

Published Monthly by:
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

May 2021

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
good news*



Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:45 a.m. in-person morning worship only. No Children's Sunday school but we will have children's church starting May 23rd.

Online Worship Service via Facebook Live also 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
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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...**

Each week, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Kentucky sends out an email with announcements regarding things going on in the Fellowship. One of the included items is an article that features different congregations and the work that they are doing to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. This week I had the privilege of writing an article about our church and let them know what is going on at First Baptist Church Fort Thomas.

As someone who is rarely short on words, I found myself struggling to write an article that accurately described what I believe God is doing amongst the church. I talked about our staff, about our heart for missions, and about our efforts to be a community church. I bragged on you all, but it always felt a bit weird trying to say "First Baptist Church does this..." or "First Baptist Church does that..." because something was missing. And you know what it was? The people! None of the things that I described in my article could happen without people, but to hear churches talk about what is doing, it becomes too easy to forget that. We don't gather together for worship only because we are called to worship, but because we can't wait to see those gathered in the pews around us every week. For every community event that we participate in, there are conversations with our own folks and those in our community that make us long to be together even more. Investing in the lives of each other and those around us is what really sets us up for lives of faithful obedience.

Now for the sake of an article, I could not properly introduce individuals and it would not really make sense to do so. It does, however, make me think about what it means to be the church. What this tells me is that as we continue to gather and as we look at reopening our schedule to ways that resemble life pre-pandemic, I hope that we never take for granted the joy that comes in serving together as God's people! The people are what makes this community of faith such a special place to be and the only way to realize that is by experiencing it firsthand.

The month of May brings new opportunities for gathering. We will return to adult Sunday School on May 23rd. Our children's ministry will begin to gather on that day as well. In this newsletter you will find more information regarding specifics. As we prepare to meet together, please be in prayer for the fellowship that we will encounter. It will be so good to gather together as friends and family and continue to spur each other on to doing good things. This summer will be a summer of regathering. What's next?

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

From Our Children's Minister

Dear church,

We're thrilled to finally announce that our children's area will be reopening for in-person children's church on Sunday, May 23rd! Our first Sunday back we'll be starting a new series about the Bible called "Better than Gold!"

While we're taking this step towards normal we will be easing into things and doing some things differently. At this time we will not yet be having children's Sunday School, and we will not be having a children's moment in the sanctuary. Parents are asked to bring their kids upstairs upon arrival for check-in. All volunteers, as well as children over five will be asked to wear a mask, as well as any younger children who are able to do so. There will be sanitizer available upon arrival and as always, toys will be disinfected after each service. In order to keep our kids and their families as safe as possible, at this time all volunteers must be fully vaccinated. All of these procedures will be reevaluated once things are running smoothly, and we hope to reinstate Sunday School and children's chat soon.

When we reopen on May 23rd we will no longer be having weekly video chats with the kids since we hope to see their faces in person! We will also not be mailing lesson materials home to parents, although there will still be digital materials that they may download.

When we reopen we will be in need of many volunteers to make our new, socially-distanced children's service work! I know so many of you have eagerly asked me when our children will be returning and now that this can be a reality I hope that just as many of you will step up to the plate and volunteer so we can give our kids the safe and welcoming environment they deserve. Thanks be to God that we are finally able to make this step. Please prayerfully consider what role you may be able to play in making this next step towards normal a positive one for our kids and their families. If you are not fully vaccinated or are otherwise unable to volunteer, there are still things that you can do to support our kids and their families so please consider what your gifts and abilities may be and give me a call. I'm grateful God has filled our church with such talented and generous people, because we will be needing you all now more than ever to make this next step of reopening a success.

See you soon!

Kaitlyn Runion

*Blessed is the
Woman who
Walks with God*

*We are so blessed to have so many
women of God in our midst.*



Welcome to the world Peyton Arlena Dawn Montgomery. Her parents are Karolee Carter and Jared Montgomery.

Proud great grandparents are Walter & Debbie Mershon!

Holy Spirit Parish Pantry

In April you donated 269 cans of Tuna and 13 miscellaneous items.

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

In May we are being asked to make donations of canned lunch meats like Spam. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.

