

Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington, Arlington's oldest church, was organized on February 25, 1871 in the community of Johnson Station and originally known as Johnson Station Baptist Church; and
- WHEREAS,** when the Texas and Pacific Railroad Station opened in 1876 three miles north of Johnson Station, the church moved and changed its name to Arlington Baptist Church; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington has been physically located at four sites in the past 150 years; and
- WHEREAS,** the members of First Baptist Arlington have served this community in countless ways as Mayors, City Council members, School Board members, Superintendent of Schools, school principals and administrators, teachers, physicians, dentists, realtors, attorneys, homemakers, General Motors employees, business owners, bankers, professional athletes, coaches, etc.; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington has contributed to the planting of numerous Baptist churches across our community; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington started Mission Arlington in 1986 and has continued to be the single biggest supporter of Mission Arlington for 35 years; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington entered into land agreements with the City of Arlington and University of Texas at Arlington that enabled construction of the Levitt Pavilion and College Park Center; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington oversees three global centers of ministry in Central Europe, Southern Europe, and West Africa that provide medical and dental care; clean water; literacy, hygiene, and vocational training; church planting; orphan care; ministry to widows; and education for children that ministers to thousands of people each year; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington began the Center for Counseling and Enrichment (Soteria Counseling and Family Services) that provides professional counseling, educational testing for children, marital therapy, and group counseling for thousands of metroplex residents each year; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington began International Friends in 1971 to provide English as a Second Language training, citizenship classes, and cultural awareness for the international community here in Arlington, assisting thousands of international residents in our community; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington opened the Child Development Center in 1990, providing a fulltime Christian weekday program for preschool children; and
- WHEREAS,** First Baptist Arlington now occupies approximately 6 ½ blocks in Downtown Arlington and, after 150 years of ministry in this community, is poised for the next era of ministry in the growing Downtown Arlington community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Jeff Williams, Mayor of the City of Arlington, Texas, and on behalf of the Arlington City Council, do hereby proclaim February 25, 2021, as

FIRST BAPTIST ARLINGTON DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 25th day of February in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.



MAYOR