

Published Monthly by:  
*First Baptist Church*  
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
**FORT THOMAS**

*April 2021*

*The Vision  
Proclaiming the  
good news*



## Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:45 a.m. in-person morning worship only. No Sunday school or nursery.

Online Worship Service via Facebook Live also at 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Jeremy Shannon  
Pastor Cell phone: 859-536-2250  
jshannon@fbcftthomas.com

Miriam Fuller  
Worship Leader  
Home phone: 859-441-8220  
Cell phone: 859-391-9220  
mfuller@fbcftthomas.com

Kaitlyn Runion  
Children's Minister  
Cell phone: 859-279-8924

April Ayers (*Piano*)

Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Administrative Assistant  
Debbie Mershon  
office@fbcftthomas.com



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Greetings, church family!

Sunday, March 28 was a big day at the church as we were finally able to return to our regular worship schedule with one service at 10:45am. I want to thank you for the patience you have shown as we have worked to get our technology set up in a way that allows us to minister well to people in the building and online at the same time. I want to issue a word of gratitude to Dale Ayers for the hours he has spent at the church running cables and working to make sure all of this was possible. Also, thank you to Ryan Maines for learning the new system and helping run it each and every Sunday.

That Sunday was a day of celebration and another step in resuming church activities in a way that starts to feel a bit more like normal. I can feel a sense of enthusiasm about our ability to start doing more and more after a year that was largely filled with a time to wait and watch. We are continuing to monitor the situation and will assess what it looks like to start offering Sunday School, children's activities, and more as health protocols allow. We want to make sure that each new step is taken in a way that we can do so with confidence and trust that we are continuing to keep people safe while fulfilling our mission to Shine God's Light and Share God's Love.

As more and more folks have the chance to be vaccinated, I feel that there will be pressure from many pastors telling folks when the proper time for them to "get back to church" will be. I am not a medical expert and I encourage you to continue to do what is most medically responsible in deciding when to return. With that said, I do want to encourage you to make an effort to join us back in the building for worship as soon as you are able to do so. I am thankful for online worship and do not want to downplay its role in being the church going forward. But, I suspect that many of us will do better as we get to actually see each other face to face. I look forward to seeing more and more of you soon!

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

## From Our Worship Leader

As I sit here on these very last days of March I think about this past Sunday, Palm Sunday, when we were together in person and online at the same time. How great it was to be able to do that. What a blessing is was to have those of you in the building for the first time in a year!!! I look forward to more of you being able to come back and be in person - very soon!

Thank you, Ryan Maines, for your good work balancing the computer for in house and the other computer for online...I viewed our worship service later in the day and everything looked and sounded good.

It's a learning curve for several of us. Jeremy has done the most, putting in all of the time and energy to get us ready. I'm having to learn a couple of new computer programs - and my old brain isn't what it used to be! Ryan has picked up and run with everything very quickly. And, we would not have been able to do anything without Dale's hard work running all the wiring! The end result is wonderful...

I'm looking forward to this Sunday - Easter! I'm planning all the music today with the traditional "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," along with other wonderful Easter music. I hope I will see more of you this week. It's been a long time - feels like forever in a way. I pray you are doing well.

As always, Sunday is coming - hope to see you then!

*Mirm*

## From Our Children's Minister

Dear church family,

March was an exciting month for having more interaction with our church kids. Many of our families took part in the virtual Palm processional, which you can find on our church Facebook page, and we had an Easter craft Day where a few of our families came in separately to play in the kids' area and do an Easter craft. We're praying for the day the kids can all get together again and are feeling hopeful about the future. The kids just finished a series about talking to God, and have learned a lot about prayer. After Easter they will be starting a new series, to be announced.

Blessings,

Kaitlyn Runion

Children's Minister



## Holy Spirit Parish Pantry

In March, you donated 204 cans of canned ravioli.

**Way to go! Thank you so much for your generous hearts. We must help take care of the poor and hungry.**

In April, we are being asked to make donations of canned tuna. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.