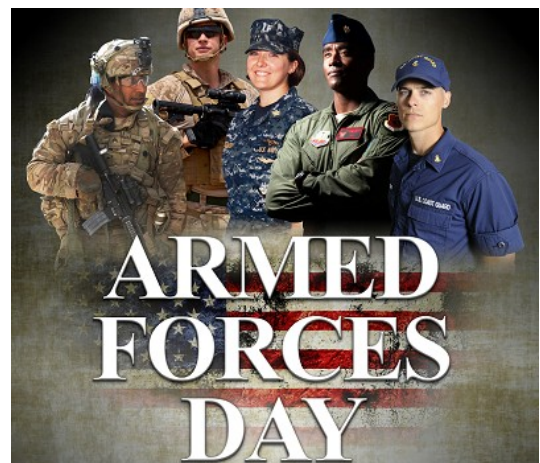


“Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.”

Acts 10:4

My Fellow Americans, Ask not what your Country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country?

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



Armed Forces Day for the year 2021 is celebrated/ observed on **Saturday, May 15th.**

Armed Forces Day is held annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a time to honor the men and women who **currently** serve in the armed forces in the United States. Armed Forces day culminates the end of Armed Forces Week in which each branch of the military is honored on a separate day of that week. **Veterans Day** honors all those who have **previously served in the military.** We honor those men and women who have died serving in the United States Armed Forces on Memorial Day.



PRAY FOR OUR VETERANS!

THE OTHER SIDE OF WHY

Sharon Jaynes

“My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.” Job 42:5 (NIV)

My son, Steven, and I sat on the floor in his room, playing a card game. This summer was proving to be the best ever. Our golden retriever, Ginger, had just delivered seven adorable puppies; Steven was enjoying his sixth summer of life, and after four years of negative pregnancy tests, God had surprised us with a new life growing inside my womb.

But as Steven and I sat cross-legged on the carpet, I sensed something was wrong. A trip to the bathroom confirmed my greatest fears. Later that afternoon, the doctor voiced the weighty words, “There is no heartbeat.”

What do you do when heartbreak slams into joy? When your soul cracks open and there just aren’t enough tears? When hurt steals your hope, and you want to give up on life? When deep soul lesions make a mockery of your faith?

I wish I could tell you I left the doctor’s office quoting Romans 8:28a about how “... *all things work together for good ...*” (ESV). I wish I could tell you that I calmly accepted the loss of my baby with faith, trusting that even this was somehow part of God’s plan. I wish I could tell you I spent the rest of the day singing “It is Well with My Soul.” But I didn’t do any of those things.

I went home, crawled in bed and pulled the covers up over my empty womb and broken heart. I didn’t want to talk to anyone, especially God. And what I did say to Him wasn’t very nice.

How could You do this to me? If this is how you treat those You love, then just forget it! You answered my prayer only to take it back! Why me? Why this? Why now?

Job was a man in the Bible who also had a lot of questions for God. In one day, his enemies killed all but a handful of his servants and stole all 11,000 heads of livestock. Then a strong wind collapsed his son’s house and killed all 10 of Job’s children. If we’re familiar with the story, though, we know how it all ends: The Lord not only restored what Job had lost, but “*gave him twice as much as he had before*” (Job 42:10b, NIV).

But can you imagine what it was like to live through it in real time? Job was stuck in a bad story, and he saw no end in sight. He had no idea why it was happening. He didn’t know God would give him twice as much as he had before. All he knew was loss, disappointment and pain. That might be where you are right now, stuck in a story you don’t like. But hang on! God’s pen has not slipped. He’s still in control. There’s more to come.

My favorite line in Job’s story comes at the very end. Job says to God, “*My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you*” (Job 42:5). That is my prayer in every difficult circumstance of life. I don’t want to simply hear *about* God; I want to see God and have communion with Him in the midst of it.

Sometimes we have to let go of our plans to take hold of God’s purpose ... and it’s always good. A house full of children was not how my chapter of infertility and the loss of a child ended, but I can still say it had a good ending. God has made me fertile in so many other areas, and I wouldn’t change a thing. When women come to me trying to make sense of the disappointments in their lives, I can say, “Come, sit with me. Let me tell you a story.”

following **CHRIST** together with

Each week, I conclude my article with the phrase “following Christ together.” It is I think the best and most concise description of what it means to be a part of CBF Kentucky and CBF. This has struck home with me in the past couple of weeks.

You probably have noticed our recent emphasis on disaster response work. Some weeks ago now, our Disaster Response Coordinator, Brian Varble, arranged a trip to Lake Charles, LA for hurricane clean up work. I am excited to be joining the group in helping in this effort. This sort of work is always important, but this is particularly vital because the hurricane struck before Covid and we will be the first team to come and help in well over a year. We are doing it in solidarity with CBF Louisiana as we follow Christ together.

