



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
FORT THOMAS

# THE VISION

October, 2022 Issue No. 10

The Official Newsletter of First Baptist Church Fort Thomas

600 N Ft. Thomas Ave. Ft.  
Thomas KY 41075  
Phone: 859-441-8884  
www.fbcftthomas.com

## Office Hours:

Monday: 9am-12pm  
Tuesday: 9am-12p  
Wednesday: 9am-12pm  
Thursday: 9am-12pm  
Friday: Closed

## Church Staff

Kaitlyn Runion  
Childrens Minister  
krunion@fbcftthomas.com  
859-279-8924

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

Miriam Fuller  
Worship Leader  
mfuller@fbcftthomas.com  
859-391-9220

April Ayers (piano)  
Barb Musick (Keyboard)

## Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning: 10:45am  
in-person & online  
Children's Church: 10:45am

Adult & Children's  
Sunday School: 9:30am

## First Baptist: Our Church of Cheerful Givers

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

“He has dispersed abroad,  
He has given to the poor;  
His righteousness endures forever.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-9 NKJV

FBC Fort Thomas is a giving church. This is a fact supported by years of ministry and missions support beyond what anyone believes a church our size can produce! We support so many worthwhile endeavors and I am so thankful for your generosity. Now, I would like to challenge your generosity. Our budget income over the past few months has been low. We are not meeting our monthly budget needs. This will become a problem for us over the winter months. The gas and electric charges for the winter are expected to increase dramatically. In addition to the gas and electric charges, any charges for snow removal will be outside of our already stretched budget.

But wait, I can hear you say, we are not paying a full-time pastor right now, so doesn't that give us some extra money? Not really. There are things we need to pay for while we are looking for a new pastor. We still have the expenses of a supply pastor, and they may be less than a full-time pastor, but they are not free. We also need to be sure to have enough money to cover our staff expenses, because our staff members are picking up more of the workload now that we are without a pastor. In addition, many routine maintenance projects were postponed due to the pandemic. We are currently working to have the church professionally cleaned, because this has not been done for several years. It is a lot!

That is why I am asking our church of cheerful givers to consider a slight increase in your routine giving. I know that you are already giving, but could you increase your giving even slightly? A 1% increase might not be too much for you, but it might make a significant difference to our budget..

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Please pray about this request for a slight giving increase. I would not ask if it was not important. I realize that we have not had a business meeting in some time, so next month I will be including the current budget, income, and spending for your review. You can see exactly how and where the money you give has been spent. I want everyone to feel comfortable that your church is being cared for and is financially responsible.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Blessings to all!

Lori Orne  
Treasurer

### **FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTER**

Dear church,

Our kids have been learning more about Jesus' teachings and miracles and we're sharing with them the great love that he has for them.

This month we'll be reaching out in our community at the Fort Thomas Farmer's Market Fall Kick-off on Wednesday, October 5th from 3-6pm. We'll be popping popcorn in the Mess Hall again, which was a big hit when we did it in the summer and passed out over 300 bags of popcorn. If you can join us we'd love to have you! It's often the same faces volunteering at these events and I'd love to get to know more of you better.

We're hoping to have a casual Halloween candy hand out on Halloween night from 6-8pm. We'll be set up at a table at the parking lot entrance, so if you'd like to join us please come through the other side of the building. This will be very casual so if you just want to stop by for an hour or less that's great. If you can donate a bag of candy please leave it in my office.

Blessings,  
Kaitlyn Runion  
Children's Minister

### **FROM OUR WORSHIP MINISTER**

I know my little section is supposed to be about worship/music but I'm veering off just a little this time. As a member of the Church Council, I want to take time to say THANK YOU to those who came out to help move items from rooms so we could get floors cleaned. Those who showed up to help were:

Jim Scott  
Lori Orne\*                      Patty Adams  
Dale\* & April                Barb Musick  
Dale's friend, Danny       Jackie Harry\*  
Donna Stormer               Susan Meyer  
June Burchett

\*members of council

Now, let me bring this back around for you... giving your time IS an act of worship. Using your abilities to do for the church body is giving back to the Lord - whether it's moving big or little items physically out of rooms, popping popcorn and grilling hot dogs for tailgating or for the Farmers Market, giving out candy for an event like Trunk-or-Treat, having lunch and discussion about the future of our church, or filling out the survey you received recently... it's all time well spent for the church body, community, and most of all our Heavenly Father. And, let me say this...if you feel like you are not able to do anything physically - which is understandable for some in our church family - I encourage you strongly to pray more for the church body as a whole. Please pray for God's wisdom for the council, and for His wisdom for all of us. Pray for our future pastor and pray for us to have patience in waiting on the Lord to show us in His time.

Thank you for being my church family! I don't know where I'd be without you.

