

JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regular Schedule: Sundays Worship Services at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 6 p.m. Bible Studies at 9:15 a.m.			1	2	3 - Office Closed for Independence Day	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5 - Regular Schedule - 9:15 AM Bible Study Restarts - No Lighthouse Harbor	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 - Regular Schedule - 10:30 AM Lighthouse Harbor Restarts	13 - 6PM FBC Kids Power Camp	14	15	16	17 - 6:30 PM Church Pool Party	18
19 - Regular Schedule	20	21	22 - 7 PM Adult Choir Restarts	23	24	25
26 - Regular Schedule	27	28	29 - 7 PM Christmas Cantata Kickoff	30	31	

But wait... there's more!

Find more information about upcoming events, schedules, and ministries on our website at www.farmingtonfbc.org.



Volume 9
No.3

NEWS & VIEWS

July 2020

What I've Learned from the COVID-19 Shutdown

By: Pastor Greg Robinson

I've been serving in the ministry for almost 20 years now, and over those years I've seen and experienced a great many things. Not much surprises me anymore. However, I never imagined that I would see the day when churches across the country, even around the world, would shut down for an extended period of time. These past few months have tested and tried all of us, and while I can't say that I've enjoyed the trial, I am thankful for the lessons I've learned. Let me share with you some of my biggest takeaways from these turbulent past few months.

- Don't be so confident in tomorrow** - In Matthew 6:34 Jesus said, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." While that might appear to be a depressing sentiment, there's a wonderful and extremely important truth at its core. There's no way we can predict what might happen tomorrow. It might be the most boring day ever or it may bring radical changes. This verse reminds me that I should neither worry about nor assume what tomorrow might bring. Where should my focus be? On today. Right now. I need to spend my time concentrating on how to live for God, in accordance with His will, in the things that are right before me. I could get lost in questions like "Is this pandemic over?" or "Will we have to shutdown again?" Neither you nor I can answer those questions with total certainty, so why worry about them? We'll face the things of tomorrow when and if they become the realities of today.
- God blesses a willingness to adapt** - I've always loved the long-lost (and completely made up) beatitude, "Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape." Here's what God's Word actually says. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1) and "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19) What do these verses teach us? Life changes. God does not change, but the world we live in changes all the time. We can either chose to be obstinate or seek new ways to be faithful to God during turbulent changes. One of the challenges I've faced over the past months was how to keep people connected with one another and in God's Word during the closure. I've had to get creative and find ways to adapt so that the mission stays on track. I've had some successes and some failures in what I've tried to do, but overall I think I've seen God bless the effort. Change isn't fun, but just remember - God blesses the flexible.
- There's nothing as sweet as worshiping together** - While I'm so thankful that we've been able to adapt in these difficult times, resuming services in our sanctuary has reminded me of how wonderful it is to worship standing side by side with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. I've been going to church my entire life, and sometimes I've taken for granted just how much the assembly of God's people is integral to my spiritual health. One of the defining characteristics of Christ's bride is how the people come together for a time of worship and the Word on a regular basis. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

This time has also reminded me how thankful am I for all of you. Often, the greatest victories come after the biggest challenges, and I'm excited to see how God will used the trials of these past days to lead us to an even greater glory for Him!

Blessings!

In this edition:

- "Kids Camp" -Penny Robinson
- "Power Camp: VBS Alternative" -Mark Phillips
- "Handbells" -Kevin Willis
- "A Great Big Thank You" -Gay Wampler

Upcoming Highlights



Eagle Sky Kids Camp By: Penny Robinson

If you ever had the opportunity to go to church camp as a kid, I'm sure you have some wonderful memories of those fun times. While I never went as a kid (the church I grew up in was so small I never had the chance to go) this past week was my third time being an adult sponsor, and once again I loved every minute of it. I didn't even mind the heat! There was lots of walking and late nights and I'm still soothing sore muscles, but I found such joy in bonding with our children as they learned to lean on Jesus in a fun and beautiful environment.

