

Contact Newsletter

April 2021

1st First Baptist Church of Metuchen

225 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840
FBCMonline.org 732.548.4279

Pastor's Pennings

Dear Church Family,

*"Something's gained.
Something's lost."*



That's a phrase I use with the church staff whenever we consider making some kind of change. They are so used to me saying it, that they even repeat it back to me!

The truth is that change inevitably causes the loss of some things. I don't need to tell you that in light of all that has transpired with the pandemic. We have lost our usual patterns of conducting the ministries and business of the church. Some activities have been totally interrupted. Other things have been altered. This was obvious in the way we had to conduct our Annual Business meeting and election of officers.

More change is coming in the future. As you all know by now, we have a Search Committee that has been working to present a candidate for consideration by the church to be our next senior pastor. Some things will be lost in the transition, and I don't mean me! I still get the comment, "So, I understand you'll be retiring." (This mostly comes now from people outside of our regular attenders). The plan is for me to shift to the position of associate pastor, so I technically won't be lost. But things inevitably will be different.

But the other half of my saying is "Something's gained." Change is good when the gains outweigh the losses. Our focus needs to be on

what we gain, both in this pandemic season, as well as in the changes to the staff. Since the pandemic, we've been able to stay connected as a congregation. We have expanded our reach and contact with people through our live stream service. We have enabled some to take part in events who previously were prevented by time constraints or by the inability to travel after dark.

One of the things the Lord promised to Israel if they would obey him was guidance.

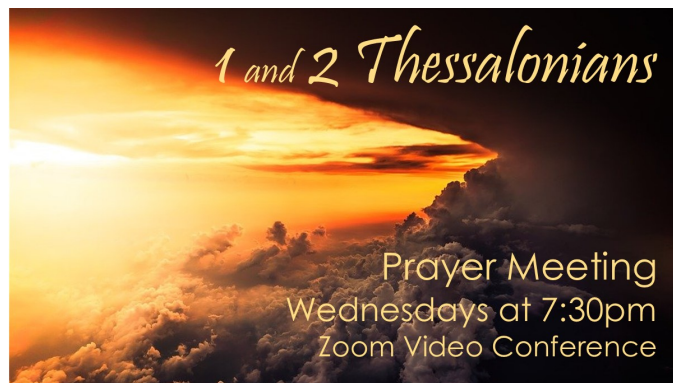
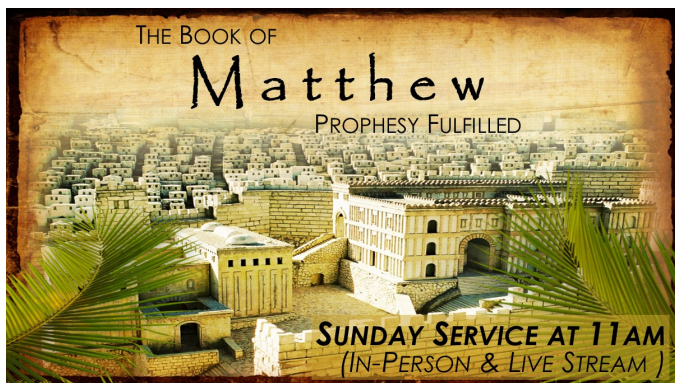
Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." (Isaiah 30:21).

God was telling them that at each fork in the road, he would indicate the way they were to take. The Lord will guide us, too, if we desire our church to follow his ways and do his work. Something will be gained, something will be lost. But all of it will be guided and planned by God.

May the Lord bless you all.

