

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COURIER

## FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION



### OUR STAFF

Rev. Rod Beardsley - Senior Pastor

Debbie Dine - Secretary

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### **Office Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8-5

Office is closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 pm

**Truth:** *The only truth that offers eternity*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Do I study God's Word daily and share the experience?

**Agape Love:** *Deep love requires great action*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Do I willingly invest my life so others are closer to Christ?

**People:** *People are precious and worth sacrifice*

Philippians 2:3-4

Do I love the least of these like Jesus would?

**Integrity:** *Live like Jesus...it makes a difference*

Titus 2:7-8

Do I live out God's unique standards so the world notices?

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## Live a Life that Matters

Sunday services: 8:45 and 11 am; Sunday School for all ages: 10 am

### CSFBC MISSION STATEMENT

"Infusing TRUTH to produce selfless followers of God."

## PASTOR ROD'S MESSAGE

## Supreme Court Affirms the Freedom of Houses of Worship

The disruption wrought by the coronavirus pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of American life including school, work, entertainment, and even worship. While many leaders have tried to address concerns over public health while maintaining civil liberty, some overzealous authorities have exploited the pandemic by unfairly discriminating against churches. However, a series of recent decisions from the Supreme Court suggest the tide is finally turning in the fight to preserve religious freedom in America.

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus in the spring, 99 percent of churches ceased in-person gatherings. However, as the pandemic wore on and as many states relaxed restrictions, churches around the country were held to a different standard. While abortion facilities, tattoo parlors, and liquor stores could re-open, many states insisted that churches remain shuttered. Eventually, as churches in certain parts of the country continued to face unfair treatment, many went to court seeking relief. One case, *Calvary Chapel v. Steve Sisolak*, went to the Supreme Court. The case dealt with Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak's Directive 021 which outlined COVID regulations for social activity. In particular, the directive restricted casino capacity to 50 percent of the fire code cap. Notably, however, churches were limited to a 50-person limit (regardless of fire code capacity). Over vigorous dissents from Justices Alito and Gorsuch, the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, ruled against the church and in favor of governor's restrictions.

However, the outlook for churches changed dramatically in October with the elevation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. In fact, in one of her first cases, *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo*, the Supreme Court heard a case from New York churches and synagogues challenging the constitutionality of Governor Andrew Cuomo's restrictions on religious gatherings. In a 5-4 decision, the court ruled in favor of the churches, finding that the governor's orders violated the rights of New York City's churches and religious groups.

In his concurrence, Justice Gorsuch noted, "[E]ven if the Constitution has taken a holiday during this pandemic, it cannot become a sabbatical." Issued the day before Thanksgiving, the decision in *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo* is already having a ripple effect on similar cases around the country.

For example, on December 3, the Supreme Court instructed the Ninth Circuit to revisit its decision against Harvest Rock Church. The church had contested Governor Gavin Newsom's ban on indoor singing and had been denied a preliminary injunction in July against the governor's statewide orders that limited gatherings including worship services.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court issued similar orders in other cases. First, the court ruled in favor of a church in Colorado that opposed state-imposed capacity on worship limits. The case concerned High Plains Harvest Church which was limited at 25 percent of their posted attendance or up to 50 people (whichever was smaller). The church objected to these arbitrary limits and sued in the fall. However, a circuit judge in August denied their request. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court instructed, in a 6-3 decision, the circuit judge to reconsider the case in light of the recent decision in New York.

Furthermore, along with the Colorado case, the Supreme Court granted relief to a church and synagogue in New Jersey. In this case, Reverend Kevin Robinson and Rabbi Yisrael A. Knopfler had filed a suit against their governor, Phil Murphy. Robinson is pastor of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in North Caldwell, New Jersey, and Knopfler is a Rabbi of a synagogue in Lakewood, New Jersey. These church leaders objected to New Jersey's COVID regulations that limited houses of worship capacity to 25 percent or 150 individuals (whichever is less), while other social gatherings could take place with less stringent limitations. In fact, schools, some businesses, and even media centers can operate at 100 percent capacity. Like the Colorado case, the lower court (in this case the Third Circuit) must now reconsider the case in light of *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo*.

Continued on next page.



**DEACONS CORNER**

Bringing things full-circle, and underscoring the impact Justice Amy Coney Barrett is having on the Supreme Court's protection of religious freedom, yesterday the Ninth Circuit [issued a unanimous ruling](#) granting relief to Calvary Chapel, the very same church the high court had ruled against earlier this year before Barrett was seated. The Ninth Circuit's reasoning was that the Supreme Court decision in *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn* (which Barrett helped decide 5-4) "compels the result in this case."

