

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

*March 2021*

*The Vision  
Proclaiming the  
good news*



## Sunday Morning Worship Service

9 a.m. morning worship only. No Sunday school or nursery.

Online Worship Service via Facebook Live 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

April Ayers (*Piano*)

Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

Church Office Hours

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

Administrative Assistant  
Debbie Mershon  
office@fbcftthomas.com



**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...**

Greetings, church family!

As we enter the month of March, we will mark the one year mark of being the church in a pandemic world. We will take time in March to talk through the year that was and pray for the year that is to come.

I hope that by now you realize how proud I am to be called your pastor. Through a tough year we have been able to continue our mission to Shine God's Light and Share God's Love in our community. During my space in this month's newsletter, I hope that you will indulge me a bit as I take a moment to brag on and say a word of gratitude for our church staff and leaders as they have navigated the past twelve months.

Miriam "Mirm" Fuller, our minister of music, has faced the challenge of constantly changing worship formats and restrictions to make sure that we are able to have wonderful worship music. I know for a fact that she misses her choir (The Mirmettes) dearly and is ready for the entire congregation to be able to sing. Nevertheless, she has worked within our constraints and continued to minister faithfully during trying circumstances.

Kaitlyn Runion, our children's minister, has been such a blessing to our families over the past year. Without being together on Sunday mornings, Kaitlyn has made sure that our children have curriculum and videos to watch each week. The whole Runion family has driven around the community dropping off special treats and words of encouragement to families. Every week, we have a video chat time where the kids all get a chance to see each other and go crazy for a bit. I am so grateful for Kaitlyn's ability to help us stay connected with our families and children as the means of being together has been limited.

Debbie Mershon, our ministry assistant, has been a main contact for so many in our church over the past year. The weekly requirements have changed, but Debbie has adapted to find ways of helping make sure everyone feels connected to the church. Whether it be the creation of an additional mailing for many of our folks not connected on a computer (called Smile Train) or being a presence in the church office to help navigate needs and mission opportunities that arise. Being a friendly, warm contact at the church is a vital need when we aren't able to be together. I am grateful that Debbie understands her role as an incredible way to serve our church family and she does it with a glad heart.

I also would like to thank Dale and April Ayers. April has continued to play incredible music for us, now playing in two services on a Sunday morning. Dale sings right alongside her most weeks. Additionally, they have helped keep the building sanitized and worked on more projects than I could begin to name. They are rockstars and are so glad to have them with us.

My fear in sharing these lists is that inevitably there is someone that will not get the public recognition that they deserve. Let me once again say how thankful I am for ALL of you as a church family. Whether coming in during the week to take care of regular maintenance, serving with our technology, or simply just checking in on each other, I am confident that we are prepared to thrive as our restrictions are lifted.

If you have a moment, be sure to thank our church staff and leaders this month. They are working hard because of their love for God and for you. We are truly blessed.

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

*Pastor Jeremy*

## From Our Worship Leader

Hello Church Family! Welcome to March; Spring is right around the corner... Happy Spring Training to all you Reds fans, especially our pastor, Jeremy!

We've had a rough February with lots of snow - but it was beautiful...God covered everything in white for just a little while and it was lovely.

It'll soon be a year since the Covid shut-down and how things have changed. I was looking at our computer in the back of the sanctuary. Our program we use for Sunday mornings is called ProPresenter. We have several presentations listed but one that is still on the site is March 8 (2020)...the last time we met in full. I'm amazed that a year has passed since then; I'm also saddened that a year has passed because it has separated us. Some of us have not seen each other since that date. BUT, I pray that things are looking up. Jeremy has worked hard to improve our ability to have online services and in person at the same time. Hopefully we'll be able to go back to one service at 10:45 AM very soon. There will be so much catching up to do when we are all back together, and I can't wait.

I have missed our children so much; hearing them and seeing them running around the church building...we have missed a year of watching them grow, and oh how that hurts. But I look forward to the day when I see Crosley dancing to the music again, and asking her up on the podium area to help us sing "Who You Say I Am". I look forward to seeing how big our kids have gotten over this past year... Martin, Asher and Henry are talking so much more now, little Ada has turned 2 and is doing preschool with mommy...I can't wait! Georgia, Raelyn, and Owen - I can't imagine how you have grown over the year... and I can't wait! It has been wonderful getting to see Tydus and Alistair here with us on some Sundays during our 9 a.m. Worship Services. We will be having a "Covid" service on March 14, recognizing one year of a new normal. Continue to top of page...

Continued...

