

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Focusing on Worship as a Family in Every House

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. (Acts 5:42, NKJV)

When you read about the advancement of the Gospel through the book of Acts, you see “and his or her house was saved.” The COVID-19 pandemic forced the church to realize that discipleship and worship take place and are fostered at a person’s home. They are not a series of classes or for Sunday only.

We will take this lesson and use it as we bring services and activities back to the church campus. There must be a focus on building a Christian life and how that works in everyday life—i.e., home, work, etc. We will do this by retooling and focusing on living like Christ before our family and bringing the family together to put God first. An example is teaching family devotionals on Sunday night when we return.

We must take the lessons from the pandemic to do ministry in the midst of the troubles and adversities we face in this world. By enhancing and building our family worship, this will do the same for our corporate worship as we come back together and give us all an opportunity to give testimonies about what God is doing in and through us.

For His Glory,

Bro. Chad Phelan

11 Reasons to Worship with Your Family

By Jason Helopoulos

March 8, 2011

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/11-reasons-to-worship-with-your-family/>

Worshipping together as a family was not something that began easily for us. Even as a pastor, I felt awkward in the beginning leading my family in worship (especially in singing!). However, it has now become part of our family life. No, it is more than just part—it is at the very center of what it means for us to be a family. It is now a joy, and the moments are not so awkward as they once were. A Christian home must be centered upon Christ, and if it is centered upon Christ, then it will be filled with worship.

Ebenezer Baptist Church

6028 Ebenezer Rd.

Greenbrier, TN 37073-5764

Phone: 615-643-0637

Fax: 615-643-0639

Email: office@ebenezergreenbrier.org

Pastor: Bro. Chad Phelan

Music Minister: Anighya Crocker

Youth Minister: Larry Cantrell

Preschool Director: Bobbie Morgan

Children’s Director: Pam Hardy

Senior Adult Directors: Barbara Freeman
& Vicki Clark

Ministry Assistant: Brenda Kelch

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Most evangelical Christians are aware of the importance of secret and corporate worship, but fewer have even heard of family worship. What is family worship? It is pretty simple. Tonight, sit down with your family on the couch or at the dinner table. And then . . . pray together, read the Bible together, and sing a great hymn of the faith together. There are many reasons for doing family worship, but let us just mention a handful. Family worship:

1. **Glorifies and Honors God** – This is the primary and essential reason.
2. **Centers the Home** – Family worship has the wonderful effect of centering our homes upon Christ.
3. **Encourages Christian Character** – The home may be the hardest place to live out our Christian lives. There is a reason that Paul addresses each member of the Christian family in the household passages of Ephesians 5-6 and Colossians 3. It is a sad reality that we often manifest the character of Christ more consistently at church, in the workplace, and in the community than we do in our own homes. If there is somewhere that I must especially be on guard against sin, the flesh, and our adversary, it is at home. Casualness and familiarity is a ready playing field for sin.
4. **Encourages Peace in the Home** – We are sinners living under the same roof in tight quarters. That is a recipe for disaster or at least pain! We know our family members, and we know them well. Family worship helps us confront our sin and understand its effect upon one another. For example, it is awfully hard for a father to lead his family in worship when he has just yelled at his wife. If he is going to lead his family before the throne of grace, he will first have to ask for forgiveness from his wife. And she will find that it is hard to worship unless she willingly forgives him.
5. **Binds the Family Together** – In our fast-moving society there are few things that a family does together daily. Even eating a meal together these days seems like a feat. What if your family gathered together daily? And what if that gathering was for worship? It would become the most important and central aspect of its life. Your entire family will come to the realization that no matter what else we do or don't do, the most important thing that marks us as a family is that we are a worshiping family submitted to Christ. And that bond is an eternal one that strengthens the family in all its other endeavors.
6. **Provides Common Knowledge** – As the Scriptures are read together in family worship, the family grows in common knowledge. Conversations around the dinner table or in the car will change dramatically as you have a common knowledge from which to converse.

