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First Baptist Church
600 North Fort Thomas Avenue
Fort Thomas, KY 41075
Church Phone : (859) 441-8884
Church E-mail: office@fbcftthomas.com



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

August 2020

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
good news*

August

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.

Ministry Assistant
Debbie Mershon
office@fbcftthomas.com

<p><i>First Baptist Church</i> 600 N. Fort Thomas Ave. Fort Thomas, Kentucky . 41075</p>	<p><i>The Vision</i></p>  <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORT THOMAS</p>	<p>NEED HELP? CALL THE CHURCH AT 859-441-8884</p> <p>We are here for you until this pandemic crisis is over. Please feel free to call us if you need help with anything.</p>
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

If you are not familiar with Murphy's Law, the basic premise is that "whatever can go wrong, will go wrong." I am not a pessimist by nature, but 2020 sure seems like it might fit that bill. As an example, just a few weeks ago we were FINALLY ready to gather on a Sunday night for a socially distanced ice cream social. If you'll remember, that ended up being one of the hottest days of the year and about an hour before the event we had incredibly heavy downpours of rain. I was bummed. Every time we seem to get a little closer, something happens.

With that said, I am still encouraged by so many things. During a period where we have faced challenge after challenge, you all have handled things gracefully. You have continued to reach out to each other. You have sent cards and made phone calls and reached out on the computer to make sure that everyone is doing okay. You have been faithful in giving both to our general offering and to our COVID 19 benevolence fund.

As we look toward our schedule for the coming weeks, I do not have any official dates to share simply due to the timing of this newsletter. What I am pleased to share is that our coordinating council has been working together to come up with a plan for an in person worship service opportunity that we will add on Sunday mornings at 9am. This will be a shortened service, with all social distancing protocol (including masks) required. There will be a shortened message and no congregational singing, BUT there will be a chance to see each other. If you are watching online and would like to continue to do so, our 10:45 service will remain relatively unchanged for the time being.

As I have said, the date for the first Sunday of our in person worship has not been set. For a few days the cases of COVID-19 in Kentucky were increasing at a rate that urged us to be cautious. Our hope and expectation is that we will be able to meet in mid to late August. When a date is set, we will post on social media and send out an all call to phones to let people know.

We will continue to adapt, but the whole reason the church has survived over 2000 years is because it has always been about God's faithfulness and provision. We will continue to pray for an end to this period of time in our lives and wait in expectation for the good things to come. I hope to see you soon!

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

From Our Children's Minister

Our children's ministry is nearing the end of our Dive-In series where we have explored the life of Peter and his relationship with Jesus. We've been in an underwater adventure to know Jesus more and for the last few weeks of the series the kids will be learning to share Jesus with others.

Our Thursday night group video chats with the kids have been a short and sweet way for the kids to check in with each other and connect. We're so blessed to have the technology to see the kids each week and remind them of our commitment to being in their lives.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to those of you who have continued to reach out to the kids with cards in the mail and door drop gifts at their homes! Your continued support keeps our kids engaged and feeling loved by the hands of Christ.

Blessings,

Kaitlyn Runion

Children's Minister

There is an elephant in the room.

by Bob Fox, CBF Kentucky Coordinator

The time has come for our summer newsletter. The newsletter where we try to highlight all of the good work that CBFKY is doing in our state, nation and world. An issue that would highlight missions personnel, social service efforts and recap our Spring Gathering.

But there is an elephant in the room.

And it is sitting right on top of everything. The trunk has grabbed the front doors of our homes and held them tight. One tree trunk leg is planted directly in front of the church sanctuary and refused to move. It sits on our chests bringing physical malady and sadly even death in our midst.

So what do you do when an elephant is in the room? Ignore it? Talk about it? Wish it would go away?

Here's what CBFKY is doing with the elephant in the room.

We are learning to pray more. We are learning to trust in God more. We are learning that church is not just a Sunday morning activity. We are learning to listen to those on the margins to whom the elephant is not an inconvenient interruption but an existential threat. We are learning the importance of pastoral care and how to be flexible in providing it.

A number of our leaders have been learning in their specific areas of ministry, worship and missions during the elephantine pandemic.

We have been careful to say "learning" as this moment is not over and the lessons we take now may need to be revised and revisited in the future.



Right now, we are learning about God and each other in the time of Covid-19.

This article was slightly edited to fit with our newsletter.

Where is God during Covid-19?

The world feels like it's falling apart, but God is still with us.

By Megan Bailey *Shutterstock.com*

When tragedy, sickness, hardship and death strike it becomes easy to wonder, where is God? Perhaps you have asked that question given the COVID-19 pandemic. You may be in financial strains because you lost your job, are scared because you have someone close to you that test positive, or simply might be lonely given the social distancing restrictions. It's all an unfamiliar territory to be in. How could God let this happen to me and the world? Now, many Christians are asking the same question. Where is God?

