



FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

Dan Cash, Senior Pastor
Daniel Kane, Worship Pastor

August 2020 Messenger

Dear FBC Friends:

As I write this article, I am preparing for some vacation time away from the church office and my pastoral responsibilities. It will be more of a “stay-cation” this summer, as we welcome time with family and just try to rest and unwind. Spring break plans were put on hold back in March as the pandemic unfolded and it seems I’ve been running full tilt since trying to keep things together during a time when we’ve been apart.

To that end, I wanted to say “thank you” for your faithful efforts to stay engaged with your church during this unusual year. So many of you have participated in worship by live stream, and in-person. You’ve faithfully joined the ZOOM Bible studies and prayer calls. You’ve kept up your support of the ministry through your gifts. You’ve sent cards, notes, texts, letters and emails of support. You’ve helped us think through how to share ministry in such a time as this.

I would not be truthful if I didn’t say that it’s been a stressful season. I know that I am not alone in dealing with stress at work, or pandemic related; but I have tried to put the safety and well-being of this congregation in front of the decisions we’ve made, and guidelines we have instituted. Continued vigilance and compliance with efforts like face masks and social distancing will, unfortunately, be a reality for quite some time. Please help us keep these practices. Wear a mask when you are in the building, be that for worship or other times. It’s a very practical way that we can love our neighbor.

During the month of August, I’ll be sharing a series of sermons I’m calling, “Prayers of the People.” I’ve chosen five Biblical prayers to see what we can discover about our own prayer life during this time from their example. I know that Pastor Daniel will be looking for ways to include other elements in worship that support this theme. He may even be asking you to help by providing prayers during this series.

Here’s an overview of the August through Labor Day weekend series:

Prayers of the People

Aug. 2 – Hannah’s Faith Promise Prayer
1 Samuel 1:1- 2:11

Aug. 23 – Jesus’ Gethsemane Prayer
Luke 23:39-46

Aug. 9 – Solomon’s Prayer for Wisdom
1 Kings 3:5-12

Aug. 30 – Stephen’s Forgiveness Prayer
Acts 7:54-60

Aug. 16 - Hezekiah’s Prayer for Healing
2 Kings 20:1-11

Sept. 6 – Paul’s Pastoral Prayer
Ephesians 3:14-21

I look forward to connecting with you in worship and beyond.

Pastor Dan



Around The Church

Why Do We Sing?

“Why do I Sing?” Have you ever asked yourself that? I’d be curious to know what your answer is, and I’m not just asking about singing in church, but in general. Are you someone who finds yourself singing throughout the day whether someone is around or not? I am.

I’ve asked myself this question many times over the past several months, since graduation especially, because it’s forced me to face the reality of who I am at the core. For example, last February I auditioned at Notre Dame for their Master’s of Sacred Music program. Needless to say, I didn’t get in, but that’s not a bad thing. The whole process was new, and I had no idea what I was getting myself into. However, one of the many blessings of this strange weekend came when a third party, someone outside my own head, asked me the question, “Why do you sing?” My answer? “Because it’s the best way for me to preach the Gospel.” Little did I realize that I was actually answering a different question: “Who are you?”

I’ve said before that, to fulfill my job, I have to see myself as a pastor first and musician second. The above interaction solidified the degree to which I was willing to let go of my musicianship for the sake of something else. Who knew that, within a month, public singing would be nearly eliminated?

I think back on my answer now and remember much of what formed it. My former voice instructor, Keith Brautigam, helped me realize this when we were preparing for my senior recital. It certainly helped that we were preparing an entirely sacred recital, but, more importantly, he finally got the basic technique of singing to sink into my head. Singing is best accomplished when we are most free. We stand tall, take deep diaphragmatic breaths, and release all the tension from our body. Inevitably, it’s when I try to release tension that I discover stress knots I never knew existed. This is a fascinating exercise because it’s through this practice that I realized how subconsciously I hold onto control. It’s only when I relinquish control for what I cognitively know to be better that I see the benefits of taking the risk of freedom. It’s a vulnerable place. I don’t like it. I don’t know many people who do. But is that not the fruit of the Gospel? Christ calls us to lay down our lives for our neighbor, just as He did for us. It was when He was at His weakest that He showed His strength most. So too, ought we free ourselves of all the things we heap upon our lives, schedules, and identities? When all is stripped away and we stand free in Christ we realize what we truly have: the same foolishness Paul received, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** (2 Corinthians 12:9).

