

FIRST THOUGHTS

The COVID-19 virus has cast a dark shadow here at home, around our nation, and across the globe. To quote Dr. Anthony Fauci, this virus is very "efficient." It is not like the flu--more people get it, and more people die from it. Indeed, "Social Distancing" is now part of our lives and lexicon.

Governor Bill Lee recommended the closure of all schools through this academic year. Students have had to learn to work "online" so special thanks to all our educators for their efforts in making this possible.

In other news, the "stay at home" directive given by the Governor will expire in April. This means that businesses will seek to open and gradually return to a degree of normalcy. The COVID-19 virus has brought about an economic toll; this will be measured in concert with the impact this is having upon our health and well-being.

First Baptist has sought to be good neighbors in this community that we know and love, and have canceled our activities and meetings in cooperation with the school system. As such, our church council approved the following: Our church will plan on resuming regular activities (pending any new developments) on June 1st. We will look to incorporate guidance of state and local leaders as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) related to group gatherings as we work through this process.

In the same way that the CDC tightened restrictions for group gatherings, I would envision a similar loosening of restrictions over the next weeks and months. This is a "fluid situation" and we will act accordingly.

On a related note, I'm encouraged to learn that Clinton High and Anderson County High Schools are planning graduations in June. Hopefully, this will be a redeeming experience for our seniors under some very difficult circumstances.

As we have done every year, this church will honor our seniors. Please know that the church staff will do its best to provide a meaningful way for this to be accomplished.

Finally, we are all in this together. The decision to stop meeting in person is only rivalled by when to resume meeting in person. So, let's be in prayer as we seek to make decisions for the good of our entire congregation.

We are not closed—we've had three people come into our church during this virtual season! So, please know of my gratitude for your faithful financial support and staying connected through our virtual worship services and other gathering opportunities. Stay encouraged.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Dr. Chisholm

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Carl Morrison celebrated his **35th anniversary** as Custodial Supervisor on April 14.



Katrina Duggins celebrates her **20th anniversary** as Office Coordinator on May 19.



We are grateful for their many contributions to the life of our church. Let's be sure to thank them for their faithfulness to the Lord and our family of faith.

MISSIONS

- **reNew Recovery Tuesdays**
Tune in at 6:00 p.m. on the ReNew Recovery of Clinton Facebook Page.

- **Annie Armstrong and Global Missions**
FBC Goal: \$3,500
SBC: \$960.00
CBF: \$380.00
Total Received: \$1,340.00

- **Wednesday Meals for the Towers**
The church is providing 150 Wednesday to go meals for the Clinton Towers through May 13 to help during this difficult time.

If you would like to contribute to offset the expenses of these meals, please mark your envelope "Manna Ministry" and mail to the Church Office at P.O. 268, Clinton, TN 37717. Special thanks to all those who have been contributing to this fund and to the volunteers that are helping make this meal possible.



- **Christian Service Center**
Jack Jones, C.S.C. Director, accepted a donation to the C.S.C. Fund of \$300 from the Clinton Lions Club.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS Scheduled in June has been cancelled. Ms. Betty Kay is working with the Children's Committee and Preschool Committee on a future VBS date based on the guidelines given by the CDC.

YOUTH

- **Senior Sunday Recognition**
Sunday, May 17
Tune in at 10:00 a.m. on the church Facebook page, YouTube, or Twitter.

- **Refuge**
Wed., beginning June 3
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Grades 6 - 12
FLC Youth Room

DEACON UPDATE

Deacons that were scheduled to rotate off this April have agreed to serve an extended term through May 2020 so that we won't have a transition during this time that we aren't meeting.

CARSON-NEWMAN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available for undergrad students attending Carson-Newman in fall of 2020. Email Joanna your name, C-N ID#, and D.O.B. to Joanna@fbclinton.org by Friday, May 29.

2020 High School Graduates



Lindsay Bowling is a graduate of Anderson County High School. She plans to attend Roane State Community College and pursue a career in Elementary Education.



Emily Bigler is a graduate of Clinton High School. She plans to attend MTSU and earn a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in international affairs.



Julianne Smith is a graduate of Anderson County High School. She plans to attend ETSU and study to be an Occupational Therapist.



Aleena Vargas is a graduate of Clinton High School. She plans to apply to a local college.



Mollie Smith is a graduate of Oak Ridge High School. She plans to attend ETSU where she will be involved in the Presidential Honors Community Service Scholars program.

A NOTE FROM MS. TAMMY

Hello everyone –

I want to give a big virtual hug to all of you. It has been so odd not seeing all the faces that I see on a daily basis. I have talked to a lot of the parents through our W.E.E. Ministry Facebook page, as we try to keep in touch during this new “norm.” I had never heard of Zoom before COVID-19, and now this is allowing me to have meetings with my boss, the pastor here at First Baptist and our W.E.E. Committee. Modern technology is great, huh? It has been great to have so many teachers read books via Facebook and be able to showcase photos of what is going on with everyone, from the teachers to the children. The church members have been great to check in on us and even read some books that I have been able to post online for the kids, as well. Hang in there – with lots of prayer and God’s grace, we will all be together soon.