7. **Trains Children for Corporate Worship** – Family worship provides the added benefit of training our children for corporate worship. As they sit and listen to the Word of God, hear prayers, and sing hymns these elements in corporate worship will take on a new meaning. The value of this cannot be overestimated.
8. **Encourages our Children in Christ** – They will see that for mom and dad worship is not just something they do on Sunday mornings. It is something at the very core of their being, important enough that they center their home upon it. We are not raising children just to be moral and competent people, but worshipers of the triune God.
9. **Reinforces Spiritual Headship** – Family worship reinforces the biblical framework of the family as it looks to the father (or the mother if she is single) as the spiritual leader of the home. As a father leads his children and wife before God's throne nightly and disciples them in the things of Christ, they will increasingly look to him for spiritual leadership. This has the added benefit of reinforcing with the father/husband the spiritual mantle that is upon his shoulders.
10. **Provides Systematic Discipleship** – As a pastor I often have individuals approach me with a question about how to minister to their children or spouse in a specific area. Usually they are concerned about a particular sin or struggle in their family member's life. In this way we serve as firefighters rushing to extinguish this issue or that. At times this is needed, but it should not be our regular course of action. Systematic discipleship is a much better approach and is aided by family worship. Daily family worship will provide a strong foundation that is built upon hearing the Word daily, praying daily, and giving thanks daily. It takes time to build a strong house. It is an unsteady house that is the result of the carpenter running from shaky wall to shaky wall to hammer a nail in here or there.
11. **Provides Generational Testimony** – One of the greatest benefits of family worship is the actual passing on of our faith to the next generation. We are teaching our children how to read the Scriptures, pray, confess their sins, sing unto God, and more. Our children will leave the home with memories of this daily worship. They will have learned by watching and participating how to search the Bible, intercede for their future children, and rejoice in God. And by God's grace and mercy they will carry it to the next generation of our families.

Choir and Congregational Singing

By Anighya Crocker

After studying the University of Colorado report and the American Choral Directors Association recommendations, we will not bring choir back at this time and ask that you wear a mask when singing.

These are the findings of my research and observations:

1. The American Choral Directors Association recommends choirs of more than around 20 people should not rehearse in an enclosed space smaller than a concert hall.
2. ALL singing must be masked. This comes from the University of Colorado report.
3. Singing cannot take place in any formation where an individual is in front of another singer, unless those people are separated by at least 6 feet. This would mean we would have to work out some sort of flat 2/3 row singing formation.
4. Singing cannot take place in any indoor space for more than 30 minutes. This is when the aerosol count in the air is considered to be as high as it can safely be. When the 30 minutes has been reached, all people must leave the room for at least 30 minutes to allow the aerosol to settle.
5. The feasibility of Zoom (online) rehearsals is extremely tenuous. It requires hours of digital audio engineering (creating scratch tracks, click tracks, rehearsal tracks, etc.). Second, each chorister would have to have some sort of digital workstation (DWS) installed on their computer if we hoped to do any sort of check-ins with them. Finally, Zoom itself is not a viable platform for singing rehearsals. Instead, we would have to attempt to have every chorister download a platform like Soundjack that allows for real time playing, but it is extremely complex and requires both an external microphone and headphones.
6. Even with all the previous precautions for in-person rehearsals, Vanderbilt and UC study concede that this only decreases the risk of exposure. The risk is still so present that Vanderbilt doesn't mandate that we attend choir in-person; any of us could request to attend digitally and that would have to be met. For this reason, our choristers would have to accept that there would be a real risk of them catching the virus, and I'm just not comfortable with that.

Children's Ministry News

Children's Sunday School classes and Children's Church are returning September 27. We will still share a Children's Church video each week.

We are joining the community trunk or treat again this year at the park on October 30 from 6-8 p.m. Decorate your trunk, bring candy to give the children.

There are plans to have Santa and Mrs. Claus visit the church in December, and the children will have a Happy Birthday Jesus Party in December.

Relaunch Committee

We want to thank everyone for being considerate of others during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since we have not had anyone with a fever, we are no longer checking temperatures. However, we ask that you stay home if you have a fever or feel sick.

Please wear a mask when you are:

- not able to practice social distancing
- walking past someone
- going to and from your seat
- singing

Once you get to your seat and are socially distant, you may take off your mask. Again, if you choose to sing, please wear a mask while singing.

With your help, we can all continue to enjoy meeting together and ministering to others. We have plans to bring everything back but also minister to the well-being of our members. You will see a big change in Sunday nights to foster mental, social and spiritual health during this time.

- **Sunday, Sept. 20:** Sunday School returned to the church campus. If a class desires to meet online or at an alternate time, they may do so.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 14:** Wednesday night returns to the church campus.
- **Sunday, Oct. 25:** Movie in the Parking Lot | Time TBA | Popcorn & Drinks Served
- **Sunday, Nov. 29:** Sunday night returns to the church campus. We are going to call Sunday night Family Night, and it will start at 5 p.m. This will be a fellowship time with an activity and devotional. Everyone will meet together in the fellowship hall.
- **January 2021:** Sunday night Discipleship Training & PM service return.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2- Janice Cohea 4- Joe Fugate 4- Cameron Simpson
4- David Orum 8- Wendy Schussler 10- Carrie Twist
14- Lillian Bedwell 14- Taylor Campbell-Oberg 15- John Twist
16- John Foote 18- Tiffany Brown 20- Robert Dobbs
21- Karsyn England 22- Bro. Chad 24- Curt McQuiston
26- Jenny Kaukas 26- Nathan Schussler 28- Michael Kelly
28- Debi Wilson 30- Tammy Suter 30- Carey Sons
31- Randall Dobbs

