

THE HOME PAGE

Volume No. 48

November 5, 2020

Issue No. 44

THE NEXT STEP TO REGATHER This Sunday, November 8!

On Sunday, October 4, our campus was reopened for in-person worship on Sunday mornings. While some members of our congregation have chosen to return to in-person worship, others in our church family have continued to worship remotely through live streaming. We realize that not everyone in our congregation is ready to return to campus, and we promise to continue to provide worship opportunities for everyone. For those in our congregation who are comfortable meeting in person, we are moving forward with the next step in our regathering process. **And the next step starts this Sunday, November 8th.**

Worship Services

We have met in person for worship in our sanctuary for four Sundays now and God has blessed our worship services. Everyone has observed and followed the social distancing and mask protocols. Additionally, the registration system has streamlined the entry to worship services by allowing worshippers to know where they will be seated. Since this system has worked so well and has been so well received, we will continue to use the registration system and these protective protocols for worship.

Adult Sunday School

Since March, it has been inspiring to see how our adult Sunday School classes have adapted to these strange days and have continued to connect with each other and with God in new and creative ways. Now, some of our classes are ready to return to in-person gatherings. As a next step, some of the adult Sunday School classes will begin meeting on campus at 10:00 on Sunday mornings. Other classes will continue to meet as they are currently meeting. **To learn what your specific class is planning, reach out to your Sunday School teachers.**

Youth Sunday School

Our youth will continue to meet twice a week. Each Sunday morning, they will have a hybrid in-person and Zoom Sunday school meeting at 10:00. At 11:00, they are invited to stay in the Family Life Center to watch the livestream of the service. Throughout the week, our four youth small groups meet on a Zoom and in-person rotation (middle school boys, middle school girls, high school boys and high school girls).

Preschoolers and Children

Starting this Sunday, childcare will be provided for preschoolers during the 9:00 worship service with Sunday School provided during the 10:00 hour. Please note that no childcare is available for preschoolers during the 11:00 hour of worship. For children, grades 1 – 5, Sunday School will be provided during the 10:00 hour. Children should worship with their families either at 9:00 or 11:00. **For more information and instruction about preschoolers' and children's return to campus, please reach out to Karli Selz.**

A Continued Commitment to the Covenant

As we continue to move forward with the return to campus, we will remain committed to the covenant we adopted back in August. We want to recognize our need to be mutually respectful and considerate, to care for one another appropriately, and to provide a witness/model to the larger community.

2021 Proposed Budget and Summary Notes

Included in this week's newsletter is the proposed 2021 budget and summary notes. Formally presented by the Stewardship Committee, the proposed 2021 budget has been reviewed by the church staff, the Financial Oversight Council, and the Deacons. We invite and encourage you to carefully review the proposed budget as well as the accompanying summary notes. We also invite you to reach out to Greg Hammond, the chair of the Stewardship Committee, with any comments or questions that you have concerning the budget. You may reach Greg at gregoryhammond@gmail.com.

The proposed budget will be formally presented to the congregation this Sunday, November 8, in both morning worship services. On Sunday, November 15, our congregation will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed budget. An electronic ballot will be provided for members who are worshipping online that Sunday.

STAYING SAFE SO WE CAN STAY OPEN

In August our church family committed to a regathering covenant, recognizing our need to be mutually respectful and considerate, to care for one another appropriately and to provide a witness/model to the larger community. As we move into the next step of our regathering process, it is more important than ever that we all abide by the covenant so that we can stay safe and hopefully keep our campus open for in-person gatherings. Other churches in our area and state have experienced outbreaks of the virus among their staff and their congregations, causing them to have to close their campus and move all of their services online. We want to pray for these churches, their staff and congregations. And we want to do everything we can to keep our campus safe for everyone and our facilities open for our church family.

As we gather together in person, please remember to take the following precautions out of love for one another, to protect those worshipping alongside us and to protect the vulnerable in our community:

1. Since medical studies have shown that asymptomatic people can spread the disease, please bring and wear an appropriate facemask that covers both your nose and mouth. Masks are required for ages 1st grade and older and should be worn the entire time you are in the building.
2. Please abide by the social distancing guidelines as much as possible, making every effort to maintain a distance of six feet apart from others (this includes refraining from shaking hands or other physical contact).
3. Please continue to register for the worship service and location you would like to attend so we can stay within our gathering size guidelines.
4. Please refrain from coming to a service if you or anyone else you have been around shows signs of illness, particularly symptoms of COVID-19.
5. In the event you test positive for COVID-19 after attending a service, please inform the church staff of the service you attended in a timely manner.

