

A Word From Our Pastor

As we live during these unprecedented times and the new reality of COVID19, it may seem like we are caught in an unending time loop worse than Bill Murray's "Groundhog Day". Does this thing have an end in sight? Will the next day only get worse? What day are we on anyway?

Maybe you feel like Joshua as he was assigned the impossible task of conquering the promised land without Moses. He would lead the Israelites alone... only, he wouldn't. God was with Joshua and told him in Deut. 31:6, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

When I am afraid, I must remember God is with me. He will never leave or forsake me, so be of good courage. Just as much as our world needs a vaccine for the novel Coronavirus, so to we need an answer for our fears, anguish, and loneliness. That answer is Christ. In Christ we have victory, life, and hope. We are not alone, He is here.

"I know not what of good or ill, May be reserved for me, Of weary ways or golden days, Before His face I see. But I know Whom I have believed, And am persuaded that He is able, To keep that which I've committed, Unto Him against that day."

- Pastor Ryan Kunce



Going on This Month

During our reopening season our church will not have special events for the month of May. We are first focusing on our Sunday morning worship services. As we move towards a sense of normalcy our leadership team will plan accordingly.

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. 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 43:18-19

Ministry Highlight

God is good all the time and here are some of the ministry news highlights going on at FBC Bethany:

Our church will be reopening our building for public worship services on Mother's Day Sunday May 10th. There will be two different services held. One will be at 9:30AM and the other at 11:00AM. Please see the inside cover for details as church service and ministries will look different than usual in our reopening season.

Our Church basement is being used by our local Harrison County Hospital as they provide children's daycare to their essential workers. When they are finished, they will terminally clean our facilities.

Several ladies in our church have been making facemasks for our Harrison County Hospital and our local care centers.

The renovations on our east office entrance area are complete.

Last month our church building received a roof replacement.



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Reopening Guidelines

Our state Governor, Mike Parson's of MO, reopened our state on Monday May 4th. Under his guidelines small business, restaurants, and churches are able to reopen under careful conditions. In order to abide by our Harrison County Health Department and the current Public Health Emergency Order, our church will do the following upon reopening on Sunday May 10th.

- There will be 2 shortened church worship services (approx. 45 minutes each) held on Sundays. The first service will be held at 9:30AM and the second service at 11:00AM. These services are subject to change depending on necessary demands.
- In order to maintain safe social distancing for our church family, we will not be holding Sunday School classes, church nursery, children's church, or bus ministry at this time.
- Family households are required to sit together and maintain 6 ft from other households in the sanctuary. We also strongly encourage parents and guardians to take responsibility for their children and have them practice safe social distancing from others, including their friends. We also won't be printing bulletins at this time to limit contact points.
- Under the current emergency order, we may only seat 25% of our capacity at this time. Therefore, we will have everyone enter through one entrance under the awning on the Northside of the church. A volunteer will count persons to make certain we do not exceed 87 people per service. Once we are full you may wait until the next service or return home to watch us on our digital stream.
- Our church will not be planning any special events for the foreseeable future until Harrison County Health Department restrictions change.
- If you are not feeling well or running a temperature (of 100 ° or higher) please stay home. We recognize allergy season effects certain people differently and therefore encourage you to wear a mask.
- Our Health Department encourages everyone to wear masks while out in public.
- We are thankful the Health Department has blessed us with a group gathering greater than 25 persons, but in order to receive their blessing they expect us to enforce greater social distancing measures. Therefore, there will be designated seating and certain pews will be inaccessible to mark a safe 6 foot distance from others. We also will mark the pews 6 feet in from the aisle endcaps, so you know a safe distance as people pass by. During dismissal, Pastor Ryan & Casey will dismiss one pew at a time from the front to the back of the church. There will be hand sanitizer pumps on stands at every major exit of the building. Furthermore, between services we will have a team of volunteers disinfect the sanctuary pews with a mist/fog aerosol and wipe the pews with disinfectant.
- All persons 65 and older and those with pre-existing conditions are strongly encouraged to shelter at home and attend our digital service in the safety of their homes.
- Our church basement will not be accessible at this time while our Harrison County Hospital uses it for daycare. We are encouraging everyone to remain in the sanctuary as much as possible. We even recommend using the restroom at home before attending.
- We are still encouraging giving but we will not be passing an offering plate. Instead there will be donation buckets at every major exit as you exit the building.

We know these changes are unorthodox, but we are in unprecedented times as we strive to keep everyone safe. The exciting thing is we get to worship together again, and I can't wait!

Youth Highlight

Earlier in March, before the quarantine, we joined five area churches for an amazing Disciple Now weekend hosted at FBC Trenton, where our students studied some of the spiritual disciplines of a Christian life. THANK YOU to all who were praying for them! During this quarantine time we have been posting short devotional videos as encouragement for our students. Additionally, using an online video conferencing platform, we recently began a weekly Bible study time we're calling "The Tabernacle." It is an opportunity for our students to still "gather" and spend time together in God's Word. We are kicking off our time by walking through the book of Colossians.

For all of those who were interested, we are unfortunately cancelling our summer mission trip to San Francisco, CA. I'm confident the Lord can still provide us with numerous opportunities to serve as other doors open. We continue to pray for all of you, that the Lord would bless you during this time, and refresh you as you remain still. May you know with certainty that He is God!

Kids Highlight

Hey FBC kids and families, we know this has been a strange and different time for you not being able to have your usual routine, but now is also the perfect time to get creative. God wants you to still seek Him daily. So here are some suggestions we recommend you and your parents encourage in the meantime.

First, we strongly recommend that children begin their day with a morning devotion and discuss it with a parent over breakfast. Second, have some fun! Why not build a scene from the Bible using your LEGO set? You could also create a comic strip about a parable. Check out Luke chapters 7-18, it has 16 different parables. Another idea is to act out a Bible story using paper bag puppets. Also, consider writing and performing a worship song for your family. Some additional great resources to check out are Bible App for Kids (interactive Bible stories), Minno TV, and Kidsministry.lifeway.com which is offering free weekly Bible stories and video series at home this month.

The HBA is currently planning Children & Youth summer camps. If you have a child or youth that is still interested in going and have question, please contact Brad Walker at the HBA office (660) 425-3889. Forms are available at the church.

With Gratitude

- Thank you to all the ladies who have been sewing masks and delivering them to our Harrison County Hospital and our local care centers.
- Thank you to everyone who has financially given to us during these trying times. Through your sacrificial offering our church is able to minister during these unusual days.
- Special thanks to Bryan Barnett, Jeff Bottcher, and Dale & Ella Atkins for all the hard work they did to finish our east office entrance area.
- Thank you to Eric Sweat for building our disinfectant stands at our upstairs exits.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who will be serving us on Sunday Morning. We thank the worship band, media team, and ushers for their assistance during these challenging times.