

THE HOME PAGE

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Issue No. 19



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

With the full support of our Medical Ministry Team, Deacons, and ministers, I am excited to announce that, unless the situation changes between now and then, our church will begin regathering on Sunday, June 14! Based on our interpretation of the information available to us, and our belief that we are approaching a point at which the joy of re-gathering will outweigh the frustration, we are taking steps to provide the safest environment possible.

Many of the details, logistics, and mechanics still have to be worked out, but we are proposing that the framework for our re-gathering be as follows:

1. At first, gatherings will be limited to Sunday morning worship services only. There will be no in-person Sunday School, Wednesday activities, or small-group meetings, and no child care. Even though at first, there will be no congregational singing, no use of hymnals, and no choirs, the services will still be filled with joyful celebration including solos and instrumental music, children's message, prayer, Scripture, and sermon. Since we will not be passing offering plates, we will have offering plates located at the Sanctuary entrances/exits for you to drop in your offerings as you enter or exit.
2. The first service will begin at 9:00 am and will be primarily for families with preschoolers and children. Since there will be no nursery or child care offered, preschoolers and children will be in the Sanctuary with their families. Other people are welcome to attend that service as well, but we do anticipate that this first service might have a few more distractions than the second service; and because preschoolers and children will be present, this first service will be abbreviated. We will allow at least an hour between services to clean and sanitize the sanctuary before the second service will begin at 11:00 am.
3. We will be asking those who attend to practice social distancing, refrain from physical contact (handshakes, hugs, etc.), enter only by designated entrances, exit only by designated exits, use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the sanctuary, sit only in the designated areas in the Sanctuary, use only designated areas and restrooms, feel free to wear facial coverings, and be respectful of people whose preferences for social distancing may be different from theirs. In order to maintain social distancing in the Sanctuary, seating will be limited and overflow areas in the Fellowship Hall and/or Room 300 will be available in which the services may be viewed on a large screen. Though we will be asking our volunteers to wear masks, we will not be requiring the congregation to be screened or wear masks.
4. At first, we will respectfully ask these people to consider not attending: people who deem themselves to be in high-risk categories, people who are sick, people who have a fever, and people who have been exposed to someone with Covid19 within the past fourteen days. We will continue to encourage people who do not attend to continue to participate in worship on-line and stay connected in as many other ways as possible.
5. From now on, we will continue to provide on-line worship services (hopefully live-streaming) so that those who cannot or should not attend will be able to worship along with us wherever they are. Until Wednesday evening activities resume, and maybe even beyond that time, we will continue to provide mid-week on-line devotionals.
6. Until small groups can resume their meetings in our church buildings, we will continue to encourage small groups to stay connected by Zoom meetings, phone calls, emails, etc.
7. For the time being, we will continue to ask small groups to refrain from meeting in the church buildings.
8. We will communicate constantly with our church family as we develop more plans about the gradual phasing in of other activities and the lifting of more restrictions.
9. Since there will be many new jobs to do, we will be asking for volunteers to help facilitate our re-gathering. We already know that many of our former volunteers will no longer feel comfortable serving or even attending, which will significantly diminish our volunteer base. So we will need new volunteers to direct people in the Sanctuary and overflow areas to maintain proper social distancing; others to operate the elevators; others to direct traffic inside and outside our buildings; others to clean the Sanctuary, overflow areas, restrooms, and other areas between services; and others to monitor hand sanitizing stations, etc.

(continued)

10. We will continue to produce a weekly on-line newsletter, mail hardcopies of the newsletter each week to people who do not have internet access, and communicate on-line weekly congregational care updates, information, and prayer requests.
11. In order to keep the building as clean as possible for our Sunday gatherings, we respectfully limit public access to our buildings during the week. As has been the case throughout this period of time, the church staff remains available to respond to pastoral care needs and emergencies, and to assist with ongoing ministry needs and resources.
12. In preparation for our regathering, we will be sending out a congregational survey to estimate how many people are planning to attend each service; to gather ideas, suggestions, thoughts, and feelings about our regathering; and to enlist volunteers for the various teams that will have to be filled to facilitate a meaningful regathering.

