



September 2020 Messenger

Dear FBC Friends:

2020 is the year that just keeps on giving, isn't it? Every time I think I'll be glad to put this year in the rear-view mirror, I'm reminded that 2021 may not be too different. So, with that less than hopeful remark, what to do? Or, to quote Ezekiel (33:10) "how then shall we live?"

Those words come in the context of a prophetic message to the people of Israel, as the prophet calls them back from "our sins that weigh upon us." It seems to me that there is much weighing upon us these days, from the obvious ongoing health pandemic, to another contentious election year, to the daily challenges of navigating life, relationships, work, school, church – you name it – while being the faithful, hopeful people of God. Some days it all gets to be a bit much, doesn't it? It's tempting to just pull the covers up over your head or try and find a mountain hideaway, removed from all the daily stuff. But that's not an option for most of us, so, how then shall we live?

This is a question that has been ruminating in the far reaches of my pastor-preacher brain over the past weeks. How then shall we live? I want to use the question as a catalyst for a handful of sermons this Fall as we continue to meet for worship and consider the Word of the Lord. You'll find those plans below, as well as some other information about worship in the month of September.

You will also find, in this issue of the Messenger, plans our Church Council has endorsed for the resumption of some additional ministries in education and faith formation. Please note that these are dependent on our compliance with continued covid-19 safety guidelines, and local community spread of the virus being low.

I am grateful for your patience with one another, as well as our measured plans for operating safely. The church depends on volunteers to function and serve well. Many of the ministries we have enjoyed in the past can only resume as volunteers feel safe in their participation. Classes depend on teachers, ministries depend on leadership, worship happens because many hands make it happen. Please take a moment to say "thank you" to those who are serving today, sometimes anxiously! Thank you!

Worship & Sermon Plans

Sept. 6 – "Prayers of the People"
"Paul's Pastoral Prayer" – Eph. 3:14-21

Sept 13 – "The Lord's Prayer" – Luke 11:1-13
Pastor Daniel Kane preaching

Sept. 27 – "How Then Shall We Live -
with Justice"; Micah 6:6-8

Oct. 4 – **World Communion Sunday**
"How Then Shall We Live – in Witness"
I Peter 3:8-16

Sept. 20 – **Outdoor Worship** (weather permitting)
"How Then Shall We Live – Among Tribes & Nations"; Rev. 7:9-7



Around The Church

Upcoming Ministry

There are many things we take for granted due to their seemingly neutral impact on our lives. Case in point: announcements.

You see, Dan and I, and my fellow liturgists from school, talk a lot about finding a place to put announcements in each week's service. Do we put them at the end? Do we put them at the beginning? Do we put them in the middle, right before the pastoral prayer so that we can pray over them? These are the questions that haunt me at night (I'm kidding... mostly). And even after spending the last 3 years studying worship, this question of where to place announcements continues to arise. We never know what to do with them! But, recently I had an epiphany. I said to myself, "Self, maybe you're asking the wrong question."

I spend a lot of time thinking about the words that we use and hear and what they say about who we are, and I've noticed that our vocabulary is very much formed by the consumeristic nature of our culture. Meaning, when we're given new information, we can't help but interpret it through the lens of the life we're told to desire because it's what we're constantly surrounded by. I find myself making judgment calls based on the appearance of something's capability to improve my life all the time! Applied to worship, "announcements" become my bane because, despite their flexibility and versatility, the word itself is subconsciously married to our habit of receiving information which we promptly dismiss since it prefaces an unrequested appeal to affect our lives. It's been commodified.

So, when I asked myself to reconsider how I thought about announcements, the title of this article was born. You see, I rephrased the question from "Where do we put them?" to "What do we call them?" Our announcements aren't just data points to be interpreted selfishly, but rather they are the initiator for the work and daily participation of God's people within His Kingdom. By simply replacing the terminology with a longer synonym, I discovered two lessons of discipleship inherently in the "Sending" of our services. First, intentionally counteracting a seemingly harmless deformation from our culture forces a renewed look at what enters our eyes and minds and is a simple stake to put in the ground for intentionality within Christian Worship. Replace the commodified language with ecclesial and we now have a new layer of depth within our sending actions. Second, in that depth is the reminder that Sunday morning worship ought to mirror an idealized version of our lives. Therefore, in seeing and hearing the phrase "Upcoming Ministry," God's people now have clear opportunities to continue the ministry that has been entrusted to them by our Lord.

