

Published Monthly by:  
*First Baptist Church*  
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
**FORT THOMAS**

*The Vision  
Proclaiming the  
good news*

*June 2021*



### **Sunday Morning Worship**

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:45 a.m. in-person & online morning worship.

Children's Church upstairs in children's department at 10:45 a.m.

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*)

Church Office Hours

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

Administrative Assistant  
Debbie Mershon  
859-441-8884  
office@fbcftthomas.com



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Hello, church family!

In my last newsletter, I shared information that we would be beginning adult Sunday School and children's programming during the month of May. I, like many, was glad that due to the easing of CDC recommendations we were able to also relax most of our social distancing protocol for the church. That meant that on May 23rd, many of us were able to worship without masks and without purple tape blocking off seating in our church. How good it was to see smiling faces and hear singing!

Over the weeks to come we will continue to look at more and more ways of continuing to connect with each other. We want to continue to be considerate of those that need to take extra precautions to keep safe from the virus, while also resuming many things that we have missed in the past. This means that some will continue to wear masks. This means that some will not. We will just make efforts to make each person feel welcome at their own comfort level.

For the past year and half we have been in a state of constant change. During that time we have had to adapt to different standards and ways of doing things. This has been a time of growth as we have figured out what it means to be the church when some of our regular options were not feasible. As things open up, we will continue to seek out what it means to adapt and be the church that God is calling us to be at First Baptist Church Fort Thomas. We will spend time over the next few weeks and months looking back on what we have learned and figure out what life will look like for us in the days to come. This means that things on any given Sunday might not look like they did years ago, but that does not mean those changes are permanent. If you have questions about something, please do not hesitate to reach out to either someone on staff or on our church council.

As we embark on this next phase of life and ministry, I encourage you to reach out to those that perhaps you have not heard from in awhile. While not everyone is comfortable with returning just yet, we never want people to feel like they are unwanted or forgotten.

And as always, please pray. Pray for our leadership. Pray for those who gather and those who will one day gather. Pray that our best days are in front of us and that we will be able to share testimonies of God's faithfulness through it all.

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

## From Our Children's Minister

Dear church,

Our children's ministry has had a strong start back to being in the actual church building. The kids loved seeing each other and it feels so right to have them worshipping together. We are still in need of a few more volunteers, so if you are available to teach regularly or to fill in occasionally as a substitute, please let me know.

We're in a new series called "Better than Gold" and it's all about how God's Word is our treasure. We're memorizing Psalm 119:140, "Your Word to me, Your servant, is like pure gold; I treasure what You say."

To all our men and father's this month, Happy Fathers Day! I hope you have a blessed day celebrating with your families.

Love,  
Kaitlyn

## Why we sing during worship

**What is the role of music in worship?**

Believers love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. And music uniquely has the power to engage the entirety of who they are in that moment of expressing devotion to God. When singing in **worship**, individuals are engaged emotionally, physically and intellectually.

**Musical ability is within the hearts of every believer**

*Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord (Ephesians 5:19).* There's an incredible beauty and connection between the spirit of believers with the Lord and each other in **music**. Songs of worship and praise can well up in the soul in times of joy and sorrow.

**Music** has a way of piercing into the deep parts of our soul, that assists in our expression and response to **God** and to the church. Singing helps unite us to the church. The gospel alone unites believers to one another

**Music** helps us engage emotionally with the words we're singing also by stretching things out. It gives us time to think about the words more carefully. Consider the repetition of Psalm 136 or the hymn "It Is Well." Through repetition the words and emotions are amplified

Admonishing - singing hymns and songs helps Christians to correct one another as they examine their lives against the words they sing. Praising - songs and hymns help Christians to **worship** God and thank Him for the good things He has done for them.

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Reading all these tidbits about why we should sing during worship makes me want to sing out where everyone can hear. How about you? I always love singing, but these things put more of an importance to it. I am ready to worship the Lord with song!

## Holy Spirit Parish Pantry

In May you donated 116 canned meat items and 14 miscellaneous items.

Way to go! Thank you so much for your generous hearts and being so willing to help those who are in much need.



In June we are being asked to make donations of canned Ravioli.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.

“Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.”