The church staff is committed to working diligently to provide the safest environment possible while continuing to move forward with the regathering process. We ask you to join us in remaining positive in our conversations regarding these precautions even when they might impose an inconvenience to us, or require that we give up certain personal freedoms for the good of our church family.



FROM THE PASTOR Stephen Clyborne

The Election

It is important that you know that I am writing this article before the election, without knowing the outcome. In fact, for all I know right now, we may not even know the outcome of the election by the time you are reading this article. But my message to you is the same, regardless of the outcome. Pray as never before for our country and its elected officials. Pray that the lofty ideals of our nation will be achieved: that we will be one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Don't give up on that prayer. Do not place your trust in any political leader or party, but in God and God alone. Trust God to do for our country what only God can do.

Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Very soon, we will be entering a season of Thanksgiving, which, in our church, is also a season of stewardship. The two go hand-in-hand. The season of Thanksgiving is an opportunity for us to look back and reflect on our blessings - - to "count our blessings, name them one by one" (as the old hymn says). Make your plans now to join us for our church-wide Thanksgiving service which, this year, will be a pre-recorded worship video featuring music, prayer, Scripture, and brief messages from all of our six staff ministers. The Thanksgiving worship video will be accessible on Wednesday, November 25, and anytime after that. The entire service will be brief, and we are hoping that you and your family will find time in your celebrations to watch it together. Even in these strange times, especially in these strange times, we have so much for which to be thankful.

But, as I said, thanksgiving leads to stewardship. One emphasis focuses on the blessings of the past, and the other casts our gaze into the future. In just a few days, our church family will be turning in our pledge cards to represent our commitment to keep God's promise alive in our church in 2021. You have always been so faithful and generous in your support of our church's missions and ministries. And in these uncertain times, our commitments seem even more important than ever before. It is not too early to pray about how generous you can be to support our church.

Thanksgiving and stewardship go hand-in-hand. As you reflect on the ways God has blessed you, pray about the ways you can be a blessing.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Sunday, November 8
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:1-5

Sermon Series: YOU ARE HERE

Sermon: “**You Are Here, But So Is God**”
by Stephen Clyborne

Solo: *Praise the Lord, He Never Changes*
by Janice Hinnant

CONGRATULATIONS

Hank and Kim Johnson on the birth of their grandson, Reece Carter Wynn, born on November 4, 2020.

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED

Hugh Badger Jonathan Cothran Tine King
Miles Rizzo Jerry Sizemore Mary West

BUDGET REPORT

Weekly Budget Requirements.....	\$28,228
Budget Gifts (this week)	\$20,255
Budget Requirements to Date	\$1,242,032
Budget Gifts to Date	\$1,189,219

From the Minister Of Music and Worship

Janice Hinnant (ext. 202) – janice@ESBCgreenville.org

Preschool Choir, Music Makers Choir, and Young Musicians—We have gotten off to a great start with our virtual preschool and children’s choirs! If you were not able to participate last week, it is not too late! Parents, if you didn’t receive the information, or you have questions, please contact me, and I will make sure your child gets signed up!

Wednesday, November 11

- 5:15-5:45 pm: Music Makers Choir will Zoom with Rosemary Cureton
- Anytime: Preschool Choir will have a download lesson from Rebecca Keck
- 6:00-6:30 pm: Young Musicians Choir will Zoom with Debbie Blume

Earle Street Ringers—I will see you in your small groups at your appointed times this Sunday!

Youth Choir—I am looking forward to seeing you this Sunday! Rehearsal is from 3:30-4:00 pm in the sanctuary. Masks are required, and you will be spread out in the pews, not the choir loft. Please come up the front steps and directly into the sanctuary, not through the welcome center. See you Sunday!

From the Minister To Preschoolers and Children

Karli Selz (ext. 209) – karli@ESBCgreenville.org

VOLUNTEERS

In order for us to be able to move forward with preschool and children’s programing, we will need an adequate number of volunteers. Since many of our beloved longtime Sunday School leaders are unable to continue due to COVID concerns, we will need extra hands to make childcare available on Sundays. If you are interested in volunteering on Sunday mornings, please contact me at karli@esbcgreenville.org.

