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First Baptist Church
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

November 2020

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
good news*



Sunday Morning Worship Services

In person worship service at 9 a.m.

No children's activities or Sunday School at this time.

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...**

If you have ever had a chance to see my Facebook page, you will not be surprised to know that I take lots of pictures of my children. One of my favorite comedians, Jim Gaffigan, once said that he believes he has taken more pictures of his kids than his dad ever looked at him. With cell phones constantly at hand, I take pictures of all kinds of things throughout the day, especially my kids.

At night (typically after a quick celebration of putting them to bed), Jenni and I inevitably look at those pictures. We'll share moments from the day and feel a renewed fondness of our kids. With them not directly in front of us, we see things differently. We see the changes that are sometimes harder to notice in the moment.

What seems to happen with these photos is that I'll look back at one year ago or two years ago and have a hard time believing how small I now realize they were. At the time I thought they were so big! Looking back I believe that I treated them with different expectations, forgetting that little bodies and little minds can only have so much control. When I think of how much they have since grown, I am proud.

The past year has provided numerous challenges for our lives both in and out of church. Due to social distancing we simply have not been able to do everything that we wished to do. I know the temptation is to just put our lives on hold and wait for the virus to be over, but what I keep reminding myself is that God's action and faithfulness in the world is not dependent on a virus, on an election, or on any other trial that might come our way.

One of the benefits of this time is that if we pay attention, it might just be one of those moments like the ones Jenni and I have many nights. In the same ways we look at the development of our children, we'll look back at the last few years of our church. We can see the moments that brought us joy, the moments that made us worried, and think of all of the ways that we have been changed by being in fellowship with each other.

While we don't know when, we do know that the pandemic will end. One day we'll be together and celebrate regaining what has temporarily been lost. Until then, let's use this time to prepare ourselves for those next steps. Commit to prayer. Think back on what is really important and consider what maybe doesn't matter as much as we once thought. Study your bibles. Call each other on the phone. Learn a new skill.

We believe that God is alive and active through the church of First Baptist Church Fort Thomas. Someday we'll look back on these struggles and see that we were strengthened by our circumstances and perhaps we'll see where our faith had a chance to thrive. We can't see the growth now, but by the work of the Holy Spirit we are being renewed day by day.

I know that this holiday season will feel different, but I hope that you are able to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones. I am privileged to be your pastor and I thank God for that opportunity every day. Please continue to be safe and we hope to see you very soon.

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

From Our Worship Leader

November is here...it's definitely Fall! The trees are turning...I think there are some of the prettiest trees in Ft. Thomas, I see many on my way to church.

2020 has been such a weird year, as we all know. I'm so glad we have the in-person service and our Facebook Live service. Hoping soon we can combine them for one service. I miss our children and I was so glad to see pictures of them doing crafts with Miss Kaitlyn! What a fun time they had.

I will tell you that our churches we get together with for a cantata are still trying to do some sort of music program, but a full choir is out for sure. We are trying for some small groups and several different bands, and a hand bell choir. It is scheduled for the second Sunday evening in December. Time is not nailed down yet. And, it may not happen at all, so we are just trying to be prepared if we can manage it.

I want to thank April Ayers and David Shannon for being faithful each week to help with the music. It's my hope that when we can go back to one service I will be able to have a few more people up front with me to play and sing. We'll just have to wait and see.

Thank you for your prayers for (and cards sent to) Marie, my neighbor. She slipped away quietly on Sunday evening, October 25th just before midnight. You have no idea how much you meant to her and how much of an impact you had on her with your cards and conversations when she would visit with us. Thank you.

Hoping to see you Sunday either in person or on the air!

Mirm

And remember, "Almighty God is sovereign and supreme! He alone reigns supremely over every being, so nothing on earth occurs without His permission."

Daniel: In God I Trust, a devotional book.

From Our Children's Minister

Church friends,

October has been an exciting month! We were sad to not have a Trunk-or-Treat this year but instead had a pumpkin painting day with our church families one-on-one and I was able to have some quality time with the kids. It was a wonderful experience and we hope to do another craft day soon.

We're in a new series called Right on Time. We're exploring important social issues like racism using child appropriate language from scripture that teaches us to listen, be kind, and do what's right. Our hope is that this will be a tool for parents to have important conversations with their kids.

Thank you for your continued support! It's been good to see some of you in church on Sundays.

Warm regards,

Kaitlyn Runion

Children's Minister

Holy Spirit Parish Pantry

In October you donated 247 envelopes of gravy & 97 miscellaneous items.

Way to go First Baptist! Thank you for your generosity.

