

FEBRUARY 2021

THE BRIDGE

This month:

FBC ON
YOUTUBE

IN MEMORIAM

DEACON
SERVICE

FINANCIAL
THANKS

THE
WELCOMING
PROJECT

GATHERING
TOGETHER

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ON A CHILD'S
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THE BEATLES
SAID IT BEST

LENTEN
PLANNING FOR
ADULTS

*A monthly newsletter from
First Baptist Church of
Frankfort, Kentucky
"The Church at the Singing Bridge"*

BELOVED COMMUNITY IN A MONTH OF LOVE

February, often called the month of love, is a wonderful time to think about our 2021 theme and the scripture reference, John 13:1-17, where Jesus washes the disciples feet.

From Dr. Felton's sermon on January 3, 2021:
"...and if we authentically embody what Jesus was symbolically demonstrating through the washing of his disciples' feet, it is then we will understand what it means to be his disciple, what he desires for a local collective of Christians, and ultimately what can usher in the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven."

How will you wash feet this month?

Make a plan of action.

Be intentional.

Love as Jesus loved.



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FBC JOINS YOUTUBE

BY KARA JOHNSON

You will often hear me repeat our foremost communications goals:

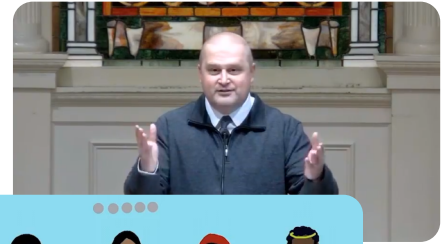
- Connect with people who need help.
- Connect with people who can be helpers.

With those goals in mind, FBC has joined the social media outlet, YouTube.

This popular forum is used by many of our congregation members in addition to countless members of our community, state, and world. Furthermore, the ease of locating videos via YouTube vs. Facebook appears a strong and useful benefit.

Find our channel by going to YouTube and searching "First Baptist Church at the Singing Bridge."

Two playlists are currently available, Worship Services and Children's Sermons. Both full length service videos and Amanda's creative children's



*FBC YouTube channel:
"First Baptist Church at
the Singing Bridge"*

sermons are uploaded at the beginning of each week from the previous Sunday.

We look to the future and hope we are able to expand our livestream services to both simultaneously broadcast on both Facebook and YouTube.

In Memoriam

*Wilma Scruggs
January 12, 2021*

DEACONS BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

First Baptist Deacons recently served others by delivering fruit baskets, cards, and FBC's Christmas CD, "The Work of Christmas," to shut-ins. We appreciate the service of this important body and their contributions toward building a Beloved Community right here in Franklin County.

Join us in praying for these important lay leaders in 2021, and utilize and assist your deacon body to unite in our work for God's church.



GRATITUDE, WELCOMING, AND GATHERING AGAIN

BY DR. KEITH FELTON, SENIOR PASTOR

As I look back on 2020, I realize there is so much to be thankful for. It is not a year any of us expected or desired, but it did bring opportunities to demonstrate our faith in difficult times. One of the ways in which our family of faith did so was through consistent and elevated giving. As I reflect on our financial statement for the past year, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude and awe. In one of the most challenging seasons I can imagine for a church, you gave 5% more than in the previous year. In a time where the 'offering plates' were not passed down the aisle, you found new ways to make sure our church was supported through tithes and offerings. My prayer is we will continue this high level of faithful stewardship. Our church is primed to make great strides in the new year. Thank you for this encouraging part of what was in many other ways a discouraging year.

Before COVID, I was working on something I entitled 'THE WELCOMING PROJECT'. The ideas put forth by the Feasibility Team were the root of this effort. We are blessed with wonderful facilities, but I believe they can be more welcoming in the future by taking care of some much needed improvements. In my opinion, the most important area that needs help is our restrooms, particularly on our main floor. We need

accessible restrooms (ADA compliant). This is a 'big ticket' item as you might imagine. Our Properties Team will be investigating what a project like this might entail. PLEASE NOTE this is only in the investigative stage right now. Such a project would certainly need to come before the church, the Finance Committee and basically go through all the right protocol for approval. I ask that you make it a matter of prayer. We want to be good stewards of the healthy financial position we are in. Ask God for wisdom and guidance as we look at the possibilities.

