made when we initially entered the COVID-19 era, and I recognized that in those posts I had an attitude of 'we'll get through this' with the anticipation that it would be only a few short weeks. But here we are a year later. Can you believe it?

My takeaway? I pray that we have drawn closer to God in our relationship with Him. That we have thrown aside those idols we unknowingly had i.e. professional sports, Hollywood stars and professional musicians, concerts, fancy resorts, shopping and indulging, and the list goes on. I pray that we have put Christ back where He belongs – on the throne of our hearts.

Paul writes in Galatians 5:19-21 (MSG) these words:

19-21 It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

And then in vv. 22-24 (NLT) these words:

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

I pray that the lessons learned from this past year include letting the Holy Spirit change us, guide us and develop within us the fruit as described in the verses above: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May the world see us changed through the Holy Spirit because of the changed world we live in today.

Janice

Bible Study Opportunities

A lot is happening in the month of April – opportunities to be involved in the study of God's Word!

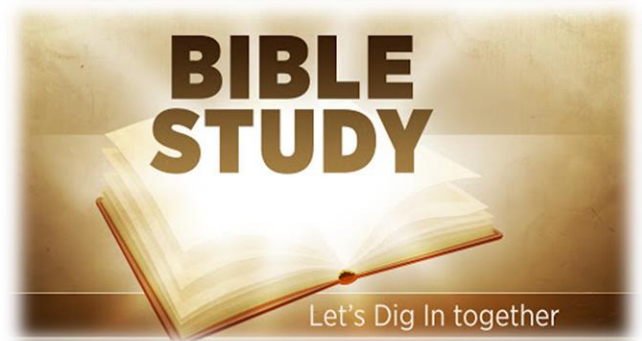
1) Starting this Wednesday, April 7th a new Bible study will begin at 6 o'clock at the church. That's right – we'll be gathering together in the Fellowship Hall for in-person Bible study. We hope you can join us.

2) If Wednesday's don't work for you then this Sunday, April 11th at 9:30 a.m. we'll be starting up our two Adult Bible Study classes. One will be led by Ruben Tomlinson and the other by Pastor Jerry.

3) And, if you like a ladies-only approach, on Friday April 16th at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Ladies Bible study at the church in the Fellowship Hall led by Debbie Lovelady.

These are all wonderful opportunities to gather and have intimate opportunities to study God's Word with others. And don't be shy, be sure to invite your friends to come along!

For more information, just call the church office at 784-1641.



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 Janice Lanford.

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



North American Mission Board

Prayer Calendar – April 2021

Shahid and Maroofa Kamal

Church Planter

South Asian Community Church
Delta, BC Canada

Pray for South Asian Community Church. We are raising up multiplying disciples among the Punjabi-, Hindi- and Urdu-speaking South Asians in our community. Pray for more South Asian Community church plants in metro Vancouver.



Guillermo and Claudia Hernandez

Church Planter

Iglesia Bautista De Kendall
Miami, FL



Pray for my family, for the ministry of the church and for the gospel to be known in and around the Kendall area, in the State of Florida, and around the world. Pray for families and church leaders to have a commitment to continue making disciples.

Steve and Toni Chambers

Church Planter

Grace City Church NYC
New York, NY

Pray for God to connect us in relationships to our neighbors in the city in order to demonstrate the gospel and to give a reason for the hope we have in Christ. Pray for expanded influence and the wisdom, boldness and opportunity to make disciples in the most influential city in the world.



Ken and Tolice Nether

Church Planter

Crossover Church
Southfield, MI



Pray that the Lord will allow us to keep meeting in the building we are currently meeting in with the hope of potentially purchasing it or by having the owners donate it to our church.