*Acts 10:4*

## CHANGES IN NEWSLETTER MAILINGS

We wanted to let everyone know that with the church re-opening more and more, within the next month or two, we will probably quit mailing out all of the newsletters to everyone in our congregation and go back to the way we were disbursing them before the pandemic. We will mail to those who cannot make it to church, email to those who have an email address on file, and print several to put on the table in our main lobby for you to pick up when you come in or as you are leaving. If you have other special circumstances where you think you need to keep having it mailed directly to your home, please call the church office and let us know. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

# TELLERS PLEASE

We are still in need of Tellers. Church has opened up more and we need people to volunteer to count money after Sunday morning worship services. Once you have been given instructions on how it is done, it truly is simple. It will require a few minutes of 2 Tellers time each Sunday. We hope to get enough volunteers that each one will only need to do this work 1 Sunday each month. At the time of the printing of this newsletter, we only have two people to say the will help. I know it will be hard to get back into the swing of church after staying home for over a year, but we really need you to please consider volunteering for this position. You will be serving your church well and it will take very little of your time.

I will be willing to stay after church with you to train you on your first Sunday and I will have a page with step by step instructions.

If you are willing to step up and be a teller, please call the office at 859-441-8884 and let Debbie know, or just tell her on Sunday morning!

Thank you so very much!

*Debbie*

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

## The Forgotten Diamond *from the short story blog*



Ashley turned the beautiful stone over and over again in her hand. “Are you really giving this to me?” she whispered in awe and wonder. The thought that her father was giving her this priceless diamond seemed almost too much to comprehend.

“Yes, my darling daughter, I am giving you that diamond. Love and cherish it, and keep it ever in your thoughts.”

Ashley threw her arms around her father’s neck. How she loved him! She couldn’t imagine life without his love.

For the first several months after Ashley’s father gave her the diamond, she guarded the diamond as she would her own life. She spent hours gazing upon it, then went and told everyone she knew about her father’s marvelous love. Her heart of gratitude showed in everything she did. She was kind and loving toward others because her thoughts were focused on her father’s kindness to her. She was always eager to serve and praise her father because her thoughts were completely consumed with him. I’d like to stop here and say that Ashley faithfully treasured her diamond for the rest of her life and continually lived in the same joy she had those first few weeks. But I’m afraid that would not be true. Ever so gradually, Ashley began to become accustomed to the diamond she’d been given. Although the diamond itself never diminished in value one bit, she stopped thinking of it as much throughout her day. While she was still kind toward others and told others of her father’s love, she did so more from habit and duty than from gratitude and joy. Her words sounded like hollow recitations instead of heartfelt realities.

“Ashley, can I talk with you?” Ashley’s friend Eliza asked one afternoon.

“Of course,” Ashley replied, wondering what Eliza could want.

“The diamond your father gave you—can you describe it to me? And can you tell me what that diamond means to you?”

“Why, of course I can,” Ashley replied. She stumbled through a description that sounded strangely vague even to her.

Ashley’s encounter with Eliza awakened Ashley’s sleeping conscience. I have forgotten to gaze upon the diamond my father gave me! I’ve forgotten to let it bring me joy. Saddened at her folly, Ashley slowly walked upstairs and knocked on her father’s study.

One look at her father’s face showed Ashley that he already knew how she had neglected his treasure.

“Come, my dear, let’s go look at the diamond again together,” he said as he gently wiped her tears.

With that, Ashley’s father led her to the special case in which she kept her diamond. Ashley broke into a fresh set of tears when she saw the diamond. She had forgotten how beautifully it glittered and glistened! Her heart felt overwhelmed once again by the incredible gift that her father had given her.

“Oh, Father, please help me to never forget!” she whispered, looking up in love and admiration into her father’s face.

*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought the field.”*

*Matthew 13:44*



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORT THOMASKIDS

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

### INFANTS

6/6

Kaitlyn Runion  
Jeremy Runion

6/13

??????\_?????  
Kaitlyn Runion

6/20

?????\_???????  
Kim Beagle

6/27

??????\_???????  
?????\_???????

### PRESCHOOL

6/6

Dakota Guilkey  
Jerod Guilkey

6/13

Debbie Mershon  
????\_???????