**"Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God."**

*Acts 10:4*

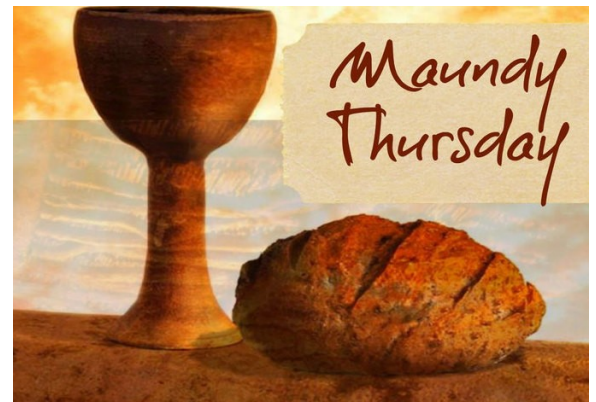
**"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."**

— 1 John 3:17-18

April 2, 2021

### On this Good Friday

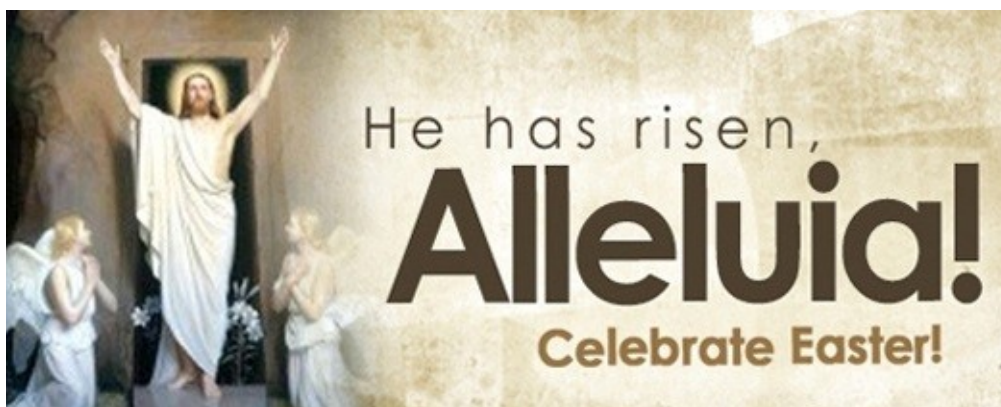
may we never forget  
the true meaning of Easter,  
'For when He was on the cross,  
I was on His mind.'



"This is my body ...  
this is my blood ...  
... given for YOU."

Luke 22:14-20

**On April 1, 2021 we will have a Maundy Thursday service in person in the church sanctuary. Social distancing and masks required.**



**Easter Sunday April 4, 2021**

**Our in-person services will start at 10:45 a.m.**

## JESUS AT THE CROSS...

Jesus' words "**Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing**" are found in Luke 23:34. Jesus looked down from the cross upon a scene that must have been distressing to Him. The Roman soldiers were gambling for His clothing (John 19:23-24); the criminals on the crosses to either side of Him were reviling Him (Matthew 27:44); the religious leaders were mocking Him (Matthew 27:41-43); and the crowd was blaspheming Him (Matthew 27:39). Surrounded by this most unworthy lot, Jesus prayed for them. "Father, forgive them" is a prayer of unmatched mercy and love.



It is important to note that Jesus' prayer, "**Father, forgive them,**" does not mean that everyone was forgiven, unilaterally, without repentance and faith. It does mean that Jesus was willing to forgive them—forgiveness was, in fact, the reason He was on the cross. The words "Father, forgive them" show the merciful heart of God.

### *Thank you...*

The Thompson Family would like to thank the congregation for all their prayers, love, and support over the last 10 years. You always made Mom feel like a queen whenever she came to church. She would never have been able to get through so many hard times without you. The cards, prayers, visits, and love carried her and us in a lot of tough times. We cannot thank you enough and know she is singing and flying free in a better place!

*Lynn Beck and family*

I would like to thank everyone for all the love and support I have received in the passing of my Sister In Law "Sister", Sandy Steffen and the passing of my Brother, Harlon Steffen. It was a lot to bear in one week. They were two of the best people I have ever known. I will miss them so much. I don't have enough words to thank you all for loving me.

I also want to thank you for the beautiful lantern you sent in memory of Harlon and Sandy. It means so much to me. As it says on the lantern, our family chain is broken but it will be linked again. I am anxiously waiting for that day to be linked with all my loved ones in Heaven.

Love,

*Jackie Harry*

I would like to thank the Dorcas Class for the lovely flower and cute little card given to me the week that I was home sick. They certainly gave me a big lift.

The Dorcas Class is a big part of the backbone of our church and are so appreciated. Thank you!