With these arrangements in place, disaster struck much closer to home. The recent flooding in Eastern Kentucky was so dramatic that it was featured on the national news. This made me feel a bit guilty. Why were we sending a team to Louisiana when there was work much closer to home? We have arranged in partnership with Together For Hope and First Frankfort for housing and work opportunity for those interested (feel free to ask for details!). But why go elsewhere when the need is here?

And then I got a phone call from Jay Kieve, the coordinator of CBF South Carolina. He told me that as a part of their annual meeting next week, they will be collecting cleaning buckets for flood relief in Eastern Kentucky. Even more exciting was his report that he is expecting a church in his state to send volunteers to Eastern Kentucky.

It is an example of God’s provision and the complicated web of grace in which we live. Louisiana needs help and Kentucky comes. Kentucky has a need and South Carolina is on the way. It is what happens when we follow Christ together.

Peace,

Bob Fox



EXTREME BUILD 2021!

We have selected a family!

Pre-build: June 8-12

Extreme Build: Jun 14-19

***You can register and get more information
on our website***

www.cbfsky.org/extreme-build

*The mother's
name is Lika
Hall and she
currently
lives in*



*Whitley City,
with her two sons, Augustus
Hall, aged 5; and Oliver Perry,
aged 2. Lika works at the Shell
Express convenience store in
Pine Knot. The family currently
lives in a older model mobile
home that they rent. They are
very excited to move into their
own home!*



