Fairburn Baptist Association

Monthly Newsletter

Read about our news and latest updates

May 2022

Supporting the growth and health of Southern Baptist pastors, leaders and their churches while championing the Good News of Jesus Christ in Fulton, Coweta and Fayette Georgia Counties

MENTAL HEALTH, THE IMAGE OF GOD, AND THE CHURCH

When God made humankind, the Scriptures state that He made us in His image (Genesis 1:27,28). We are imagers of God. There are a lot of things I could say about this, but as it relates to mental health, we are created as bio pneuma psychosocial beings. What this means is that we are biological or physical, spiritual, psychological, and social. Our mental health is either protected or compromised by how we are doing physically, spiritually, psychologically, and socially.

As a result of being created in His image, He created us with the capacity for relationships across four domains: Relationship with Him, relationship with one another, relationship with creation, and relationship with ourselves. What I'm trying to say is that we are not one- or two-dimensional beings. We are complex and often the challenges we have with mental health are complex as well. Because of the rebellion of mankind, sin has affected all of us and in every capacity of our being. We are still imagers of God but that image is tainted in various ways.

When a person can't shake depression and/or anxiety in their lives, the solution may not be as easy as praying more. The prophet Elijah fell into a deep depression and even asked to die. What the Lord God did for him is instructive for us as well (1 Kings 19). Elijah was physically exhausted, so God sent food for him to eat and water to drink. Elijah slept. When he awoke, he ate again and slept again. Next, when Elijah was able to listen, God spoke to him and helped him to see a larger picture of events than Elijah had previously been able. Third, God gave Elijah a helper and friend in Elisha. Elisha became Elijah's companion. God ministered to Elijah's depression and anxiety physically, spiritually, psychologically, and socially. If we acknowledge that mental illness is not a singular deficit unique to people who lack faith but is instead the recognition of how sin has impacted our relationships with God, others, creation, and ourselves, everyone exists on the continuum of illness to health. Today, that continuum is moving in the wrong direction.

Our society is facing mental health challenges greater than anything it has faced before. In any given year, nearly one in five Americans live with an anxiety disorder. About 15 million adults have social anxiety disorder, about 19 million have a phobia, 7.7 million have PTSD and over 16 million are living with major depressive disorder. Mental illnesses exist in every demographic regardless of age, ethnicity, income, or gender. Georgia is no different. Our churches in our association are no different.

A post-Covid, 2022 study by Mental Health America (mhanational.org) has confirmed a growing percentage of youth in the U.S. live with major depression. 15.08% of youth experienced a major depressive episode in the past year, a 1.24% increase from last year's dataset. In the bottom-ranked states, up to 19% of youth ages 12-17 experienced major depression. Over 60% of youth with major depression do not receive any mental health treatment. Youth and adult suicides are increasing.

This should be a call for the church of Jesus Christ to action. I'm not saying we need to become therapists or counselors, but we can be therapeutic. We can help heal and restore the brokenness in us and around us. After all Jesus said:

> *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.* (Luke 4:18–19, CSB)

Jesus had good news for the poor, for those finding themselves held captive, for those living with disability, and for those struggling with oppression. These are exactly the issues with which people suffering from mental illness struggle today.

What can Fairburn Association Churches Do? I have four suggestions.

1. Resource Collaboration: Conduct an inventory of what each church offers as an outward facing ministry to the community. Your church will receive a survey from us soon. If you have a person you want us to connect with, please send their information to Susan Cunningham: Susan@fairburnba.org.

2. Become Mental Health Informed: While mental health issues may not be talked about openly in all circles, chances are that there are plenty of church members in any given church who know exactly what a panic attack, manic or depressive episode or an obsession or compulsion feels like.
3. Each church in FBA form a “READ Georgia” partnership with at least one elementary school (missiongeorgia.org/readgeorgia). Because of the growing Adverse Childhood Experienences (ACEs: includes abuse, neglect, and witnessing violence in the home or community, can lead to toxic stress, prolonged or excessive activiation of the stress response system in the body.) Forming a caring and learning relationship with a child helps to mitigate this as well as increase their reading skills.
4. Participate in Associational Mental Health events. We are working on several options for informing our churches on how to engage in a healthy and spiritual way with their community. One way if for you to personally sign up to become a member on our website. It is free. Just visit the website, www.fairburnba.org and in the top right corner is a “log in” icon. Select it and register. This will keep you up to date on new opportunities and access to special content. - Jimmy Kinnaird

Take a moment to "like" our Facebook Page!