Case in point – we've been worshipping together twice a month through Hymn Sings (thank you again, Donna and John for your help with these!). This coming month (September) there is the chance to lean into the traditional identity of our church through fellowship around hand bells. We will be gathering, socially distant, to learn how to play bells together (so no experience is required) and will talk about music, life, faith, and whatever else comes up. These will be taking place Wednesdays, September 9th and 23rd, but the time is TBD so let me know if you are interested, or if there's anyone you know that may be interested, and I'll get you added to our email list. For those of you bummed about losing the Hymn Sings, don't worry, they should be back in October.

Now, maybe considering these two events as formative moments of "Upcoming Ministry" rather than an appeal to improve your life seems like semantics, but I find there's comfort and purpose in commissioning them rather than pitching them. And I hope, for someone, this rephrasing comforts you, too. Your ministry of vocation matters.

Peace,
Pastor Daniel

Around The Church

Update from FBC Covid Task Force and Church Council

Our FBC Covid Task Force and Church Council continue to monitor local covid-19 numbers and metrics as we share life together as a congregation. We are tentatively moving ahead with plans to add some further in-person ministry opportunities after the Labor Day weekend, provided local community spread remains low to moderate. Should the metrics significantly change, we may need to pull back and postpone or go virtual with our plans.

The following ministry opportunities are being planned:

- **The resumption of nursery, toddler and children's ministry** during the worship hour in our lower level. Care givers will wear face coverings and temperatures of children and care givers will be taken. In order for this ministry to continue safely we do need some additional volunteers. See Carolyn Pool for more information.
- **Adult 2nd Hour Classes will be offered as follows:**
 - The Adult Study Fellowship (ASF) Class** will meet every other week beginning Sept. 13 in Fellowship Hall. Seats will be spaced apart, face masks are required, no food will be served. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water.
 - A 2nd Hour Grow Group** will be offered in the Chapel beginning Sept. 13. See more about Fall Grow Groups elsewhere in this issue.
- **Men of Faith** will begin meeting on Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall with our first gathering on Sept. 11. We will share a simple breakfast of doughnuts and coffee (or members can bring their own from home). Look for more information about Men of Faith elsewhere in this issue.
- **Fall Grow Groups:** The Adult Education Team is sponsoring four Grow Groups beginning the week of Sept. 13. Two groups will be offered as in-person options and two will be virtual, online study opportunities. All four will be focused on the study: Oneness Embraced by Dr. Tony Evans. (See more information elsewhere in this issue).



Neighborhood Visits Come to a Close

We wish to thank all those who hosted or participated in one of our several neighborhood visits during the summer weeks. In total we held 13 such visits with around 100 different participants. This was a great way to help make new connections and renew existing ones.

With our thanks – Pastors Dan & Daniel

Around The Church

Men of Faith Group to Begin Fall Study

"The New Normal for the People of the Resurrection" is the title of a four-week study Men of Faith study that looks at Four Jewish Symbols (Temple, Land, Torah and Racial Identity).

Open to any men in the church or community, Men of Faith, will meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall beginning September 11. Study guides will be available (in print or electronically) for men to prepare ahead.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 threat, this meeting will be held with precautions or face masks and social distancing in Fellowship Hall. A simple breakfast of doughnuts and coffee will be available. (Those who prefer may bring their own food from home.)

Fall Grow Group Session Announced

"Oneness Embraced" is the title of our Fall Grow Group study. A Rightnow Media based video study by Dr. Tony Evans, *Oneness Embraced* addresses cultural issues of race, diversity and ethnicity so prominent in today's culture. How do we as Christ followers, have conversation about these issues in a healthy, Christ and other honoring way? Evans will present a biblical understanding of the kingdom foundation of oneness by detailing why we don't have it, what we need to do to get it, and what it will look like when we live it.

