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July 20 – Thank You! | A Message from Jim Everette

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, for the many ways you have expressed your appreciation to me and my family for the ministry we have been blessed to share together over the past 30 years. Your kindness is overwhelming and humbling. I promise each of you, it has been our great privilege to be a part of this wonderful church.

It was great to see so many people at Sunday evening's Tailgate Worship Gathering at the Activities Center. While we were careful to keep an appropriately safe distance from each other, and everyone wore a face covering, we were connected as part of Christ's First Baptist Church of Wilmington community and, "It was VERY GOOD!" (Gen. 1:31). Thank you to those that came early and prepared the staging, sound system, the parking lot, and those that directed traffic and served as greeters. The Son was shining in your eyes and the breeze of God's Spirit circulated through our midst. Someone remarked, "The sound was better outside than when we gather on the inside." I could not help but immediately think of how that describes FBCW so well. While we worship well as a community of believers, we serve our outside community even better, and that is saying a lot. Didn't you love the presentation of the worship song "Way Maker" by our band in last Sunday's modern worship service? If you have not experienced it, I encourage you to watch the video on our FBCW YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFG65GzKzWc&t=1s>) and worship God. If you did experience it, why not do it again? God will meet you as you listen and watch. The words of praise describe the One that makes a way for us.

Creativity, flexibility, mission, ministry, and connectivity is what we have been about as a congregation over these past four months. Our Way Maker has led us to new ways, innovations, and ventures to "become and help others become fully devoted followers of Jesus." The message has not changed but the methods have, and some of us have changed as well. Our Holy Change Agent, Way Maker, is once again, "doing a new thing...making a way in the wilderness" (Isaiah 43:19). May each of us as individuals, and our church as a community of individuals, continue to be open to being fashioned into receptacles of use by our Creating Potter. The Apostle Paul says God desires to mold us into "a vessel of honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21). Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Hopeful,

Jim Everette