While there is great optimism about the new vaccines and hope that the pandemic will soon be under control, it is important to safeguard America's liberties. These recent decisions by the Supreme Court to protect the First Amendment rights of churches and religious groups is a welcome sign that the court is recognizing, in the words of Justice Gorsuch, that the Constitution does not take a sabbatical, and that the religious freedom of all Americans must be safeguarded. – Breakpoint Dec 16 2020

*Jason Red*

Parents:

Print off this page and your kids can color the picture!

God Bless



## Deacon's Corner Devotional

With the large shift in power within the federal government toward the radical left, how are Christians to respond? It's normal to have very serious concerns about the direction that the left wants to take America. Followers of Jesus should take strong exception to many of the goals of the Democratic party platform. But there is also the viewpoint out there that we are justified in despising or loathing these people because of how despicable many of their objectives are. The question is, "is this an appropriate response?"

Consider the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (ESV): "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior."

Are Biden, Harris, and many others of similar mindset unworthy of prayer? Well, in one sense, yes. But are we any different? Aren't we all unworthy? Yes, we are (Romans 3:10-12). If not for the redemptive grace of God, we would all be lost. And don't forget that Paul's exhortation of 1 Timothy 2 was written during the reign of a demented butcher named Nero. Recently I was confronted with the following questions: Have I (we) lost sight of the message of redemption? What about the transforming power of the Cross? What about my (our) own sin, transgressions, iniquities? Am I really so righteous, so full of justice and truth? The honest answer would be a clear no.

It is easy to pray for judgment rather than for God's mercy and redemption. It's easy to wish "Psalm 109:8" results upon certain people. There does appear to come a point in time when intercession for an individual or people group is no longer useful (Jeremiah 7:16-); however, until clear direction from the LORD comes in this regard, we have no excuse for not consistently laboring in prayer for those in authority...all of them, not just the ones that we like.

Let us do everything we can to oppose the destructive agenda of the left, standing up, speaking out, pushing back, and voting accordingly. No compromise. But we must do this while also remembering the mercy that has been extended to us, and that within all of us there is a mixture of good and evil. We are all created in the image of God, and fallen, and thus in need of redemption. Back to 1 Timothy 2: "...God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their wicked ways and live (Ezekiel 33:11). May this be our fervent desire also!





## Health Ministry

### What does the Bible say about stress?

#### Question: "What does the Bible say about stress?"

**Answer:** The dictionary defines *stress* as "physical, mental, or emotional strain or tension." Some stress is necessary and even good—such as the physical strain we put on our muscles in order to make them stronger. But when we talk about "stress," we are usually referring to excessive or negative mental or emotional strain or tension. While "stress" is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, Scripture does speak to things such as anxiety, worry, and trouble—things we often associate with stress—and gives us clear answers on how we should deal with them.



Everyone suffers from stress at one time or another. How we naturally deal with it depends in large part on who we are. For some, emotional stress causes physical illness. Others might become hyper-productive. On the other hand, some people under stress shut down mentally and emotionally. And, of course, there are a variety of other responses. Stress is a common human experience, particularly in a world where the demands for our time and attention seem to be unending. Our jobs, health, family, friends, and even ministry activities can overwhelm us. The ultimate solution to stress is to surrender our lives to God and seek His wisdom regarding priorities as well as His enabling to do the things to which He calls us. He always gives enough, so we need not be defeated by stress.

One common cause of stress is financial. We stress over money because we never seem to feel that we have enough. We worry about being able to pay all our bills, many living paycheck to paycheck. Or we become consumed by materialism and, in turn, stressed-out about maintaining our lifestyle. Some become stressed over finances because they don't trust God to provide the basic necessities of life. But Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ... And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" ([Matthew 6:25, 27](#)). It is true that we are called upon to be good stewards of money and to provide for our families ([1 Timothy 5:8](#)), but we must never forget that God is ultimately our Provider. If we are His, we need not fear that He will abandon us. On the other hand, there are those whose financial stress is caused more by materialistic greed than it is by true need. Materialism inevitably leads to stress because, when we seek the world's goods, we have fallen for the "deceitfulness of wealth" ([Mark 4:19](#)), the lie that such things relieve stress and lead to happiness, contentment, and joy. They do not.

