



May Messenger

Dear FBC Friends:

What an unusual and different time we continue to live in. Everyone has been impacted by the threat of the COVID-19 virus, including the body that is First Baptist – Columbus. I am aware that some of us have lost jobs (hopefully temporarily) and others have had to adjust to a reduction in hours or income. On top of that, some have had family members test positive for the virus or had to self-quarantine due to exposure at work. School has moved online, as has almost everything else that can. We're learning how to order groceries online and pick them up curbside or have them delivered. We've adopted the guidelines of handwashing, social distancing and wearing a mask when out in public – all in an effort to do our part to bring this pandemic under control.

I hope that you have been able to appreciate that we've done all we can to keep our shared ministry active and vibrant during this time. We were fortunate to already have in place the ability to move worship online via our live stream technology. ZOOM has allowed us to continue with Bible study and group meetings. Phone checks from our pastoral care team and staff have enabled us to offer support and personal connection. We've even brought a new staff member on board during this time – welcome Daniel Kane! As I've said to a few people, "it's like building the plane while we are flying it," but that is true for every church and organization today.

There are a few appeals I want to make as we continue to move forward in this time:

1. Thank you for your faithful giving and generosity to First Baptist. The use of online giving has increased, and gifts arrive via the mail daily. This enables us to continue ministry and mission, including the continuation of paying staff salaries during this time.
2. Let's not forget our mission-giving opportunities. You will see a couple of articles in this Messenger related to AFC and OGHS mission offerings, and I would remind you that our local mission partners, such as Love Chapel, are meeting tremendous needs at present.
3. If you and your household are suffering economically because of how this crisis has impacted you, please let me know. While the church cannot always "fix" it, we can often help through prayer and our benevolence fund. Please don't suffer alone – reach out!
4. Continue to join us for worship, bible study & prayer, and connection. Even as we eventually get the "all clear" to regather (I wish I could tell you when that might be), I suspect there will be some who need to be cautious and careful about joining larger gatherings. We will continue to offer the online connection opportunities to keep us together, even as we are apart.

God bless you and keep you safe - Pastor Dan

Welcome Daniel Kane

We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Daniel Kane as our new Worship Pastor. Daniel shared a virtual candidate weekend with us on April 4-5 and was then unanimously offered the position by our Church Council, beginning his ministry immediately the following week.

Because of Daniel's availability and our need for leadership in the areas of Worship and Music Ministry we moved forward with his joining our staff, even though we've not been able to meet face to face as a congregation. Once we do reconvene in a more traditional manner, at a mutually agreed upon time, we will bring Daniel's call to serve with us before the congregation for your affirmation. In the meanwhile he continues to serve with us in a "hired" capacity. Welcome Daniel!



Around The Church

New Beginnings

When Pastor Dan asked if I'd like to put an article in this newsletter, he mentioned it might be wise to write a letter that allows people to get to know me. My hope is to follow that guidance by allowing you, the reader, to look through a window into my mind and soul. You see, I believe there is far too much to discuss to simply make this a time of sharing details about my personal life such as my favorite color (blue), sports team (Detroit Tigers), and ice cream flavor (mint chocolate chip or cookies and cream). Now is the time for new beginnings - for hope.

You at First Baptist Church have offered me new beginnings in a plethora of ways - a new city, new people, and a new job that started during Holy Week (the latter being the most formative), and all of this during an unprecedented time. I made the mistake of looking through news articles a couple days ago having just watched a video intentionally created to deliver good news, and the headlines were devastating. The world needs good news, immediately. However, the question may need to be asked - What constitutes good news? And does good news last in the face of despair?

Anytime I get on the internet, I see Google giving shout-outs to the people who have been fearlessly doing their jobs - health professionals, law enforcement, food service workers, etc. While this is all absolutely laudable, I don't know if it's the kind of good news we're desperately needing. How far does a video of people clapping take us? For those being applauded, don't get me wrong, we are forever indebted to your service. I applaud you as well.

However, allow me to explain, even as we hear good news about people doing what they can for the sake of others, sometimes we seem to be scooping water out of a sinking boat one cup at a time. At some point, I fear we'll be overwhelmed by the realization that we are going to have to adapt to what we were all, maybe facetiously, calling the new normal. I'd rather get ahead of that, but how? What good news bails us out? Are we done for? By no means! We continue to do what we can. We continue to serve. We continue to discover. However, there is a distinct difference between what we as Christians can offer in terms of good news. For we know this isn't the end.

We just celebrated Easter. It may not have felt like Easter, but that may make it even more profound. Even when life is at its worst, Christ is still risen. Even when it seems like the world is falling apart around us, we know this isn't the end and that at the last day all will be made new. How often have you celebrated Easter once per year? The day comes and goes, and the very next day we act like Thomas and ask once again, did he really raise from the dead? It's easy to forget that Christ performed signs and miracles for 40 days after he rose from the dead. He ate with his disciples. He appeared before at least 500 people. It was not a one and done appearance. I'd have to think each time he appeared in his glorified body, seemingly out of nowhere, the disciples were just as amazed as the last time. Consequently, Sundays became our day of worship, being called "The Lord's Day," as miniature Easters, acknowledging the continuous resurrection of our Savior. So, let me ask you - are you still celebrating Easter? Are you training your eyes on the resurrected Christ?

