



First Baptist Church

Greensboro

November 23, 2020

Dear First Baptist Family:

This season of gratitude and tradition, like so much of our lives, is different this year. Many of us are experiencing smaller tables, quieter homes, bigger questions, along with growing uncertainties and fears. We are aware of so many things that we don't have. Amidst that, I find I'm even more aware of what I do have, and the good gifts of God that I experience in my life. Our community of faith is one of the most essential.

Along with all of our pastors and leadership, I am so grateful for you and your generosity, commitment, and continued care of one another and our neighbors throughout this time of challenge and change. These last 8-plus months have taught us a lot about what is most essential, and we have learned again the essential role that our church has to play in God's work of love and justice on earth as in heaven. We have experienced it throughout these months in all kinds of ways: community amidst loneliness, worship amidst isolation, creativity and music amidst limitations, soulful connection amidst social distance, care for neighbors amidst mounting needs and anxieties. The Church — and our church in particular — has an essential call in this world, especially amidst needs so apparent and acute.

These *Essentials* formed our Stewardship theme this year throughout the month of November. It's now the time when we consider the ways we will commit to God through the ministry of our church in the year ahead. **Enclosed you will find a 2021 Commitment Card. Please read it and begin to prayerfully consider what you will commit of your finances, talents, time, and energy.** Generosity is one of the greatest resources we share as a congregation. But even more, it's one of the most important aspects of our faith. What we give is tied to who we are, and who we are becoming as followers of Christ. This is an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our individual commitments to God and to our community of faith. It is also an opportunity for families to consider their collective commitments, and for parents to share with their children about the ways they are called to the ministry and care of our church.

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I hope you will return the enclosed card to the Church Office by mail, or by dropping off by ringing the bell at the covered entrance by the Atrium during our current open-office hours (10:00-2:00, Mon-Thurs). **You may also submit your commitment online at fbcgso.org/commitment-2021.**

Please join my family and me in prayerfully considering our gifts to God and the life and ministry of First Baptist Church Greensboro in this critical time. And I hope you are reminded once again that your generosity, your faithfulness, your leadership and service, and your continued commitment and care are so important to the life and ministry of First Baptist Greensboro — in fact, they're essential.

Together in Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan".

Rev. Alan P. Sherouse
Senior Pastor