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

4- Rusty & Mala Riddle 5- Jerry & Sonya Henry
7- John & Kitty Foote 22- John & Jane Bush
23- Eddie & Michelle Suter 29- Michael & Christina Adcock

DEACON OF THE WEEK

October 4 Eddie Suter
October 11 Gary Suter
October 18 John Twist
October 25 Wayne Semore

CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of:
10/4- Thom & Debi Wilson
10/11- Dianne Evans & Kathleen Woody
10/18- Sonya Henry & Amber Hudgins
10/25- Claudia Bales & Marion Dobbs

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

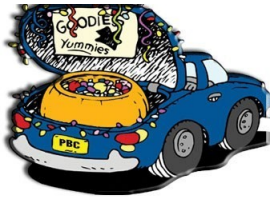
Sunday School 9 AM
Morning Worship 10 AM
Children's Worship 10 AM
Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study 7 PM

EBENEZER HAPPENINGS:

October 6 Deacon's Meeting 6 PM
 Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM
October 13 Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM
October 14 Business Meeting 7 PM in Church
October 20 Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM
October 25 Bank Sunday
 OCC Kickoff
 Movie in the Parking Lot - Popcorn and
 drinks provided
October 27 Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM

Community Happenings:

October 11 Gospel Singing @ Church at Grace Park 9 AM & 10:30 AM
October 12-16 Fall Break for Robertson County Schools
October 18-25 Week of Prayer for RCBA
October 19 ODPC Chili Challenge @ Center 6 PM
October 20 RCBA Annual Meeting 3-8:30 PM Springfield Baptist
October 30 Community Wide Fall Festival 5-9 PM
 Trunk or Treat is 6-8 PM



Community Wide Fall Festival,
Saturday, October 30
at Louise Martin Baseball Park,
5-9 PM
6-8 PM Trunk or Treat

A fun event for the entire family

We need **VOLUNTEERS** to be part of the Trunk or Treat and represent Ebenezer. Decorate your car, and bring candy to hand out to the kids.

The Elect Sunday School Class is collecting the following items for the homeless children and youth in Greenbrier: individual **food** items, especially fruit cups, breakfast bars and macaroni and cheese. They do have access to a microwave, so individual non-perishable microwavable items are welcome. Thank you for your donations. Please drop the items off at church.

The Master's Table is a Soup Kitchen that serves a hot meal to anyone who comes by from 10-11 AM, Monday-Saturday. Right now, they have some needs: three compartment to-go boxes, ground beef, napkins, plastic forks (Sam's sells these for \$10 per 600), spaghetti pasta, and spaghetti sauce. If you bring these items to church we will get them to the Master's Table. Thank you for your continued support!

Women's Night of Prayer November 2 @ 7 PM



Cedar Hill Baptist Church

Featuring: Prayer Warriors in the Workforce



In October Operation Christmas Child would like to collect items so we can make up different kits. The following are some suggestions:

Sewing Kit: thread, straight pins, safety pins, needles, tape measures, ribbon, fabric remnants, buttons, blunt scissors (small safety scissors)

Fishing Kit: fishing line, rubber lures, bobbers, weights, hooks, stringer

First Aid Kit: band-aids, q-tips, individual alcohol pads, safety pins, tweezers, nail clippers, empty, cleaned prescription bottles

Beads/Jewelry Kit: pony beads, colored beads, colored embroidery floss, elastic cord, fishing line

We could use some draw string bags, cleaned, empty prescription bottles, empty Crystal Light containers, empty Altoid containers, etc. to put the completed kits in.

If you have any of these items or others please drop them off at church.

This year OCC has an online tool that will allow you to provide a shoebox without ever leaving your home. For \$25 you can prayerfully select items, include a personal note and/or picture as well as track where it goes. Our goal is 250 shoeboxes. Visit our website, Ebenezergreenbrier.com, or Facebook page, facebook.com/ebcgreenbrier/, for a link.

Kickoff is Sunday, October 25. Get those shoeboxes ready!

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Anighya's 5 years	5	6 Deacon's Meeting 6 PM Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM	7	8	9	10
11	12 Robertson County Schools Fall Break 10/12-10/16	13 Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM	14 Business Meeting 7 PM back in church	15	16	17
18 Week of Prayer for RCBA 10/18-10/25	19 ODPC Chili Challenge @ The Center 6 PM	20 RCBA Annual Mtg 3-8:30 PM Springfield Bapt Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM	21	22	23	24
25 Bank Sunday OCC Kickoff Movie in the Parking Lot Time TBA	26	27 Relaunch Committee Meeting 6 PM	28	29	30 Community Wide Fall Festival 5-9 PM Trunk or Treat 6-8 PM	31