



NEWS & VIEWS

February 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 -6 PM AWANA, Ignite Student Worship, & Prayer Group	4	5	6
7 -Regular Schedule -9:15 Sunday School Restarts -No Lighthouse Harbor -5 PM Kick-off to Sunday Nights	8	9 -11 AM Elijah Bible Study Starts (Session 1)	10 -6 PM AWANA, Ignite Student Worship, & Prayer Group	11 -6:30 PM Elijah Bible Study Starts (Session 2)	12 -7 PM High School v. Middle School Game Night	13
14 -Regular Schedule -Last Day to sign up for Meals of Love	15	16	17 -6 PM AWANA, Ignite Student Worship, & Prayer Group	18	19	20 -11 AM Meals of Love Delivery
21 -Regular Schedule	22	23	24 -6 PM AWANA, Ignite Student Worship, & Prayer Group	25	26	27
28 -Regular Schedule	Regular Schedule: Sundays Worship Services at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 6 p.m. Bible Studies/Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. Lighthouse Harbor Kids Worship Service (Ages 4—Grade 3) at 10:30 a.m.					

Get Ready

By: Pastor Greg Robinson

I hope that all of you had the opportunity to listen to our January sermon series entitled "Gather In" where we focused on the importance of being a part of the body of Christ. I've been very excited to see many of you respond with positive comments and a renewed commitment to participate in what God is doing here at FBC. Well, I'm even more excited as we enter February and I get to move on to our next sermon series called "Get Ready."

Over the next few Sundays I will build upon what we've already learned and spend time talking about how a committed, church-going Christian, needs to also be a consistently spiritually growing Christian. Our theme verse for the month comes from Philippians 3:12 where Paul writes, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." (NIV) There's so much going on in this verse, way more than I can share in this brief article, (we'll get a chance to dive deeper starting on February 7!) but I want to quickly draw your attention to the first part of this verse. To me, two things stand out. First, Paul had a goal, and second, he knew there was always work left to be done to reach that goal.

His goal was spiritual growth. He wanted to become more like Jesus, to be continually drawing closer to God and growing in his walk with Christ. I'd say that's a pretty praiseworthy goal. I'd also say that's the same goal that every born again believer should have. While having a goal is important, it's the second point I mentioned that really deserves our attention. Just as Paul knew the work of reaching his goal would never end, so too must we realize that our journey of spiritual growth is forever ongoing. We should never become complacent or satisfied with our current spiritual condition. There's always room for growth!

The reason this next series will be called "Get Ready" is because I want us all to understand that we are continually being called to get ready for what God has in store for us next. And I believe God is trying to prepare us for some pretty awesome things! I hope you will join me this month as we learn what it means to "Get Ready!"

Blessings!

Pastor Greg

In this edition:

- "Caring for Our Church Family: Meals of Love"
- "Dinosaurs, the Ark, and Students? Oh My!"
- "Sunday School Restart"
- "New Lighthouse Harbor"

Upcoming Highlights



Caring for Our Church Family: Meals of Love

At our January business meeting, we opened the floor to hear your comments and feedback about our church's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conversation quickly turned from speaking about blocking off pews, cleaning, and requiring masks to a burden on everyone's heart for our church members and friends shut in their homes for safety reasons.

We all pray that one day we will all be together again in-person, but we recognize that for those staying home, that desire to be with your church family and connect with others is even more painful and lonely at times. At the business meeting, we tried to come up with some better, new, and creative ideas for reaching out to those at home, and we challenged those present to continue praying and thinking of ideas when we adjourned as well.

One of the creative ideas that God placed on our pastor's hearts became Meals of Love. On Saturday, February 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. our pastors are going to be delivering a hot meal to any of our church members that would like to receive one and a visit. They will bring it to your front door, catch up with you for a little bit, and pray with you. On top of that, they even plan to cook the meals themselves for you: roast, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and dessert.

Any church member that is interested in receiving a meal can sign up on the bulletin board outside the office or by calling the church office at (573) 756-4654. Whenever you sign up, please also include how many meals you need for the members of your household. In order to cook enough meals, however, there will be a deadline to sign up by February 14.

If there are a lot of signups for Meals of Love, there will also be backup date of March 6, that the pastors will cook again and deliver to those they cannot get to on February 20.

You can help us too by praying for our pastors as they visit with our church members at home. Pray that not only will each person receive physical nourishment, but also spiritual nourishment and comfort that God is with them even when they are apart from us and that they are on our hearts. Pray that soon we will all be able to meet together again in person and continue on in fellowship and worship with one another. Pray too that God will continue to guide our staff in how best to lead our church through this crisis and how to stay connected to those who cannot be with us right now. And, ask God how he might use you to reach out to your church family that is at home feeling isolated. We are thankful for God's promises in the midst of the pandemic. "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10



PRAYER REQUESTS

George & Shirley Nelson, Lonna Kennedy, Larry & Carolyn Stephens, Alex Miller, Allen Stephens, Helouise Ferguson, Patty Miner, Keith Moyers, Jill Leek

IN MEMORIAM

Steve Hibbits, Charles Freeman Sitzes Jr., Charles Gamble, Virginia Smalley, Mary Lou Hanger, Sonny Wells, Carolyn Stocker, Henry & Karen Kinneman, Ray "Bud" Wallen, Edward Thomure, Byron Richardson, David Blunt, Debra Rhives, Betty Clark

Dinosaurs, the Ark, and Students? Oh My!