We often describe good news in horizontal terms - asking what we owe to each other. I believe this type of citizenship is to be a direct product of the vertical love that Christ showed us first. He gives us hope and assurance that, for those who love him, this isn't the end. Therefore, our response should be to fulfill His command to share this good news, to share the hope within us evinced by the fruit of the Spirit. Many people walk around hoping against hope that COVID-19 will go away - many of them not in the faith. Our hope isn't in the preservation of the current world, but in the perfection of the new one. We persevere today for temporal preservation in order to see the eternal salvation of the lost. Linda Foster reminded us in Bible Study that we know this Truth, so why would we keep it to ourselves? Now is the time for new beginnings, for hope, for Christ. Take heart! Christ has overcome the world! Therefore, may the Spirit, our advocate, infuse Christ's hope of glory into our daily routines for the glory of God the Father. Thanks be to God!

Daniel Kane

Around The Church

In Sympathy

With sadness and sympathy we share that Jan Ross passed away on April 15. A Memorial Service for Jan will be shared on June 20. Her inurnment at the First Baptist Columbarium was shared with a family service following her death. Please keep Jan's family in your prayers.

Cards and condolences may be sent to Jan's children:

Brian and Sabrina Hunter
8044 W 950 N
Fairland, Indiana 46126

Alan and Chris Ross
6719 East 84th Drive
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Mission Offering Needs

Our participation in the America For Christ Offering has been delayed by the unusual time and schedule we've been in. However, we do want to give the congregation opportunity to support this important mission offering.

America For Christ supports the ministry of American Baptist Home Missions, including our own ABC Indiana-Kentucky region. More information is available at www.abhms.org/afc. You can send your gift marked "AFC" to the church office, or through our online giving: www.firstbaptistcolumbus.org/give. Thank you.

One Great Hour of Sharing Funds released to combat COVID-19

As the United States and the globe deal with the death and devastation wrought by the coronavirus, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and International Ministries (IM) seek One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), COVID emergency support to help families, churches and communities find relief and recovery across the United States, Puerto Rico and countries around the world served by IM.

The OGHS COVID RESPONSE is a two-part appeal: one part is for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico; the second part is for international relief.

Funds raised for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico will be utilized by is ABHMS as part of an emergency strategic plan—COVID RECOVERY: Renewing Hope and Service—currently being developed to address the far-reaching needs created by the current pandemic.

Funds given to OGHS COVID RESPONSE: INTERNATIONAL for global relief will be used by IM to respond to requests by international partners for emergency grants. Donations to OGHS COVID response may be made through giving to the church, or direct online to ABHMS or IM. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

May 3 - Bob & Jean Langdon
May 10 - Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher
May 17 - Tim & Paula Pickup
May 24 - Paul & Carol Poe
May 31 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman

Emergency Responders

May 3 - Forest Daugherty	June 7 - Forest Daugherty
May 10 - Mike Compton	June 14 - Mike Compton
May 17 - Kim Hamon	June 21 - Terri Ketterling
May 24 - Judy Rhude	June 28 - Judy Rhude
May 31 - Kim Hamon	

Children's Sunday School

1st Sunday

4's - grade 2:
Grade 3-6: Stephanie Olson

2nd Sunday

4's - grade 2: Marcia Cheek
Grade 3-6: Terri Ketterling

3rd Sunday

4's - grade 2: Linda Reid
Grade 3-6: Beth Caldwell

4th Sunday

4's - grade 2: Deanna Glick
Grade 3-6: Anita Yancey

5th Sunday

No children's ministry opportunity today. Children will stay with their parents in worship on those 5th Sundays.

Serving in the Nursery:

May 3

Nursery Worship—Sue Hoffman & Carol Poe
Toddler Worship—Nolan Pickup

May 10

Nursery Worship—Lucy Cash & Ashley Lowman
Toddler Worship—Charlotte Oestreicher & Susan Carter

May 17

Nursery Worship—Deborah & Molly Nelson
Toddler Worship—Jennifer Kelley & Heidi Jones

May 24

Nursery Worship—Diane & Ashley Ginn
Toddler Worship—Joy Langdon & Carolyn Baker

May 31

Nursery Worship—
Toddler Worship—Paulette McClintock



Graduating from High School or College this year?

