

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

October 2, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 7

Pastor's Word

October's word is "reset."

Reset means to "set again or differently." When you apply this to a binary device it means to cause the device to enter the state representing the numeral 0.

Being in this time period of COVID-19 shutdown has provided the church the opportunity to reset. To reset what it means to be the church.

We will come out of the COVID shutdown with a new opportunity to reset as to why we are a church.

The Bible is clear as to why we are the church. We are the church commissioned by Jesus Christ to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT):

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

As the church we need to reset on fulfilling the Great Commission. Everything we do as the church needs to connect with fulfilling the Great Commission. If it doesn't, we don't need to do it.

Hear me clearly ... all of our ministries need to help us fulfill the Great Commission. If they don't, we do not need them.

There is a sense of urgency to do the right thing, and to do it right. It is right for us as the church to focus on this one objective – fulfilling the Great Commission.

What we do as members of the church needs to enable the church to fulfill the Great Commission.

We are to see that people hear the gospel, and those who receive the gospel get connected to the church family, and are provided both an atmosphere and opportunity to learn to live in obedience to Christ.

First Southern Baptist Church exists to fulfill the Great Commission.

A Personal Note:

I will be having surgery on October 15th at USC Medical Center. I will be in the hospital one or two days and then recover at home 2-3 weeks. Your prayers are deeply appreciated.

Since we are recording and broadcasting the sermon, I should be able to continue with this responsibility.

Upon my recovery we are planning to move to reopen the "in person" worship service in early November. We will plan to add Bible study and prayer groups shortly following.

Pastor Jerry

October Verse of the Month

"Do you think the work of harvesting will not begin until the summer ends four months from now? Look around you! Vast fields of human souls are ripening all around us, and are ready now for reaping."



John 4:35 Living Bible (TLB)

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

North American Mission Board

Prayer Calendar - October 2020

D.A. and Elicia Horton
Church Planter
Reach Fellowship
Long Beach, CA



Pray God would give us wisdom in navigating ministry in the midst of a gang war. Pray the Lord will supply us with boldness for the gospel in our social settings.

Rick and Wendy Young
Church Planter
Watermark Church
Worthington, OH



Pray for Watermark Church as we engage in the community with the gospel, build the launch team and serve the city of Columbus, Ohio.

Rafael and Sarah Aguilar Araujo
Church Planter
Burnaby Born Again
Burnaby, BC



Pray for our leadership team as we train those who can disciple new believers. Pray as we transition into a space that allows us to continue to grow and reach our community.

Victor and Ludmila Vasconcelos
Church Planter
Celebration Church Wakefield
Wakefield, MA



Pray for Celebration Church Wakefield to reach the large number of unchurched people in the North Shore area and help them to follow Jesus as disciples. Pray we are relevant to our community.

We are still offering the following 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.

Check out the third page of this month's newsletter for information about our church's participation in **Operation Christmas Child** and how you can be a part of this exciting ministry.

PRAYERS FOR CALIFORNIA

Join us in praying for California. Join us as we pray for:

- Victims
- Firefighters
- First Responders
- Volunteers
- God to send RAIN

Operation Christmas Child

What is Operation Christmas Child?

The Samaritan's Purse project **Operation Christmas Child** collects shoebox gifts - filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items - and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.



Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 178 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

In 2020, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children in countries like Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda and Ukraine. More than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide in 2019, with more than 8.9 million collected in the U.S.

Process

Anyone can pack a shoebox. Individuals, families, churches and groups fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls.



During **National Collect Week (Nov. 16-23, 2020)**, Samaritan's Purse will collect the gift-filled shoeboxes at nearly 5,000 drop-off locations in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Learn how to pack a shoebox, view gift suggestions, and/or get your Follow Your Box label at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Do not include candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items, such as snow globes or glass containers; or aerosol cans.

Participants can donate \$9 per shoebox gift online through Follow Your Box and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

Eternal Impact

Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love.

Since 2009, more than 23 million children who have received a shoebox gift have participated in *The Greatest Journey*—a 12-lesson discipleship program. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family.

Our Church Family

Beginning the week of October 5th, shoeboxes will be available to be picked up at the church office during the hours of 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday – Friday. We will be hosting a packing party sometime in November. Watch for the date in the November newsletter. If you would like to donate items (purchased or handmade), please contact Regina at 784-1641 or email Janice at lanford_5@msn.com.



Let's do this for the kids!!