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Senior Pastor.....Chris Gravning  
Deacon Chairman.....Mathew Simons  
Co-Music Directors.....Carolyn Smithwick & Phil Huey  
Secretary.....Rachel Gregory  
Custodian.....Joyce Jack

Access to sermons and videos/content  
posted during the week:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1mhDC9ucVQCcxKqd2REUJA>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MacedoniaBaptistChurchEdenton/>

[mbcedenton.com/sermons](http://mbcedenton.com/sermons)

MBC Office Hours  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Spring Forward!  
Daylight Saving Time  
Begins Sunday,  
March 14



Deacons of the Week:

7<sup>th</sup> Carroll Skinner  
Tom Bass

14<sup>th</sup> Curtis Burum  
Lonnie Coker

21<sup>st</sup> Kevin Goodwin  
Matthew Simons

28<sup>th</sup> Heath Hughes  
Elmer Overton

Annie Armstrong Easter  
Offering will be collected  
throughout the month of  
March. Designated offering  
envelopes are available at the  
church. You can drop off,  
mail in, or give online  
through our website.



As many of you know, I caught the COVID virus last month. Thankfully, it was very mild for me and it did not spread to anyone else in my family or in the church when we worshiped together that Sunday when I didn't know I had it yet. I think this speaks positively to why some of the measures that we have been doing have been helpful and needed. I am thankful for you that have been willing to roll with the punches and abide by those guidelines, whether you have chosen to be in-person or online with us throughout this time.

What I wanted to write about was one aspect of the virus that I didn't think about until I had it, and it was the isolating nature of it. I had to isolate in one room in the house and one bathroom that was connected to it. I had to do this for 10 days. I couldn't be anywhere else, and if I had to leave the room, I did it with a mask and very quickly, wiping down anything I touched. During that time, I couldn't be around my wife. I couldn't hug her, kiss her, or even be close to her. The same was the case with Lily and Riley. The only way I could see them was if they opened door, sat at the staircase that leads up to the door, and talked to me while I sat clear on the other end of the bedroom with a mask on. For 10 days. That was terrible. That first day I was able to come out, I hugged Bethany, gave her a big kiss and just enjoyed being near her. The same with the girls. I chased them around the house, tickled them, and just enjoyed being near them. And it has been so much worse for many others. Our God did not create us to be constantly isolated.

I hope this reminds us of something. We *need* presence and interaction with others. As that relates to the church, as we approach a year of having dealt with this pandemic, I want to remind you that when the time comes that we can gather as we used to more normally, when this virus has waned and those that are more at risk are able to gather in worship, that we take gathering with the church family seriously. Some may disagree with me on this, but online church cannot replace the physical gathering of believers. For now, we have to consider it as a stop-gap during this pandemic. It can even be used as a tool to introduce people to what the church is like. But when the pandemic is over, we need to emphasize that we need to be with each other, to be near our church family, to be together. That's the expectation of the member of the body of Christ. The Bible reminds us of this truth. **"<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."** – Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)

We need those face-to-face interactions, those handshakes, those hugs, those moments of presence with God's people. We need our Bible study groups, our Sunday School classes, our times of fellowship. We need it to grow, to encourage, and to hold each other accountable. We need the church to be equipped and on mission together to reach the world with the gospel. I pray the pandemic has taught us this one truth: *we need the church.* –Pastor Chris

### Restarting Sunday School - March 7<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Church Family, It has been a long time coming, but we are finally ready to come back to Sunday School! It will look a bit different, but these will be temporary beginning steps as we move toward opening up more fully our ministries here at Macedonia Baptist. Sunday School will begin on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The time will be from 10:10am – 10:50am, between our two worship services. Here is what it will look like:

First, our children's and youth Sunday School classes will be meeting in their normal classrooms, while encouraging safe environments as best as we can with our children. Nursery – 12th grade classes will meet in their respective rooms as they did before. Masks are encouraged as per our current guidelines, but we understand that at times there will need to be breaks and that for our very little ones it may be difficult to keep them, so we won't require masks for them to attend. We feel as though if our children and youth are able to be in classes at school, we can certainly have them in Sunday School. Please make a decision that best fits your family. Our teachers are ready and willing to teach our youth and children and we look forward to getting them back into classes, hearing the Word of God!