From the Minister of Youth and Recreation

Lucy Wilkinson (ext. 212) – lucy@ESBCgreenville.org

YOUTH CHRISTMAS GREENERY SALE

Ends this Sunday, November 8th

This year the youth are selling greenery only from Granddaddy’s Trees. Unfortunately, the supplier wasn’t able to get trees. Pickup is on Sunday November 29th or you can have them delivered for an additional cost. If you have any questions, please contact me!

Project Host Food Drive

Earle Street Academy will be collecting items for Project Host during the month of November. Project Host is a local food pantry on Academy Street that serves the needs of our Greenville Community in several amazing ways. They believe that “food insecurity can only be addressed by the whole community and engage the people of Greenville in every step of the process.” This year has created a unique set of needs for Project Host as they navigate how to make and distribute meals to the community while keeping everyone safe and healthy. Most meals must be made in lunch bags, with individual bagged foods like chips, crackers, water bottles, etc. Boxes for donations will be located at the Preschool Entrance and the Main Entrance Welcome Center on Sundays. Donations will also be accepted during the week in the Main Entrance Welcome Center.

EARLE STREET ACADEMY

FOOD DRIVE FOR PROJECT HOST

Nov. 1- Nov. 24
Drop off items on the preschool floor

Email:
Mackenzie@esbcgreenville.org

ITEMS NEEDED:

- large canned veggies
- bagged salty snacks (chips, goldfish, etc.)
- fruit cups
- cracker packs
- cheese sticks/sliced cheese
- small raisin boxes
- powder drink packets for individual water bottles
- sandwich sized Zip-Lock bags
- napkins
- canned tuna
- short noodle pastas
- sauces (pasta, taco, BBQ)



BASKETBALL SIGNUPS CONTINUE
End This Sunday, November 8th

[Click Here to Register!](#)

SUPPORT EARLE STREET ACADEMY WHILE YOU GROCERY SHOP!



Do you shop at Publix?

It's a great time to help our school while you get your groceries! Our preschool is a participant in the 'Publix Partners.' When you check out, enter your phone number on the keypad and our school will benefit from a percentage of your purchase! If you need help setting up your account, please contact Shanna Johnson or contact the church office. Thank you for your continued support of our weekday preschool program!

WORSHIP {VIRTUALLY} WITH US

Live Stream of Worship Services

Our worship services will be live at both 9:00 and 11:00 am and then archived for viewing online at a later time. If you are not familiar with viewing videos on YouTube, simply search for YouTube.com on your internet source. Once you reach the YouTube home, search for Earle Street Baptist Church and our channel will show up.

Phone Streaming Service

Just call 732-ESBC (3722) and you can listen to the recorded service from the previous Sunday morning. We encourage you to call the number and join us for worship!

WORSHIP {IN-PERSON} WITH US

Since we are observing social distancing guidelines, the seating capacity in our sanctuary is limited to approximately 30%. The registration links for both services go live each Wednesday morning and remain live until Friday evenings at 6:00 pm. Buttons for the registration links are located on the home page of our web site. **If you are unable to make a registration for any reason, we would love to still have you join us for worship. Please come to the Welcome Center doors and check in at the outside podium. We will do our best to accommodate you as the space allows on that particular Sunday.**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX COLLECTION

Here in the middle of a pandemic, children around the world need hope and joy more than ever. And our Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection is now underway! Empty shoeboxes will be available for you to pick up at the Welcome Center. You may pick one up as you come to worship on Sunday mornings or come by the church office during the week to get a box. You may also return your filled shoebox as you come to worship or drop it off at the church office during the week. **All completed shoeboxes must be returned by November 15.** For instructions on how to pack a box and a list of accepted items, visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>.

Build a Box Online

If you are unable for any reason to pick up a shoebox and purchase the items yourself, you can pack a box online this year! Simply visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/> for easy and simply instructions on how to provide a box and bless a child around the world without leaving your home.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our church will be taking a group to the Charlotte OCC processing center on Tuesday, December 1. We will be working the 10:00 to 2:00 shift with plans to leave Greenville at 7:00 am. Space is limited to 15 people. Social distancing will be observed on our buses and masks must be worn at all times while on the buses. Additionally, Samaritan's Purse has safety protocols in place including temperature checks prior to entering their facility and facial coverings must be worn at all times while in their building. Please contact Mary Arrowood at 246-7059 for more information or to sign up for this trip.