So, what happens when singing is taken away from a singing people? What happens when our expression of freedom is challenged? Do we find something else to express it? Maybe our expression of freedom in Christ takes the shape of our willingness to not sing for the sake of our neighbor? What if singing was a substance, something we could hold loosely in our palms, like sand which can be blown away with the slightest breeze? Do you close your fist to keep it from escaping, creating tension in your body? Or do you let it go? These are all uncomfortable questions! So much so that my body just tensed up as I typed them because even to think about letting something go is vulnerable. Even more unnerving is the realization that maybe the initial question of “Why do we sing?” is actually asking “Who are we?” What happens to that answer when singing is threatened?

Let’s put a time frame on beginning to answer this question: August 30th to September 2nd. Soon, we will be asking ourselves, “Why do we sing?” a lot, because the Getty’s Sing! Global 2020 conference is entirely about this question, and this year they’re asking an even deeper question: Why do we sing Scripture? I’m really looking forward to beginning this journey of church-discovery with you, but until then, I leave you with the best I can: Jesus’ words. Remember, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”** (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Daniel

Around The Church

FBC Covid Task Force

A small task force that reports back to the Church Council meets on a regular basis to monitor our response to the Covid-19 challenges regarding holding in-person worship and other ministries.

To date, this group has been pleased with the compliance of folks who've attended worship and received positive feedback that persons are feeling safe.

Aside from some minor tweaks to our process, given the ongoing pandemic, including local cases still being reported, there is NO recommendation to change any of our current procedures or policies.

We do continue to talk about viable ways to have children's ministry programming, 2nd hour classes or in-person small groups in the future, and will keep you posted on any changes in recommendations involving those or other ministry.

Task force members are Ben Slaton (chair), Jerald Hatton, Heather Babb, Frank Eldridge, Kim Hamon, Adam Zimmerman, and Pastors Cash and Kane.



Neighborhood Visits

Pastors Dan Cash and Daniel Kane have been holding a series of "neighborhood visits" through Columbus and Bartholomew County. These are gatherings of FBC folks who live in relatively close proximity to each other, conducted with appropriate cautions due to the coronavirus.

Additional visits are being planned. If you have not yet received an invitation, chances are that you will be soon. If you want to make sure you are included, please call the church office to inquire.

Thanks to all who have hosted and participated in these summer visits.

Support for W.D. Richard's Teachers/Staff and More

Our Missions Team has organized teacher gift bags over the past several years for FBC teachers and those of our neighborhood school W.D. Richards. This year that project has been modified to a gift card, which will be given to help offset some of the personal costs teachers incur to provide their students and classroom with supplies.

Let's remember to pray for all of our teachers, school administrators and staff as a new school year begins in very uncertain times.

Around The Church



Congratulations

We share congratulations with Herb Sutton and Joyce Fonner who are to be married in our sanctuary on August 1.

We also congratulate Elyse Babb and Sam Snider who will be married at FBC on September 5.



Since the party has to wait, save the date to celebrate!

**Kayla Jones Graduation Open House (outdoor)
August 1, 2020 6-8 pm
Jones house
7750 S 800 East
Elizabethtown, IN 47232**

Please come to shower her with love not gifts!



MISSION

RMMO

During the month of August you are invited to remember and participate in the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. This offering honors and supports retired ABC clergy (ministers and missionaries) and their widowed spouses with an annual "Thank you" check, as well as emergency assistance through grants. This year's theme is "Honoring the Service of God's Servants." You may make your gift in-person, online or through the mail. Thank you!