We might also find ourselves stressed when facing a hardship or trial. [James 1:2–4](#) counsels, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." When we encounter hardship, we can succumb to stress, or we can view it as a means by which God can strengthen our faith and mold our character ([Romans 5:3–5](#); [8:28–29](#)). When we redirect our focus on God, we find comfort in our sorrows and strength to endure ([2 Corinthians 1:3–4](#); [12:9–10](#)).

No matter the type of stress in our lives, the starting point for dealing with it is Jesus Christ. Jesus offers us great encouragement in [John 14:1](#): "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." We desperately need Him in our lives. We need Him because He is the only one who can give us the strength to cope with the troubles in our lives. Believing in Him does not mean that we will have a trouble-free life or that we will not feel overcome by stress in our lives. It simply means that a life without Jesus Christ makes coping with stress an impossible and often debilitating task.

Believing leads to trusting. [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) tells us to "trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Leaning on "our own understanding" often means adopting the world's ways of relieving stress—things like alcohol or drugs or mindless entertainment. Instead, we are to trust His Word as our ultimate guide to a stress-reduced life. David says, "I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears" ([Psalm 34:4](#)). David knew that by seeking the Lord and sharing his troubles with Him that perhaps he would find favor with Him. The Lord in turn answered him and calmed him down.

## Health Ministry Continued

Perhaps no passage in Scripture better captures how to handle stress than [Philippians 4:6-7](#): "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." The Lord tells us not to be anxious about anything, but rather to turn everything over to Him in prayer. Lifting our burdens and concerns to a holy and righteous God daily will mitigate or eliminate the stress in our lives. [Psalm 55:22](#) tells us to cast all our cares on Him because He will sustain us and never fail us (see also [1 Peter 5:6-7](#)). Jesus Christ offers peace if we come to Him with our worries and concerns. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" ([John 14:27](#)).

Stress of all kinds is a natural part of life ([Job 5:7, 14:1](#); [1 Peter 4:12](#); [1 Corinthians 10:13](#)). But how we deal with it is up to us. If we choose to try to do it on our own, we will not find lasting relief. The only way we can consistently and successfully deal with stress is with Jesus Christ. First, we must believe in Him. Second, we need to trust Him and obey Him. We should trust Him to do what is right because His ways are always best for us. Disobedience and sin can produce stress and cut us off from the only means of peace and joy. By obeying His commandments we reap the blessings of true contentment from a loving God. Finally, we need to seek His peace daily by filling our minds with His Word, lifting all things to Him in prayer, and sitting at His feet in awe and reverence. It is only by His grace, mercy, and love that the stress in our lives can be managed.

Another fun coloring page!



## Dieselberg Thailand Update

Dear Faithful Friends at First Baptist Cambridge Springs,

NightLight could not open after New Year, because of a resurgence of COVID. Bangkok is a "red zone" which means schools and workplaces are shut down (except essential businesses). Working from home is encouraged. And that is what NightLight will have to do.

Thailand's numbers are nowhere near yours in the U.S. We understand that and we are praying for you all daily. We also understand that your continued support may be difficult given the circumstances where you are, therefore we thank you all the more for your ongoing, sacrificial and generous giving during this difficult time. Thank you!!

Back to the "red zone" . . . This most recent shutdown which some say will only be for 2 weeks, others say it could be several months again, has a big impact on what we do in several ways:

1. Women who have a past with drugs, alcohol, and/or prostitution do NOT do well with isolation. Please pray for "J" and "W" - both relatively new believers who are not doing well since the shutdown. It is easier to resist temptation when you are around other followers of Jesus than it is when you are alone at home.
2. NightLight Chapel and Song Sawang Church taking place online really lacks the intimacy that is meant to be in worship gatherings. The challenges of technology do not help either. Watching my face melt into a distorted image online and hearing my voice go into a deep slow-motion sound does NOT enhance the preaching of God's word!!
3. The making and selling of NightLights products for both local and international sales becomes challenging in many ways. We are so thankful that God has provided for NightLight during the first wave of COVID last year and we trust God will do the same during this second wave. Keeping these women employed keeps them off the streets!!