Palm Sunday is the last Sunday of this month, March 28 and...Easter is coming! I can continue to hope for things to come and can't wait for things to get back to "normal" but Christ is our true hope! He is who we look to for everything. Many days I must remind myself of that.

Sunday is coming...Praise God!

*Mirm*

## From Our Children's Minister

Dear church,

Our kids have dived into a new series called "Hey God!" We're learning about talking to God to deepen our relationships with him. This series will end right before Palm Sunday, when we will begin a two week Easter series. Palm Sunday will be on the last day of March this year, and we're planning a craft day and Holy Week kits for our families.

Until then we are focusing on love for Lent! Each of our kids' families has received a chart to keep track of acts of love their families do between now and Easter, and a list of 100 ideas for socially -distant acts of kindness. If your family would like to join in please reach out to me and I can send these materials to you!

Best wishes.

*Kaitlyn Runion*

Children's Minister



## Holy Spirit Parish Pantry

In February you donated 207 cans of spaghetti Sauce.

Way to go! Thank you so much for your generous hearts. We must help take care of the poor and hungry.

In March, we are being asked to make donations of canned ravioli. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.

He who is generous will be blessed,  
For he gives some of his food to the poor.  
*Proverbs 22:9*



Before going to bed on Saturday, March 13th, set your clocks forward one hour. You will lose an hour of sleep but gain an hour of sunshine! I am looking forward to more daylight hours.



First day of Spring 2021...  
Saturday, March 20

HAPPY  
PASSOVER

Passover begins on March 27th at sundown.



HOLY WEEK  
SCHEDULE

March 28-April 4, 2021

## 5 Things about Palm Sunday that Remind Us Christ is King (March 28, 2021)

1. God's Word tells us the people cut palm branches and waved them in the air, laid them out on the ground before Jesus as He rode into the city. The palm branch represented goodness and victory and was symbolic of the final victory He would soon fulfill over death.

*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 1 Cor. 15:55*



2. Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey, which directly fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions. Jesus even then reminded us that He is the Prince of Peace.

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zech. 9:9*

3. When the people shouted "Hosanna!" they were hailing Christ as King. That word actually means "save now," and though in their own minds they waited for an earthly king, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him.

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!" Ps. 118:26 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom. 10:9*

4. The Bible says that Jesus wept for Jerusalem. In the midst of the praise of the moment, He knew in His heart that it wouldn't be long that these same people would turn their backs on Him, betray Him, and crucify Him. His heart broke with the reality of how much they needed a Savior.

*"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it, and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes." Luke 19:41-42*

5. Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than any the mind of man could ever conceive or plan. Man looked for someone to fight their battles in the present day world. Yet God had the ultimate plan of sending His Son to fight the final battle over death. This is the greatness of why we celebrate this week. Because of Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we can be set free of death.

*"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,'" John 11:25*

We have so much to be grateful for this week. The enemy knows that, and you can bet, he's going to do everything he can to try and distract us away from the true meaning of what this Holy Week means. Don't let him win.

—Debbie McDaniel

*From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise. (Matthew 21:16)*



## **WATCH ME!**

“Watch my fairy princess dance, Grandma!” my three year old granddaughter gleefully called as she raced around the yard of our cabin, a big grin on her face. Her “dancing” brought a smile; and her big brother’s glum, “She’s not dancing, just running,” didn’t squelch her joy at being on vacation with family.

The first Palm Sunday was a day of highs and lows. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowds enthusiastically shouted, “Hosanna!...Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Matthew 21:9). Yet many in the crowd were expecting a Messiah to free them from Rome, not a Savior who would die for their sins that same week.

Later that day, despite the anger of the chief priest who questioned Jesus’ authority, children in the temple expressed their joy by shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David” (V. 15), perhaps leaping and waving palm branches as they ran around the courtyard. They couldn’t help but worship Him, Jesus told the indignant leaders, for “from the lips of children and infants (God has) called forth (His) praise” (V. 16). They were in the presence of the Savior!



Jesus invites us to see Him for who He is. When we do, like a child overflowing with joy, we can’t help but revel in His presence.

*Our Daily Bread writer: Alyson Keida*

**How do the daily distractions and discontent of others draw your focus away from the Lord? What will help you to keep your eyes on Jesus?**

*Loving God, thank You for all You’ve done for me! I’m amazed at the great lengths You went to so that I could find joy in You. Help me to keep my focus firmly on You.*



*Thank You...*

The entire family of Dennis Risch wishes to thank the congregation for their kindness and support shown to our family during this special time of remembrance to my son Dennis. He was a long time member of our church and a member of Jim Scott’s Sunday school class. Jim helped Dennis though the years as a teacher and friend with Christian support. That is what Christianity is all about! Thank you to all for you support and love and especially to Jim Scott, a leader, teacher and friend who really helped Dennis for many years. We appreciate all your prayers, cards, and calls through this difficult time.