This spring our students, Grades 5-12, have a unique opportunity to learn about the creation and the story of Noah's Ark. From March 31 through April 3, pastors Jason and Mark will be leading a group of pre-teens and teens to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Petersburg and Williamsburg, Kentucky.

The Creation Museum allows families to experience earth history as God has revealed it in the Bible. Nearly 150 exhibits feature fearsome animatronic dinosaurs, talking heroes of the faith, and professional displays that honor God's Word. The museum also boasts a fun-filled, 200-seat special effects theater, a state-of-the-art planetarium, a petting zoo, nature trails, and lots more. At the heart of the Creation Museum is a chronological retelling of biblical history in seven parts called the Seven C's, beginning with Creation, and fast-forward to Christ's return. Along the way, they see how God's Word provides the big-picture answers for our most difficult questions, whether about science, the Bible, or our personal relationship with God.



Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old. It brings to life the Ark of Noah's day and equips visitors to understand the reality of the events recorded in the book of Genesis. The best part of the trip, is our students will spend one night sleeping alone in the Ark along with private tour after hours!



The deadline to sign up to go and pay the deposit fee of \$25 is January 31, however if you miss the deadline and want to go, come talk to one of the pastors. Thanks to generous donations the cost of \$200 per student to go has dropped significantly, but if you are still interested in providing a scholarship for students in need of financial assistance to go, please contact the church office.

Sunday School Restart



Mark your calendars! After receiving feedback from our teachers and directors, Sunday School will restart February 7 at 9:15 a.m. Our classes cannot wait to be back together to study the Word. We are working with each department to come up with ways for them to socially distance inside of their rooms, overcome challenges unique to each group, and encourage members to wear face masks covering the mouth and nose. We want to remind everyone that even though we are restarting, the risk of contracting COVID-19 is still very possible.

If you are experiencing symptoms, are sick, or are considered high risk, we encourage you to stay home and keep yourself and others safe.

While we have many church members ready to begin meeting again in-person, we have just as many church members who are not ready to meet yet. For those staying home, we have two sessions of Sunday School groups meeting online that would love to have you join them! The first is part of Adult 8 led by Pat King that meet Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. via Zoom. The second is part of Adult 5 led by John W. Jackson that meet Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. via Zoom. If you are interested in joining one of these online Sunday School groups, please contact the church office and we will share the meeting links with you.

New Lighthouse Harbor

Pastor Mark is excited to restart Lighthouse Harbor, our Sunday morning children's worship service, this February! Lighthouse Harbor does not meet on the first Sunday of each month, so the first date back will be February 14 at 10:30 a.m., but there will be some exciting new changes beginning as well.

Previously, children could be dropped off at Lighthouse Harbor prior to the 10:30 a.m. service and spend the entire service there. Now, children will be asked to join their parents each Sunday in the sanctuary for the first half of the worship service. During the service, any children, PreK-Grade 6, wanting to go will be directed to get up and leave together with Pastor Mark and his volunteers to finish the remainder of the service in Lighthouse Harbor. Parents will then pick up their children at Lighthouse Harbor after the service as usual.

Also, the last Sunday of each month, Lighthouse Harbor will now be Missions Sunday where the children will learn about missionaries and why we do missions.

We hope that this change not only encourages more children to join their friends in Lighthouse Harbor, but also give children some time to worship together with their families. If you are interested in volunteering to help with Lighthouse Harbor, please contact Pastor Mark!



FRIENDLY FACES OF FBC

Meet Russell Leek!

Russell is involved with our Safety Team and Blaze Student Ministries. You can find him helping with our youth by leading breakaway groups of students on Wednesday nights and teaching 7th and 8th grade Sunday School with Willie Shelton. Recently, Russell has developed creative skits and Bible lessons through video to reach students in his Sunday School class online while we are not meeting due to COVID-19. Thank you Russell for all of your hard work and care for our students!

THANK YOU NOTES

"A great big thank you to the Christmas carolers who came to my house and sang to me. That sure brightened my evening. I am so privileged to be a part of First Baptist Church Farmington."

-Pansy Pruitt

"Thank you for remembering our residents at Christmas. All the supplies you brought by will be used and are greatly appreciated... Your continued dedication to our residents is indeed a blessing. It is church groups like yours that provide us with prayerful support and allow for the ongoing ministry to the elderly..."

-Sherri A. Snider, Administrator of The Baptist Home in Ironton, MO

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Bill & Ruth Ann Blase on the birth of their great granddaughter, Grace Madani Golston

YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



Thank you for your generous gifts this past December and January to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Together you raised \$22,320!

100% of all donations given to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, led by the International Mission Board, go straight to supporting missionaries around the world. It is a direct way to positively impact the spread of the Gospel to every people, tribe, and nation.

Last year, the IMB reported that your gifts toward Lottie Moon resulted in 535,325 people hearing the message of Jesus Christ, 12,368 new churches built, and 47,929 people being baptized! Imagine the thousands more that will be reached due to your support!

*Amount reflects both General Fund and Designated Gifts