

Published Monthly by:
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

February 2020

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
good news*



Worship and Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:30 a.m. ~ FBC Fort Thomas
Kids for Children & Bible Study
for Adults

10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Service

5:00 p.m.~ Young Adult Small
Group

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. ~ Prayer Meeting

Thursday

6:00 p.m.. ~ Choir Practice



The Vision
Proclaiming the good news!

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
krunion@fbcftthomas.com

April Ayers (*Piano*)
Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

Worship and Ministry Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am. Sunday School for children & adults

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

5:00 pm. Small group study for young adults.

Tuesday

10:00 a.m Prayer Meeting

Church Office Hours

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

Ministry Assistant
Debbie Mershon
office@fbcftthomas.com



First Baptist Church
600 N. Fort Thomas Ave.
Fort Thomas, Kentucky
41075

From the Pastor's desk...

Every February it is easy to get excited about that most romantic day of the year. You know the one I'm talking about, right? It's the day that pitchers and catchers report for the start of spring training, of course! It warms my heart and mind to think about it. I have a suspicion that many of you were expecting a different answer.

Last year in this newsletter I let you in on the important secret that one of the most romantic places to spend Valentine's Day is at White Castle. When Jenni and I started dating, we had only been together a few weeks and did not want to make a big deal about our first Valentine's Day together. I jokingly mentioned that I had always wanted to take advantage of the White Castle Valentine's Day special and to my surprise she went along with it!

The first year it was just a fun thing to do. The second year was a test case to see if it was a valued tradition. This year will be at least the 7th or 8th time that we have gone. It looks a little different with lots of small children at the table. But, people know this about us. It's a fun part of our story and a testament to the patience of my wife.

You might be reading this thinking that there is no way that you would want to have that particular tradition. I understand why. As I think about what it means to be a church family, though, I can't help but think of what our unique traditions might be. There are things that we do as a church that others might think to be weird or nontraditional and that's okay!

As we continue to press on and discern where God is calling us, it is important to celebrate what makes us US. God has given us our own quirks and callings and the best thing that we can do is use our giftedness in a way that fills our particular calling. The best church we can ever hope to be is the one that God has called and created us to be. How exciting!

Shine on. Press On. Go on.

Jeremy

ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.



HAPPY LEAP YEAR!

WHAT IS A LEAP YEAR?

Simply put, a **leap year** is a year with an extra day—February 29—which is added nearly every four years to the calendar year.



WHY ARE LEAP YEARS NECESSARY?

Adding an extra day every four years keeps our calendar aligned correctly with the astronomical seasons, since a year according to the Gregorian calendar (365 days) and a year according to Earth's orbit around the Sun (approximately 365.25 days) are not the exact same length of time. Without this extra day, our calendar and the seasons would gradually get out of sync.

Because of this extra day, a leap year has 366 days instead of 365. Additionally, a leap year does not end and begin on the same day of the week, as a non-leap year does.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF IT IS A LEAP YEAR?

Generally, a leap year happens every four years, which, thankfully, is a fairly simple pattern to remember. However, there is a little more to it than that.

Here are the rules of leap years:

*A year may be a leap year if it is evenly divisible by 4.

*Years that are divisible by 100 (century years such as 1900 or 2000) cannot be leap years unless they are also divisible by 400. (For this reason, the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not leap years, but the years 1600 and 2000 were.)

If a year satisfies both the rules above, then it is a leap year.

EARLY HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is named after **Saint Valentine**, a Catholic priest who lived in Rome in the 3rd Century. There are many stories about St Valentine and over time these stories grew into the legend we know today.

At the time of Valentine's life, many Romans were converting to Christianity, but the Emperor Claudius II was a pagan and created strict laws about what Christians were allowed to do. Claudius believed that Roman soldiers should be completely devoted to Rome and therefore passed a law preventing them from marrying. St Valentine began to marry these soldiers in secret Christian ceremonies and this was the beginning of his reputation for believing in the importance of love.