*Debbie Mershon*

## *Easter Flowers in memory of...*

*Lily in memory of Elaine Tullus  
Tulip in memory of Else Stull ...  
by Ray & Susan Bacher*

*Lily in memory of Bev McClanahan &  
Tulip in memory of Bev McClanahan ...  
Wife of Harold McClanahan &  
Mother of Kim Beagle*

*Tulip in memory of Don Burchett  
husband of June Burchett*

*2 Tulips in memory of loved ones of  
Miriam Fuller*

*Tulip in memory of Bob Scott, husband of  
Barb Scott*

*Tulip in memory of George & Billye  
Tither parents of Kathleen Webber*

*Tulip for Larry & Dennis Risch, husband  
& Son of Pauline Risch*

*2 Lilies in memory of Ruth Peelman &  
George Tither,  
Loving wife and brother of  
Bob Peelman*

*2 Tulips in memory of parents of  
Walter & Debbie Mershon*

*Tulip in memory of Shannon Rainwater,  
son of Loretta Rainwater  
(Loretta is Debbie Mershon's sister)*

## **TITHING IS ABOUT JESUS...**

**Tithing is not about church members or money. Tithing is about Jesus. As Christians should, we help further the Kingdom of God with our Tithes and offerings? What does the Bible say?**

**Proverbs 11:24 - "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want."**

**Proverbs 28:27 - "Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse."**

**Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."**

## *Continued...*

*Tulip in memory of Oma Scott,  
wife of Jim Scott*

*Tulip in memory of Judy Orne  
mother of David Orne*

*Tulip in memory of Lew & Jenny  
Hornsby, parents of Lori Orne*



## *Easter Flowers in honor of...*

*Tulip in honor of Kathleen Webber  
good friend of Bob Peelman*

*Tulip in honor of Miriam Fuller  
friend of Jim Scott*

*Tulip in honor of the David & Lori  
Orne family*

*Tulip in honor of the entire  
Shannon Family donated by  
Jeremy Shannon*



# Happy Anniversary

4/21

Walter & Fay  
Hailes

## THE BRIGHT SPOT

"And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power."

1 Corinthians 6:14



### IT IS FINALLY HERE!

It is the plan from now on, that our in-person and online services will both start at 10:45 a.m. as long as our technology continues to work. I am so excited that we will get to be in the church for our Easter Service.



4/1  
April Ayers

4/4  
Ruth Eckerle

4/7  
Patty Adams

4/10  
Jennifer Silz

4/17  
Annette Rose

4/23  
Dora Griffin

4/26  
Ryan Maines

&

Barb Music

4/29  
Asher Shannon

&

Henry Shannon



DEACON  
MINISTRY

4/4

Walter Mershon

4/11

Bill Klopp

4/18

Lori Orne

4/25

Harry Weitkamp



# A JOYFUL HEART IS GOOD MEDICINE...

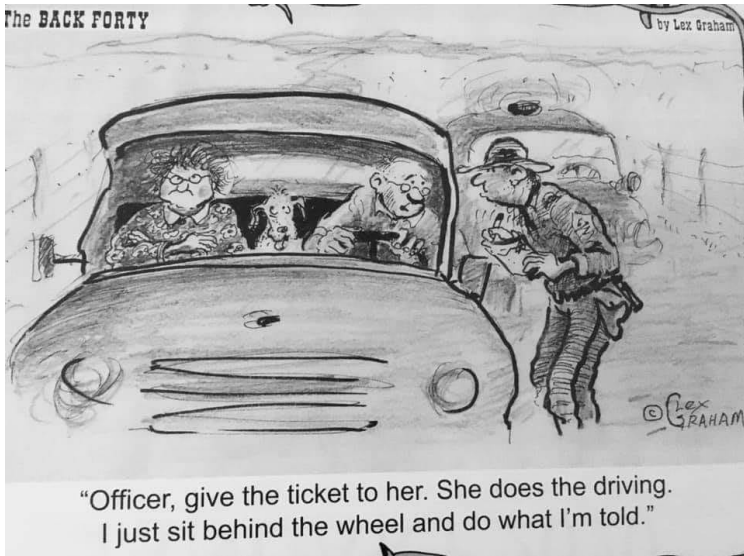
Rare picture of a remote control back in the 70's/80's



**FUN FACT:**  
EASTER EGG HUNTS PROVE  
THAT YOUR CHILD CAN  
FIND THINGS WHEN  
THEY WANT TO!!

BRIGHTSTARKIDS.COM.AU

The BACK FORTY



"Officer, give the ticket to her. She does the driving. I just sit behind the wheel and do what I'm told."

A fella once asked me what a hoedown was and I told him it's like a shindig but more like a hootenanny. I could tell he was still confused because his face went all cattywampus.

IS ANYONE REALLY CONFIDENT WITH HOW THEY SAY "WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE" ?

**10 KIDS CAN PICK UP 5,000 EGGS IN A YARD THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL FIELD IN 10 MINUTES**



**BUT IT TAKES THEM 3 MONTHS TO PICK UP 5 TOYS IN A SMALL BEDROOM**