Please notify the church office:
secretary@fbccolumbus.org

Communion

May Communion

Preparation:

Bill & Carolyn Baker

Sanctuary:

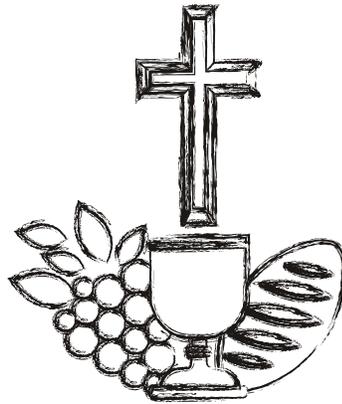
Cliff Putterill
Lynne Lovelace
Ron Lane
Molly Nelson
Daryl McMath
Dick Miller
David Emmert
John McKay
Frank Eldridge

Homebound:

Janet Bailey
Charlotte Oestreicher
Larry Carter
Nathan Patrick
Susan Carter
Linda Foster

Clean up:

Sue Putterill, Daryl McMath,
Bill Baker, Cliff Putterill



June Communion

Preparation:

Adam & Missy Zimmerman

Sanctuary:

Teresa Arbuckle
Dick Miller
Lynne Lovelace
Frank Eldridge
Adam Brown
Wayne Lovelace
Joe Hamon
Keith Arbuckle
Daryl McMath

Homebound:

Janet Bailey
Susan Carter
Larry Carter
Charlotte Oestreicher
Linda Foster

Clean up:

Frank Eldridge, Wayne Lovelace,
Joe Hamon

Anyone who would like to assist with communion, please contact the church office, 812-376-3321.

If you know of a member of the church that is home bound, and not currently receiving home bound communion and may like to receive it, please let the church office know and the communion team will make contact with them.



Coffee Bar Host

May: Larry & Linda Mayfield

Coffee Fellowship - May 31

Last Names I-P are invited to bring snacks to share.

(Schedules depend on whether we are gathering together at that time.)



Healthy Living Tips

Social Distancing, Quarantine, and Isolation

Keep Your Distance to Slow the Spread

Limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

What is social distancing?

Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

In addition to everyday steps to prevent COVID-19, keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread locally and across the country and world.

When COVID-19 is spreading in your area, everyone should limit close contact with individuals outside your household in indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you have no symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Why practice social distancing?

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sun light and humidity. Social distancing helps limit contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces.

Although the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can get and spread COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their family, and their community.

Tips for social distancing

- Follow guidance from authorities where you live.
- If you need to shop for food or medicine at the grocery store or pharmacy, stay at least 6 feet away from others.
 - Use mail-order for medications, if possible.
 - Consider a grocery delivery service.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others, including when you have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store.
 - Stay at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering.

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Healthy Living Tips

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- Avoid large and small gatherings in private places and public spaces, such as a friend's house, parks, restaurants, shops, or any other place. This advice applies to people of any age, including teens and younger adults. Children should not have in-person playdates while school is out. To help maintain social connections while social distancing, learn tips to keep children healthy while school's out.
- Work from home when possible.
- If possible, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.
- If you are a student or parent, talk to your school about options for digital/distance learning.

Stay connected while staying away. It is very important to stay in touch with friends and family that don't live in your home. Call, video chat, or stay connected using social media. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations and having to socially distance yourself from someone you love can be difficult. Read tips for stress and coping.

What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Quarantine

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Someone in self-quarantine stays separated from others, and they limit movement outside of their home or current place. A person may have been exposed to the virus without knowing it (for example, when traveling or out in the community), or they could have the virus without feeling symptoms. Quarantine helps limit further spread of COVID-19.

Isolation

Isolation is used to separate sick people from healthy people. People who are in isolation should stay home. In the home, anyone sick should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick" bedroom or space and using a different bathroom (if possible).

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html> 15APR20

May Birthdays

3. ~ Leslie Fields
5. ~ Cliff Putterill, Daniella Hernandez
6. ~ Bob Rhude
7. ~ Jan Stafford
8. ~ Nathaniel Hash
11. ~ Ed Browne, Robert Kelley
12. ~ Nolan Pickup, Morgan Smith
14. ~ Mary Baltus
17. ~ Deborah Nelson, Mollie Adams



19. ~ Joyce Briggs
21. ~ Charles David, Bethany Fulkerson
23. ~ Lawrence Stephens
25. ~ Linda Mayfield
26. ~ Ava Lowman
27. ~ Piper Flannery
29. ~ Sharon Tobias
31. ~ Linda Workman

The Body of Christ Prays For...



- Betty Euler, K.M. George, Cecil & Linda Workman, Anna DeHaven, Carl & Nancy Williams, Marcia Battle, Alvin Arbuckle, Marilyn Estell, Leland Robertson, Heidi Putterill, Don & Nancy Hughes, Randy Wheeler, Margaret Nelson.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, May 12 - Church Council (7:00 pm)
Friday, May 15 - Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, June 20 - Jan Ross Memorial Service (2:00 pm)

All other activities pending...

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am (currently live streaming)
2nd Hour Learning 10:45 am (when we're back worshipping together)

Live streaming available for Sunday Services

In addition to watching our streaming service on our website, the service is also streamed to Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30
firstbaptistcolumbus.org



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