God is always in control, and He loves you (John 16:27). This remains true despite what the circumstances may be. God has assured us that He will work all things to our good (Romans 8:28), and nothing can change that truth. Every opportunity, joy, and success we experience as well as painful losses and failures are a part of His plan. God's work is in progress in our daily lives.

In Psalm 23 David praises God and His nurturing care in the midst of trials. It says "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). Even when we are in deep shadows, God is there, not as an observer, but as a protective Shepherd, close at hand. His care extends to every part of our lives at this very moment (Ephesians 1:4-6). When we cry out He knows our pain, when we sing He knows our joy and when we lean hard He is always there for us. God is your refuge and His everlasting arms are always there to support and hold you (Deuteronomy 33:27).

In times of crisis and adversity, peace is a precious commodity, and no peace is more precious than the peace God gives us through His Son. In fact, when fear and uncertainty abound, as God's people we ought to be a reservoir of His peace. In Ephesians 2:14, the apostle Paul takes this incredible encouragement one step further, telling us that not only does Christ bring us peace, but that "He Himself is our peace." God is in you.

The truth is that God is still with us, walking us through the pain and suffering. He is guiding us and wrapping His protective arms around our scared hearts.

GOD HOLDS US

South African Freddie Blom turned 114 in 2018, widely recognized as the oldest living man. Born in 1904, the year the Wright Brothers built their Flyer 11, he's lived through both World Wars, apartheid, and the Great Depression. When asked for the secret for his longevity, Blom only shrugs. Like many of us, he hasn't always chosen the foods and practices that promote wellness. However, Blom does offer one reason for his remarkable health: "There's only one thing, it's God. He's got all the power...He holds me."

Blom echoes words similar to what God spoke in Israel, as the nation wilted under the oppression of fierce enemies. "I will strengthen you and help you," God promised. "I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". No matter how desperate their situation, how impossible the odds that they would ever find relief, God assured His people that they were held in His tender care. "Do not fear, for I am with you," He insisted. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God"

No matter how many years we're given, life's hardships will come knocking at our door. A troubled marriage. A child abandoning the family. Terrifying news from the doctor. Even persecution. However, our God reaches out to us and holds us firmly. He gathers us and holds us in His strong, tender hand.

WINN COLLIER

Over the last few months we have been collecting stories from members about their First Baptist Church Fort Thomas stories. People have shared about memories from long ago and shown gratitude for current ministries. As we still wait until we can gather again regularly, we thought this was a great way to reflect on what God has done at our church and prepare us for the days to come. Over the next few months we will share some of these stories. If you have not yet done so, be sure to send them to Pastor Jeremy either by mail or to his email at jshannon@fbcftthomas.com



#MYFBCSTORY

Stories of Why We Gather Together

"Growing up in church I always knew the names of the kids my age, but my son knows the names of most of the grown ups in our church too. They love on him every Sunday that we gather and make him feel special, loved, and free to be himself and run around the sanctuary...

Our friends at church are teaching my son what Jesus' love looks like. It often feels like I need to be everything for my son. An absolute ideal of Christian living, the embodiment of the fruits of the spirit, the beatitudes incarnate. That is, unfortunately, laughably far from our present reality. I am so grateful that I don't carry the weight of being my son's only image of Christ."

-- Kaitlyn Runion



Did you know that our kids get together every week on a video chat to stay connected? Our children's director also prints the lessons and other fun things to get to them so that they can continue learning about Jesus at home.

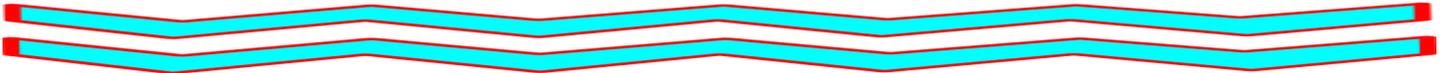
Thank you Ms Katilyn for all you do for our kids!

Kids Page

Kids Page



If your child must soon return to school or daycare and have to wear a mask, have them to start now. Get them used to it and help them understand that they are helping others not get sick when they do their part by wearing a mask.



