

A Word From Our Pastor

As we live during these turbulent times with COVID19, anger over social injustice, cultural racism, corruption, protesting, rioting, looting, buildings burning, even people killed in the streets, you may feel like your living in an episode of the twilight zone. I can not count how many people, whether they are liberal left or conservative right, have repeated to me, “Ryan, I never thought I would see this behavior in my country. What in the world has happened? Sometimes I almost can’t believe its real.”

I know there are a lot of feelings floating around out there. I personally, was angered at what happened to George Floyd, especially after seeing some video footage. At the same time I was angry at the rioting, the destruction of personal property, and the awful treatment of law enforcement. It feels like chaos and its hard to comprehend how we got here in 2020. Sadly, this is one year none of us will forget. We didn’t see it coming.

Do you know what one of my favorite Bible phrases is? The phrase “But God.” ‘But God remembered Noah.’ ‘But God has seen my hardships.’ ‘But God did not permit.’ On and on the Bible repeats “But God.” Well we didn’t see this chaos, “but God” did!

We need to remember that God is sovereign even in the tough times. He is in control. God was not caught off guard. Human history is in His hands and we must trust him.

Prv 16:9, “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.”



Going on This Month

We are still in our reopening season and our church will not be having special events for the month of June. Our leadership team is regularly evaluating the situation and if anything changes, we will notify the church family as soon as possible.

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28

Ministry Highlight

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

Church services have resumed. In order to abide by our current Emergency Order, we are providing two different services. One at 9:30AM and the other at 11:00AM. Church service is a little different than usual but the great thing is, we get to enjoy worshiping with one another. Remember these restrictions are temporary and we will eventually get back to our usual routine.

Under our current order we are still unable to hold Sunday School, Children’s Church, and church nursery at this time.

Our Harrison County Hospital is finished using our church basement. They completed a terminal cleaning of our facilities at the beginning of last month.

Arlene Lanning donated 20 facemasks. If you would like to have one please contact the church office.

Unfortunately, it is very likely we will not be holding our annual July 4th outreach this year.



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Finance Report

I praise God that our church finances have weathered the storm and the shutdown of our country over COVID19. Not all church's across America will be able to recover like ours has. I want to thank everyone for your generous donations. During the month of May we recovered a great deal of our church finances. Because of your love and sacrificial offerings, we have been able to return to our pre-pandemic state. I assure you God sees your sacrifices and they will not be forgotten in glory. If you're interested, you might compare the end cash balance of December 2019 with that of May 2020.

Month	Undesignated Funds	End Cash Balance
December 2019	\$24,029.00	\$188,301.35
January 2020	\$11,916.80	\$244,183.95 *
February 2020	\$17,189.50	\$243,545.83
March 2020	\$13,351.00	\$231,453.53
April 2020	\$17,172.00	\$170,461.08 *
May 2020	\$30,003.50	\$184,036.31

* During the month of January, we received a reimbursement check of \$61,854.06 from our church roof insurance company.

* During the month of April, we paid Whitney Roofing a check of \$62,537.88. The difference between our insurance reimbursement and our roof bill was a debt of \$683.82.

Attendance Report

We are thankful to be worshiping in our church sanctuary again. Some of our church members would like to know how attendance has been. That information can be found in the chart below.

Date	9:30AM Service	11:00AM Service	Total
May 10th	56	33	89
May 17th	86	39	125
May 24th	69	32	101
May 31st	71	46	117

Nursing Home Outreach

<u>Crestview/Crestview Apts:</u>	Tasha Bullock, Elaine Bullock, Marilyn Wilkinson, Nadine Nicholls, Jean Thompson, George & Hilka Rose Post
<u>The Village, Cameron:</u>	Bette Tharp
<u>The Veterans Home:</u>	Dean Thompson
<u>Care & Homebound:</u>	Doretta Youngman, Dale Mitchel, Richard & Dorthy Turner

Youth Highlight

As you can probably imagine, activity within our student ministry has been very limited lately. However, as best we can, we've continued our weekly, videoconferencing Bible study time online, "The Tabernacle," allowing students to still "gather" to spend time together in God's Word. We've been studying the book of Colossians. My wife, Sheri, has also started an additional girl's only Bible study time, walking through a series called "Defined: Who God Says You Are." She has had some great turn out for that! We are also looking into some creative ways to bring our students together this summer for fellowship and encouragement. Continue to pray for our youth and the youth of our community, as we ask the Lord to open new doors to reach the lost and see lives changed!

- Pastor Casey Joyce

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 don't forget God wants you to still seek Him daily. By this time last year, we would have already held our AWANA closer and been looking forward to both Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Children's Camp. Unfortunately, all SBC camps have been closed for the remainder of the year and that means we will not be able to attend camp. We also will not be able to have VBS this year due to our current Health Department restrictions.

Though we won't be able to do all these things, there are still a lot of things you can possibly try. For example, you could plan a kite day, a kid's fishing day, hiking, bicycling, even a family camp night. Try asking your parents or guardians to see if they might do some of these things. I think whenever you are out enjoying the outdoors it's a perfect time to read the Psalms and say a prayer with everyone. I also heard our community pool is reopening. You still will have to keep your distance from friends, but that's one extra thing you can do this summer if your parents are willing. I suggest you read a bible verse like John 7:38 with your family before jumping in the pool. Talk about God's love as a flowing river and then tune in to a Christian radio station for worship music and devotion. Make sure you involve God in everything you do. And remember, whatever you do this summer, do it for the glory of God.

With Gratitude

- Thank you to everyone who has financially given to the church during these trying times. Through your sacrificial offering our church has been able to minister without significant financial loss.

- Thank you again to all our volunteers who are serving in our Sunday morning worship services. Our volunteers were asked to serve not once but twice each Sunday. We really appreciate their love and care towards our congregation's spiritual health. We would like to specifically thank the worship band, media team, special singers, and cleaning teams for their assistance during these challenging times.

- Special thanks to Tom and Carma Hansel for all their hard work keeping our building sanitary.

- Thank you to all our volunteers who are saying "yes" to the Nominating Committee. I am so thankful many of you are willing to serve once things open back up.