Our FBC kids were amazing and showed tremendous Christ-like character all week long. You should be proud! I would also like to thank Pastor Mark for doing a tremendous job leading our team, and also a special thanks to our other adult sponsor Derek Gollaher. The three of us hope to be sharing more pictures and stories from the week soon. Lastly, I would like to thank all of you, our wonderful and loving church family, who prayed for, encouraged, and provided the financial support for our kids to go to camp. Your investment in the lives of our future leaders will not be in vain!



"Power Camp" VBS Alternative By: Mark Phillips

The world has changed for all of us over the past 3-4 months. That change has also affected the way we are doing activities here at church. Since we did not have enough volunteers to do our full scale Vacation Bible School this summer, we are canceling our traditional VBS for this year only. We anticipate that we will return to our VBS program for next year.

Because we are not able to do VBS, we still wanted to make sure that we did something for our kids this summer to teach them more about Jesus and connect with friends they may not have seen for some time. During the same week that VBS would have taken place, July 13-17, we are going to be doing "Power Camp: God's Amazing Race (1 Corinthians 9:24)."

Power Camp will consist of themed nights for our kids to come to and participate in at church. Each night we will meet from 6-8 p.m. and all activities will be done outside. There will be games, Bible training, snacks and plenty of fun for everyone. We will also do our best to take health and safety precautions. We will also wrap up our Power Camp week with a Church Pool Party on Friday night, July 17, at the Farmington Water Park from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to celebrate all that the kids have learned during the week. Make plans now to enjoy this week as we reach out to our church and community kids. Be sure to invite family and friends!

We are able to host Power Camp as it will require fewer volunteers than VBS, but we still need volunteers in all areas! Please contact me, Pastor Mark, if you are willing to help during Power Camp 2020. My email is mark@farmingtonfbc.org or you can reach me by phone at 573-756-4654 ext. 26. More details will be coming soon but get ready for an exciting and fun-filled week!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Cindy Elkins, Russell Leek, Sandy Fritschle, Ryan Hassell, Phil Tatum, CJ Hazer, Kim Simmons, Loman Stone, Diane Gray, Susan Schultz, Bud Brewer, Bonnie Rauch, Charlene Elders, Irene Frohock, Phil Skuta, Jax Marshall, Krista Myers, Joyce Rose, Harvey Faircloth

IN MEMORIAM

Jane Leek, Ted Charles Medlock, Kevin Ryan, Dan Duncan, Billy Gray, Robbie Maxine Robinson, Donna Carpenter-Resnik, Virginia Bippin, Vera Jo Currington, Carol McClard, Jesslyn Lewis, Jim King, Jim Hughes

HAVE A FRIEND INTERESTED IN RECEIVING NEWS & VIEWS?

Contact the church office and we can add them either to our mailing list, or to our digital email list!

What Will You Do? By: Kevin Willis

Today, during my devotional time, I re-read through the words to a song by Marc Shultz entitled "What Will You Do with the Time That's Left." It was a great reminder to me that every day is a blessing from God and a new opportunity to have an impact for the Kingdom. It also reminded me to not get too caught up in past accomplishments or failures, but always to seek to grow and bring glory to God. I want to encourage you to read through and meditate on these lyrics.

"What will you do with the time that's left? Will you live it all with no regret? Will they say that you loved till your final breath? What will you do with the time that's left?"

Oh, Hallelujah! Oh, Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen

What will you do with the time that's past? Oh, and all the pain that seems to last? Can you give it to Jesus and not look back? What will you do with the time that's past?

Oh, Hallelujah! Oh, Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen

What will He say when your time has come? When He takes you into His arms of love? With tears in His eyes will He say well done? What will He say when your time has come?

Oh, Hallelujah! Oh, Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen"

In closing, I want to ask you to consider getting involved in the music ministries here at First Baptist Church. We have several ministries that have started or will be starting back in the coming weeks. Orchestra began on June 14 and choir will re-launch on July 22. We will also be starting Handbells again this September. Please, contact me if you are interested in any of these ministries.



A Big Thank You!

Help us give a big "thank you" to our interim leaders!



