

FIRST THOUGHTS

“If you don’t take a Sabbath, something’s wrong. You’re doing too much, you’re being too much in charge. You’ve got to quit, one day a week, and watch what God is doing when you’re not doing anything.”

These words by Eugene Peterson are important during any season but are especially relevant during the unrest our nation is currently experiencing. The spiritual, emotional, and psychological issues we are experiencing these days can’t be easily resolved by additional efforts on our part.

I’ve been attentive to the numbers and trends relating to the COVID-19 virus. Schools, businesses, and churches are among those determining how best to respond to the data and attempt to keep their constituencies as safe as possible. It’s stressful. There are no easy answers for people who are in positions of leadership and tasked with making decisions.

As far as our own church is concerned, the Church Council has voted to continue our current meeting schedule through the month of August. We will meet again in early September to determine what our approach should be after Labor Day. This additional time will allow us to gauge how things are going in our community and schools as it relates to the COVID-19 virus.

In light of the increased COVID-19 cases, the Church Council strongly encourages the wearing of masks and facial coverings in our building. Please also remember that if you are tested for the COVID-19 virus, please do not come to worship until you receive your results.

I’ll continue looking to the Church Council to help discern the need to cancel meeting together in the event of a COVID-19 positive result among our people. As such, we will continue following the Re-Gathering Guidelines set forth when we resumed in person meetings on June 7th.

Our church staff eagerly desires to be part of your lives and is discerning how best to do that in these uncertain times. We are missing the rhythms of our life together as children, students, and adults who call First Baptist Church their family and home.

Remember that we are still the church. Please come for in person worship if you are able and/or take part in the online worship opportunities. Don’t let your spiritual life suffer during this pandemic—it’s important now more than ever.

I’m beginning a sermon series in August called “Hope for Hard Times” which I hope will be timely for the moment. I do not want us to live in fear, and neither do I want us to live in foolishness. Join in praying for the Lord’s ongoing guidance for us as a church family.

Thanks for your faithfulness. Philippians 1:3.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Danny



NEW SERMON SERIES IN AUGUST

Pastor Danny will be preaching on
“Hope for Hard Times.”

This five Sunday series will deal with how God worked through Abraham, Jeremiah, and Moses to lead the people of God through challenges and hardships.

Sunday Services:

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center,
10:40 a.m. Sanctuary **AND ONLINE**

MISSIONS

- **Special Thanks**

to **Willow Ridge Garden Center & Landscaping** for their \$1,200 contribution to the Christian Service Center on May 7.

- **Christian Service Center Drive-Thru Hours**

Tuesdays
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Church Parking Lot

- **Corners of your field**

is in partnership with the Knoxville Area Rescue Ministry.

Clothing donations can be dropped off at the KARM store near you. If you would like for First Baptist Church, Christian Service Center, to receive credit please let them know when you make the donation. We accumulate points for donations and then KARM gives us gift cards to give out when there is an item needed by a client that we may not have available. The C.S.C. clothing area is not open at this time and is not accepting clothing donations until further notice. Thank you!



Christian Service Center Report

The Christian Service Center served an average of 30 families in July at the C.S.C. Drive-thru. This is an important work and we are grateful for the faithfulness of our volunteers. Their creativity in continuing ministry to our community each Tuesday afternoon is a great blessing.



Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

The Prayer Shawl Ministry delivered 9 blankets in July and 50 since March. We are thankful for their good work and prayers for the individuals who receive these blankets.



TEACHER DEPOT

If you would like to contribute to the Teacher Depot but do not wish to shop, monetary donations and gift cards would be appreciated. You can mail them to the church office or drop them by during the week.

YOUTH

- **Youth Zoom Meetings Wednesdays**

Jason sends out zoom meeting information weekly.

- **Tailgate Party**

We had approximately 40 youth attend the Tailgate Party in the church parking lot on July 15. Special thanks to Grill Master, **Johnfred Thomas** and to the Youth Committee for helping with this event.

RENEW RECOVERY

Tuesdays

6:00 p.m.

Jaycee Park

You may also participate via Facebook Live on ReNew Recovery of Clinton Page.

