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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

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
good news*

July 2020



Worship and Ministry Schedule

Worship Service Starting
July 19th at 10:45 a.m.

No Sunday School or Childcare
because of Covid-19

Please see Pastor Jeremy's
article for more information

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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.

Greetings Church Family,

Every month as the time comes to prepare a message for this newsletter, it seems like I always think of how fast a month can fly by. This month, though, that statement might not ring as true. By now the impact of the coronavirus, the daily reports of unrest around the country, and the uncertainty of the future has many of us feeling like time has slowed to a crawl. I do hope that wherever you find yourself, you know how much I miss being with you all in person. Technology has allowed us to be connected in some ways, but I miss worship and fellowship and (of course) potlucks!

A challenge for our church has been to figure out how to plan for the months ahead. One of the things that the coronavirus has confirmed is that we just don't know what tomorrow will hold! With that being the case, we can only act on the information in front of us at the moment and trust that our next steps will be made clear. Perhaps this is a great example of what it means to walk by faith, with our best steps being to be faithful in the moment directly in front of us.

With that in mind, we do want to announce that we are ready to announce a date for resuming our in person worship. If all goes according to plan, we will resume in person worship on **Sunday, July 19**.

In the early days of the pandemic, I remember proclaiming that our first Sunday back would be Easter Sunday, no matter when it fell on the calendar. Many of us pictured a full sanctuary, glorious music, and hopefully a meal at the end of it all. Knowing what we know now, it is clear that a Sunday like that would be wishful thinking and if enacted now would not be safe.

Upon gathering, worship will look a bit different. Due to social distancing procedures, we will ask that everyone please wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building. We will not have any congregational singing and there will also be no child care or Sunday School. Our service will perhaps be shortened in length, but there will be a time where we can be in the building together!

As we look toward July 19, I want to encourage you to please consider your own health and safety in making a determination on whether or not to attend. We know that the virus is still a real threat and as your pastor I would prefer that you take the cautious route to protect yourself and your family.

In terms of celebration, our online service has been a tremendous blessing for those that can attend. We will continue to host our worship on Facebook Live each Sunday. For the time being, this means that those in the sanctuary will see recording equipment on stage that typically is not there. People around the country have been worshiping with us and we want to provide a high quality worship experience for those that are not yet ready to be with us in person.

Additionally, we feel a need to find other ways to connect with each other in the days to come. We hope to announce opportunities for fellowship that might carry less risk and will allow us to see each other. We will announce those things as soon as possible.

Announcements like this are interesting for a pastor because I feel a mixture of joy and concern regarding the how, why, and when we gather. I am thankful for our newly formed coordinating council and their guidance in helping us think through these issues. We WANT to be together. We just want to make sure what we do so in the safest way possible.

If you have any questions or if there is anything that the church can do for you during this time, please do not hesitate to call the church office. Someday this will all be nothing more than a memory and we will be able to see God's hand guiding all along the way.

Thank you for your kindness in handling this situation. I hear horror stories of churches that are fighting with each other about how to worship and I take great pride in how well you all have been supportive of the decision making up to this point.

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

MAY ALL YOUR QUILTS HAVE HOLES...

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every day life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light.

An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes, He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles.

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you. Welcome home my child."

—Author Unknown



May all your quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

Ten Independence Day Items of Trivia About The Bald Eagle: Test Your Family

1. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson served on the committee that picked the eagle for the national seal [Franklin wanted the turkey].
2. Bald eagles have few natural enemies and live only in North America.
3. Bald eagles get their white head and tail feathers about 4/5 years of age.
4. Bald eagles are not, and never were bald. The term comes from when "bald" meant "white-headed".
5. Their maximum speed: 40 mph or over 100 mph while in a dive.
6. They can lift roughly half their body weight.
7. The Bald Eagle is no longer considered endangered, and now only threatened.
8. The only other kind of eagle in North America is the golden eagle.
9. Bald eagles mate for life, but if one dies, the survivor will accept a new mate.
10. It is a felony to shoot an eagle.



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth?" Psalm 46:1-2, 10.

Dear Friends,

How is everyone doing in the midst of this unprecedented time of global pandemic? If you are anything like me, I am sure you have been doing your life and your work very differently. However, I am very grateful to serve a God who is unchanging; and we have an unchanged mission to still introduce as many as possible to Him and His Word. I am thankful that as a church, we are still able to do this. We are just finding different ways to get it done. With our online services, we have been reaching people in many different states. The church has never been closed. Only the building has been closed and we all know that we the people, are the church.