Happy Anniversary

5/4

Jeff & Susan Smith

5/12

Walter & Debbie Mershon

5/22

David & Lori Orne

5/31

Harry & Tina Weitkamp

THE BRIGHT SPOT

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

Proverbs 31:25



**DEACON
MINISTRY**

5/2

Walter Mershon

5/9

Bill Klopp

5/16

Lori Orne

5/23

Harry Weitkamp

5/31

Walter Mershon

Happy Birthday

5/17

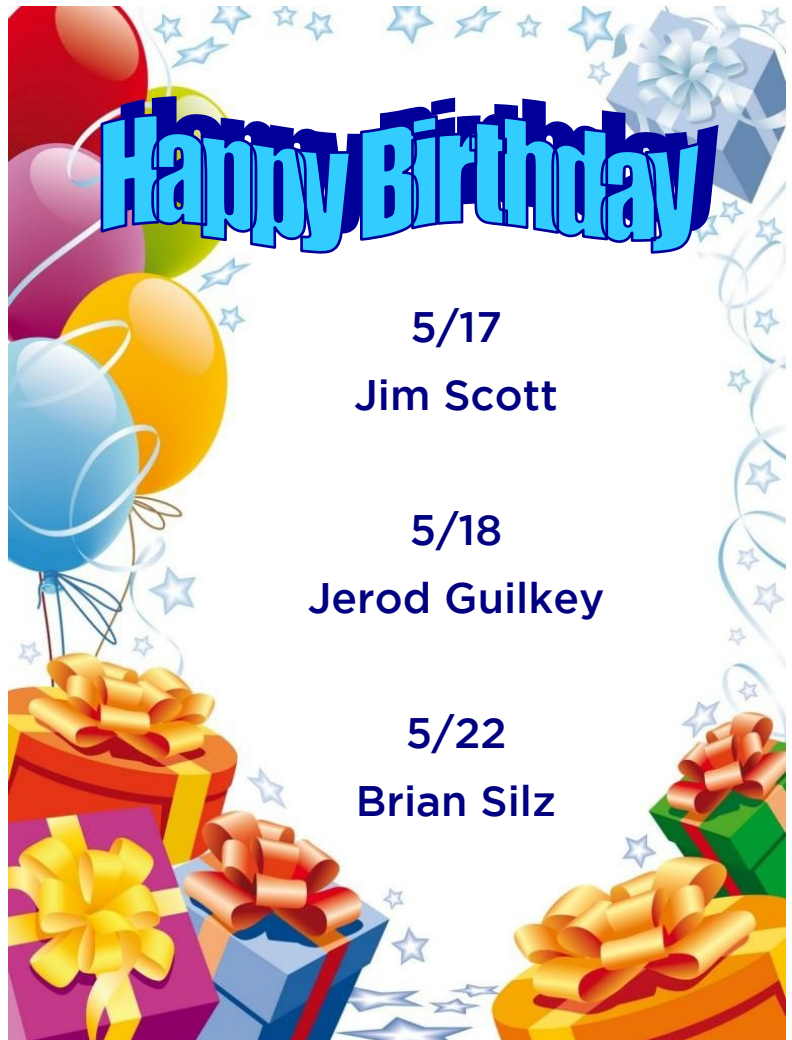
Jim Scott

5/18

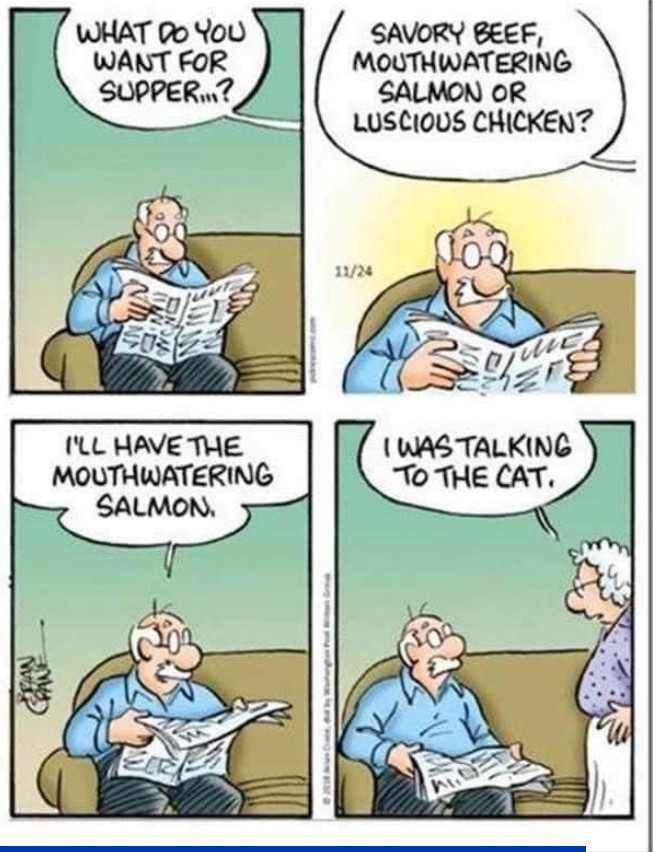
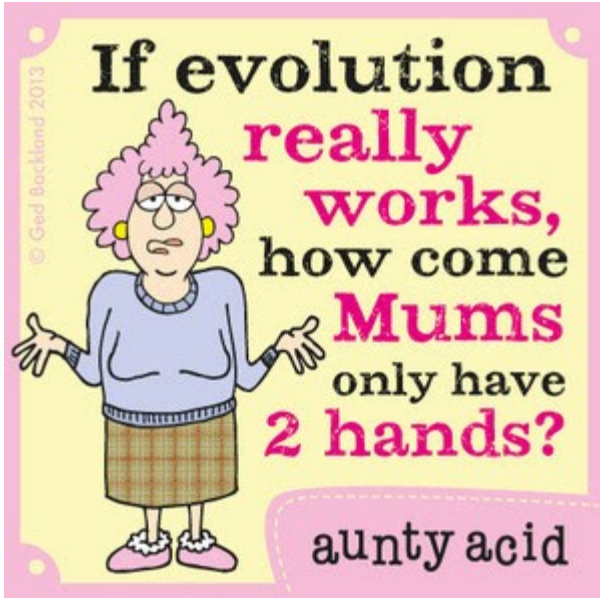
Jerod Guilkey

5/22

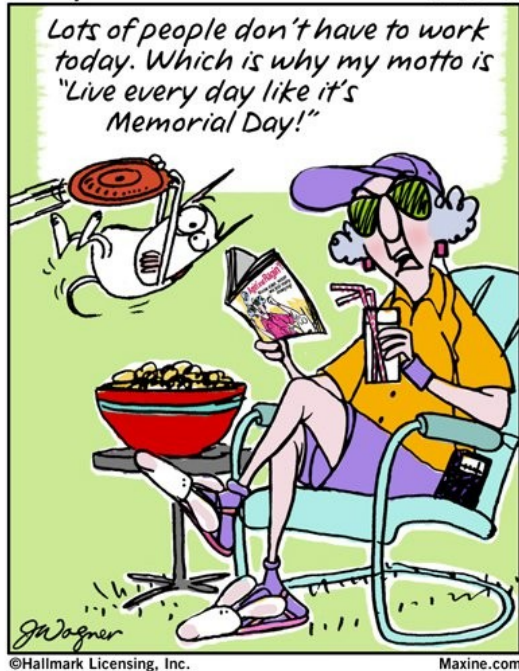
Brian Silz



A JOYFUL HEART IS GOOD MEDICINE...



Crabby Road 5-30-11



Monday, May 28, 2012