Love ya,
Ms. Tammy, W.E.E. Ministry, Director

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2	May 15
Sue Dixon	Pamela Bowers
Susan Uzzle	Jill Whitaker
May 4	May 16
Deninson Barreira	Sue Boggs
Jessica Temple	Sam Neal
May 5	Zeke Neal
Jeff Bailey	Scott Page
Dorothy Jones	Jeff Severs
May 6	May 17
Todd Fox	Julia Spradling
Beth Meredith	May 18
Jean Miller	Danny Chisholm
May 7	May 19
Katie Phillips	Angie Manning
Jim White	Juanita Roettger
May 8	May 20
Caleb Jenkins	Barbara Smith
Debbie Zachary	May 21
May 9	Katherine Herbst
Dalton Boatman	Rick Scarbrough
May 10	Christopher Sutton
Janice Bailey	May 23
May 11	Lisa Eady
Jana Darnell	Shannon Foster
May 12	Baker
Barbara Jeffers	May 24
Rebecca Pace	Jack Gregory Jones
Hannah Smith	May 25
May 13	Garry Whitley, Sr.
Joann Hammerling	May 30
Nicci Hollingsworth	Jonathan Childers
Terry Thoma	May 31
May 14	Ronald Swanner
Staci Lollar	

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to Judy Henderson, whose father, **Edward Ladell Sharp**, passed away (3/28), to Kym Cuffman, whose mother, **Barbara Morgan**, passed away (3/28), and to Lisa Yates, whose father, **Charles Luke**, passed away (4/21).

PRAYER SERVICE & BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Facebook Live Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Study on the Book of James Led by Dr. Chisholm

SPECIAL THANKS

Special Thanks to **Martha Foster** and **Joanna Pace** for decorating the Sanctuary for our online Easter Service.



FRIENDLY FIGURES

• March Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 105,418
2020 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 17,234
2020 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 17,284
Budget Expense	\$ 80,565
March Deficit/Income	\$ 24,853
2020 Deficit/Income	(\$26,060)
TOTAL March 31	(\$ 1,207)

Please remember that our missing Sundays due to the COVID-19 virus will put additional strain on the church’s finances. You may give online via church website or direct mail (P.O. Box 268 Clinton 37717) during this time. For questions or other options call the church office 457-9353.

STEWARDSHIP

There’s no denying it: the past two months have changed and challenged us all. Life as we knew it is gone, and we are left to figure out this new, changed version of life.

Knowing their lives would soon be upended, Jesus used his last days to teach and encourage his disciples. They would be afraid, unsure; life as they knew it would be changed forever. As was his custom, Jesus used parables to talk about heavenly matters. He told of a man planning a journey and entrusting his wealth to his servants. The man divided up his wealth as he saw fit and left. The servant’s lives changed; they had to get used to a new way of living. Two servants put their shares to use, increasing the master’s wealth. But one was afraid. He didn’t know what to do; this new world was too much to bear! So, he buried his share and hunkered down, waiting for life to return to normal. We all know, as did the first disciples, which servants pleased the master and which did not.

So it is with us. The Lord has divided the wealth of the world and the gifts of the Spirit among us, his servants. The master has left, life has been upended, and we are alone in our homes. Let us be wise with our “talents,” (both monetary and spiritual). Let us put to work all we have been given and so use this time to build up the kingdom of our Lord! Let us be ready to welcome the master and give account of our actions when life was upended. (For further study and encouragement, read Matthew 25:14-30.) Anita Childers, Stewardship Committee

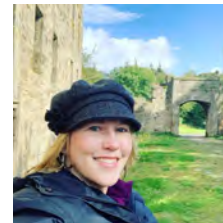
NEW MEMBERS



Darla Bayless



Parker Ford
Pictured with his wife, Courtney.



Lesley Swann

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~ MAY 2020 ~

Senior Recognition Day

Sunday, May 17

Tune in at 10:00 a.m. on the church Facebook Page, YouTube, or Twitter.

2020 High School Graduates

(see inside Friendly Guide for more information)



Emily Bigler, C.H.S.
Lindsay Bowling, A.C.H.S.
Julianne Smith, A.C.H.S.
Mollie Smith, O.R.H.S.
Aleena Vargas, C.H.S.

Congratulations College Graduates

Rachel Hope Barber
University of Louisville
Bachelor of Arts, Music Therapy

Cally Chisholm
Missouri Southern State University
Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication
with a minor in Speech Communication

Haleigh Scarborough Copeland
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Master of Music in Music Education

Hunter Pyatt Poore
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Major in Wildlife Management and minor in Forestry.
He is pursuing a Wildlife Officer position.

Rachel Smith
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
FUTURE program