

# THE VISION

The Official Newsletter of First Baptist Church Fort Thomas

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www.fbcftthomas.com

## 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

jshannon@fbcftthomas.com  
859-536-2250

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

Kayla Swope  
Ministry Assistant  
office@fbcftthomas.com  
859-441-8884

Miriam Fuller  
Worship Leader  
mfuller@fbcftthomas.com  
859-391-9220

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**

Happy New Year!

This past November marked four years of having the privilege of serving as your pastor. With the process of moving from Memphis and trying to participate in some of the Christmas activities in our community, January really marked my first opportunity to take a deep breath and dig into the things and start to navigate what it means for us to serve alongside each other.

There have been many sorrowful times over the past two years especially, but through it all we have had an opportunity to find joy as well. We have weathered storms together and we have also celebrated great memories. Each year has looked so very different! The first two years were pre-COVID and as hard as it is to believe, we will soon be near two years of church in the pandemic age. Things that we long relied upon were not as readily available and yet, by the grace of God we have learned (and are still learning) to adapt.

I say this because this January brings what feels like the possibility of a new beginning for our church. While we are still dealing with the impacts of COVID-19, we are also beginning to see more and more opportunities to gather and reach out to our community. I am no longer foolish to proclaim that I know what lies ahead, I do believe that there is hope in knowing that we serve a God who is faithful and who will guide us as we go.

In 2022, I ask that you be in prayer for our church and for our community. Pray that God will give us a vision of what steps of faithfulness we are called to take as the body of Christ. Pray that when we have that vision we will be brave enough to trust that vision and pray that our best days are still ahead.

In addition to prayer, please consider who you think might need to hear from someone at our church. Perhaps, who might you know that you have not seen in awhile that would appreciate a greeting? Please consider ways that you might take a more active way in serving Christ through our congregation.

Looking forward, 2022 feels like a year of great potential. After years of what has at times felt like winter, my hope is that we will look back and see those moments helped prepare us for the arrival of spring, rebirth, and celebration.

My family thanks God for you daily. I look forward to seeing where God leads us in 2022 and discerning the answer to that ever important question, "What's next?"

Shine on. Press on. Go on.



## FROM OUR WORSHIP LEADER

**Mirm Fuller**

January 1, 2022... Happy New Year. Let me also say THANK YOU for the appreciation gift at Christmas. It was very nice. I love my church family!

I want to thank the choir and musicians for their hard work and extra time they put in for the holiday season. I kept them later than usual on several occasions, but it was worth it.

Thank you to those who came on the 12th to hear the combined concert at FBC Cold Spring. It was a fun evening, although a little different than in past years. A new year, a fresh start, new goals - I will not say New Year's resolutions because I never make them... I never keep them...

I am praying that the choir will run at full numbers this year on most Sundays. For a small number of members, they sound big don't they? I have many of you making comments like that to me. I'm so thankful - they do sound good.

I pray for God to bless our little church, and to bless our pastor Jeremy and his wonderful family. Looking forward to what God has in store for us this year.

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



## FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTER

**Kaitlyn Runion**

Dear Church,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Holiday Walk and our Best Gift Ever Series! Your time with the kids was a beautiful Christmas gift to our church and children's ministry. My maternity leave will begin in just about a month, so if you'd like to be a part of what we're doing with the kids please let me know so I can get you on the schedule to rock some babies!

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9am-12pm (by phone)

Tuesday: 9am-12pm (in office)

Wednesday: 9am-12pm (by phone)

Thursday: 9am-12pm (in office)

Friday: CLOSED

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# SCHEDULES FOR JANUARY

## DEACONS

1/2  
Lori Orne  
1/9  
Harry Weitkamp  
1/16  
Walter Mershon  
1/23  
Bill Klopp  
1/30  
Lori Orne

## PRESCHOOL

1/2  
Kaitlyn Runion  
1/9  
Debbie Mershon & Jeremy Runion  
1/16  
April Ayers & Kim Beagle  
1/23  
Susan Meyer & Amy Shannon  
1/30  
Debbie Mershon & Jeremy Runion

## TELLERS

1/2  
Kim Beagle & Barb Musick  
1/9  
Kim Beagle & Bill Eckerle  
1/16  
Lori Maines & Walter Mershon  
1/23  
Kim Beagle & Barb Musick  
1/30  
Walter Mershon & Debbie Mershon

## ELEMENTARY

1/2  
Walter Mershon  
1/9  
Kaitlyn Runion  
1/16  
Kaitlyn Runion  
1/23  
Kaitlyn Runion  
1/30  
Kaitlyn Runion

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## MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

Update from Bob Fox , Executive Director of CBFKY:

Brian Varble (CBFKY Disaster Response Coordinator), Scott Maas and I toured the area struck by the tornadoes last week as we evaluated where CBFKY can make the most significant impact.

