

Moving forward together into 2020...with vision and clarity.

Dear First Family,

It's hard to believe, but true, we are moving into a new year and a new decade! Serving as your Transitional Pastor continues to be a wonderful joy! I am thankful for the seven-member transition team that represents First Bradenton. Please continue to lift each member up in prayer.

I am thrilled to communicate with you that on Sunday, January 26, 2020, the Transition team will once again host a Roundtable discussion for the entire congregation. Please make plans now to prioritize this gathering as it is critical and crucial that every member of the First Family participate. Together we will discover the answer to some very important questions. Like, what is the governance model of FBCB? How are decisions made? Who makes those decisions? How can I be most effective and productive not only for FBCB, but for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ? In what ways can my gifts and abilities be better utilized?

The Transition team is still in the process of analyzing who we are and fleshing out what we have been called to be and do as First Baptist Church of Bradenton. Moving forward together with vision and clarity will be our theme, and prayer is vitally important for this to happen. I am so thankful for all who have participated in our first two prayer gatherings. Please be watching for the announcement of future additional intentional prayer meetings.

In January 2020, I will be sharing four messages on the theme of TRUST-THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING. Several years ago I discovered something so shocking about the church I was leading that at first, I refused to believe it! The truth that was revealed to me was that over 70% of our congregation had never been challenged regarding "true biblical stewardship". In other words, I along with previous pastors, had failed to instruct, encourage, and inspire by simply sharing the Biblical message of stewardship.

During January 2020, we will enter into a consideration about trusting God, can I trust God? Secondly, can God trust me? What happens when our whole relationship is based upon obedience and trust?

Finally, on weeks three and four as a congregation we will take the Trust Test. Trust is the most important factor in knowing God and His will for my life and in growing His Kingdom and myself as a steward.

And so with anticipation and excitement we move forward with clarity and vision. I appreciate you and ask you to continue to pray for me, for your staff, for our six standing committees, for our deacon/servants, for your Transition team, for one another, and for those who will come to personally know the Lord and become a part of this amazing body call First Bradenton.

I love you,
Pastor Allen