We are excited about our regathering and are determined to make it as joyful, meaningful, safe, and orderly as we possibly can. We continue to ask for your prayers, support, encouragement, understanding, patience, and cooperation as we plan and prepare for our regathering. Even though our gathering will not be the same as it used to be, we are excited about actually being together again. Stay tuned, and remain prayerful. It won't be much longer now!

On May 31, I will be preaching a sermon to prepare our church spiritually for our regathering.

Prayerfully and expectantly,
Stephen



**EARLE
STREET**
BAPTIST CHURCH

Social Distancing Guidelines

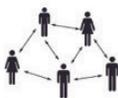
It is a wonderful thing to be able to gather together in person again, however we must be cautious and observe some social distancing for the foreseeable future in order to protect the health of our church family. Volunteers are needed during this time for sanitizing surfaces and pews, directing members to their seats, and helping members maintain social distancing. If you would like to volunteer, or if you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact Stephen Clyborne at stephen@esbcgreenville.org.



Sunday morning worship only (2 services)



1st service — 9 am (family-friendly)
2nd service — 11 am



Remain physically distant (refrain from physical contact, use sanitizer, etc.)



Respectfully ask people who are sick, have a fever or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days not to attend.



No small group meetings at the church

From the Minister Of Administration

Denise Plumblee (ext. 211) – denise@ESBCgreenville.org

The Face Behind the Camera

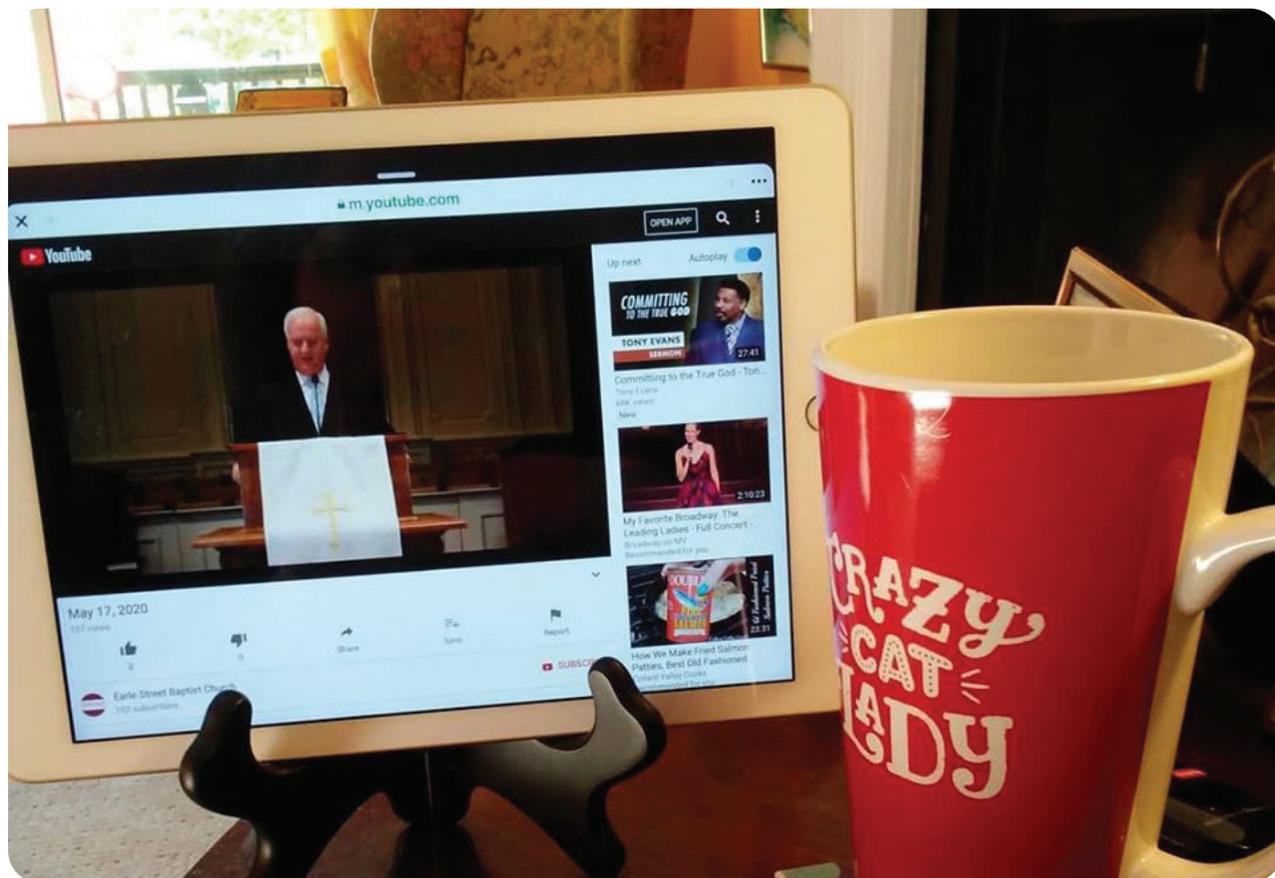
Several of you have commented how good it is, during this time of physical distancing, to see our faces and hear our voices on the weekly videos. A large audience is watching our worship service each week, enjoying the various elements including the choir performances pulled from previous services at ESBC. While the ministers are supplying the individual pieces, the service would not work without the person putting together the puzzle – the face behind the camera. Ellen Heyward, our Ministry Assistant for Media and Communications, is responsible for recording the sermon each week and then compiling, editing and producing the worship video that goes live each Sunday morning. While the finished product may last for less than an hour, it takes Ellen several hours each week to pull the previously recorded music elements and edit all of our individually recorded segments together into a worship service that flows smoothly. While the ministerial staff has become the face online of ESBC, Ellen is our one woman production crew behind the scenes. She says she has some good bloopers that she can share at some point in the future!