Our tour began in Hardyville, a small community that saw significant damage in Hart County. Their community resilience and resources led them to be the most recovered area we saw. We continued to Ohio County where we saw eight destroyed chicken houses which led to the death of 80,000 chickens. Our next stop was Sacramento in McLean County where we saw little damage.

This changed significantly when we stopped at Bremen in Muhlenberg County. There we were not allowed in the recovery area as it was protected by National Guard sentries. We were able to talk with the Mayor and the County Judge. This small community seems like a promising place for our work. The town of about 300 lost 12 people in the storm and had many homes leveled.

We finished our first day in Pembroke which also had scattered damage.

The next day, we went to Mayfield which looked like pictures from a war movie. The commercial center of town area was flattened with many historic churches unrecognizable rubble. There was already a significant presence of relief organizations on the ground which was encouraging. We stopped at Primera Bautista, the hispanic church, and found that they were being used as a warehousing site for donations and for FEMA and Red Cross. Our conversation with their pastor Jaime Masso led us to believe that there would be significant need in the hispanic community there that would likely not be met by others. We identified this as another place where we might be able to provide help.

We then went to Princeton and found some damage outside of town. A particularly serious strike to the UK Agricultural research station left it a twisted, flattened mass. We concluded our fact finding trip in Dawson Springs. The Dawson Springs devastation may have been more widespread than anywhere else. The tornado went right through a residential area and at least seventy five homes were just piles of debris. It did appear that there was more outside aid and volunteers there than at any other site.

Over the next several weeks, we will strengthen the relationships we established and work with local people to determine what they need and how we can help. For now, I encourage you to pray for those effected and give as you are able. Currently, we have raised over \$26,000. We will begin organizing volunteer teams in coming weeks for spring and summer opportunities.

Helping with disaster recovery is one of the things we do as we follow Christ together.

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# MISSIONS UPDATES

## Holy Spirit Parish

We ended the month of December with a donation of 190 cans of soup and 18 misc. items!! Our grand total for the end of the year is 3,143 items! Wow, don't you love being family with such a generous church!?

For the month of January, we've been asked to donate CANNED CHILI, let's start this year with a bang!



## 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 January 3rd 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

By now you have seen the destruction by storms that have ravaged our state over the last few weeks. When things like this happen, I am always encouraged to see how many folks want to rally together and support those who are hurting. As part of our missions emphasis, our annual church budget sends a small percentage of our tithes and offerings to two organizations, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Kentucky and the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association.

In efforts to support storm victims as a church, we are encouraging folks to support those organizations. As of just a few days ago, the NKBA has already sent over \$100,000 to the Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Program. They provide first wave efforts in helping victims of storm damage as they begin to sort through the wreckage.

For updates from CBFKY, please read the letter from Bob Fox, Executive Director of the CBFKY, as he details efforts for a sustained presence with one community of need in the weeks and months to come. There will be needs for years to come and so the goal of CBFKY is to work and develop relationships with families as they work to rebuild.

Stay tuned for more information on specific ways that you can help both of these organizations as they seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in communities in our own state.

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# January 2022

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

“Spread love everywhere you go.”  
— Mother Teresa

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
27	28	29	30	31	01 New Years Day	02
03 Women's Missionary Circle @ noon (pack your lunch)	04 National Spaghetti Day	05	06	07 Shirley Rosteck's Birthday	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 National DO NOTHING DAY
17	18	19	20 Bill Klopp's Birthday	21	22 David Adams' Birthday	23 Ada Guilkey & Jeremy Runion Birthdays
24 National Compliment Day	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Susan Smith's Birthday	01	02	03	04	05	06

### NOTES

No Anniversary's this month