Eventually, Valentine was found out and jailed for his crimes against Claudius. While imprisoned, Valentine cared for his fellow prisoners and also his jailor's blind daughter. Legend has it that Valentine cured the girl's blindness and that his final act before being executed was to write her a love message signed 'from your Valentine'. Valentine was executed on 14 February in the year 270.

Pantry Outreach Ministry!

During the month of January, you donated 962 Packages of Ramen Noodles and 11 Miscellaneous items. WOW!!

Thanks to our generous FBC Family.

For the month of February, the pantry is asking for donations of Canned Spaghetti Sauce.



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.

THANK YOU!!

A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.
PROVERBS 22:9

Informational Meeting:

If you were unable to attend our January 29 business meeting, we will have a brief informational meeting on Sunday, February 9 following the morning worship service in the women's Sunday School room. We will present the proposed new structure for our church. There will be an official vote on Wednesday, February 26 at our next business meeting.

Business Meeting: We will have a business meeting on February 26, 2020 at 6pm. The main item on this agenda is to vote on new proposed church structure for our church. Please mark your calendars and be sure to attend!

FEBRUARY, 2020 CALENDAR

February 2~ Happy Groundhogs Day!

February 9~ Informal informational meeting after morning worship

February 14~ Happy Valentine's Day!

February 16~ Valentines Lunch immediately following morning worship.

February 17~ President's Day 

February 26~ Special called business meeting. Please make a special effort to attend this meeting.

February 29~ Happy Leap Day!



Valentine's Themed Lunch immediately following morning worship on February 16th. Please plan to be here and invite your friends and family.

A sign up sheet is on bulletin board.



From our Worship Leader

The first month of the year is gone already! February is here, and it is longer than usual since this is a leap year. We have an extra day to do God's work!

One of my goals this year for the worship ministry is to have the choir (and you) learn a new song about every four or five weeks. The choir will introduce them to you and then we will sing them for about three weeks in a row. We will not stop singing hymns! But it's nice to add to the worship service with new music and possibly other ideas in the future.

It's also my goal to try to have more duets, trios, etc. for worship. I so appreciate when all the choir members are able to be with us on Sunday mornings, but there is something special about just a few singing together in harmony.

Jeremy has been talking a little to me about drama...I'd really like to do something along those lines. Would you be interested in drama? See me and let me know!

Our children sing about every six weeks and even though they are small, they are still paying attention to the music and motions. Please encourage them after they sing.

There is a lot happening at our church. I hope you will look around and see! As I always say...

Sunday is coming, see you then!

Mirm

From our Children's Minister

Our children's ministry is nearing the end of our most recent series, *Star Voyager*. In it our mini astronauts have learned two important truths.

1) God made me! and

2) God loves me!

Most importantly the kids have learned that God not only made and loves them, but that he made and loves every one of us. We had several missions where we buckled our astro-belts and flew our spaceship to planets near and far, delivering the message of God's creation and love of all creatures, real and imagined. Luckily, we don't have to go to outer space to share the message of God's love, because our world and community are full of people made by and loved by God.

Our little kids are so bright that they are already starting to grasp concepts that we sometimes forget as grown-ups, like we are all made by God, no matter what we look like, how we act, or what we believe. And of course, that God loves us, regardless of what we think, do, or say.

Children are always processing everything they learn. They learn best by repetition and they will reiterate the ideas they've been learning over and over again. This month I'm going to take my cue from the kids and put these concepts into practice, over and over again, by reminding myself that each and every person I meet is made by and loved by God. How might that way of thinking influence the way we treat people and the attention we give them?

After all, this month we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day. What an appropriate time to ingrain new habits of love into our hearts!

