

Pastor's Pennings



Dear Church Family,

The Lord told his people that when he restored them to their land, he would direct them,

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you,
saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'"*

Isaiah 30:21

Likewise, we can count on the Lord's direction as we enter a time of being restored to the way we function as a church. People like to say we are "re-opening." Perhaps it is splitting hairs, but I prefer to say we are "re-gathering." I like to say that because we were never really closed: We continued to have times of worship and prayer. Various groups of children, teens and adults have been meeting. We have continued to support our missionaries.

I know, I know. We haven't been meeting in person for worship. The doors of the sanctuary were "closed" literally and we have only recently begun the process of re-gathering. Many questions still exist: When can we have unrestricted attendance at worship? When can our children's ministries return? When can all the Sunday School classes meet in their usual rooms at the usual times? For the answers to those questions, we will have to rely in the words Isaiah gave to Israel. We will have to be directed by the Lord for each step.

For now, we are holding worship for those

who are comfortable coming. We have taken reasonable precautions to make it a safe environment. We realize some are not yet comfortable with that. That's OK. We respect that this is an individual choice. We will continue to stream our service online. We are constantly working to improve the quality of what we send out. We appreciate your interest in joining our live stream and sharing it with your friends. We are also grateful to the Lord for the continued financial support you have given. This has truly been a blessing from the Lord.

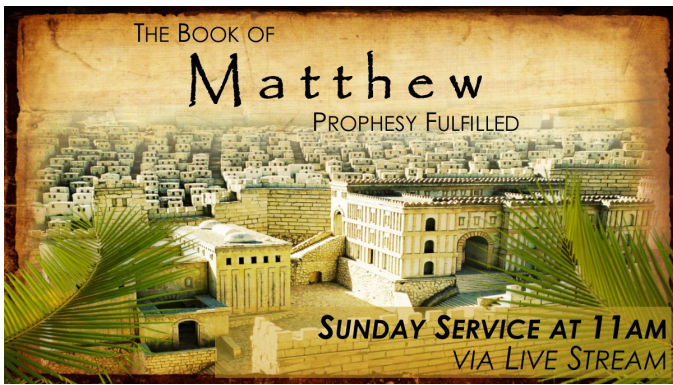
Other ministries may take some time to re-gather. Any groups involving children present a problem, from the issues of having the children practice social distancing, protecting our staff and having adequate staff to run the ministry. We have had and will continue to have some limited student ministry events.

I trust you all are also relying on the Lord's direction in each decision you make. You can rely on him, for he has promised to direct our paths.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Jim Miller

GENERAL FUND - JULY 31, 2020

2020 Budget Need	\$590,000
YTD Budget Need	\$340,385
YTD Giving Taken In	\$313,510
YTD Expenses Paid Out	\$301,577



Sunday Service at 6pm
via Zoom Video Conference

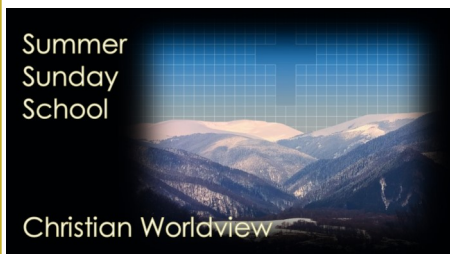


Summer Sunday School

via Zoom Video Conference

(please contact the church office for access information)

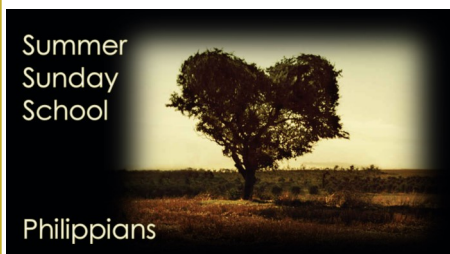
Christian Worldview



Dr. R.C. Sproul exposes the falsehood of non-Christian worldviews and shows that only Christianity can answer life's ultimate questions.

Everyone has a framework through which they interpret reality and answer life's ultimate questions. Many people are unaware of the underlying presuppositions which influence their views. In this course, we examine some of today's most popular worldviews and exposes their weaknesses. Scripture's teaching on the major spheres of life such as science, government, and literature is presented in order to help Christians establish a thoroughly biblical worldview.

Philippians



It is easy to be happy when things go well. But what would it be like to have a sense of joy that continues even in times of trouble?

Such was the deep joy that the apostle Paul experienced—even in prison. His contentment was neither dependent on circumstances nor changed by difficulty. In his brief letter to the Philippians, Paul teaches us how to live joyfully in every situation.



Re-Gathering at FBCM



Re-Gathering Reminders for Sunday 11AM Worship Service:

- Please arrive at 10:30am as it will take some time to be seated
- Be prepared for weather as you wait to enter the church building (while keeping socially-distant, of course)
- Please wear masks over your nose and mouth the entire time you are in the church building AND keep at least 6-foot social distance.
- There is NO Nursery nor Children's Ministry nor Cry Room at this time. Your children will be seated with you.
- If you have traveled to or returned to NJ from one of states on the mandatory self-quarantine list, we invite you to view the Live Stream service that is available at www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistofMetuchen/

Special Thank You to:







- Emilie Spatz - editing, formatting, and uploading all 10 videos!
- Kim Spaccarotella - planning, preparing daily crafts and recording daily craft/science/creature feature videos
- Sara and Samantha Dancer - planning and recording song videos
- Michael Spatz - planning and recording of Bible stories
- Nathaniel Mumau - planning and recording Games videos
- Anne Lai - website design and adding video links each day
- Other video volunteers - Jankowsky family, Emily Rehorn, Matt Perez, Kathleen App
- Craft prep/Student Packet prep/Registration volunteers - 17

VBS Stats:

- Registered students - 157 (140 packets picked up; 11 mailed)
- Total staff - 30 + 4 Directors

Feedback & Notes:

- We have received positive responses from parents and children that they enjoyed the program very much!
- The videos are fantastic! Make sure to watch them - available through the end of summer on our church website.
- Video slide show of participants coming soon!

	First Baptist Church of Metuchen <i>August 2020 Small Groups</i> <i>via Zoom Video Conference</i>		
	<i>Leader(s)</i>	<i>Day / Time / Frequency</i>	<i>For Whom</i>
	Ian & Sara Dancer	Select Sundays 7:30pm	Co-Ed
	Joe & Anne Lai	Aug 11th, 18th, 25th 7:30pm	Young Adults (~21-35)
	Joe & Anne Lai	Aug 14th & 28th 7:30pm	Co-Ed
<u>Contact:</u> <div data-bbox="328 978 399 1083">  </div> <div data-bbox="399 978 894 1083"> Bruce Emerson <i>email: abe7x24@gmail.com</i> </div> <div data-bbox="1045 978 1117 1083">  </div> <div data-bbox="1117 978 1458 1083"> Joe Lai <i>cell: 908-812-2681</i> </div>			

Discovery Bible Study

An intimate and friendship based interactive Bible study group to discover scripture meaning in your life through sharing, discussing and supporting one another.

- It is a small group for people to share more intimacy & friendship.
- It is absolutely safe for people to ask questions or have doubts.
- It welcomes not only Christians but also non-believers.
- There is no teaching, but we are here to share, discuss, support each other and pray.