Beginning in February 2019, Dr. Kevin White served us faithfully as our Interim Worship Leader while continuing his demanding "day job" as Music Department Chair at Mineral Area College. From his corny "dad" jokes to his great selection of music he led us into worship each Sunday with a smile on his face and a dedication to Christ and our church.

Kevin was also instrumental in leading, directing, and rehearsing last year's Christmas cantata, The Carols of Christmas. Some say it was our best cantata yet! We can never fully express our gratitude for his steadfast service and leadership.

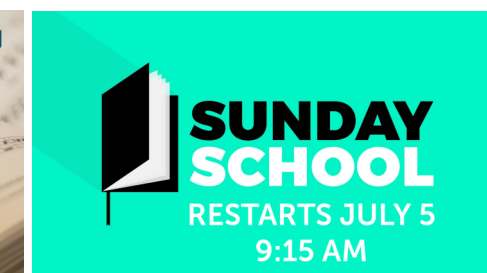
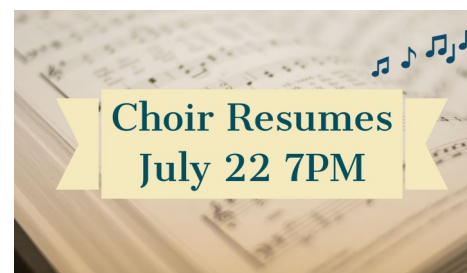
We will have a recognition for Kevin's service to our church on Sunday, July 5 during the morning worship services. We encourage you to let Kevin and his family know how much they have meant to us, and there will be a basket for any cards or notes you may wish to leave for him.

For the last eight months Rev. Chuck Henson has stepped in to serve as our Interim Education Minister. Having served in this capacity in the past Bro. Chuck was able to hit the ground running and give guidance and leadership during this interim period.

He also helped to teach our new Associate Pastor of Children and Education, Mark Phillips, the history of the position, where our ministries have been in the past, and where we would like to go in the future.

We appreciate Bro. Chuck's love of Christ and his willingness to lead in a time of need. Cards or notes may be dropped off at the church office.

We have been incredibly blessed by these two outstanding leaders during this extended interim period and know that we could not have fully carried out the work of the Lord without them.



YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



While not much has gone on in person at church in the past few months due to the COVID-19 shutdown, your tithes and donations have still been at work in the ministry of First Baptist Church.

Most recently, your financial support of our children's ministries assisted families sending their children to Kids Camp at Eagle Sky Christian Camp in Piedmont, MO. 3 out of the 15 campers who went, received scholarship funds to assist in paying for camp.

The scholarships not only helped the kids have a fun week of water sports, outdoor adventures, and plenty of games, but it also was a time to develop themselves as young believers through prayer, Bible studies, devotionals, and worship. For those who have not yet taken the steps to becoming a Christian, it helped them to learn more about what exactly that means, the life of Jesus, and loving others as He loved us.

Thank you immensely for your support of not only our children's camp scholarships, but also your faithful tithes and offerings during the shutdown.



FRIENDLY FACES OF FBC

Meet Joyce Dowell! Joyce volunteers with our gardening crew and Made from Scratch Café. Most importantly, she is our Adult 5 Sunday School Director. During the shutdown, Joyce made keeping in contact with her department a priority and successfully organized weekly Zoom meetings so that her group could continue in the Bible together. Prior to the shutdown, Joyce always planned get togethers and fun events for her class to fellowship with one another. Thank you, Joyce, for your time and dedication to our church and your class!

THANK YOU NOTES

"Thank you to my church family for the cards, calls, and prayer following the death of my husband."

-Bonnie Rauch

"Thank you so very much for allowing us to utilize your beautiful facilities! They were perfect for our fair, students, vendors, and teachers."

-MAAA Transition Team

"Thank you so much for your prayers lifted up on behalf of my nephew and his kidney surgery... the tumor was identified as benign!"

-Connie Shaver

"Thank you so much for the memorial gift the church donated in Kevin's memory to the Baptist Home..."

-Pat Ryan

"Thank you to our church family. We are so blessed to have you."

-Chary Duncan

To read more of our thank yous for this month, visit our "Thank You Board" located outside of the sanctuary in the foyer.