So on Sunday morning, or whenever this week, you are watching and worshipping with us online, think about the face behind the camera who is making the faces in front of the camera look so good!



We Want to See You!

While you have the opportunity to see us virtually each Sunday, we miss the opportunity to see you in return. Since we can't look back through the camera, we would love for you to share photos of your worship experience as you worship with us online. You can send your photo to info@esbcgreenville.org or tag us on social media. We look forward to sharing our worship experiences with each other!



JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, May 24
Ascension Sunday

Anthem: *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*
by the Sanctuary Choir (May 13, 2018)

Media Presentation: "The Ascension of Jesus
Through Art"
by Teri Parker Lewis

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

Sermon: "Clouds" by Stephen Clyborne

Anthem: *I Believe* by the Adult Ensemble
(June 30, 2019)



**LIVING THE GREATER WAY AT A DISTANCE:
GIFTS TO AND THROUGH OUR CHURCH**

These unsettling times have presented us with new reasons and new opportunities to live, love, and give "the greater way." Thank you so much for your continued faithfulness and generosity in supporting our church. You may mail your offerings to ESBC, 225 West Earle Street – Greenville, SC 29609 or give online through our website: www.esbcgreenville.org.

If you would like to give over and above your regular tithes and offerings to the church, you may designate an offering in one or more of these ways:

Benevolence Fund
Coronavirus Relief
Earle Street Academy

Prayerfully consider how God has blessed you and how you can bless others through your gifts to and through our church.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Lucy Wilkinson
May 27, 2003
17 years

CONGRATULATIONS

Brian and Brittney Clow on the birth of their son,
Callum Brian David, born May 13.
His big sister is Hadley.

Phil and Denise Plumblee upon the recent birth of
their grandson, Carter Wade Plumblee, born May 15,
2020. Carter is the son of Jordan and Sarah Plumblee.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Ralph and Barbara Aiken in the death of
Ralph's sister, Marilyn Aiken Hayes.

Knox and Judy Boggs in the recent death of
Knox's aunt, Lucretia Moss.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Kathryn Brooks Cecil Buchanan

BUDGET REPORT

Sunday, May 17, 2020

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,228
Budget Gifts.....	\$23,654
Budget Requirements to Date	\$564,560
Budget Gifts to Date	\$604,569

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Benevolence Ministry.....	\$4,498
Covid-19 Disaster Relief	\$3,214
Earle Street Academy Teachers Support	\$6,768

PRAYER VINE MINISTRY

PRAYER VINE FOR URGENT PRAYER NEEDS

There are now three ways to
access the church prayer vine.

1. Text or call Kathy Kincaid at 864-430-3521.
2. Email Frank Tedards at tedardsf@gmail.com.
3. Call Alver Maheras at 864-233-1047.