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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
**FORT THOMAS**

*The Vision  
Proclaiming the  
good news*

*June 2020*



All weekly  
Services have been  
Canceled until further notice.

Cancellations due to  
Covid-19 Pandemic

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Rev. Jeremy Shannon  
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April Ayers (*Piano*)

Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

Church Office Hours  
Monday through Thursday  
9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

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Church Family,

Almost three months ago I remember agonizing over the decision of whether or not we should cancel the next Sunday morning service because word was getting out about something called the coronavirus that was set to take over the country. Looking back it should not have been a hard decision as we have undoubtedly seen the issues caused by this dreadful virus and the toll it has taken on the entire country. We have lived through the last few months with uncertainty and have had to find new ways to worship and connect with each other.

While the decision to stop in person gatherings was difficult, we now find ourselves with questions that are unexpectedly difficult as well: When do we resume in person worship? What will it look like? How can we gather in a way that continues to keep people as safe as possible, using information that seems to change by the minute?

During times like this, we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us to discern what is the best decision for our own congregation. Over the last few weeks I have been in discussion with the current group of our coordinating council to develop a timeline for gathering. We met in early May and decided that the best thing to do was meet again after Memorial Day to reevaluate where things stand. After meeting on Wednesday, May 27 we have made the decision to continue online only worship for the next few weeks, with a plan to reevaluate on Wednesday June 17.

Reasons for this are ones that you might imagine. We have a congregation filled with many at risk members, due to age and other health conditions. Gathering together would require us to still maintain social distance. Congregational singing would not be doable due to the increased risk of an airborne virus. With the recent decision to reopen large portions of the state, we believe that a cautious approach is the best course of action at this point. Gathering together is important, but we believe unnecessary risk should be avoided. I know that many churches are already worshiping and I trust that they are doing what they feel as best. We just do not feel that is the right decision for us.

I know that this news is disappointing for many. It is disappointing for me as I miss being with you all. I owe you a great deal of gratitude because part of the reason this cautious approach can be taken is because of your faithfulness and kind spirits through adversity. Our online worship has been well received. You have been incredibly generous in supporting our missions giving via the COVID 19 Benevolence fund and supporting Scarlette Jasper and her work in McCreary County. At the time of writing this, giving to Scarlette has reached \$1300. Our other benevolence fund has several hundred dollars as well. We have handed at least 150 green light bulbs to our community as a sign of support those battling COVID19. Just this week we were able to send much needed cleaning supplies to international students that are living on the campus of NKU because they are unable to return home.

While we are not in the building, we have also taken great efforts to improve the spaces where we gather. Our main floor bathrooms are in the process of renovations and I cannot wait for you all to see the finished product. We have several projects in place, some of which I will not disclose just yet as I want you to be surprised with the progress being made. This new schedule has given us time to improve the spaces where we will gather again someday.

*Continue on next page...*

You are a church that loves Jesus and loves each other well. I have heard of so many cards and letters and phone calls that you all have sent to reach out to each other. You have been on the phone, running errands for our most vulnerable, and have done so with a great deal of compassion. While the church is not gathering on Sunday mornings in person, we are still continuing to “Shine God’s Light and Share God’s Love” in so many ways.

This journey has been frustrating, but I believe God will use it to show us incredible things. Please continue to pray for each other and support each other in the ways that you know how. At some point in the future we will all be gathered in the sanctuary as the people of God and we will tell stories of God’s faithfulness through this crisis. Better days are coming, I can feel it!

If there is anything that we can do for you in the days to come, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. If you have prayer requests, please let us know so that we can share them with each other. If you have praises, we would love to hear those as well! As you pray, be sure to ask God for discernment in figuring out how we can expand as the people of God and just maybe you can ask that question I like to throw out from time to time....”What’s next?”

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

I know that many of you are tired of this separation. I understand it too. It is hard to be alone and not see the ones you love or be able to gather with your church family. Keep in mind when you are suffering, our church leadership is keeping our building closed a bit longer than others because they love for us. These are extremely hard decisions that are being made. They want to keep us all safe, but they want us to all be together. Having said that, I ask you to pray for our leadership. Ask God to give them a discerning heart so they will know when God is calling for our church to be reopened.

Every one of us should be praying for our leadership and for ourselves and each other. Ask God for rest and peace expecting it be given and he will do it. Philippians 4:13 says “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Matthew 11:28 says, “Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” We can do this!

Thank you Pastor Jeremy for your great leadership!

### *Sympathy...*

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Ron Morgan and his children upon the loss of his wife, Joyce Morgan. Joyce was a wonderful child of God and a great wife and mother. She loved her family dearly. She had many great friends here in FBC and helped many years in Vacation Bible School. Joyce will be missed by many.





Pray for  
Your  
Pastor

## Pray Blessings and Gratitude over Our Pastor

[Numbers 6:24-26](#)—"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

*Dear Lord,  
Thank you for sending our pastor to shepherd the church. I'm grateful for the love you put in the pastor's heart for You and Your people. I appreciate the unique set of gifts and talents that enrich his ministry and bless our church. Would You, in turn, bless our pastor today? Help him to sense Your presence in such a sweet way. Fill him up, Lord and use him for Your glory today. And show me how I can support and encourage. Thanking You for this good leader, I pray this in Jesus' name.*







## What Is A Dad?

A Dad is a person  
Who is loving and kind,  
And often he knows  
What you have on your mind.



He's someone who listens,  
suggests, and defends  
A dad can be one  
of your very best friends;



gg75546608 GoGraph.com

He's proud of your triumphs,  
but when things go wrong,  
A dad can be patient  
and helpful and strong.