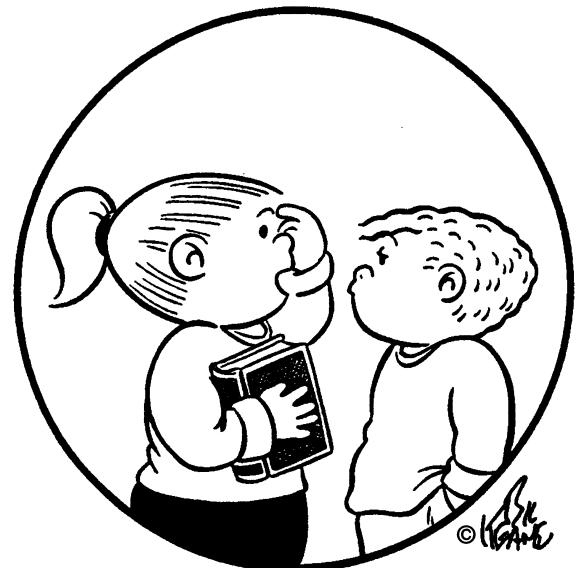
Thank you for praying with us here in the "red zone" even as we pray the same for you.

Let's pray together that the "red zone" becomes a "Red Sea" moment - where we stand with only one option - to see the deliverance from our God! Amen! NightLight is at the Red Sea. "J" and "W" are at the Red Sea. The bars and go-go's are closed leaving hundreds of women to take to the streets in our immediate area - they are at the Red Sea. Thank you for standing with us and praying with us "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today." Exodus 14:13

Blessings,  
Jeff



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Conscience is e-mail your head gets from God."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

*For Your Information*



Tuesday February 2nd  
Prayer Meeting  
7 pm

Please be sure to keep the Search Committee in prayer as they continue with the process of calling a new Senior Pastor.

**Save  
the  
Date**



**Saturday June 12, 2021**

Cambridge Springs Carnival  
Grounds

**Pastor Rod's Retirement  
Party**



More information as the date approaches.



Sunday School Resumes Sunday  
February 7th at 10 am for all ages.



## PRAYERS

**The Grieving:** The Held Family, Leona (Red) Smith, Lorraine Acklin, Bonnie Boylan, Brian Crowl, Betty Held, Tom Crowe, Lucas Crowe, **Janet Beanland Family, Cathy Williams, Larry Klemm, Bill Hodge, Cindy Boylan, Tony Jardina, Jamie Rodgers, Justin Gaines**

**Cancer:** Chris Peterman, Richard Belfiore

**Health Issues:** Rose Cummings, Randy Gorske, Lee Manross, Judy Santey, Reed Gage, Matthew Tenney, Red Smith, Sue Davis, Joyce Cory, Keith Bancroft, **Kay Gage, Pat Yenny, Penny Hale**



**Rehabilitating:** Janet Wise, Patty Yenny, **Kim Marzke, Heidi Mumau, Sandy Mumau, Dale Snow**

**Nursing Home:** Bill Hodge

**Military:** Dillon Lang, Keith Bentley, Howard VanMatre, Adam Alm, Jimmy Humes, Wesley Fleischer, Christian Ross, Austin Shearer, Wyatt Fleischer, Tyler Hauf, Bryce Kirk, Wyatt Doubet, Alex Baer, Joe Boyer, Brayden Barnett

**Newborns:** Jonathan Held, Lydia Baer, Carter Longnecker, Audrey Bentley

**Guidance:** Brian and Lynette Smith, Justin Fuller-Gaines

**College Students:** Mark VanMatre, Stephen VanMatre, Katie Duda, Jordan Anderson, Neely Colvin, Clayton Dingle, Zachary Dingle, Austin Jones, Jillian Risjan, Cori Schmidt, Ryan Shaffer, Alex Wheeler, Brenna Rindfuss