Thank you to everyone that has been a part of helping us still be able to serve our God.

Debbie Mershon



Cloud Dough



thebestideasforkids.com

Make this no cook dough recipe with your kids on a rainy day this summer and they can have fun inside the house

Cloud Dough

2 ingredient play dough

Prep Time: 5 min.

Keyword: cloud dough, cornstarch play dough

Ingredients

1/2 cup lotion regular lotion or baby lotion

1 cup cornstarch also called corn flour

Instructions

Add 1/2 cup of lotion to a bowl. Add 1-2 drops of the food coloring (if using concentrated gel, if using regular food coloring you'll need more drops to color) and mix

Mix the lotion and food coloring until combined.

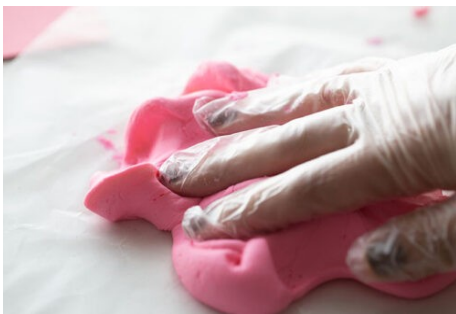
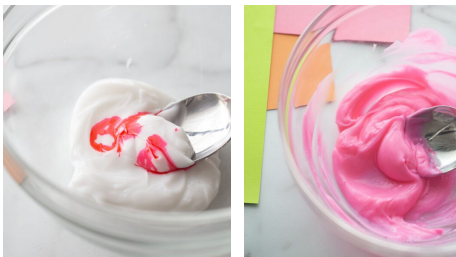
Add 1 cup of cornstarch and mix.

Mix until combined.

Then take out the dough and place on some wax paper. Knead with your hands (you may want gloves here so your hands don't stain). Keep kneading until it forms a dough-like consistency. If it's still too sticky add another tablespoon of cornstarch.

Once your cloud dough is finished, use cookie cutters and rolling pins to play with it!

To store: simply put the play dough in plastic wrap and store in an airtight container to help it last longer. If the dough dries out, add a few extra squirts of lotion to it and knead back in.



"But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

From our Worship Leader

Dear Church,

Happy July!

I know that this is all getting old but we must stick with it as best possible. I'm looking forward to regathering with some of you but even now we really don't know what that will look like. We cannot sing like we'd like to, and singing through a mask will be kind of difficult. We won't be having choir practice for quite a while...it saddens me when I have to say these things. But, this too shall pass! It didn't come to stay, although it sure feels like it right now. Hang in there; keep the faith. God is in control and He is good! He will see each of us through this time.

Pray for our country... I'm sure you already do.

Pray for each other ... I'm sure you already do.

Keep in touch with each other...I know some of you are always doing that. Thank you!

Please stay safe and well. Sunday IS coming... see you then!

Mirm

From our Children's Minister

Dear Church,

The children's ministry has begun a new series, Dive In! We're diving into the life of Peter and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This has been a series I've been wanting to do for over a year now and was waiting for the perfect Summer for it and little did I know it would be such a summer as this. Our lessons take place in the ocean and fish share Bible stories from Peter's life with us!

Thank you to those of you who have continued to pour love on our church kids through the mail and door drops. You've made the kids feel very loved and secure in our community. As the church makes plans to reopen its doors and decides what that will look like, our children's ministry will remain online for the time being. All of us in the children's ministry team know how toys wind up in little mouths, and while we've always been very careful about sanitizing the children's area after each surface, as an added precaution during the pandemic we will be holding off on resuming our kids' service until we're confident that it's safe to do so. Thank you for your constant patience as we navigate these barriers to reopening. We look forward to ultimately seeing the kids together again in safety and good health.

Blessings,

Kaitlyn Runion

Children's Minister



Happy Anniversary

7/11
David & Amy Shannon

7/17
Bob & Marty Draper

7/30
Bob & Annette Rose
&
Dan & Carol Steffen

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- 7/1
Ron Morgan
- 7/2
David Shannon
- 7/5
Ashley Beagle
&
Kerstin Orne
- 7/9
Kaitlyn Runion
- 7/16
Debbie Mershon
&
Karl Larsson
- 7/20
Nancy Larsson
- 7/22
Angie Hornsby
- 7/24
Jackie Harry
- 7/25
Dale Ayers
- 7/28
Steven Coghill
- 7/29
Stephen Becka
- 7/30
Donna Stormer

THE BRIGHT SPOT

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...

