

Webinar: COVID Re-Entry Plan: 2nd Wave

October 21, 2020, 7 – 8 pm

Attendees

Twelve churches and at least 24 attendees participated in the webinar. Churches in attendance included Bible Light Holiness Church, Ebenezer AME, First Baptist Winnsboro, Little River Presbyterian Church, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, River of Life Church, Shiloh Presbyterian Church, St. John Baptist Church, St. Mark Baptist Church, St. Matthews #2, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, and White Oak Baptist Church #2.

Webinar Recording

A video recording of the webinar is available here: <https://youtu.be/D74J2VxdMol>

Welcome & Introductions – Dr. Sara Wilcox

Dr. Sara Wilcox began the call at 7:05 pm & welcomed and thanked churches for joining. All who were on the call at that time introduced themselves and signed in by typing their name and church in the chat box.

Successes & Challenges with Re-Entry Plans

Dr. Wilcox began the discussion by saying that the call was an opportunity to follow up on the July webinar by sharing successes & challenges churches have had with their church re-entry plans. She shared a list of online resources related to COVID-19 and churches:

- Fairfield Forward – Link to the July 2020 webinar and current webinar will be posted - <https://fairfieldforward.org/>
- SC DHEC <https://scdhec.gov/covid19>
- CDC - Community and Faith-Based Organizations(Updated May 23, 2020) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
- World Health Organization – Practical considerations and recommendations for religious leaders and faith-based communities in the context of COVID-19 (Updated April 7, 2020) https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/practical-considerations-and-recommendations-for-religious-leaders-and-faith-based-communities-in-the-context-of-covid-19?gclid=CjwKCAjwIbr8BRA0EiwAnt4MTntANmEqiB75i6Xef8I1fwd5FuoERNOBFPa0vzriTA0nPZGtKBF5NRoC5tQQAvD_BwE
- Many denominations have guidelines and guidance posted. An example of one is from the Episcopal Diocese of Upper SC (many useful links and resources): <https://www.edusc.org/blog/covid/>
- The University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center has a handout of Resources to support health during COVID-19 pandemic, including links to online activity breaks, etc. <http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/>

Dr. Wilcox launched a Zoom poll to ask how churches on the call are worshipping. The highest number reported in-person outdoor services, followed by online or combined online and in-person.

Attendees from four churches shared their experiences with their re-entry plan and their decisions to delay holding in-person, indoor worship.

- Pastor Perry Williams (White Oak Baptist #2) shared the positive response members have had to Facebook Live worship (and some Zoom meetings) and the high rate of participation. They are waiting on CDC guidelines before resuming in-person worship. Members have COVID-related concerns about returning to church.
- Rev. Robert Scotland (Shiloh Presbyterian Church) discussed how they had a clear plan for how to resume in-person services, but they decided not to resume in light of the high rates in cases of COVID combined with having many members with high risk. They have decided to postpone in-person worship for the time being (no plans to resume in-person worship in 2020). They are using Zoom for worship and meetings, and members are enjoying the interaction on Zoom. Their participation is holding steady. He also shared other ways his church is continuing to keep contact with members (calls, drive-by visits to deliver communion sets, etc). They had a drive-by fish fry to encourage voter registration (all CDC guidelines were followed in preparing & distributing the meal) – this event contributed to a strong sense of community – and they registered people and gave out a lot of fish dinners, masks, gloves, and voter info!
- Mr. Vernon Kennedy, Sr. (Bible Light Holiness Church) shared that they also had an extensive plan to resume in-person services but regrouped & reconsidered when the spike in COVID occurred. They moved to drive-in services with a radio frequency that people can tune into to hear the service. They limit the service to one hour on Sunday morning. These have gone very well. When they resume in-person indoor worship, they want everyone to be together so it will be some time before they can do this safely. They also work to maintain regular contact with members.
- Ms. Cheryl Goodwin (St. Mark Baptist Church) shared they are doing many similar things described above (Facebook, YouTube, etc). They have started “encouraging words and prayer” at 6 am (alternating every other week between the two). They have started a women’s devotional on a Saturday – they had women attending from all over the country!

