

THE VISION

The Official Newsletter of First Baptist Church Fort Thomas

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Office Hours:

Monday: 9a-12p (phone only)

Tuesday: 9a-12p (in office)

Wednesday: 9a-12pm (phone only)

Thursday: 9am-12pm (in office)

Friday: Closed

Church Staff

Rev. Jeremy Shannon
Pastor

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Kaitlyn Runion

Childrens Minister
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Miriam Fuller

Worship Leader
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April Ayers (piano)

Barb Musick (Keyboard)

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning: 10:45am
in-person & online

Children's Church: 10:45am
in-person (mask required)

Adult Sunday School: 9:30a.m

FROM OUR PASTOR

Pastor Jeremy Shannon

Last year around this time I discovered the joy of receiving seed catalogs in the mail. They all have their best qualities, but the best by far is The Baker Seed Catalog. Each item has great color and detailed description, the catalog is free and all items have free shipping! This year I decided to up my game when I learned that for a small fee, there is a 500 page Baker Seed Catalog. That's right, 500 pages! I have already looked through it a few times, but I am finding it a bit daunting as I plan my spring and summer planting. Why?

Too many choices! With a small square foot garden, I only have limited space. Instead of deciding to grow tomatoes or cucumbers, I find a seemingly endless number of varieties of each. Small ones, long ones, foreign, and native. Some bloom early, others last longer into the fall. The flowers are all beautiful and Jenni would probably prefer that I just plant those. I imagine what I would do with acres of land and dream of cultivating large spaces of beauty, but for now I feel the weight of a decision on what I am going to plant.

After the past few years, our future and ability to gather looks brighter than it has in some time. While I believe there will still be hard times, we are finally reaching a place where I believe we can start planting. At the church there are a million things I'd like to try. At home I have many skills I'd like to learn. With our kids, I have a list of experiences I hope for them to have. Just like the seed catalog, if I'm not careful it is easy to be overwhelmed by all that can be done.

We live in a culture that makes it easy to feel overwhelmed. The decisions of what HAS to be done vs what we WANT to do, the standards set for us by others, and so many other things can sometimes keep us from really ever doing much of anything. Perhaps we start many things that we know we aren't able to manage and instead things get out of control. Throw in the fact that the past few years have made planning feel at times futile, we wonder where to turn?

I don't have clear answers, but here is what I know. God doesn't call us to save the entire world. We won't be able to do everything and we certainly won't be able to please everyone. What we can seek to do is be faithful with the spaces where God places us. I won't be able to grow 20 varieties of vegetables, but I can try to execute the space that I have well.

God has plans for your life. God has plans for this congregation. As we proceed, let us seek to make the very most of the things that God has given to us. This is all we can hope for and this will lead us to the best.

Shine on. Press on. Go on



FROM OUR WORSHIP LEADER

Mirm Fuller

February is here which means we are getting closer to longer days of daylight and warmer weather - although that is still a ways off. I like to be positive!

We've weathered another covid variant in our community; hard to believe we've been at this for 2 years now. But God is still good; God is still there; God is still in control. God is still taking care of each of us, whether we feel it or not; whether we think it or not. He is still there, He is still with us... individually, and collectively as a church body. We are His! Never forgot Who you belong to.

I appreciate the choir and our musicians, always. They give their time and talent selflessly. They serve well. Thank you!

Thank you, church family, for being faithful in attendance in person or on line, and faithful in your giving.

Please remember to pray for each other. Take care until we meet again. Sunday is coming...see you then!

Sunday is coming, see you then - in the NEW year!



FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Kaitlyn Runion

Dear Church,

This month I will be out on maternity leave! Thank you so much to everyone who is filling in or continuing to show the love of Jesus to the kids while I'm gone. The kids have been learning "God's Story" which is our new series that walks the kids through many of the foundational stories we find in Scripture. It's interactive and hands-on with a lot of sensory play, games, and crafts to get the kids feeling like they're part of the story.

In March we'll be getting ready for Holy week (begins April 10th) and Earth Day (April 24th), so if you'd like to be involved in working with our kids and community for these events, go ahead and mark your calendars!

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Thursday: 9am-12pm (in office)

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SCHEDULES FOR FEBRUARY

DEACONS

2/6
Harry Weitkamp
2/13
Walter Mershon
2/20
Bill Klopp
2/30
Lori Orne

TELLERS

2/6
Kim Beagle & Barb Musick
2/13
Kim Beagle & Bill Eckerle
2/20
Lori Maines & Walter Mershon
2/30
Kim Beagle & Barb Musick

PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

2/6
Mirm Fuller
Walter Mershon
Debbie Mershon

2/13
Lori Orne
*

2/20
April Ayers
Kim Beagle
Jackie Harry

2/30
Susan Meyer
Amy Shannon

*Need volunteers for 2/13

All age groups will be together while Kaitlyn is on maternity leave

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT



Thank you to everyone who helped support our Christmas offering in support of Grenada 24-7. Through your generosity we were able to raise \$645. The funds that were given have gone to continue supporting the education of Kendonna, a young girl who is now able to receive the private education that she needs. After several years of school, she is now thriving! Please continue to pray for her during the year that she will continue to have a great experience and would feel God's love!



After being in the states for an extended time due to COVID, the Zauflik family has returned to Grenada. This is an exciting time in their ministry as they have also been able to welcome a new family to serve alongside them. Please pray for the Crigler family as they work alongside these important ministry efforts as they seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in Grenada.



MISSIONS UPDATES

Holy Spirit Parish Food Pantry

Every month we collect for the Holy Spirit Parish. January we collected 183 cans of chili.

For the month of February, we've been asked to donate hamburger helper. Let's continue blessing those in our community.



WOMEN'S MISSIONS CIRCLE

Every 1st Monday of the month we have a dedicated group of women that gather for a time of prayer, fellowship, and a lesson on missions involvement. They meet at 12pm in the fellowship hall. They maintain numerous additional activities throughout the year and are always looking for more people to join with them!

The next meeting will be held February 7th at noon. Pack a lunch and have lunch together. It's a great way to enjoy lunch together, eat dessert, and socialize. We look forward to eating with you!



KENTUCKY DISASTER RELIEF

We are continuing to collect financial gifts in support of the CBFKY Disaster Relief Efforts in response to the tornadoes that ravaged Western Kentucky. As of this writing, over \$60,000 has been raised. The goal of CBFKY is to be a part of the second wave of volunteers to help communities rebuild. We have connected with a Hispanic community in Mayfield, KY and are also working with the small town of Bremen, located in Muhlenberg County. In addition to the funds collected on a state level, CBF National will be contributing funds. A small portion of these donations will go to help fund an on site director to help organize gifts and groups. The rest of the funds will go directly to the items and things needed to help these specific communities. In addition to financial gifts, Pastor Jeremy will be traveling to the area and will provide an opportunity for folks in our church and community to travel down and volunteer on site. If you would like to contribute, donations can be sent to the church or given directly to CBFKY via their website at www.cbfsky.org/tornado-disaster-response.

February 2022

MONTHLY PLANNER

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|--|-----|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 31 | 01 | 02 Groundhog Day | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 Super Bowl Sunday |
| 07 WMC @12pm Bob Rose | 08 | 09 Josh McMurray | 10 | 11 Barb Scott | 12 Lucy Colliver | 13 Dakota Guilkey |
| 14 Valentine's Day Ellen Coghill | 15 | 16 | 17 Rebecca Adams | 18 | 19 Crosley Shannon | 20 |
| 21 Presidents' Day | 22 | 23 | 24 National Chili Day | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 |

NOTES

WMC= women's mission circle

No February anniversaries