Other Mission News

Many of our American Baptist missionaries have seen their plans changed this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Among those who are supported by First Baptist, we share the following news:

Kyle & Debby Witmer continue on home assignment in Bedford, IN. The Witmers had planned to return to Thailand in May, but international travel was not possible.

Taku and Katie Longkumer had planned to start a year of home assignment this summer, but remain in NE India due to travel restrictions.

Corrine Smith is at Hope Mountain in Brazil, apart from her husband Phillip and their children, who are in Indiana because of travel restrictions. She writes: "Please pray for us here at Hope Mountain: We continue to be in quarantine in paradise with our boys and house parents."

Barbara and Dwight Bolick have also had travel suspended. Barbara has been able to use the time at home to work on curriculum for the Girls Clubs she helps facilitate. Dwight is consulting online with various groups about rain water harvesting.

One of the things **Kristy Engel** has been able to do is share a webinar resource with groups on Covid-19. This is in line with her medical focused mission work.

Please pray for these and all of our other ABC International Ministries Global Servants as they adapt to ministry during this time.



Seeds of Love 5K Event for Love Chapel Update

For eight consecutive years FBC has sponsored a 5K run/walk event. To date, this event has generated approximately \$63,000 and thousands of pounds of food for Love Chapel. The needs at Love Chapel remain great, especially monetary needs. Given current events, the Seeds of Love run/walk will be different for 2020.

Seeds of Love 5K team proposal:

- No traditional run/walk this year - Instead we will focus on a food/monetary donation drive.
- In hopes of getting our Fairlawn area neighbors involved, fliers asking for canned food or monetary donations will be placed on the original race route.
- Those race route donations will be picked up by 5K volunteers on Sept. 19, (the day the run/walk was originally scheduled).
- In addition, on Sept. 19, there will be a drive through drop-off on the circle at the church for those who wish to contribute on that day.
- There will be opportunities for church members to contribute as well.
- Past participants will be contacted by email, informing them of the changes. For those who still wish to run/walk for the event, we hope to be able to offer a virtual option.

The Seeds of Love 5K Team

Around The Church



Bell Jam Session Call-Out: All Ringers Welcome!

As we continue to creatively gather, resources all over the country are advocating for handbells as they are easier to play under CDC and Social Distancing Guidelines. This is a great chance, with the resources we have, for First Baptist to host "Handbell Jam Sessions." If you are interested in participating in these sessions, let Pastor Daniel know. This is a non-commitment, non-performance opportunity for ringers of any experience level - even if you've never played a bell in your life! It's a moment for us to spend time together, making and learning about music and congregational song through bell ringing. For now, this announcement is your chance to share your desire to participate, with dates coming soon for after Labor Day.

Thank
you

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you for the \$50 gift card and prayer journal. I'm excited to dig into the journal - I think it's going to be great in college when I'm away. Thank you so much for the parade, too. It really boosted my spirit!

Thank you all again,
Anna Kelley

To my FBC family that will always be in my heart,

Thank you to all of you for the wonderful experience so far at First Baptist Church. I see many of you as my 2nd "grandparents" and see all of you as a family that is always there for me with welcoming arms. Growing up at First Baptist shaped me into the woman I am today and I will always be grateful for the lessons of kindness and selflessness that were taught to me here. Now as I go on to start another chapter of my life at college, I want to say thank you. Thank you all for helping me to discover myself and embrace Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Thank you all for being there for me as I grew up and for your wonderful well wishes as I turn the page in my life story. All the cards, gifts, smiles, and socially distanced virtual hugs meant the world to me. The wonderful E. Don Tull Scholarship that was awarded to me has changed my life in such a positive way. With your support, you all have helped my dreams to come true and have encouraged me to pursue these dreams and share my passion with the world. I am so excited now to go on and embrace life at college knowing that I am never alone. For God is always with me and so is the love from my FBC family. I love you all!