Chris Clauson – Fairfield County Healthy Food Access Data and Resources

Mr. Chris Clauson, Chair of Fairfield Forward Coalition & Fairfield County Community Developer, shared data showing higher rates of obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and poverty in Fairfield County compared to the state of SC. He also presented information about the limited food environment and food deserts and low food access areas in the county. These are issues that Fairfield Forward is working to address.

Mr. Clauson shared several resources for food in the county, including the **Fairfield Community Food Bank** (next presentation), **Fairfield Farmers and Artisan Market** (season ended but they’ll have a few more events and will open up again in May; hoping to expand to get SNAP and senior vouchers; renovations are also underway); and **FoodShare**.

Fairfield Forward has been partnering with FoodShare Columbia to bring the program to Fairfield County. This program provides boxes of fresh produce to residents – the boxes cost \$15 each (they are worth \$30), but with healthy bucks, they are only \$5! To quality for the \$5 box, you’d need Healthy Bucks/SNAP benefits; without Healthy Bucks/SNAP, it is \$15 for the box. They would like to be a FoodShare hub – they have funding but need volunteers and customers. The hub would probably need to be in Winnsboro, but they’d like distribution sites in the four quadrants of the county so the program can reach all residents. Being a hub requires purchasing the produce, boxing it, etc. They are looking for

distribution sites – these sites could be churches. Please contact Mr. Clauson or anyone with Fairfield Forward if you are interested in being a distribution site!

The website to FoodShare is <https://foodsharesc.org/> Currently, within Fairfield County, the Council on Aging takes orders for pick up. Boxes are available twice a month.

Yolonda Dodd – Fairfield Community Food Bank

Mrs. Yolanda Dodd, Volunteer with Fairfield Community Food Bank, gave a presentation about services provided by the Fairfield Community Food Bank. It has been serving Fairfield County since 1986. It is an emergency food bank and a volunteer run organization. Typically, clients are served every 90 days, but with the pandemic, clients are being served more often due to increased need. They have ~5 regular volunteers. To receive the services, the client must provide a picture ID. Clients can select from items on the shelf. Residents, businesses, community partners, and churches generously contribute to the Food Bank. Police officers and fire fighters have been given emergency food supplies to share with people outside of the area.

Many people don't know about the Food Bank! Please share information about the Food Bank with your congregations and communities.

The Food Bank is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-12. It is located at 100 Highway 321 Bypass, Winnsboro, SC 29180 (right across from McDonalds). You can also reach the Food Bank by phone (803-635-9234) or by email (fairfieldfoodbank@gmail.com).

Churches can drop off financial contributions during the Food Bank's hours of operation or send to the Food Bank. Those wishing to volunteer can also call or email the Food Bank or send a message via Facebook.

You can like the Food Bank on Facebook to keep up-to-date. [Please see attached flyer as well.](#)

Future Webinar Topics

Dr. Wilcox shared a poll for attendees to indicate topics of interest for future webinars. "Community resources" was the topic selected most frequently, followed by "family care resources." "Healthcare resources," "creating a health ministry team," and "economic resources" were tied for third. The faith-based committee hopes to have the next webinar in November. *(Post webinar addition: Due to the holidays, the next webinar will be held in January 2021 and will be held on a quarterly schedule.)*

Dr. Wilcox and Mr. Kennedy, Sr. asked churches to share information about these webinars with their church and other churches in the county.

Closing

Dr. Wilcox and Mr. Kennedy, Sr. thanked the speakers and those who attended the webinar.

EST 1986

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Open Tuesdays and
Thursdays

10:00AM - 12:00PM

Must have photo ID

(803)635-9234

**100 US HWY 321 Bypass S,
Winnsboro
(Behind the JB Floyd
building)**

*Follow and Like us on Facebook to hear more
about additional giveaways*



@Fairfield Community Food Bank

