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First Baptist Church Jasper


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Jim Slaton, Minister of Youth and Education.....ext. 1004.....	382-5425
Kim Gill, Church Secretary.....	382-9215
Beth Penney, Financial Secretary.....	594-9647
Christian School.....	384-7033

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THE COMPASS

Hello Church,

It has been a blessing to be able to connect with you through social media during these unprecedented times in our world. We are grateful for the technology that allows us to stream our services to you. However, as great as that has been it does not take the place of gathering together as the body of Christ. **We are thrilled to announce that we will reopen our church doors on Sunday, May 17th!** We will have morning worship at 10:30 a.m. At this time, that is the only "in person" service we will offer. Live streaming will continue on Sunday mornings, evenings and Wednesday nights.

We know that many of you have questions and concerns about this. We promise to take as many precautions as possible to keep everyone safe. First and foremost, if you feel like it is too soon to meet together, please stay home! Although masks and gloves are not required, please feel free to take all the precautions you would like to protect yourself and others. We want to protect our church family. That is why we will continue to offer live streaming of the services. You can still be a part of worship but in the safety of your home.

Following the "Governor's Health Protocols" released on April 27th, we will ask that proper social distancing be followed. In order to accommodate the space required by six-foot social distancing, it will be necessary for us to reduce the number of people in attendance for worship service. It is important to note that each person in attendance will be personally responsible for maintaining a safe distance in all directions between himself and others in attendance.

We ask that **you** follow these guidelines to protect yourself and those around you:

- We strongly encourage at risk populations to watch the service remotely.
- Please do not attend the service if you or anyone in your immediate family has any symptoms of Covid-19.
- A maximum of 75 people will be allowed to enter the Sanctuary. Overflow seating in the gym will be provided with video screen viewing.
- The front doors on Main Street will be the only entrance and exit point. Greeters will meet you at the doors and direct you to seating areas. Please follow their guidance in leaving every other pew empty. Seating areas will be marked with tape to help alleviate any confusion. At the end of the service the greeters will guide you in the dismissal process.
- When entering and exiting the building please do not congregate in the foyer or hallways. We know there may be a desire to shake hands or hug, but we must avoid physical contact a while longer.
- At this time there will be no Sunday school, Nursery or Children's Church. It would be very difficult to maintain social distancing guidelines in these areas.
- Offering plates will be located near exit points.

Below are guidelines and health protocols that **we** will be following:

- All regularly touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after the service. This includes door knobs, tables, chairs and restrooms.
- Hand sanitizer and soap and water will be readily available at multiple locations.
- Signage will be posted throughout the facilities to remind everyone of the best hygiene practices.

This is the plan for now. We will all need to be very flexible, and we appreciate your patience. As we are able to increase our attendance or offer more services we will let you know. We are very excited to once again offer an on-site worship service. See you Sunday, May 17th at 10:30 a.m.!!

Bro. Donnie, Church Staff & Deacons



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

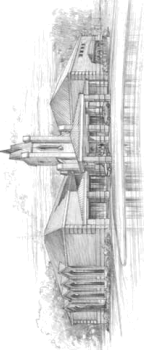
Kathryn Penney	May 12
Carol Calicott	May 15
Joe Ezernack	May 15
Bruce Calicott	May 16
Helen Locke	May 17
Ken Hensarling	May 18
Kinley Shillings	May 18
Michelle Ebarb	May 23
Jane Edwards	May 23

Praise ye the LORD!
O give thanks unto the LORD;
for He is good:
for His mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 106:1
KJV

Financial Report

Offerings.....(04/01 - 04/30) \$ 56,265.93
Annie Armstrong.....(cumulative).....\$ 2,725.00



First Baptist, Jasper 314 N. Main St. Jasper, TX 75951 (409)384-2527	Sunday	Sunday School.....9:15am Worship Service.....10:30am Evening Service.....5:00pm Youth Discipleship.....5:00pm
	Wednesday	Church Fellowship Supper.....5:00pm Kidz Choir.....5:30pm Kid Konnection.....6:00pm Youth.....6:00pm Prayer Meeting.....6:00pm



Dear Church Family,

This past Wednesday night we saw from the Disciples' prayer how they thought about hardship and suffering. When they prayed after persecution (see Acts 4:24-30) they did not ask for an end to persecution but they asked that they might speak the Word of God with confidence. I believe they were learning the great spiritual truth that for the believer, suffering is redemptive. This is the truth behind Romans 8:28.