FBA Facebook Page

Mother's Day is May 8th

"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you." ISAIAH 66:13

National Day of Prayer is May 5th

Bethlehem Baptist Church, located at 5485 Bethlehem Rd., Fairburn, will have their worship center open to the public from 9 AM - 3 PM. All are welcome to join in prayer. A prayer guide will be available in the center.

National and State Convention News

SBC

2022 SBC Annual Meeting & Pastors' Conference
June 12-15

For Details & Registration

Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Read GEORGIA

Read Georgia is a program where churches partner with local schools to work one-on-one with children on their literacy skills. The goal of Read Georgia is to see children and their families introduced to the love of Jesus and brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Click below to get immediate access to the Get Started guide, the Read Georgia Manual, as well as every document you will need to help make Read Georgia in your church a success. If you missed the Read Georgia interest meeting, there is a link to watch it and share.

Read Georgia

Association News and Events

Fairburn Baptist Association

Discover More FBA

Click on image to download and print flyer for Truckloading.

Church News, Needs and Events

McDonough Road BC Offers Scholarships

McDonough Road Baptist Church offers two scholarships through the Georgia Baptist Foundation, one for college students attending a Georgia Baptist Mission Board-supported college/university and another for students attending a Southern Baptist seminary. Preference is given first to McDonough Road Baptist members, but those in other Fairburn Baptist Association churches may apply, also. We are getting information together for the upcoming year. If you are interested in one of these scholarships, or for more information, please email Mary Stavenger at mstavenger@mcdonoughroad.org.

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FBA Church VBS Dates

Bethlehem BC - 6/23 - 6/26 Thurs & Fri 6 PM-9 PM / Sat 9 AM-12 PM / Sun 11 AM

Dogwood Church - 6/13 - 6/17 from 6-8 PM

Fayetteville FBC - 6/27 - 7/1 from 8:30 AM-12 PM

FBC Fairburn - 6/20 - 6/24 from 6-8:30 PM

FBC Peachtree City - 6/13 - 6/17 from 9 AM-12 PM

FBC Tyrone - 6/27 - 6/29 from 9 AM-12 PM

Flat Creek BC - 6/20 - 6/24 from 9 AM-12 PM

Friendship BC - 6/26 - 6/30 from 5:30-8 PM (Light Meal)

Line Creek BC - 6/13 - 6/17 from 5:30-8 PM (Outreach block party Saturday, 6/11)

New Hope North - 6/6 - 6/9 from 9 AM-12:15 PM

New Hope South - 6/6 - 6/9 from 9 AM-12:15 PM

Palmetto BC - 6/12 - 6/15 from 5:45-8 PM (Dinner 5-5:45PM)

Providence BC - 6/13 - 6/17 from 5 PM-8:30 PM (Dinner at 5 PM)

Please begin to pray for VBS leadership, workers and especially for God to prepare the children's hearts.

Don't miss out on our Forum! Let's Connect:
If you have a church event to share, job opening you need to fill, searching for a job and have a resume to share, equipment to sell, stuff to give away, or even a prayer need, Fairburn Baptist Association has a forum just for you!

1. Just go to the Forum: **www.fairburnba.org/forum**
2. Create an account. It will ask for you to come up with a password. You are the only one who will have the password, so don't forget it!
3. Then you can post in the section that best fits your need.
4. Don't forget to click "publish" at the bottom when finished.

You can also go in later and make changes to the post or delete it.
If you have questions, contact us at the associational office and we will be happy to help.

Forum

Ministers/Staff Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

11 - Karen Kinnaird, AMS Spouse - Fairburn BA

17 - Teresa Moss, Music Director - Campbellton BC

May Anniversaries

3 - David & Amy Chancey - McDonough Road BC

21 - Charles & Lyndsey Huckaby - Ramah FBC

Contact us with anniversary and birthday information for church ministers and staff. We would love to recognize your special day!

Associational Stewardship

Church Support Gifts
January - $ 6,907.89
February - $10,027.44
March - $ 8,490.31
April - $ 7,406.27

Monthly Budget Need - $14,574.00

YTD - $32,831.91
YTD Budget Need - $58,296.00

Thank you for partnering with us in missions and ministry!

Upcoming Associational Events

Click below for our Events Calendar

Calendar

Useful Links

Find links here to GBMB, Christian Index, Disaster Relief, NAMB and SBC

Links

Please pray for our pastorless churches: Bethlehem Baptist Church, Fairburn; Friendship Baptist Church, Chattahoochee Hills; Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Fairburn;Palmetto Baptist Church, Palmetto; and Sardis Baptist Church, Chattahoochee Hills.

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Check out our site