Sunday is coming, see you then!  
Mirm

# SERVING SCHEDULES

## DEACONS

10/2  
Lori Orne  
10/9  
Harry Weitkamp  
10/16  
Walter Mershon  
10/23  
Lori Orne  
10/30  
Harry Weitkamp

## TELLERS

10/2  
Kim Beagle & Barb Musick  
10/9  
Kim Beagle & Bill Eckerle  
10/16  
Lori Maines & Walter Mershon  
10/23  
Kim Beagle & Debbie Mershon  
10/30  
Walter Mershon & Barb Music

## CHILDRENS MINISTRY

10/2  
Infants – Jeremy Runion & Kaitlyn Runion  
Preschool & Elementary–  
Walter Mershon & Miriam Fuller

10/9  
Infants – Jeremy Runion & Kaitlyn Runion  
Preschool & Elementary – Barb Scott &  
Donna Stormer

10/16  
Infants – Jeremy Runion and Kaitlyn Runion  
Preschool & Elementary – April Ayers & Kim  
Beagle

10/23  
Infants – Jeremy Runion and Kaitlyn Runion  
Preschool & Elementary – Susan Meyer

10/30  
Infants – Carol Steffen & Jeremy Runion  
Preschool & Elementary – Kaitlyn Runion &  
Lori Orne

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## *Happy Anniversary*

10/1  
Jeremy & Kaitlyn Runion



## *Happy*

## **BIRTHDAY**

10/2  
Lori Maines

10/4  
Judy Klopp

10/16  
Elsie Scent

10/25  
Pauline Risch



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# MISSIONS UPDATES

## Holy Spirit Parish Food Pantry

For many years we have partnered with the Holy Spirit Parish Food Pantry in Newport, KY to collect items that they need. During the month of September we were able to collect 139 cans of pasta sauce. Way to go FBC Fort Thomas! Your hearts are so generous.

For the month of October, the pantry has requested canned green beans.

These items can be placed in the bin in our lobby, order online and have shipped to the church, or you may give financially and we will purchase for you. Thank you for your continued support!



## WOMEN'S MISSIONS CIRCLE


The women's mission circle will meet on October 10th at 12 noon. Just bring your lunch and dessert will be provided. If you have never joined these ladies before, you may want to consider doing so now. They do so many good things for missions and they have a good time doing it. They meet in the women's Sunday school class room.

## POPPING POPCORN

We have another great opportunity to reach out to our community. On October 5 from 3-6 pm at the Farmer's Market. We have done this there before and it was so much fun. We got to hang out with each other and laugh and talk but more important than that, we met people we did not know as well or even some old friends. We talk to them and be friendly with them or even just smile and give the good people of Fort Thomas some knowledge of what the people inside the walls of First Baptist Church of Fort Thomas are like. We are a loving and friendly group of people and we need to let the community know. This is a perfect time to get out there and generously give them free popcorn and a lot of love. If you have not signed up, call Kaitly at 859-279-8924. If she cannot answer the phone because she is busy with her 2 kids, leave her a message and let her know if you can be there from 3-4:30 or 4:30-6 pm. Or, even if you can only stay an hour, just tell her when. Thank you so much for volunteering!



## HALLOWEEN

This year we will have a scaled down version of what we normally do for Halloween. We will set a couple of tables up at the entrance of our parking lot and kids will come by and stop and get candy. No trunks, popcorn or hot dogs involved. We do want to give away lots of candy and have smiling faces to help do that. If you would like to volunteer, please call Kaitlyn or the church office to do so. We will trick or treat from 6-8 but you do not even need to stay the whole time if you don't wish to. 

If you are able, we would also like for the church family to donate bags of candy. We also want to say thank you! for all the help you are willing to do.

### HURRICANE IAN: taken from an article written by Bob Fox

Whenever there is a hurricane in Florida, I think back some twenty-five years ago when a prominent religious figure searching for meaning in a storm that took multiple lives said that the weather event was God's judgment on the United States for its immorality. In addition to being a cruel and callous comment, it is one that is demonstrably false from the words of Jesus about the tower that falls.

I was embarrassed to have our faith represented to the world in this way.

Now, as I think about this sort of event, I think a better word for what happens is not judgment but consequence. The weather that has become more violent and unpredictable are not God's judgment. Didn't God promise Noah not to destroy the world again with water? Rather, the chaos of our planet that seems to be ever increasing is likely a consequence of our poor stewardship of God's creation.

From the garden, scripture says that God has given us freedom to make choices in the way we treat nature. As stewards, we are responsible for those choices. As we have polluted the environment, strip mined mountains, released noxious gasses into the atmosphere and used up water we are now facing the consequences of those choices.

The church ought to be talking about all of these disasters not as God's judgment on humanity but rather as the consequences of people failing to care for what God has given us in creation. Shouldn't those who believe that God's creation is good be fighting to protect and preserve it? Perhaps we need to think about creation care as gospel work.

Meanwhile, let's pray for those left in the path of Hurricane Ian.