You are invited to sign-up to participate in one of four Grow Groups on this topic. Two will be offered in-person, two online only. Pre-registration is required through our church website: firstbaptistcolumbus.org/growgroups



RMMO Thank You

FBC faithfully supported this year's RMMO mission offering. Thank you for your gifts, and thanks to our retired clergy for their video messages about this important offering.



MISSION



2020 SEEDS of Love 5K Event Saturday, September 19, 2020 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Due to the Coronavirus this year's event will be different!
We are not able to have an in-person race, but we are still raising funds for Love Chapel!

Here's How You Can Participate, in support of Love Chapel:

- 1) Register and walk/run your own virtual 5K race.
Your \$25 registration includes a 2020 5K shirt (**if you register by Sept. 8!**) and helps our continued support of Love Chapel. All profits go to Love Chapel. There will be no prizes or trophies this year.
- 2) Make a donation to Love Chapel through the SEEDS of Love 5K.
- 3) Make a food donation (dried goods*) to Love Chapel on the day of the event.
On September 19, we will accept donations at the FBC Circle Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and also pick up donations along the route.
(*Dried goods = cereal, boxed meals & foods, paper goods. Love Chapel has an abundance of canned goods at present.)

When you have completed your virtual event, provide: Date of your run/walk & Your 5K time and send to: secretary@fbccolumbus.org. All registrations and results must be received by September 29. Results will be posted on the SEEDS 5K web page by October 3.

Go to firstbaptistcolumbus.org/seeds-of-love-5k to register or make a donation online.

If you wish to register by regular mail, you can print a registration form off the website. Please mail your form with your check (made out to: First Baptist Church; with "5K registration" on memo line) to: First Baptist Church, 3300 Fairlawn Dr., Columbus, IN 47203

Love Chapel Hot Meals

Tuesday, Sept. 1 and Tuesday, Sept. 8 are the dates that First Baptist Church will be providing hot meals to the community on behalf of Love Chapel. Sue Putterill will be overseeing this and she will be needing folks to either prepare or serve meals for about 60 people each time. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Sue Putterill at 812 350 0357.

Around The Church



Bell Jam Session Call-Out: All Ringers Welcome!

Starting September 9th, we will be offering "Bell Jam Sessions" for anyone interested in bell music, music in general, or just wanting a chance to spend time with people through a socially distant activity. These sessions are available to anyone, no matter your experience. This is simply a chance for us to gather, make, and learn about music and worship. If you are interested – email Pastor Daniel at dkane@fbccolumbus.org to let him know. This is a non-commitment, non-performance opportunity.

September Dates:

- Wednesday, September 9 (Time: TBD)
- Wednesday September 23 (Time: TBD)

Thank
you

To our FBC Family,

We want to thank any of you who may have prayed and sent cards or made phone calls or texts for me during this time of my health concerns. It has been gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dick Miller

FBC Foundation,

I wanted to thank you very much for the grant you have given me! It will be very helpful when it comes to paying for my summer study tour in Europe. God bless!

Matthew Hamon

Dear FBC members,

This thank you is long overdue. I wanted to thank the members of FBC for the prayers, calls, texts, emails, cards, and gift cards during this Covid pandemic. I also love the prayer shawl. It is so beautiful and brings such comfort. My heart has been overwhelmed with the love that has been shown to me and my family during this physically and emotionally difficult time while working at the hospital. In such an uncertain time it was so comforting to know how much my FBC family loves and supports us.

Love,
Kim Hamon & Family

We thank the church for its gracious gift, thoughts, and prayers as we begin this interesting school year. We will use our gift to purchase sanitation needs to keep our kids safe and germ free as best we can. Here's to praying away the nasty virus and a year without quarantine.