Deuteronomy 33:27



14) if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14



**DEACON
MINISTRY**

- 7/5
Bill Klopp
- 7/12
Lori Orne
- 7/19
Harry Weitkamp
- 7/26
Walter Mershon

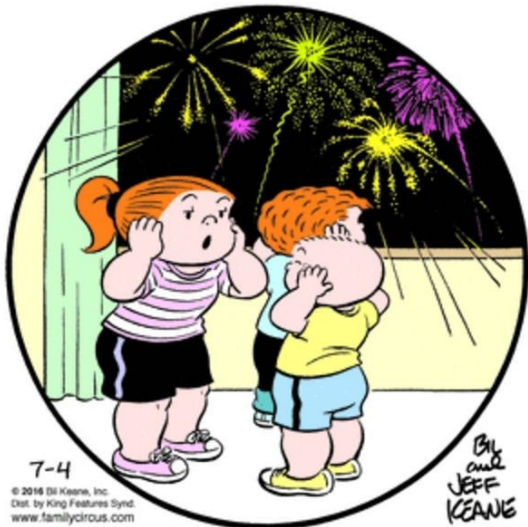
We are still here for you. If you need help with anything, please call the church office. If the office is closed, you can call one of us personally. The office number is 859-441-8884. My cell phone number is 859-653-6442 (Debbie).

"A joyful HEART is
GOOD MEDICINE"



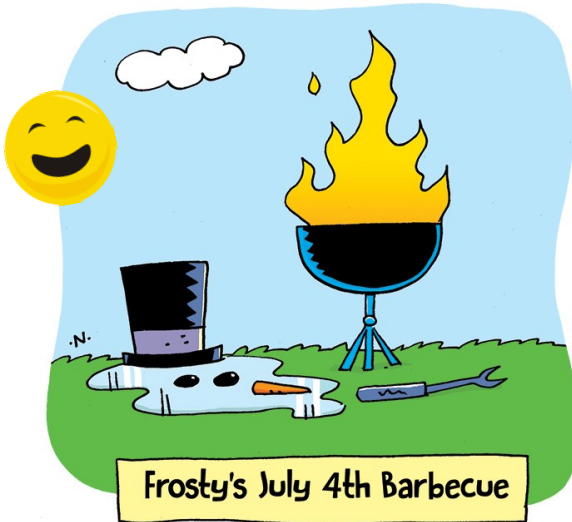
7-4
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"Today's a good day to eat hot dogs,
'cause that's what our fourth fathers
always ate."



7-4
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"You can open your eyes, PJ.
Your eyes can't hear!"



Frosty's July 4th Barbecue

Summer was over and the teacher was asking the class about their vacations.

She turned to little Johnny and asked what he did over the Summer. "We visited my grandmother in Minneapolis, Minnesota," he said.

"That sounds like an excellent vocabulary word," the teacher said, "Can you tell the class how you spell that?"

Little Johnny thought about it and said, "Come to think of it, she lives in Ohio."



An elderly gentleman with serious hearing problems goes to the doctor who fits him with hearing aids that allow him to hear at 100% for the first time in many years.

The elderly man goes back in a month for a checkup. The doctor says, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

To which the gentleman replies, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

A man comes home from work one day to find his dog with the neighbor's pet rabbit in his mouth. The rabbit is dead.

The guy panics. Thinking his neighbor is going to hate him forever, he takes the dirty, chewed up rabbit into the house and gives it a bath, and blow dries its fur. He then puts the rabbit back into the cage on the neighbor's patio in hopes they will think it died of natural causes

A few days later, the neighbor is outside. He asks the guy, "Did you hear that Fluffy died?"

The guy stiffens and says, "Um.. er.. no.. what happened?"

The neighbor replies, "We just found him dead in his cage one day. But the weird thing is that the day after we buried him, we went outside and someone had dug him up, given him a bath and put him back into the cage. There are some real sick people out there!"



First woman: My son came to visit for summer vacation. Second woman: How nice! Did you meet him at the airport? First woman: Oh, no. I've known him for years!