Molly Nelson

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

August 2 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman
August 9 - Ron & Peggy Lane
August 16 - Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed
August 23 - Daryl & Dot McMath
August 30 - Kerry & Alice Richmond

Children's Sunday School

As we continue in-person worship in August there will be no children's Sunday School or Kids Connection. This is in keeping with recommendations made by local, denominational and national health recommendations concerning COVID-19.

Emergency Responder:

Our Emergency Responder for the time being will be Kim Hamon.



The Coffee Bar & Coffee Fellowship are cancelled at this time.

Serving in the Nursery:

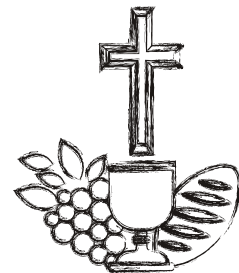
As we continue in-person worship in August there will be no Nursery. This is in keeping with recommendations made by local, denominational and national health recommendations concerning COVID-19.

The nursery will be available for parents who may need to use it for changing an infant, or as a cry room.

Communion

We will not be sharing communion during August per the health guidelines regarding the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor guidelines moving forward and make adjustments as able.





Healthy Living Tips

Make Your Home Safer

Housing conditions can significantly affect your health and safety. Take a few minutes to make your home healthy and safe.

- Remove hazards that increase the chance for falling, such as rugs, loose cords, and objects on the floor.
- Check or change the batteries on your carbon monoxide alarm at least twice a year.
- Test smoke alarms monthly to ensure they work properly. For smoke alarms that use regular alkaline batteries, replace the batteries at least once a year. For smoke alarms that use lithium (long-life) batteries, replace the entire alarm unit every 10 years or sooner if it chirps or stops working.
- Keep cooking areas free of flammable objects, such as potholders and towels.
- Keep candles, medicine, household cleaners, and other chemicals out of children's reach, in locked or child-proof cabinets.
- Don't use a gasoline or charcoal-burning device near a window, door, or vent, or inside your home, basement, or garage.
- Test your home for radon (a radioactive gas linked to lung cancer). You can purchase a kit at your local hardware or home improvement store.
- Make your home smoke-free.
- Keep medicines in their original bottles or containers.

August Birthdays



1. ~ Ron Lane
2. ~ Carter Chitwood
3. ~ Anna DeHaven, Kim Hamon, Soozie Ford, Kerry Richmond
5. ~ Lori Cash
8. ~ Lana Luzier, Richey Stephens
10. ~ Mallory Slaton, Deb Steele
12. ~ Elisa Cotton
13. ~ Bob Downin
14. ~ Paige Babb
16. ~ Forest Daugherty, Anna Emmert

19. ~ Nancy Wagner, Don Hughes
21. ~ Barbara Campbell
23. ~ Jim Bokelman
24. ~ Casey Coffman, Caliana Coffman, Danny Burton
25. ~ Juanita Adkins
26. ~ Lyman Snyder
28. ~ Daryl McMath
29. ~ Jennifer Kelley
31. ~ Dot McMath

The Body of Christ Prays For...



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

Looking Ahead

- Saturday, August 1 - Wedding of Joyce Fonner & Herb Sutton
Saturday, August 1 - Graduation Open House for Kayla Jones (6:00-8:00 pm)
Wednesday, August 5 - FBC Family Hymn Sing (12:00 Noon)
Thursday, August 6 - Adult Education Team (6:30 pm)
Thursday, August 13 - Property Team (6:30 pm)
Monday, August 17 - Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, August 18 - Church Council (7:00 pm)
Wednesday, August 19 - FBC Family Hymn Sing (12:00 Noon)
August 30-Sept. 2 - Getty Sing! Conference Hosted by our Worship Planning Committee
(invitations coming soon)

All other activities pending...

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am
2nd Hour Learning (will not meet at this time)

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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