

## A Word From Our Pastor

I am so thankful for church!

The only time in the history of the United States when churches were shut down for worship was in St. Louis MO in 1918 during the Spanish Flu Outbreak. The city health commissioner Max C. Starkloff closed the courts, churches, schools, theaters, playgrounds, libraries, pool halls, lodges, and other places of amusement. He also banned public gatherings of more than 20 people, limited public transportation, and restricted department stores hours of operations. Sound familiar?

The only difference between us and them is that we have radio and internet. While I am grateful for these resources, let me assure you that is NOT church. Church is about 1.) loving God together and 2.) loving God by how we love each other. While the rest of the world hoards, we give. When the needy are forgotten, we assist. And when the world grows sick, we help. We are called to courage, not fear.

While some of us must take necessary precautions for underlying health conditions, the rest of us must bolster ourselves to battle. How was your life during the 6-week shutdown? Was there a lot of positives? Probably not. That's because God designed us to be social creatures. For this reason He said it was, "not good for Adam to be alone."

God created you and then He saved you. He put His Holy Spirit in you to better love Him and love His bride (the church). Love is about quality time. We are having church again, and if you haven't been back recently, we really really miss you!



### Going on This Month

July 26<sup>th</sup>, we relaunch our Sunday School Program! Please see "Ministry News Highlights" for details.

"But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the sovereign Lord my refuge. I will tell of all your deeds."  
– Psalm 73:28



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### *Ministry News Highlights*

Sunday School (S.S.) services will resume on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. We are still going to provide two morning services but there are changes ahead. The first service will be held at 9:30am and the second service will be held at 10:30am instead of our current one at 11:00am. It is our desire to return to our regular schedule before the pandemic.

S.S. will also resume at 9:30am while the first service is in assembly. The first service (9:30am) will be a shortened program and include social distancing measures. The second service will encourage social distancing, but the decision will ultimately be left up to the worshiper.

During the transition from the first service to the second service, we will dismiss the first service row by row out the North Door in order to assist them in their social distancing measures and keep them from colliding with the S.S. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Service worshipers.

Children and youth S.S. will resume as well but due to a limited number of volunteers and attenders, our children's S.S. will combine grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. Church Nursery will also be available for both Sunday School and the 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service. We will not, however, have children's church available for the 4 & 5 year old's during the second service.

Thursday evening prayer group has returned as well. Everyone is welcomed to join Thursdays at 4:30pm. I am extremely excited we are making strides to get back to our regular routine. But let us remember to practice good hygiene and please stay home if you are not feeling well.

## Finance Report

I praise God that our church finances continue to balance. Not all church's, I assure you, can say the same. I praise God for he has satisfied our needs in a sun-scorched land, for he has shown us his favor like the spring clouds which bring the rain. God will never forget your faithful giving to the Kingdom. Those who sow bountifully will one day receive bountifully.

Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Month	Undesignated Funds	Ending Cash Balance
December 2019	\$24,029.00	\$188,301.35
January 2020	\$11,916.80	\$244,183.95 * Ins. Roof \$
February 2020	\$17,189.50	\$243,545.83
March 2020	\$13,351.00	\$231,453.53
April 2020	\$17,172.00	\$170,461.08 * Paid 4 Roof
May 2020	\$30,003.50	\$184,036.31
June 2020	\$19,099.00	\$185,125.42

## Attendance Report

We are thankful to be worshipping 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
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	76	48	124
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	76	36	112
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	59	31	90
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	60	42	102

## 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 &amp; Homebound:</u>	Doretta Youngman, Dale Mitchel, Richard & Dorthy Turner

## Youth Highlight

Summer is in full swing and activities are abundant! Even though this isn't our usual schedule of events, we've had some fantastic times with our students this summer. Students gathered for a cookout at the Peterson's home, basketball and ice cream at Memorial Park, watermelon, and games at our house, and we're looking forward to swimming at Miracle Hills Ranch on Wed, July 15th. We've seen some new faces this summer and are thankful for the 6th graders who transitioned up into the Student Ministry. Please continue to pray for youth this summer, that they would draw near to the Lord during this...unusual time! - Pastor Casey

## 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 loves you and wants you to still seek Him daily.

Parents, we have not yet made a decision about our Wednesday night AWANA program but I suspect we will have a determination by early August. The reality is things are rapidly changing these days and new information is added daily. We might plan an event anywhere from 1-3 months out only to suddenly have to make changes. Moving forward, you can probably expect to see what I call "close to the hip decisions." Basically, that means as things develop decisions will sometimes be swift and sudden.

Please know, that as our leadership team processes the situation, we think of all of you. Our deacons pray constantly for you. You may not know it, but in on our monthly meetings the first thing we ask each other is, "How is everyone in the church doing?" After some discussion both the deacons and pastors pray for everyone that comes to mind.

Summer days will end before you know it. It's never too late to dive into the Psalms as a family and pray. Perhaps hike a trail, go to the lake (you don't even have to leave the car), or lay out a blanket and look at the stars. Behold the glory of God and his creation. I highly suggest reading Psalm 8 together.

## With Gratitude

- I cannot thank you enough to everyone who is still giving to our Lord during these trying times. I think of Paul in Philippians 4:15-16 when he lamented the lack of response from other churches. But turning to the church at Philippi he said, "Not one church shared with me... Only you." Church family I've watched you for 8 years now, and your previous pastors agree, you are a giving and generous church. I praise God that I have the privilege of serving under such a gracious church.

- Thank you again to all our volunteers who will be serving in our Sunday School ministries. Without you we could not minister as well as we do. God sees your faithfulness and will reward your commitment to the Kingdom upon His swift return.

- We would like to again thank the worship band and media team. You can't imagine how many hours they have given to running 2 services and getting quality content online. Thank you so much!

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

- Thank you to all our volunteers for saying "yes" to the Nominating Committee. I am so thankful many of you are able and willing to serve.