

Faith@Home: Connect

Faith@Home: Connect is a way for the FBC Thomson family to remain connected to one another and experience community during this period of social distancing. For pastoral updates on church meetings and functions, please visit our COVID-19 Updates page.

We have provided the following opportunities and resources for connectivity based on our Discipleship Pathway.

Come to Worship

Sunday Morning Worship: Join us digitally at 10:45 AM as usual for worship. Listen on WTHO 101.7 FM. And we will also offer a video broadcast of the service, which will be available on various platforms. Watch Facebook, the website, and your email for more details. An abbreviated Order of Worship with sermon notes will be emailed on Friday and posted to both the church's website and Realm. It might seem strange to sing along to a computer or television, but we encourage you to engage with the music and prayers as best you can while observing/listening from home.

Sunday Evening Bible Project Watch Party on Facebook: On Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM, pastor David will host a Facebook watch party of a selection of Bible Project videos. Gather your family to watch some of the new videos by the Bible Project and engage in discussion. Watch the church Facebook page for the start of the party!

Online Giving: While we are in uncertain financial times, it is as important as ever for us to trust in God's providential care and to give so that the Kingdom's work can continue. We are still doing ministry, supporting missions, helping with disaster relief, and we still have bills and staff to pay. We encourage you to mail or drop by the church office your tithe and gifts. We also have online giving available on our website and via the Realm Connect app.

Video Devotionals: Using Facebook Live, your pastors will give you a brief devotional, time for prayer, and announcements on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. These videos will be brief 6-7-minute words of encouragement and provide important updates on the life of our church. We also want to hear from you! These are meant to be interactive. So, watch, comment, ask questions. Maybe you'll be inspired to do a video for others to be encouraged! I can't wait to see how creative we can get in actually using Facebook to do some good!

Holy Week Devotionals: Unfortunately, we have had to cancel this year's community-wide Holy Week lunches at Thomson First United Methodist Church. We are exploring ways we can still observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as Easter Sunday together. We will let you know our plans in near future. In the meantime, we will provide daily devotional materials and videos for Holy Week. Again, watch for more details.



Grow in Groups

Adult Sunday School: We still plan on having Sunday School. During the week, we will post information about the lesson to our website, and on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM, one of our adult Sunday School teachers will teach the lesson using Zoom Videoconferencing. You have to be invited to Zoom by email for it to work, so please check your email. Zoom gives everyone an opportunity to see and hear the lesson and engage in discussion. Classes are welcome and encouraged to use their Facebook group or other digital means to stay in touch with each other and go through the weekly lesson together.

We also encourage all of our Sunday School classes to call and check on each other throughout the week. Pray together over the phone. Meet needs as best as you can. And if you become aware of a need you can't meet, contact the church office. We will do all we can to serve one another throughout this season.

Children's Sunday School: Remember watching Saturday morning cartoons as a kid? Well, now your kids can watch Sunday School...on Saturday mornings! At 9:30 AM on Saturdays, Ben Tarver and Candy Beggs will work together using Facebook Live to greet your children, do some teaching, and have some fun. Lifeway has made the videos and teaching materials for our children's Sunday School available for free for you to access and watch from home. So, following the Facebook Live teaching time, log onto my.lifeway.com to watch the videos and download materials to work through with your children. Ben Tarver will be contacting all our children's SS members with detailed information to create and log-in to the my.lifeway.com account.

Youth Sunday School: Ben will be reaching out to the youth to determine the best way they would like to connect on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM for a time of study and prayer together.

Wednesday Night Adult Studies: The Heart of God's Story group will continue to meet online using my.lifeway.com to access videos and at 7:00 PM using Zoom to discuss that week's study. The Women's study group is working on a similar approach. These groups are being contacted about how to finish their studies.

Wednesday Night Team and Tiny KIDS: We are working on setting-up some fun, interactive challenges that kids (with their parent's help) can do and share online with each other, as well as getting memory verses out to them. On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM one of the leaders will do a video for kids to watch and stay connected with their Team/Tiny KIDS leaders and lessons.

Elevate: Ben will also engage the youth in some interactive games, challenges, and discussions on Wednesday night using a platform the youth will help him select.

Faith@Home Center Online: Just like the Faith@Home Center in the Atrium, the church's website has lots of great resources for families of all kinds. And we are adding more resources on there right now to offer parents especially lots of ways to help their children and teenagers stay connected to church, growing in their faith, and learning about God's world. We also want to offer ideas for how you can spend time together and pass the time "stuck at home" in ways that doesn't involve technology. Check it out regularly!



Serve in Love

Phone Visitation: The staff and deacons are each being assigned 15 families among our resident church members to call and check on each week. We will be helping keep people engaged with our church family, praying together, discovering needs, and identifying those willing and able to help others. Perhaps you would be willing to help us in the following ministries of service. If so, contact the church office or one of the pastors.

Grocery Shopping: If you or someone you know needs help with shopping of any kind, please contact a pastor and we will mobilize a response for any need in our church.

Care through Cards: Parents, let your children write letters or make cards to send to some of our elderly and homebound church members for encouragement. Contact the church office for a list of names and addresses. You can also send letters and cards to first responders, hospital staff, and doctors to thank them for all they are doing right now to help our communities stay healthy and safe.

Care through Prayer: Please pray during this time of crisis for our church and church leaders, for our communities, states, and country and their leaders. These are difficult days. This is uncharted territory for all of us. Let us be patient, give each other the benefit of the doubt, and pray for wisdom and direction.

We will use Facebook groups and online meetings for several of our ministry teams, such as the Action Teams, LILY Moms, the deacons, and others. While it isn't ideal, technology allows us to do more during situations like this than ever before! Also, while our Cornerstone Preschool is unable to be open, our teachers are putting together packets for students and making plans for video lessons and daily storybook times on Facebook Live.



Go and Tell

Who's Your One? We want to encourage you to take this time to pray specifically for your "One" and to reach out them through a phone call or a text. Maybe you are able to even meet with them in person. What better time to show them you care than now. Find out if they have any needs. Offer to pray with them about this crisis and how its impacting them or causing them worry. Share your story! Invite them to worship with us online! And of course, contact Pastor David and let him know of your progress with your One and any decision they may be ready to make.

We hope these opportunities will help you stay connected and refreshed in the Lord during these challenging days. As we know, God is bigger than we think! His purposes will always be successful. Grace and peace to you all.