### Mask schedule

February 7th: Mask Optional in Sanctuary

February 14th: Mask Required in Sanctuary

February 21st: Mask Optional in Sanctuary

February 28th: Mask Required in Sanctuary

Sunday School begins again on Sunday February 7th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Open 8-5	2 6 pm Search Committee 7pm Prayer Mtg.	3 Office Open 8-5 6 pm Search Committee Meeting	4 7 pm Praise Group Practice	5 Office Open 8:30-5	6      Pray for Pastor Rod
7 Mask Optional in Sanctuary  Communion 10 am Sunday School starts again 6 pm Youth Group	8 Office Open 8-5 6 pm CE Board 7 pm Trustees	9	10 Office Open 8-5 6 pm Search Committee Meeting	11 7 pm Praise Group Practice	12 Office Open 8:30-5 No School CCA & Penncrest	13      Pray for Pastor Rod
14 Mask Required in Sanctuary 6 pm Youth Group  	15 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Deacons No School CCA & Penncrest	16	17 Ash Wednesday Office Open 8-5 11:30 pm Ministerium Noon Lenten Devotion FBC 6 pm Search Committee Meeting	18 7 pm Praise Group Practice	19 Office Open 8:30-5	20 8 am Men's Breakfast      Pray for Pastor Rod
21 Mask Optional in Sanctuary 6 pm Youth Group	22 Office Open 8-5 6:30 pm Board Chairmen Mtg. 7 pm Advisory Board	23	24 Office Open 8-5 Noon Lenten Devotion St. Anthony's 6 pm Search Committee Meeting	25 7 pm Praise Group Practice	26 Office Open 8:30-5	27      Pray for Pastor Rod
28 Mask Required in Sanctuary 6 pm Youth Group						
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## February Birthdays and Anniversaries



18th: Gunnar Gage  
Jonathan Held  
19th: Lillian Oakes  
20th: Jacob Jones  
Matt Hovis  
21st: Janet Wise  
Wyatt Burchill  
Gabriel Baer  
23rd: Troy Shearer  
24th: Brooke Pabon  
28th: Kim Marzke

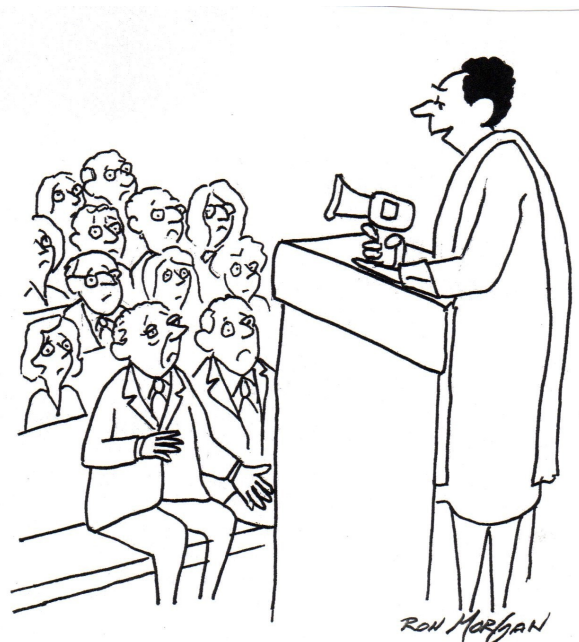
1st: Wylie Hovis  
5th: Ryker Baer  
6th: Joshua Mumau  
8th: John Dine  
9th: Ed Kovschak  
Abigail Lowther  
10th: Andrew Held  
Jacob Held  
13th: Rodney Schmidt  
Logan Hovis  
Edward Sellers  
14th: Val Newell  
15th: Jolisa Baer  
16th: Morgan Shaffer  
Ginger VanMatre  
Mark Peterson  
Brandon LaVan  
17th: Jack Parsons



No Anniversaries known

If your birthday or anniversary aren't listed please call the office to let Debbie know so that we can celebrate along with you.

Children's Church Schedule  
February 7th: Jennifer Howell  
February 14th: Debbie Baer  
February 21st: Ken Hale  
February 28th: Dennis Baer



"Sorry about the airhorn, Carl, but you were starting to nod off."

**Sunday January 3rd we prayed for our church officers of 2021. Keep them in prayer as they go about doing the business of the church. Here is the list of all officers so that you can be able to pray specifically for them.**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>
Moderator	Randy Gorske
Church Clerk	Laura Stone
Treasurer	Jan Cory
Financial Secretary	Wendy Gardner

**Advisory Board Members at Large:**

Justin and Jenn Howell  
Ken Hale  
Dwight and Kay Dunton  
Bill and Linda Roth  
John Belfiore

**Deacons:**

Tom Gage  
Larry Klemm  
Jamie Gardner  
Tony Jardina  
Ken Shaffer  
Justin Held

**Deaconesses:**

Kay Gage  
Mary Beth Manross  
Carol Thumm

**Trustees:**

Darrell Kania  
Karen Burchill  
Paul Sellers  
Jordan Joslin  
Dan Viglione

**Christian Education:**

Chairperson	Stacie Klemm
Secretary	Jen Shaffer
Children	Cindy Billingsley
Child Evangelism	need one
Adult	Adam Jardina
Youth	Dennis Baer



March Newsletter articles due into the office by February 22nd. Thank you, Deb