Second, we will not have our normal Sunday School classes just yet for adults, but instead, we will have one large adult class in the Fellowship Hall. Seats will be spread out like they were when we did worship services there last year before we moved into the sanctuary. At this moment, our classroom spaces make it impossible for us to keep social distancing guidelines. This is a starting point to get back to being part of Sunday School, and as time goes on with more vaccinations being distributed, we will update Sunday School policies and begin coming back to our regular classes in the future. Our current health guidelines we use for worship will be used for this Sunday School time in the Fellowship Hall. Your teachers will be based on a rotation schedule.

Lastly, your Sunday School books for the quarter are available on the table, located in the hallway by the water fountain in the education building (beside the nursery). Don't let the books go to waste! Please come and grab those before or after services, and if you are not able to make in-person services, please come by and pick them up during office hours or call the office if you need someone to drop yours off at your home. We would be happy to assist you in that. Though it's not just like it was before the COVID pandemic, it is a start and we are excited to start offering Sunday School again here at MBC. Anytime we can gather and learn from God's Word is a special time where God can do great things as He speaks to us through His holy Word.

In Christ, Pastor Chris Gravning and Sunday School Director Matthew Simons



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

### MBC Family wishes HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following who were born in March!

2 Brenda Jordan 4 Paulett Lane 5 Virginia Lupton, Bethany Gravning 6 Chris Venters 8 Nancy Goodwin 11 Kay Castelloe, Sarah Belch Lee 12 Mike Layton 14 Johnny Perry 16 Robin Strickland 18 Mariah Goodwin, Stephen Lowe 19 Caroline Goodwin, Tiffany Hufton, Reta Jones, Courtney Perry 20 Joanne Ambrose 21 Jordan Harrell, Morgan Harrell 28 Brenda Toppin 29 Cullen Baker, Shannon Bond 30 Tim Belch 31 Sheila May, Jim Respass, Donna Evans

### Edenton Chowan Food Pantry Collection

MBC will be feeding the children this month their favorite: Macaroni and Cheese. Same place, same time. Any additional Items are welcome.

The youth council decided to have an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, 3/28. We are taking an offering on 3/7 for purchasing prefilled eggs for the hunt. CIA and youth will be going to classrooms on 3/7 also. Deadline for Centrikid and Centrifuge sign up is 3/7.

**March 14** - Daylight saving time begins, Deacons meeting

**March 17** - The Helen Mitchell Bible Study will meet in the fellowship hall with Brenda Toppin at 1:00 pm.

**Business Meeting 7:30 pm**

**March 21** - April Newsletter info due

**March 27** - Fellowship Hall Reserved

## Thank You

Thanks to everyone for calls, cards, and prayers around the time of my sister Dorothy's passing. Those thoughtful gestures mean a lot to me. -Carolyn Forehand

Thank you to everyone for calls, cards, and visits after my sister Catherine Smith's passing.- Lillie Mae Stroud

To my church family, thank you so much for the many valentine cards you sent to me. What a wonderful surprise. - Sarah Waff

Hello Church Family, I hope everyone is well. I would like to thank the church for the fruit basket and food lion gift card. I appreciated it. God bless you all -Eveline Britton

Dear Church Family, We are so thankful for our loving church family. Thank you so much for all acts of kindness shown to us before and since Lloyd's hospitalization. The phone calls, texts, cards, and food were much appreciated, but most of all thanks to all of you for the prayers. We miss all of you, and we hope that soon things will be so that we can go back to church. We're so thankful to Pastor Chris for the online worship. It has meant a lot to us to be able to worship online. -Lloyd and Betty Parrish