In November, we are being asked to make donations of boxed stuffing such as Stove Top Stuffing. Let's all do our best this month! It is the time of year for giving and Thanksgiving!

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.

For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'
Deuteronomy 15:11



Sunday, November 1

Go ahead and turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Halloween night. You don't want to be late for church!



November 3, 2020

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL, BUT

WE OWE THEM ALL!

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR VETERANS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



We wish you God's abundant blessings, peace, hope and happiness.

However you decide to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, please do so in a safe way. Let's all ask God for a blanket of protection for all of our families which includes our church family as well.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1



#MYFBCSTORY

Stories of Why We Gather Together

"My attendance at FBC FT began in July 1954. I brought my membership in 1955 if my memory serves me right. It was a real change from a little country church, Pleasant Ridge Baptist, to a much larger church...Years passed and my children, Rich and Mary, were into many children and youth activities. The church was a very good influence on their lives. I have been a SS Teacher, a Bible School helper, in WMU, and other activities. I am still attending and I can really say, "It has been and still is my church." "

- - Thelma Boehne



THANKSGIVING, "A DAY OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE", & religion?

- **"And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name." 1 Chronicles 29:13**
- **"Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." Hebrews 13:15**
- **"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:7**
- **"I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30**
- **"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself." Psalm 89:1-2**

One thing we have learned over the years is that the history of Thanksgiving we learned as children may not be completely true. The Wampanoga Indians and the Pilgrims may not have come together out of true friendship but out of necessity to become allies to stop another group of native Americans. That first meal they shared was probably not for the reason we have been taught therefore it may not have been very Christian.

That being said, all my life I have spent each Thanksgiving giving thanks to God for all the many blessings that have been bestowed upon me and my family. I love God and I love my family so to me, it has always seemed like a religious holiday. No matter what happened back in 1620, I will always celebrate each Thanksgiving Holiday as a day of Thankfulness to my God. This year, I think we will sing praises to Him as well. How about you? How do you spend Thanksgiving?

Debbie Mershon



Thankful Doughnuts

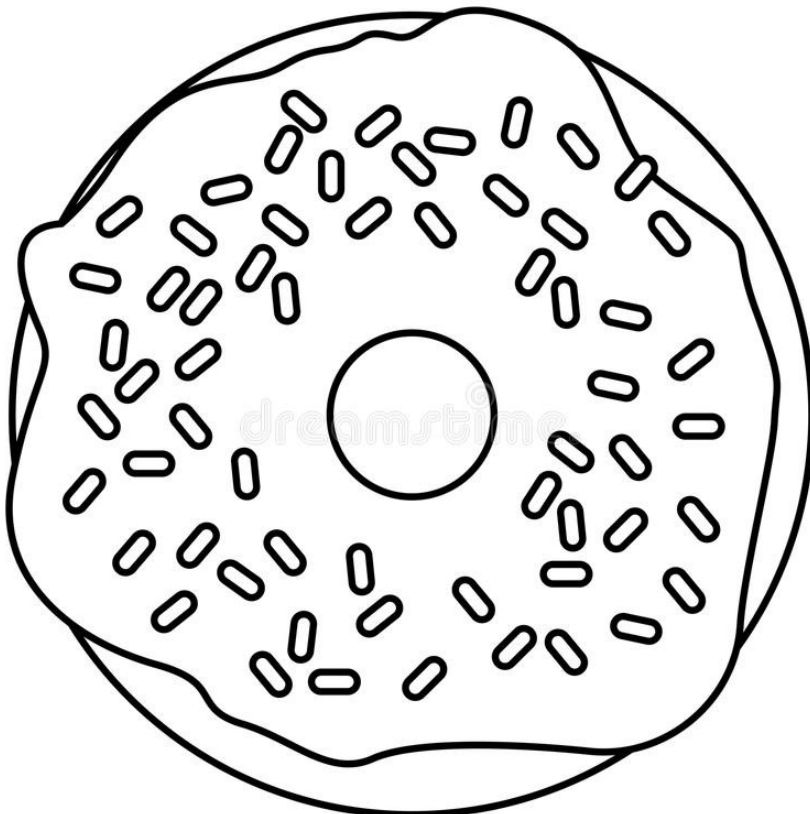
This is a decoration that reminds kids to be thankful for everything they have instead of worrying about the “empty spaces” in their lives.

1. Make a paper doughnut template for each of your children from construction craft paper or cardstock.
2. Have your decorating supplies handy for your kids to decorate their donuts with glitter, stickers, markers, crayons, glue, glue sticks, etc.
3. Talk about being grateful for doughnuts (yum!) AND for the empty spaces in the middle. Give thanks for what IS there instead of worrying about what ISN'T.

