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First Baptist Church

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
good news*



DECEMBER

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. in-person & online

Sunday Morning Children's Church: 10:45 a.m. in-person (masks required)

Adult Sunday School: 9:30am

Rev. Jeremy Shannon
Pastor Cell phone: 859-536-2250
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Children's Minister
Kaitlyn Runion
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April Ayers (*Piano*)
Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

NEED HELP? CALL THE CHURCH AT

859-441-8884

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Happy Advent!

A few weeks ago while Jenni and I were out on a date, she started playing Christmas music. Not only was it being played earlier than usual, her song of choice was one that I had never heard. It was a song called The Gift Goes On by Sandi Patty, released in 1987. Honestly, I didn't think it was very good and we had a good laugh about it. You can tell a lot about a person by their preferences in Christmas music and what traditions they hold dear. This year we celebrate ten years of marriage and so we have had time to create traditions together. Even still, it seems that something like Christmas music can remind us how very different our backgrounds can be and how what "makes the holidays" is different for each of us.

In the midst of this holiday season, we will find ourselves in the tension of missing things and people of Christmases past while also finding joy in the creation of new traditions. I know that for many this year will be a challenge because of the immense losses that you have faced. Not every family Christmas will be joyful and there will be uneasiness along the way. Whether in sorrow or in joy, we walk through this season together.

Despite the pressures to make this "the most wonderful time of the year," I believe this is a great time for Christians to acknowledge that there is great darkness in the world and heaviness from things that are not quite right. We don't have to look very far to find things that simply just are not right. At the same time (and more importantly), we also proclaim that the darkness will not win, that hope has come to the world, and that we can face any situation because of the grace given to us by Immanuel, God With Us.

Whether you choose to celebrate with a cheesy Christmas classic or rock out to a new favorite, my family and I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas. You are a blessing to us and we are grateful to spend the season together. I look forward to the return of some favorite traditions like the Holiday Walk and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. I look forward to reconnecting with many and to celebrate the light that overcomes the dark.

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

From Our Worship Leader

Thanksgiving is over and it's now December. The Christmas Holiday season is upon us. We will be singing Carols throughout the season in our church services, and some of the choir members will be participating in the Community Christmas Carol Sing at First Baptist Church Cold Spring on Sunday night, December 12th at 6 PM. Mark your calendars! It will be a night of bells, band, choirs and carol-singing with scripture readings of the Christmas story. Along with FBC Ft. Thomas the churches included are FBC Cold Spring, FBC Highland Heights, FBC Silver Grove, and Main Street.

I look forward to going through the Christmas season with you, with all the ups and downs it can have. It's been a tough year for some. Please continue to pray for our church family. Many prayers are needed for those who have lost loved ones and will be experiencing the first Christmas without them.

I'm excited that choir has started again. For the most part, everyone has come back. There are a few who are not able to for different reasons. Hopefully early in 2022 we will add them back into the mix and build our voices.

I'm also looking forward to our Christmas Eve service this year – we did not have one last year – so this year will be special...

May you experience Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Christmas.

Sunday is coming, see you then.

Mirm

From Our Children's Minister

Dear Church,

Our children's ministry has just started our Advent series, Best Gift Ever. We're learning that Jesus is the greatest Christmas gift.

Our families are invited to partake in our Advent Nativity Packet project, where they can set up part of a paper nativity each week and do a small devotional with their kids to learn each part of the Christmas story.

I hope you'll join us for the Holiday Walk on December 5th. We'll be doing a simple Christmas craft booth in front of the Masonic Lodge. We'll be there from 3-6pm. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby. If you're enjoying the Christmas Walk with your family please feel free to stop by to say hello!

We're still looking for volunteers for our Sunday infant schedule. Soon there will be two babies that will need rocked. If you can help out once a month or on an as needed basis please let me know.

Blessings,

Kaitlyn Runion

Children's Minister

Holiday Office Hours:

Closed 23rd-27th

Office open 28th: 9:00am-4:00pm

By Phone 29th: 9:00am-12:00pm

Closed 30th-3rd

- Missions Update-

Holy Spirit Parish Pantry

Last month we donated 1006 Ramen Noodles!

Can you even believe it! Aren't you so proud to be apart of such a giving church.

December we've been asked to donated canned soup, lets end this year with a bang!