In all that you do,  
a dad's; love plays a part  
There's always a place for him  
deep in your heart



And each year that passes,  
you're even more glad,  
More grateful and proud  
just to call him your dad;



Thank you Dad...  
for listening and caring,  
for giving and sharing,  
but, especially, for just being you.



*Author: unknown*

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR DADS!!!**

## From our Worship Leader

The other day a co-worker said to me "I'm tired of this Covid 19 stuff!" Well, I have to agree...but there is nothing we can do about it except protect ourselves and try to protect others with good hygiene... and be patient! It's hard being patient sometimes. Maybe a lot of the time! But God is still on the Throne and still a very good God. Take heart! We will be together in the near future. I look forward to seeing you as soon as possible.

Something that will be a challenge to me when we are able to get back together is the fact that we really shouldn't be singing for a while. I'm not sure how that looks but we'll still have music to worship to, you may just have to hum or clap to the rhythm! Or just sit quietly and praise God.

I think about our folks who are truly "locked down" right now, like the nursing homes and assisted living places. Please remember to pray for them, and send them a card or make a phone call.

I miss you all! Please be safe and stay well.

Sunday IS coming... see you soon!

Mirm

## From our Children's Minister

Dear church,

Our children's ministry has just entered its seventh week of our series Blueprints, where our kids are learning how God can help them with whatever they're feeling. We've been sending lessons to our kids through the mail each week and door dropping small gifts to them to remind them that our church loves them.

Our kids are missing each other very much so we have continued to have a weekly video chat time where they can see each others' faces and share how their weeks have been going. It's wonderful to see that the kids have so much joy and love for each other no matter how much time passes.

As the church begins to make plans for the future our children's ministry team will be discussing plans for what kids church might look like when we're able to reconvene in person. While there are so many unknowns we are very grateful that our children's ministry has the support of a church body that has remained strong and has never stopped worshipping God together.

In love,

Kaitlyn Runion

Children's Minister



# Happy Anniversary

6/16  
Tom & Gladys  
Rankin

6/20  
Bill & Judy  
Klopp

6/26  
Ashley & Kim  
Beagle

## THE BRIGHT SPOT

Thou art my father,  
my God, and the rock  
of my salvation.

*Psalm 89:26*



DEACON

MINISTRY

6/7

Bill Klopp

6/14

Lori Orne

6/21

Harry Weitkamp

6/28

Walter Mershon



# Happy Birthday

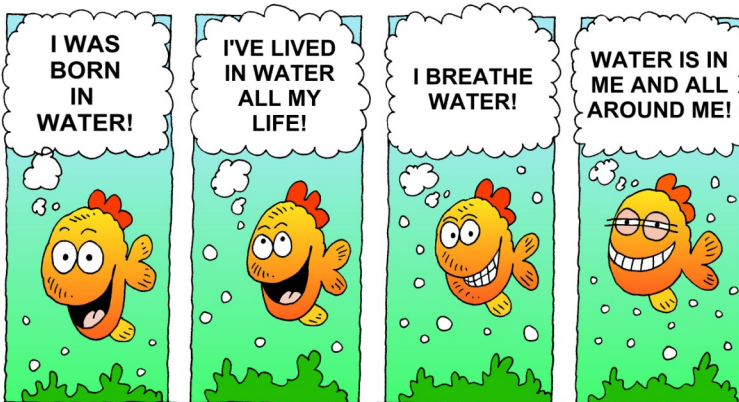
6/6  
Jeremy Shannon

6/9  
Amy Shannon

6/15  
Kim Beagle

6/16  
Kathleen Webber

NEED HELP? Call the church at 859-441-8884. We are here for you! Also **REMEMBER** to social distance. Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in public. We love our church family and need you to stay safe.



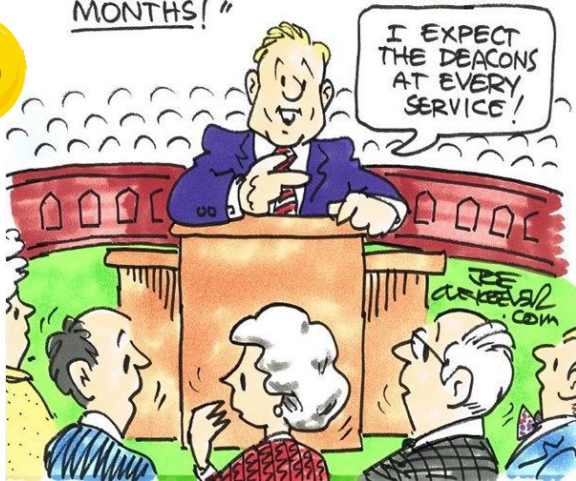
Now, change "Water" to "Grace" and read the cartoon again. Christians are "Born" into Grace, They live by Grace, And they go on for ever in Grace.



"A joyful HEART is good MEDICINE"



"GOOD NEWS FOR YOU WHO WANT OUR CHURCH TO DO THINGS THE WAY THEY DID IN THE OLD DAYS— OUR REVIVAL WHICH STARTS TONIGHT WILL LAST TWO MONTHS!"



You can tell what was the best year of your father's life, because they seem to freeze that clothing style and ride it out.  
JERRY SEINFELD  
RD.COM/QUOTES



SOMETIMES I AM AMAZED THAT MY WIFE AND I CREATED TWO HUMAN BEINGS FROM SCRATCH YET STRUGGLE TO ASSEMBLE THE MOST BASIC OF IKEA CABINETS.  
@ASKADADBLOG (JOHN KINNEAR)  
RD.COM/QUOTES