Kaitlyn Runion,
Children's Minister

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Baby Nursery

2/2
April Ayers
Dale Ayers

2/9
Lori Maines
Melanie Parker

2/16
Lori Maines
Melanie Parker

2/23
Lori Maines
Melanie Parker

Pre-School

Debbie Mershon

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

2/2: Debbie Mershon

2/9: April Ayers

2/16: Lori Orne

2/23: Kaitlyn Runion

God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORT THOMAS KIDS

Baby Nursery

WORSHIP

2/2

Walter Mershon
Melanie Parker

2/9
Amy Shannon
Melanie Parker

2/16
Susan Smith
Melanie Parker

2/23
Kim Beagle
Melanie Parker

Pre-School WORSHIP SERVICE

2/2
Carol Steffen
Dora Griffin

2/9
Cindy Stricker
Bev Rath

2/16
Patty Adams
Barb Scott

2/23
Dakota Guilkey
Jerod Guilkey

Elementary Teacher

Lori Orne



This card would be so easy to make with your children or grandchildren. Why not give it a try?

True Love

For God so lo**V**ed the world,
That He g**A**ve
his on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So **N**
That whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life."
John 3:16

THE BRIGHT SPOT

Arise, shine; for thy
light is come and
the glory of the
Lord is risen upon
thee.

Isaiah 60:1



USHERS

- 2/2**
Debbie Mershon
Kathleen Webber
Donna Stormer
Bev Rath
- 12/9**
Dakota Guilkey
Mary Strange
Fay Hailes
Walter Hailes
- 2/16**
Bob Peelman
Bill Eckerle
Carol Steffen
Cindy Stricker
- 2//23**
Peggy Spradlin
Susan Smith
Jerod Guilkey
Dora Griffin

2/4
Ron Daniels

2/7
Bob Rose

2/8
Mae Sullivan

2/11
Barb Scott

2/13
David Weitkamp

&
Dakota Guilkey

2/14
Ellen Coghill

2/17
Rebecca Adams

2/19
Crosley Shannon

**DEACON
MINISTRY**



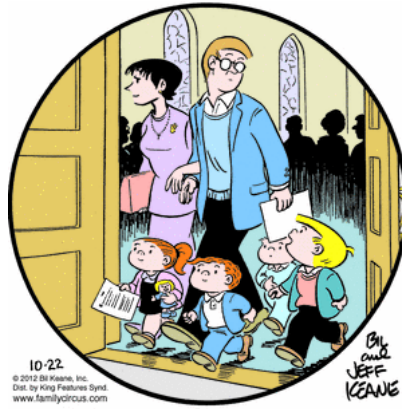
2/2
Harry Weitkamp

2/9
Walter Mershon

2/16
Bill Klopp

2/23
Lori Orne

"A joyful heart is good medicine"



When we sing hymns, I think it is best for me to just be the listener.

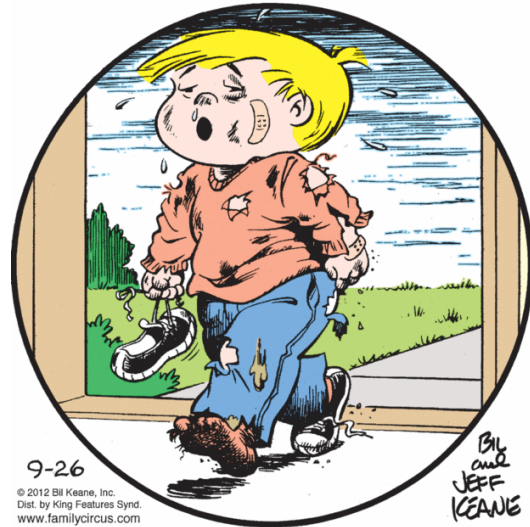


Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became a father only when I was born. (Logic! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)



"I think my guardian angel took the day off."

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

Class: Maria

HOW TO WRITE "HELLO" IN MANDARIN



Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Harold: A teacher

My son asked me "Where does poo come from?" I was a little uncomfortable but gave him an honest explanation. He looked a little perplexed, and stared at me in stunned silence for a few seconds and asked, "And Tigger?"