Women's Missionary Circle

(previously The Mary Francis Gould Women's Missions Union)

The next meeting will be held December 14th at noon. We will be meeting at O'Charley's this month. Please let Jackie Harry if you plan on attending.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Walter Mershon 12/1

Gladys Rankin 12/5

Iosetta Steely 12/10

Marty Draper 12/12

Martin Runion 12/19

Carol Steffen 12/20

Viola Knock 12/29

Jeff Smith 12/31

Anniversaries

Lori & Gary Maines 12/9

David & Patty Adams 12/17

Jeremey & Jenni Shannon 12/17

Steven & Ellen Coghill 12/22



PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR...



Holiday Walk- How to Grinch Stole Ft. Thomas

Sunday December 5th 3pm-6pm

Join us for the 2021 Annual Holiday Walk on December 5, 2021 from 3-6:00 p.m. The walk will begin in the Central Business District at the Presbyterian church with a live nativity. The gingerbread house contest at the Village Players Theatre (8 N. Fort Thomas Ave) at 3:00 pm, Santa will make an appearance under the Clock Tower at 4:00 pm, and we will end the evening in the Inverness District with our annual tree lighting starting at 6:00pm. There will be singing, raffles, hot dogs, warm beverages, cookies, photos with Santa, Santa's mailbox for the kids to drop their letters, music, and an appearance from... The Grinch!

National Brownie Day, December 8th

On **December 8** we celebrate the perfect cross between a cake and a cookie, it is National Brownie Day! No one can resist the gooey decadence of a Brownie, whether it is a chocolate one or a blondie. With endless recipes and variations, there is a Brownie for everyone. So, on this day, allow yourself to indulge in this delicious dessert, homemade or bought from your favorite bakery.



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, December 24th

We will be having our Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve at 5:30pm. Bring your loved ones, and lets celebrate Jesus, You're not going to want to miss it!

Christmas Day, December 25th

Are you ready for Christmas? After such a long, yet quick year, I am so Thankful to be able to spend Christmas day drinking hot chocolate, and watching my family open their gifts

What's your favorite Christmas Tradition?

(send answers to office@fbcftthomas.com)





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORT THOMAS

Volunteers

CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

INFANTS

12/5
TBD
12/12
TBD
12/19
TBD
12/26
TBD

PRESCHOOL

12/5
Kaitlyn Runion
12/12
Debbie Mershon &
Jeremy Runion
12/19
April Ayers & Kim Beagle
12/26
Susan Meyer & Amy
Shannon

ELEMENTARY

12/5
Walter Mershon
12/12
Kaitlyn Runion
12/19
Kaitlyn Runion
12/26
Kaitlyn Runion



DEACONS

12/5
Harry Weitkamp
12/12
Walter Mershon
12/19
Bill Klopp
12/21
Lori Orne



TELLERS

12/5
Kim Beagle
Barb Musick
12/12
Kim Beagle
Bill Eckerle
12/19
Lori Maines
Walter Mershon
12/26
Kim Beagle
Barb Musick



A Little Encouragement



With this year coming to an end, I started to think about all that we pray about throughout the year. The best advice I ever received was to write down my prayers, so at the end of the year you can have physical proof of just how good our God is. But what if those prayers didn't get answered?

In 1 Kings 17 Elijah Announced a Great Drought that lasted about 3 years and while I was reading I started to think about how hard it must have been to wait and not get your prayers answered right away. Sometimes that happens and we have to wait for God to give us our gift in the right time.

Waiting isn't easy. In fact, sometimes it can be incredibly hard.

Waiting for a test result. Waiting to hear about a job. Waiting by the bedside of a loved one who is about to leave this world. Waiting at the hospital to hear from the doctor. Waiting for that big thing you've been fervently praying for...

The waiting place is so hard because it is time spent in the unknown. It is a time of hoping and believing and doubting and uncertainty. It is a time of prayer and tears and tested patience. The waiting place is where we learn to trust God and to let go. It is where we are tested and tried. It is where growth happens, and it is where God meets us. Time and time again. It's a hard place, but like a diamond it is only formed with great pressure and heat.

What are you praying for today? What are you waiting for God to do? What are you asking from Him? It may take years but just know that this place of waiting is only temporary.

-Kayla S



New newsletter format coming! Be on the look out