Name _____



God's Top Ten

1. Put God First
2. Worship Him Only
3. No Bad Words
4. Work 6 Rest 1
5. Obey Your Parents
6. Harm No One
7. Don't Cheat
8. If It's Not Yours,
Don't Take It
9. Tell the Truth
10. Don't Be Jealous of
Other People's Stuff



summertime

S W I M M I N G P I C N I C O
 U H S V G C J S O D J B K S M
 M O D I E D D T V T O I V W Y
 M T A H W L Z I B T S K K I G
 E D P F S U N S H I N E Q M X
 R O O W A T E R M E L O N S E
 S G P O U T S I D E F H S U S
 P S S P R I N K L E R T W I H
 O U I Y R L V D Q C I L G T O
 O R C Q X Q C E C A E A D D T
 L Y L E F A J N Y M N H D I E
 I C E C R E A M O P D I L M R
 S R G K T N O Y Y I S P T I R
 V A C A T I O N R N J S Y V O
 L X A F S W E A T G I F D D H



SUMMER
 POOL
 ICECREAM
 FRIENDS
 HOTDOGS
 VACATION

HOT
 SWIMMING
 SUNSHINE
 WATERMELON
 POPSICLE
 OUTSIDE

SWEAT
 SPRINKLER
 BIKE
 PICNIC
 SWIMSUIT
 CAMPING

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." *Matthew 19:14*



THE BRIGHT SPOT
The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.
Deuteronomy 3:18



Happy Birthday



**DEACON
MINISTRY**

8/2

Bill Klopp

8/9

Lori Orne

8/16

Harry Weitkamp

8/23

Walter Mershon

8/30

Bill Klopp



Pray...

Ask God daily for protection from Covid-19 and to help us find a way to control it or cure it. Also ask for a blanket of protection until a vaccine is found.

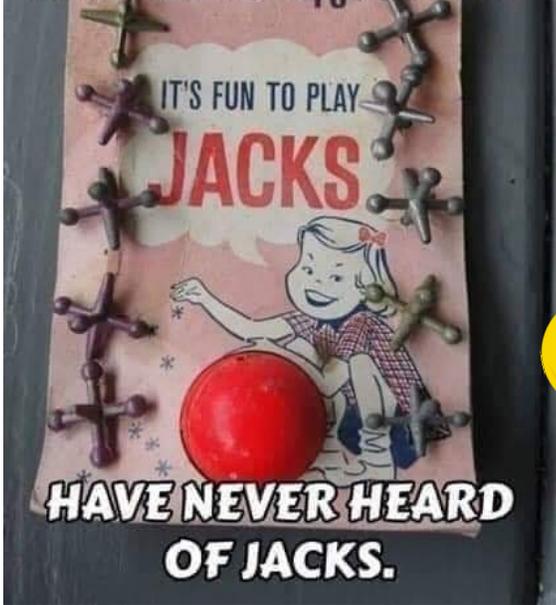
Pray for...

Your Family
Your Church Family
Your City
Your State
Your Country
Your World
Your Leaders

"A joyful heart is good medicine"



PEOPLE CRYING ABOUT STEPPING ON LEGOS

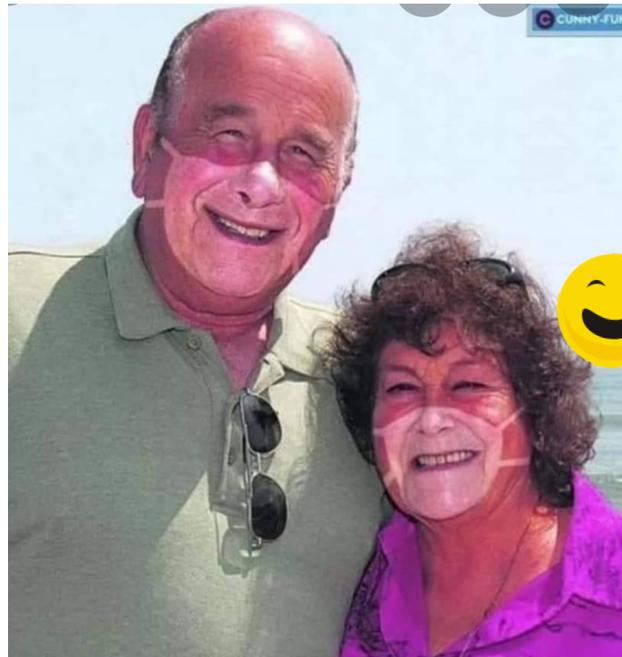


I DON'T THINK ANYONE EXPECTED THAT WHEN WE CHANGED THE CLOCKS EARLIER THIS YEAR

WE'D GO FROM STANDARD TIME TO THE TWILIGHT ZONE

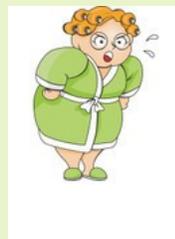


2020 Summer Tan Lines!



Dear Donovan,
I tried to come in and get your tooth but there were so many toys on your floor, I tripped and fell. 
I am going to come back tonight. Please make sure your room is clean so I won't hurt myself again
- tooth fairy

What does the Bible say about a nagging wife?



Better to live on the corner of a roof than to share a house with a nagging wife.

Proverbs 21:9