



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

THE VISION

JANUARY, 2023 ISSUE NO 13
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH F THOMAS

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Office Hours:

Monday: 9am-12pm
Tuesday: 9am-12p
Wednesday: 9am-12pm
Thursday: 9am-12pm
Friday: Closed

Church Staff

Kaitlyn Runion
Childrens Minister
krunion@fbcftthomas.com
859-279-8924

Debbie Mershon
Ministry Assistant
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859-441-8884

Miriam Fuller
Worship Leader
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859-391-9220

April Ayers (piano)
Barb Musick (Keyboard)

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning:
10:45am
in-person & online
Children's Church:
10:45am

Adult & Children's
Sunday School: 9:30am

Happy New Year 2023! Hard to believe isn't it? This is a new year for FBCFT, a new start, a new turn in life. Many things happened over the past year....

- We have lost loved ones, which broke our hearts.
- Our pastor moved on, which broke our hearts.
- We have experienced supply pastors, whom we appreciate.
- Dr. Terry Freeman started out just helping us in September and stayed the rest of the year! He and Beverly were such a blessing to us!
- The Church Council has accomplished many things as I mentioned in the last newsletter article (December).

But... there's more to do in 2023...

- We need to decide whether we can afford a full time or part time pastor, then we need to form a pastor search team of five (5) people. Council will meet in a few weeks to move on to do this. In the near future we will have a brief Business Meeting to vote on these things.
- We need to be faithful to the church body; show up on Sunday's and support each other, pray for each other and for the future of FBCFT.
- We have a new Transitional Pastor in Dr. Terry Fields, and we need to show up on Sundays to support him as well. He will give us his best to help us!

I believe it has become too easy to stay home and watch online. But it's just not the same. We need each other, we need to be together, we need to show love to each other and care for each other. There are reasons why people can't get out and that is understandable. But don't let it become your habit if you're able. Some days are really hard but sometimes that's the day you really need to be with your church family.

So I challenge all of us to come to church in person, if at all possible.

Pray for the future of FBCFT. I believe God has just the right person for us, we just have to be patient and wait for God to move.

Music-wise, our praise singers are faithful. Thank you to all!

As I always say... Sunday is coming, see you then!

Mirm

FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Dear Church,

Last month was a beautiful Advent season with our kids. We went through the characters of the Christmas story and learned all about Jesus' birth. At the Holiday Walk we passed out hundreds of free crafts and met many families from our community. Thank you to everyone who played a part. This month we'll be continuing through the Scriptures where we left off, with Jesus' life and teachings.

Blessings,
Kaitlyn Runion
Children's Minister



Purpose of Music in Worship

As we wake up every morning, as we drive to and from work, as we work out at the gym, and as we go throughout our days, what do we often hear? Each Sunday as we come together to worship the Lord, what frames our services? You guessed it: music.

Music serves some distinct purposes in our lives and especially within our Christian tradition. Let's examine a few.

1. Music teaches us the gospel.

Hymns and spiritual songs take our faith and compact it. In fact, the melody and phrasing of the music makes our faith memorable. Before we hear a word of scripture read or preached in the service, we've already taken in page after page through our singing. Hymns and other forms of music instruct us in the Good News, touching our hearts as well as our minds.

2. Music connects us to God in unique ways.

The purpose of music goes beyond mere instruction, however. In many ways, it allows for a direct connection with God in ways sermons can't or don't. Singing allows a part of our hearts to speak to God in a way that doesn't happen as we hear the spoken word.

3. Music allows us to express our love to God with our whole being.

Scripture commands us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5 NRSV). This verse emphasizes the entire body, not through outward actions but devotion and love.

In the New Testament, Jesus responds to a lawyer who asked him about the greatest commandment by pointing back to this same passage, saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37 NRSV).

4. Music as worship fulfills God's command.

Throughout scripture, we're commanded to sing. Within the Psalms (prayers set to music, the hymnal of the Old Testament) we read, "I... go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud," (Psalm 26:6-7 ESV); "Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!" (Psalm 98:5 ESV); and "Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" (Psalm 100:2 ESV).

From the Heart

Singing is an important part of who we are and who God created us to be. We're all wired uniquely. We have different gifts, strengths, and favorite styles of music. Scripture encourages us to find the music that allows our hearts to sing and connect to God. What touches us may be music from Kings College Cambridge, Kirk Franklin's gospel prayers, jazz settings of the Eucharist, or any of a wide range of genres.