*bonus! purchase a box of doughnut holes, and make sure your kids say THANK YOU!

First Thessalonians 5:18 says: give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you

This passage tells us that even if we do not have everything we want; be thankful for what we do have. Always be thankful to God for whatever it is we have. Also be thankful to other people as well. Talk about who all you can be thankful to have in your life.



How Thankful Am I?

By Michele Meleen



How thankful am I?
Let me count the ways:
One thanks goes out to the turkey
we eat
Two thanks for Mom and Dad
Three thanks for potatoes, stuffing,
and corn
Four thanks to the desserts I had
Five thanks to my teachers for
giving so much
Six thanks to the rooms in my
house
Seven thanks for our ancestors
Eight thanks for spills that stayed
off my blouse
Nine thanks to my friends who
share
Ten thanks to Thanksgiving every-
where



THE BRIGHT SPOT

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Colossians 3:15



**DEACON
MINISTRY**



**11/2
Lori Orne**

**11/9
Harry Weitkamp**

**11/16
Walter Mershon**

**11/23
Bill Klopp**

**11/30
Lori Orne**

"A joyful HEART is
GOOD MEDICINE"



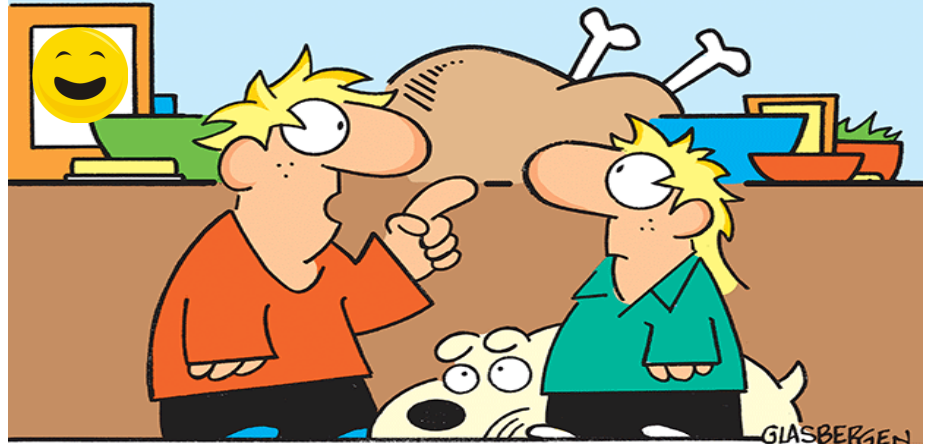
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JEFF
AND
THE
KEANE

"Hear that? People in heaven have
ever-laughing life."

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GLASBERGEN

"On Thanksgiving the Four Basic Food Groups are
"more, a little more, a lot more and too much"

SOMEWHERE,
SOMEONE IS
SHOWERING



WITH A MASK ON.
I JUST KNOW IT.



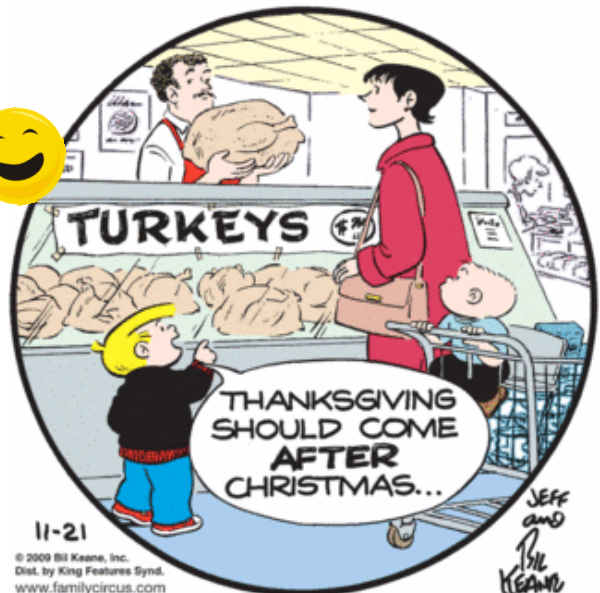
LOVE IS IN THE AIR.



BUT SO IS THE FLU & COVID,
SO WASH YOUR HANDS!



So, after this quarantine...
will the producers of My
600 Pound Life just find
me...or do I call them...or
how will this work?



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JEFF
AND
THE
KEANE

"...then we'd have more things
to be thankful for."