The more I think about Coronavirus, the more I think about this truth. Most of us (including me) are longing and praying for things to be normal. I am convinced now that this is the wrong prayer. I am praying that by God's redemptive power life will not go back to normal. Instead, I am now praying that God will give us a new vision for His future. One that loves Him more than ever before. One that has a deeper love for one another and for our neighbors. One with a passion for making disciples (and ALL that means). One that is ready to sacrifice for the Kingdom of God. One that has a heart like God for the whole world. One that has not wasted the opportunity that Coronavirus has given us to experience the transforming power of God.

Would you join me in that prayer? I hope with all my heart to see you on May 17 when we begin to gather again for worship.

Brother Donnie

All things work together for good to those who love God, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 (NIV)



A Note from Bro. Woody

*And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.
--1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13--*

There is a very famous quote from former President Teddy Roosevelt that says:

There's nothing quite like looking at a newborn baby. But as adorable as they are, infants do not really appreciate what parents do for them. This is because they have short memories. Their concern is not what you did for them yesterday, but what you are doing for them right now. The past is meaningless and so is the future. They live only for the present.

The very same is true of those who are spiritually immature. Many Christians have little or no appreciation for those who have come before them and poured out their very lives for them. Yet those who are mature are deeply appreciative of those who labored in the past. They recognize those who labor during the present and provide for those who will be laboring in the future. If you're a believer in Christ, it's because someone has labored to show you His grace. If you're growing today, it's because someone is caring for you and feeding you spiritually. And long after we're gone, the gospel will still be moving forward through many others.

That quote from Roosevelt has reminded me to give thanks for those who have made it possible for us to worship "together" during these difficult days. I am so thankful for Liz Weaver and Kim Gill as they have labored, researched, and labored some more to assure that our technology enables us to be on line. I am so thankful for Sue Gee who has graced us with beautiful music from the piano each and every service. And, I am so thankful for Bro. Donnie who has fed us with the Word of God and has encouraged us with his sweet spirit and his empathized preaching and teaching. Yes, we will be gathered together in the near future, but we must be grateful for these who have seen to it that we could continue to worship together in spirit and in truth.

You are loved,
Bro. Woody

A Page from Jim's Journal

I found myself in a bit of a predicament last Sunday morning right before we live streamed the service. About thirty minutes before the service started, I got out of my car on the church office side to get some quick last-minute tasks done and I spilled my water bottle in my lap in the process. It looked awful, like I couldn't make it to the bathroom and wet my pants. This is usually when I wake up and breathe a sigh of relief, knowing it was just a dream. Unfortunately, it was real, and I began to think of quick fixes before I had to walk into the sanctuary with wet pants.

I wish I could report that I found a way to turbo dry my pants or was able to cover up the embarrassing wet marks. But I just didn't have the time. I decided to just walk in and announce "I poured water all over my pants, I did not wet myself!" After the initial 5 seconds of embarrassment had worn off, it was done. I had stressed for fifteen minutes trying to cover up what had happened, and prevent people from thinking I had an accident. Almost immediately, the truth relieved me of my embarrassment and shame.

I'm willing to assume most of you can relate to this scenario. Maybe you didn't pour a bottle of water down the front of your pants, but you can remember a time when you tried to fix an embarrassing or shameful situation without simply coming out and stating the truth. Though the situation I described is comical, I regret being able to say I've done this too many times in my walk with Christ. It's really easy to fall into the trap of "keeping up appearances." I don't know why we do it, but it seems as Christians we do anything to make sure people don't think we are struggling or hurting. Like if someone knew we weren't perfect it makes us less than a child of God. But we aren't perfect, Christ died because no one is perfect.

This situation makes me think of John 3:19-21. It says, "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." Do you feel stuck in a negative cycle? Are you trapped in a secret sin that you so desperately want out of? Stop stressing and working so hard to hide in the darkness. There is freedom in the light. It is somewhat painful at first, but freedom follows. There is a reason James said in 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed." There is freedom in the light, there is freedom in Christ.



Hello from First Baptist Christian School!
This week we started something completely new and we are excited! We were able to put returning student registration online! The process seems easy enough that we will probably continue this for returning students. We also had a second "Drive By & Wave" and seeing the kids brought much happiness to all of us. Here are a few cuties to make your heart smile. Have a great week!

Sincerely,
Stacy

