



# Messenger

Followers of Christ sharing God's love and grace with all.

July 16, 2020

## *From the Pastor,*

I have a tendency to think, feel and say, “the most certain thing these days is uncertainty.” It is true! There are a lot of uncertainties as people attempt to make decisions in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. The thing we are often most certain about is the uncertainty. It is driving us leaders, planners, decision makers, ... crazy – not being able to move forward within a definite, safe and secure framework is so different. No one has really adjusted, in part because we have expected things to return to our normal schedules and freedoms. Meanwhile the pandemic seems to reassert itself over and over again. And the question, “What to do?” arises over and over. Lord help us!

I guess everyone has their own point of concern. Some are deeply concerned for the economy, jobs, income, etc. The focus is now upon the schools, the proper gathering protocols for students, student learning and socialization, etc. And everyone knows on the horizon are the fall elections, and the typical uptick in seasonal illnesses.

In the midst of this I have been most concerned about the spiritual, emotional and mental well being of folks – of individuals and families. Most people don't deal well with massive ambiguity like we are having. A permanent state of “I don't know” is simply unsettling and debilitating. It calls for a humility and trust with which we are not familiar. Again, I pray, “Lord help us.”

Lord help us to be humble enough to still see the giftedness of life, just the joy of taking whole, healthy breaths. Help us receive the food we eat, food often prepared at home as we shelter in place, as gifts of grace from above. Help us use time to walk in the yard, to pet our pets, to hold our own hands, to care for our souls, to sit on the porch, to wave at neighbors, to bask in the shade of a summer tree, ... In all of these things may our hearts and souls be nurtured in humility and trust.

John Blasé leads us in THE BRAVEST THING

Maybe the bravest thing  
is opening your eyes in the  
morning and placing your  
two feet on the cold floor and  
rising up against the gravity  
of the night. Maybe that's the  
brave thing from which all other  
bravery flows, the brave to  
seek ye first. Maybe that's the  
single thing God requires of you,  
the spiritual discipline that takes  
all your will to muster. Swallow  
down the fear, my friend, and face  
the dawning day for what the  
surface of the world needs most  
of all is bravery skipping and  
you, yes you are the stone.

*Grace and Peace,  
Craig*

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

Please contact the church office if you have any prayer requests, updates, or wish to remove a name.

Covid-19 patients and their families, caregivers and all affected by this great unknown

### Our Members:

Robin Benton, Terry Blanton, JoAnn Clay, Jim Hall, Tom Hicks, Marie Rainey, Bob Schell, Frank Thompson, Jimmy Williams, Unspoken

### Friends and Family:

Pat Adams, Jeff Cotten (John Cotten's brother), Krissy Clifton (John Cotton's niece, daughter of Jeff Cotten), Kay Parker, Walt Rocker, Jr. , Larkin Stringer

### Assisted Living/Nursing & Homebound:

Edith Bennett, Betty Evans, Luceil Harrison, Mary Ann Heath, Hilda Marshall, Grace Resseau, Martha Strube, Sug Walton

### Missionary Families:

Trey Lancaster family in Zimbabwe, Norman family serving in Spain

*Flowers are placed in the sanctuary  
on July 19<sup>th</sup> in memory of my mother,  
Sallie Key and my late wife Sara  
Haizlip Key by Guerry Key.*



## Operation Christmas Child Yearly Gift Ideas

MISSIONS | **highlight**



### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Deacon of the Week—July 19: Harris McCollum

*Families: Donald Baker family, James Cheney family, Edge Farley family, Tom Hicks family, John Hood family, Daniel Jones, Robert Morris family, Betty Sills, Roger Vining family*

Deacon of the Week—July 26: Jesse McMillen

*Families: Howell Cardwell family, Jo Ann Clay, Rick Cogdell family, Shelba Key, Jeffrey Knowles family, Gary McElhenney family, Tommy McElhenney family,*