6/20

April Ayers  
????\_???????

6/27

Susan Meyer  
Amy Shannon

### ELEMENTARY

6/6

Walter Mershon

6/13

Lori Orne

6/20

Kaitlyn Runion

6/27

Kaitlyn Runion

When we have our children in our care and in our programs, we need to do it to the very best of our ability. We cannot do it well without enough workers. Look at our June schedule above. There are a lot of empty spaces and there are a lot of spaces with Kaitlyn's name on it. We know how hard it is to get back into the rhythm of things once you have been gone for a while, but, our kids need you. Please pray and see how you feel about it. **We need your help!** Thank you.

## THE BRIGHT SPOT

I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me. When he does wrong, I'll discipline him in the usual ways, the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I'll never remove my gracious love from him."

*2 Samuel 7:14-15*



To all the Godly men at  
FBC Fort Thomas!



DEACON  
MINISTRY

6/6

Bill Klopp

6/13

Lori Orne

6/20

Harry Weitkamp

6/27

Walter Mershon

*Happy*

*Anniversary*

6/16

*Tom & Gladys Rankin*

6/20

*Bill & Judy Klopp*

6/26

*Kim & Ashley Beagle*

6/6

*Jeremy Shannon*

6/15

*Kim Beagle*

6/9

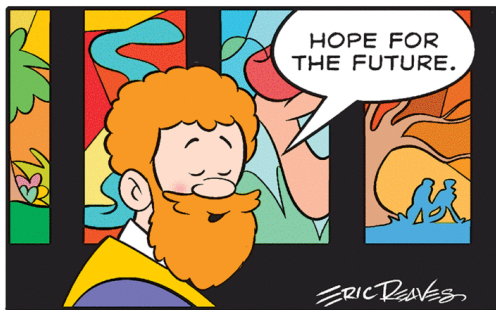
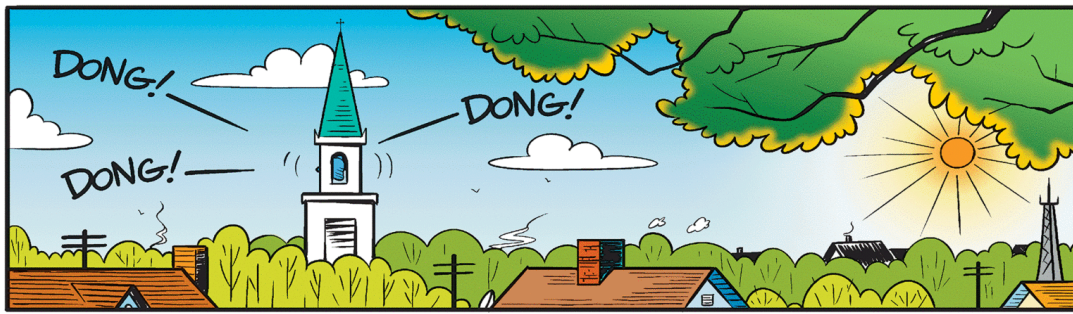
*Amy Shannon*

6/16

*Kathleen Webber*



# A JOYFUL HEART IS GOOD MEDICINE...



When I was a kid I wanted to be older.



This is NOT what I expected.

COFFEE AND JELLY BEANS

## Dad Jokes...

**Teacher (on phone):** You say Michael has a cold and can't come to school today?

To whom am I speaking?

**Voice:** This is my father.

"While having their evening dinner together, a little girl looked up at her father and asked, "Daddy, you're the boss in our family, right?" The father was very pleased to hear it and confidently replied, "Yes, my little princess." The girl then continued, "That's because mommy put you in charge, right?"

"Daddy, Daddy, can I have another glass of water please?"  
 "But I've given you 10 glasses of water already!"  
 "Yes, but the bedroom is still on fire!"

**Dad Wisdom:** Why, in a country of free speech, are there phone bills?

What was the difference between the responsibility of a modern day father and a father of 19th century? In 1900, if a father could provide a roof over the head of his family members, then he was successful. But, a modern father is not successful even if he provides a roof, deck, pool, 4- car garages and vacation.