SERVING SCHEDULES

DEACONS

1/1
Harry Weitkamp
1/8
Walter Mershon
1/15
Lori Orne
1/22
Harry Weitkamp
1/29
Walter Mershon

TELLERS

1/1
Kim Beagle & Barb Musick
1/8
Kim Beagle & Bill Eckerle
1/15
Lori Maines & Walter Mershon
1/22
Kim Beagle & Barb Musick
1/29
Lori Maines & Walter Mershon

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

1/1
Infants – Jeremy Runion & Kaitlyn Runion
Preschool & Elementary–
Walter Mershon & Miriam Fuller
1/8
Infants – Jeremy Runion & Kaitlyn Runion
Preschool & Elementary – Barb Scott & Donna Stormer
1/15
Infants – Jeremy Runion and Kaitlyn Runion
Preschool & Elementary – April Ayers & Kim Beagle
1/22
Infants – Jeremy Runion and Kaitlyn Runion
Preschool & Elementary – Susan Meyer
1/29
Infants – Jeremy Runion & Carol Steffen
Preschool/Elementary – Lori Orne & Kaitlyn Runion

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/7
Shirley Rosteck
1/20
Bill Klopp
1/22
David Adams
1/23
Ada Guilkey
&
Jeremy Runion
1/31
Susan Smith



MISSIONS UPDATES

Holy Spirit Parish Food Pantry

We are so thankful that Holy Spirit Parish Food Pantry allows us to partner with them to get more food out to those in need. In December you donated 194 cans of soup. Thank you so much for your generous donations!

For the month of January, the pantry is asking for donations of Ramen Noodles. Let's do all we can to support of this mission in January. Thank you for your continued support.



Our Christmas Offering... Grenada 24-7



This year we took up our Christmas Offering with the promise to send it to Grenada 24-7. They are a group of missionaries who work with the people in Grenada spreading the word of God.

Grenada 24-7 Ministries is a Christ-centered mission organization called to the island nation of Grenada. Their ministry seeks to reach the lost, comfort the hurting and equip believers. They desire to see lives changed through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our goal for this offering this year was set at \$500.00. We have surpassed our goal. Our total for Grenada 24-7 this year is \$1,375.00! Thank you so very much by your generous donations.

CBF IMPACT REPORT FOR 2022

Impact reports tell a story. It is a story of God inviting us into a community and equipping us for faithful ministry. It's a story of transformation – God's transformation of the world through Jesus Christ.

And there's little question God gives us what we need to be vessel for transformation and to be transformed ourselves. The issue is whether we will accept the invitation, use what we've been given and join in God's holy work in the world. As a Fellowship, we do this together.

I hope this report gives you a sense of the global, intergenerational, generous work of Cooperative Baptists in response to the call of the Triune God. Together, we are engaged in a mission and ministry in our communities and all around the world that is abundantly far more than anything any of us or any one congregation could do on our own.

More and more, when we Cooperative Baptists speak of "fellowship," we refer to a community of congregations, individuals, field personnel, theological schools, pastoral counselors and other partners from different generations and geographies that are bound together in relationship.

This community, this Fellowship, responds to crises in the United States and around the world through our disaster response ministries. We support field personnel and partners with prayer and financial support as they minister to refugees fleeing war and violence in places like Ukraine. We provide student mission and church internships to equip students to be equipped by them and equip the church. We support our annual General Assembly where you and 1,500-plus of your fellow Cooperative Baptists are able to gather to learn and to grow. We do this and so much more.

With this report, celebrate the power of our collaboration. Learn more about our Fellowship and the impact of our work together. And then accept the invitation to deepen this community where we are equipped for bold faithfulness.

Paul Baxley
Executive Coordinator
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship



December 2022

LOCAL CHURCHES The CBF exists to serve churches. CBF partner congregations contribute their unique gifts and draw strength from the community the Fellowship Provides. Churches strengthen each other through collaborative partnerships of mutual equipping as they seek God's transformation of the world. Through CBF, congregations of all types find opportunities for connection, identity and shared vision. Whether pastors, church staff, chaplains, committee members or Sunday school teachers, CBF seeks to help church leaders thrive, offering consultation, conversation, leadership development and resources for equipping, networking and renewal.

CBF has made a huge impact on FBC Ft Thomas. We have received much help from them since the Shannon Family left us. They are always willing to help their churches.