

# FIRST EDITION

Newsletter of First Baptist Church, San Mateo

MARCH 2020

## PASTOR'S LETTER

As I write this, people throughout the world are reeling and in living in fear of the Coronavirus. This virus is spreading quickly and every day we learn that more, & more people have become infected. We also learn that a growing number of nations are being significantly impacted by outbreaks of the Coronavirus. For many, life as they have known it appears to have been changed forever.

I would guess as you read these words, many of you are as surprised as I am by the devastating & deadly impact this rapidly spreading virus is having. To be honest, my emotions have ranged from simple concern to fear. I am certain that you have also been affected and impacted by these events.

Since the outbreak began I have had the opportunity to talk to quite a few people, both believers and unbelievers. In my discussions I discovered that many people have questions and are searching for answers. I have also found that most people are afraid and fear that things will only get worse.

As I reflected on the potential impact of this virus I realized that no matter what one's religious beliefs, or view of God are, everyone is going to have to answer one key question: How am I going to live my life?

It seems to me that how you answer this question is going to play a significant role in determining the quality of your life, as well as your emotional state in the future. Where will you place your trust? Where will you find the resources to live? Will you place your hope in people? In government? In yourself and your own abilities? Or will you give yourself wholeheartedly to God.

Unfortunately, some people will respond to this growing crisis by allowing fear, anger, discouragement or other emotions to take control of their lives. While one's response to the Coronavirus is important, I believe that the most important thing in

## PASTOR MARC HEINZ

your life will be how you respond to God. Because that will determine how you live your life in relation to friends, family, and of course, God Himself.

Even those who know the Lord struggle have to deal with the reality of death & disease. We like all people face the challenge of deciding who and what we are going to believe in. This is the challenge that every person must face. The difference is that as Christians we have hope, and help available if we will simply choose to trust in the Lord, rather than focusing on the events themselves. As we face the future, my hope is we do so by choosing to trust that the Lord really will care of us and our brothers & sisters throughout the world. I pray that these recent events will cause us to draw closer to God and to one another. Ultimately my prayer is that God will bring glory to Himself & new life to many in our world through this recent outbreak.

Folks, we can't assume that we have all the answers, but we can believe God does and trust that He has shared all we need to know through His Word, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let's learn together because it is God's plan, that we be a united family of believers who are strongest and most effective when we live our lives by serving and relying upon one another.

Let's focus on Jesus Christ, the One who died in our place to make full payment for our sins and who was raised from the dead by God the Father. May we choose to live in and through Christ who is our all-in-all.

May we always remember that "God is our refuge and strength..." -Psalm 46:1

We've had a great start to 2020. Winter Retreat was a powerful time away reevaluating God's purpose for our lives as we studied Matthew 21-25. We've been continuing our Big Questions of life Series on Tuesday nights. Currently we are now discussing the Historical accuracy of the Bible, examining archaeology, history, and cultural evidences outside the Bible to corroborate the biblical narratives. So many in our society will proclaim that the Bible is a book of myths and outdated ideas. It's our goal to encourage and equip our students with the truth about the evidence for God's existence and the historicity of the Bible. We've also been continuing our study of the Old Testament on Sunday mornings during our Youth Sunday Service at 11:00 am. Then we are inviting all ages to come join our college ministry as we will be studying biblical spiritual gifts, on March 1 and 15.

For fun, we had a Super Bowl Party on Feb 3, and then we took about 13 students on our President's Day Ski trip to Dodge Ridge, which amazingly is still open. We had a great time together learning to ski and just spending time building memories.

Please continue to pray for our youth who face lots of challenges on their school campuses, at work, and in our community. It's our continued goal to equip and encourage our youth to grow in their personal relationship with Christ and make Him known in the world.



**WEEKLY YOUTH EVENTS**

**Youth Service**

Sundays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm

**College/Young Adult Fellowship**

Alt. Sundays, 12:30-2:00 pm

**Youth Group (Junior High & High School)**

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm

GET READY FOR YOUTH SUMMER CAMP!

## First Baptist Youth Presents: Hume 2020

June 21 - 27

Sign-ups start April 1

Cost: \$600.00 (Scholarships available)

One of the many things we love about Hume Lake Summer Camp is the opportunity to get away from the distractions that young people face on a daily basis and have an incredible camp experience. When you come to Hume, you will hear the gospel, be challenged through scripture, engage in powerful worship through music and get some time alone and with your church to know what God is doing in your life up here at camp. Hume Lake has high-energy recreation allowing kids to be kids.

If you allow it, a week at Hume can and will change your life forever.

Sunday through Saturday is a cost of only \$600.00, and that includes all transportation, meals, lodging, retreat materials, and events. Scholarships are available.



### WORD OF THE MONTH: HELP

**עזרה** ezrah

help, helper, assistance

**Key Verse: Psalm 46:1 (NASB)**

"God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble."



## AWANA UPDATE

## RON & CATHY THOMAS

Truth & Training (T&T) club is a sub-set of the larger Awana program. T&T is divided into boys and girls groups and focuses on students in Grades 3-6. Weekly club meetings are based on fundamental Bible principles designed for students who are familiar with Christianity as well as those who do not come from a faith background. This year's curriculum focuses on concepts such as who God is, what the Bible is, who Jesus is, and how that truth is evidenced in our daily lives through the Fruit of the Spirit.

In October, the T&T girls gathered for a fall party at the house of Awana leader Gavlene Mitchell. The girls got to know each other better as they played games, made crafts, and ate lunch. This May, the T&T girls club will have their annual Spring Tea. Like the fall party, this is an opportunity for all T&T girls to socialize and play games while eating tea sandwiches and sipping tea from china cups.



## TEEN CHALLENGE DRIVE UPDATE

## SANDY MURRAY

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at FBC who contributed items for Teen Challenge during the month of February. Your response was overwhelming. It reflected your generosity and willingness to reach out to those in need. Verta Andrews and I will be delivering the items in the next week or so. The particular Teen Challenge group we support is located in the Alum Rock Park area of San Jose. Teen Challenge is an organization which exists to help teens and young adults recover from addictions. Their focus is on

Christ and their programs for recovery depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.

In addition the students are taught God's word to provide each one of them with the guidance they need. Treatment is important but transformation is the key. Most of their programs last from 12-18 months. The students, as they are called, live in the facility and they are in constant need of supplies. Thank you so much for all you have given. They are so appreciative. Love in Christ, Sandy Murray

## MARCH EVENTS

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### Spiritual Gifts Class

March 1 & 15

### BASS Conference

March 5-7 · Redwood Chapel, Castro Valley

Use Express Pass Code **BKHXQ** at [bassconvention.org](http://bassconvention.org)

### Movie Night

Friday, March 27 · 6:30 pm

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 28 · 8:30 am

March 1 Heidi Reyna

March 27 Eddy Bray

### Don't Forget:

**Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8**

**Spring Forward!**