Emily Cordova & Deanna Glick
Columbus East Library

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

September 6 - Bob & Jean Langdon
September 13 - Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher
September 20 - Tim & Paula Pickup
September 27 - Paul & Carol Poe

Children's Sunday School

Children's Ministry will resume on September 13.

Emergency Responders:

September 6 - Judy Rhude
September 13 - Judy Rhude
September 20 - Kim Hamon
September 27 - Mike Compton



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

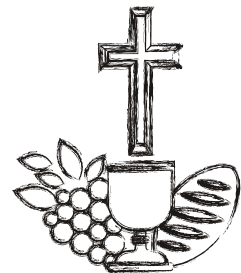
Serving in the Nursery:

September 6 - Lucy Cash
September 13 - Carolyn Pool
September 20 - Carol Poe
September 27 - Heather Babb

Communion

We will not be sharing communion during September 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

Empty Nest Syndrome

With September approaching, many teenagers will be leaving the nest and parents will be left with mixed feelings that are sometimes difficult to manage. Empty nest syndrome is a psychological condition experienced by parents when their coming-of-age children leave home (the nest) for college or even when they get married. The symptoms that parents suffer are typically feelings of sadness, anxiety and excessive worry over the welfare of their child. Some parents experience a deep sense of loneliness, isolation and many feel a loss of purpose in life. Suddenly, they are thrust into a new world where they may feel inadequate and ill-equipped to cope with the void of not having children to care for. All of these feelings are of course very natural.

Here are 7 tips to ease the impact of empty nest syndrome:

- 1) Remind yourself that it's very normal to feel sad during this transition. Your deep attachment to your child only indicates the positive quality of your love for him/her. It's healthy to miss them.
- 2) Redefine your children's departure as a new beginning instead of a loss or sad ending. Reframe the change as an opportunity for you to start a new life and do many of the things you were unable to do while you were raising your children.
- 3) Stay connected to your kids via email, texting and social networks such as Facebook. Remember that you can also video chat via Skype, etc.
- 4) Don't be hesitant to lean on friends and colleagues for support, especially the ones that have also been through empty nest syndrome themselves. You'll be pleasantly surprised to see how compassionate your friends can be.
- 5) Initiate self-care and do nice things for yourself on a routine basis. Get a massage, take a yoga class or an art class at a local college. Take a small vacation, tend to your garden, go to the gym, etc.
- 6) Don't try to accelerate your recovery period. Allow the grieving process to occur and run its course. Don't make any major changes in your life during this time, like selling the house or moving to another city or state. You may also consider going to a family counselor for guidance and support.
- 7) Do volunteer work with a local organization of your choosing. Get involved in helping others and focus your attention on trying to make their lives better. It will make you feel purposeful again.

September Birthdays

1. ~ Joyce Crowder
4. ~ Joan Kline
7. ~ Barry Anderson
9. ~ Brenda Frady, Tom Ganus
10. ~ Jim Morris, Harold Hatter
11. ~ Myrna Shane, Jan Fogle
12. ~ Reid Slaton
13. ~ Heather Babb



15. ~ Juanita Bush
16. ~ Jim Reid
17. ~ Melissa Hernandez
18. ~ Judy Rhude
19. ~ Shirley Hamilton
22. ~ Calvin Ketterling
26. ~ Reilly Jones
29. ~ Karen Fogle, Terri Ketterling

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, Rick McClintock, John McKay.

Looking Ahead

Friday, Sept. 4 - Wedding Rehearsal (6:00 pm)
Saturday, Sept. 5 - Wedding of Elyse Babb & Sam Snider (4:00 pm)
Wednesday, Sept. 9 - Bell Jam Session
Thursday, Sept. 10 - Property Committee (6:30 pm)
Friday, Sept. 11 - Men of Faith resumes (7:00 am in Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, Sept. 13 - 2nd Hour classes begin (Grow Group, ASF, & Children's Ministry)
Tuesday, Sept. 15 - Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, Sept. 23 - Bell Jam Session

All other activities pending...

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am
2nd Hour Learning (classes begin Sept. 13)

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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