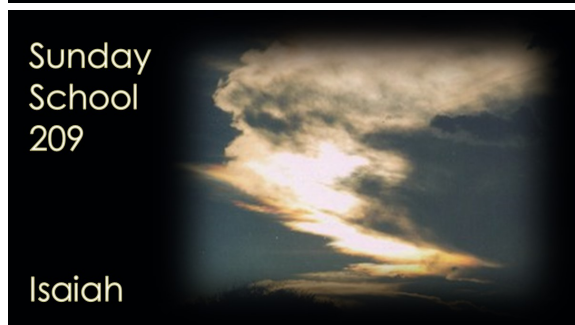
Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Jim Miller

GENERAL FUND - MAR 26, 2021	
2021 Budget Need	\$590,000
YTD Budget Need	\$136,154
YTD Giving Taken In	\$141,098
YTD Expenses Paid Out	\$134,419
Unpaid Bills	\$4,970



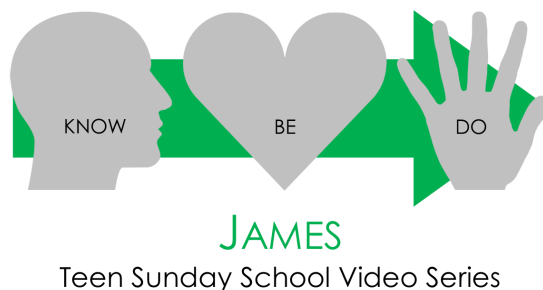
Adult Sunday School

Zoom Video Conference at 9am



Teen Sunday School

Video on Church Website



Children's Sunday School

Zoom Video Conference at 4pm



Visit **FBCMonline.org**
for more information.

Back to "Normal!"
almost...

Sunday Morning Schedule

starting April 11th

Starting April 11th

- 8:30am Worship Service In Person
- 9:45am Adult Sunday School In Person & Zoom
- 11:00am Worship Service In Person & Live Stream

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- 11:00am Worship Service In Person & Live Stream

Re-Gathering Reminders:

- Please arrive early as it will take some time to be seated
- Be prepared for weather as you wait to enter the church building Please wear masks over your nose and mouth the entire time you are in the church building AND keep at least 6-feet social distance.
- There is NO Nursery nor Children's Ministry at this time. 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 by visiting **FBCMonline.org**



Re-Gathering
at FBCM

MOPS
Mothers of Infants to Kindergarteners
2nd Wednesday at 8pm (Zoom Conference)
4th Wednesday at 7:30pm (In-Person)

Ladies Bible Study
Evening:
Mondays at 7pm
Morning:
Thursdays at 10am

CM
Be The Light
College Ministry

Renova
Young Adults
(~21 - 35)
Tuesdays at 7:30pm

YOUNG COUPLES BIBLE STUDY
2nd & 4th
Saturdays
6:30pm

DISCOVERY
Bible Study













Good Friday SERVICE
Fri, Apr 2nd
7:30pm
reservation required
for in-person attendance

Easter Service
HE IS RISEN
Sun, Apr 4th
9am & 11am
reservation required
for in-person attendance

EASTER hope
HOLY WEEK
DEVOTIONALS
Visit **FBCMonline.org** for devotionals.

Visit **FBCMonline.org** for more information.

Small Groups

<i>Contact</i>		<i>Day / Time /Frequency</i>	<i>For Whom</i>
	Andy & Patricia Kobayashi	Alternating Sundays 5:00pm	Co-Ed
	Ian & Sara Dancer	Alternating Sundays 1:00pm	Co-Ed
	Anne Lai	Mondays (Sep - May) 7:00pm	Ladies Bible Study
	Suzanne Kalish	1 st & 3 rd Mondays 7:30pm	Co-Ed
	Jonathan Castellano	Tuesdays 7:30pm	Young Adults (~21-35)
	Anne Lai	Thursdays (Sep - May) 10:00am	Ladies Bible Study
	Pastor Miller	Thursdays 8:00pm	Co-Ed
	Joe & Anne Lai	2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Fridays 7:30pm	Co-Ed
 	Ian & Sara Dancer Jon & Jen Alijewicz	2 nd & 4 th Saturdays 6:30pm	Young Couples
 	Emily Rehorn Ayub Yousaf	watch for events	College

Contact:



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Joe Lai
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