*Polly Risch*



...the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

**Matthew 21:9**

**PALM SUNDAY**

The Christian Chain



**THE BRIGHT SPOT**

**25 LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success! 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.**

Psalm 118:25-26



Our church family extends our deepest sympathy to Jackie Harry and her family upon the loss of her sister-in-law and best friend, Sandra Steffen and her brother, Harlon Steffen. Please keep Jackie in your prayers as she goes through this extremely difficult time.



Sandra Steffen was 79 years old, lived in Alexandria Kentucky and passed away on Feb. 21, 2021. She had a beautiful smile that lit up a room and she loved her family dearly. She was a member of Cold Spring Baptist Church. She will be deeply missed by many.

Harlon Steffen lived in Alexandria Kentucky and passed away on February 28, 2021. He was the beloved brother of Jackie Harry and the husband of Sandra Steffen who preceded him in death one week earlier. He was loved by many and will be deeply missed. At the time of this print, I had no access to an obituary or picture.



**DEACON MINISTRY**

**3/7  
Walter Mershon**

**3/14  
Bill Klopp**

**3/21  
Lori Orne**

**3/28  
Harry Weitkamp**



**March BIRTHDAYS**

**3/5  
Linda Becka**

**3/7  
Bruce Harry**

**3/8  
Marian Boyer  
&  
Ashley Silz**

**3/10  
Candy Pentz**

**3/14  
Karolee Carter**

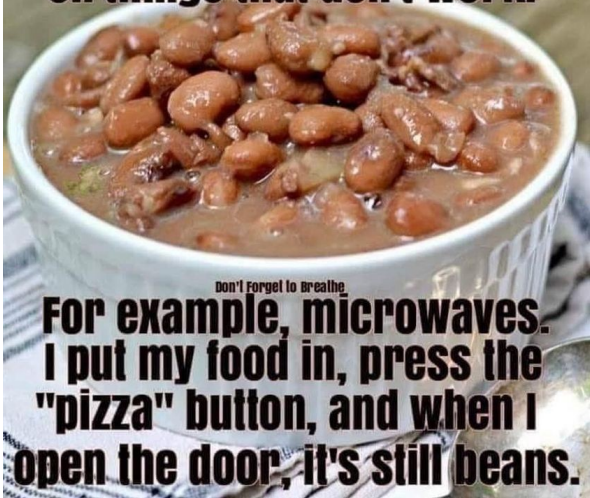
**3/20  
Walter Hailes**

**3/24  
Harry Weitkamp**





I'm so tired of wasting money on things that don't work.



Don't forget to breathe  
For example, microwaves. I put my food in, press the "pizza" button, and when I open the door, it's still beans.

At first, I thought I had Covid because I couldn't breathe.



Then I unbuttoned my pants and it was all ok.

Adam & Eve have an argument...



I WANT MY RIB BACK!!!

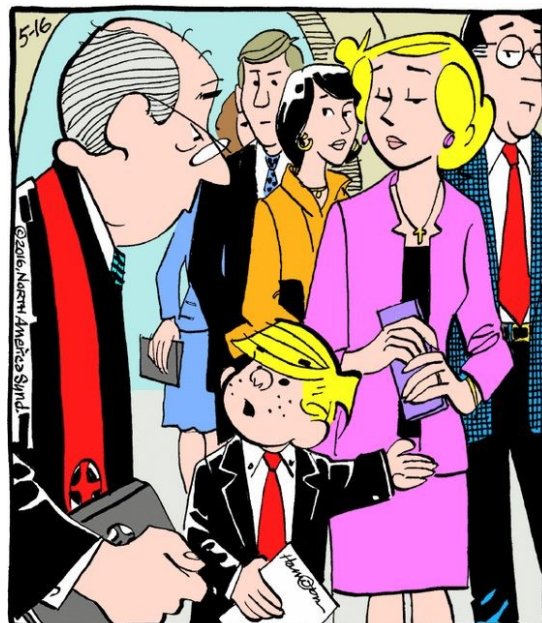
**A JOYFUL HEART IS GOOD MEDICINE...**

A man asked a fairy to make him desirable & irresistible to all women. She turned him into a credit card! :)

**I TOLD HIM I WANTED TO WALK DOWN THE AISLE**



**HE SENT ME GROCERY SHOPPING**



"I HOPE MY DAD'S SNORING DIDN'T DROWN OUT YOUR SERMON."