### Clothing Items

July

#OCCitemofthemoth

## Financial Report

### Weeks of July 5 and July 12

Budget Needs Bi Weekly	18,790.00
Budget Receipts	25,332.00
Budget Needs YTD	263,060.00
Budget Receipts YTD	267,804.31

### WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, July 5	62
Sunday, July 12	63

### CHURCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

July 19—August 1, 2020

- 7/26—Steve Perry
- 7/28—Cindy Cogdell
- 7/30—Jesse McMillen, Steven Prance
- 8/1—Joan Barclay



*Happy Birthday*

## Ways to Give



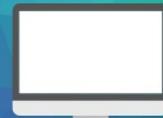
In Person



During Worship



Mail



Online

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR  
2020 GRADUATES ON JULY 19 AT 10:50 A.M.  
DURING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.



*Isabella Stickley*

*Isabella graduated from Gatewood and will be attending Mercer University. She is the daughter of David and Tracy Stickley.*



*Jack Stickley*

*Jack graduated from Gatewood and will be attending The University of Tennessee. He is the son of David and Tracy Stickley.*



*Max Dupree*

*Max graduated from Gatewood and will be attending The University of South Carolina Upstate. He is the son of Lee and Tina Dupree.*

## A WORD TO THE 2020 GRADUATES

We are very proud of you and your graduating accomplishment. Let your words to each other continue to edify the goodness of God and His love. Never let the storms in this life make you doubt the presence and goodness of God. We are continually praying for you, graduates, and the steps that you are about to take. Take them in strength and faith!

## Youth and Children Ministries Update

One of the hardest things to do as an associate pastor is to cancel normal summer activities at the church. Usually, this time of year, the goal is to find ways to bring young people of all ages together during summer. I miss VBS and the opportunity to dress up and act like a big kid for a week, as well as see our youth volunteer and give back to the children's ministry. COVID 19 has taken some of that planning and trying to reach our youth and children away. However, two weeks ago, we had a splash night in front of the church, and Pastor Craig was able to meet some of our families. It was a great night to see students and children of all ages and to hear laughing and see smiling faces. It was needed to rejuvenate our ministry batteries to say that we have the best family here at FBC.

The same holds for our youth program. The summer usually means summer camps and graduation services celebrating the seniors. Again, it was a little different this year seniors did not have typical graduation, and prom was canceled. However, this Sunday, July 19, FBC is going to recognize our church's graduating seniors. This Sunday is a time to acknowledge and celebrate with our church family the accomplishments of our seniors and pray with them as they embark on a new segment of their life's in college. The service will be streamed online so all the church family will be able to send or say a prayer and celebrate our 2020 seniors. We look forward to seeing and hearing all that our seniors will accomplish in school, life, and in their community. I believe that these seniors have an amazing future ahead of them.

We ask our church family to be in prayer for our school teachers, school administration, students, etc, as they deal with how best and when to start school. The school year is going to be different for the staff and students as the newness will create some problems. However, this allows our church to reach our comminutes in a new way as we pray for the new school year and seek out how best FBC can help be the hands of Jesus to Putnam county.

Jacob



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Return Service Requested

"The FBC Messenger will be emailed the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. It will continue to be mailed as formally done to any who do not receive email, and to any who request a print copy."

**DUE TO COVID-19, OUR  
OFFICE HOURS HAVE CHANGED**

**Monday—Thursday:** 8:30am—4:00pm  
(Closed from 12:00pm-1:00pm for lunch)

**Friday:** Closed

\*All calls will be answered remotely from  
9:00am—12:00pm

**JOIN US FOR MORNING WORSHIP**

Sundays at 10:50 AM

in Sanctuary and Live on Facebook  
Uploaded to YouTube by 3:00 PM

Sunday, July 19, 2020—Graduation Sunday  
"Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done"  
Matthew 6:10

**CONNECT  
WITH US**