Our staff is actively pursuing a plan for our church to be able to gather in-person just as soon as it can be safely done. We are communicating with experts about the vaccine and the virus as we have done for the past eleven months. As the distribution of the vaccine continues, we are getting closer to resuming our in-person activities. I am thankful for your patience and excited we are edging closer to the time of being together, again. Please be in prayer that we will handle this process in the best way possible. Until then, let us resolve to continue to be present in all our virtual activities. Thank you for being a wonderful model of adapting and remaining faithful during trying times.



"I can't tell you how important it is that we reclaim this message of good news that there is a Kingdom not of this world but that can exist in this world.

It is the Kingdom of God, the beloved community lived out in the local church."

*-Dr. Keith Felton,
Jan. 17, 2021
Worship Service*

YOU CAN DO HARD THINGS

BY REV. RICHARD SUMMERS, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC AND ADMINISTRATION

A phrase I often hear my daughter tell our granddaughter is “You can do hard things.” It is encouraging to remember that just because something is difficult doesn’t mean it can’t be done. I want to say to you, “You can do hard things!” I also want to say, “You have done hard things!” These past ten months have been incredibly difficult on so many levels, yet you have remained faithful to your church. You’ve learned how to use virtual formats to connect and to worship. You have supported each other through telephone calls, cards, letters, and acts of kindness. Because of your faithfulness, the clinic, toy store, payday loan ministry, and all our ministry partners have been funded and remained vibrant. You have remained patient and your

kind and generous spirit has not been thwarted. You have done hard things!

There are hard things left. It is hard to participate in virtual worship. It is hard to sing when no one else is around you singing. It is hard to speak the responsive readings out loud to an empty room. It is hard to stay engaged while sitting on a couch, or laying in bed, but **YOU CAN DO IT!** Worship is never a spectator event. Worship is always, **ALWAYS**, an active experience. Do not grow weary in these final months apart. Do the hard things! There is light at the end of this dark period and I can’t wait to gather with you again and worship together in person. Until then, I will join you in doing the hard thing!



GRANT WORK; NEW PAID POSITION IN MFC

BY MICHELLE CARROLL, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MISSIONS

The start of a new year means checking grant information and reviewing all the new deadlines and opportunities for both Mission Frankfort Clinic (MFC) and Emma Quire Mission Center. This makes plenty of research for me!

I’m happy to report that our largest grant funder for MFC just notified us of our award for 2021! The application, submitted in December with the Baugh Foundation, was approved just last week. They have supported us for the past several years. We are so grateful for their support, because they are willing to fund salaries for staff, unlike many other grant makers. Their grant covers the salaries for our Clinic Administrator, three interns from local colleges, and a new position this year, a part-time Spanish language Clinic Coordinator! All of these staff positions help maintain the consistency needed for our patients and volunteer healthcare professionals from week to week.

We are excited to welcome one of our volunteer translators into a paid position. She truly goes above and beyond, working outside of regular clinic hours to coordinate appointments via text and Facebook messenger and relay prescription refill information to us. With her help we’re able to take our communications with Spanish speaking patients to a higher level, ensuring they can understand vital information necessary for their health.

TOY STORE

In spite of a pandemic, and due to the generosity of our church family, the Toy Store was able to help 93 families by providing toys, books, and stuffed animals for 210 children. Partnering with city and county schools allowed FBC to find families in need of assistance.

Our FBC elves shopped from our stock of donated and purchased items and were able to provide specific items the children would like. The items were packaged and distributed safely to families at a drive through event.

Thank you for your donations. You made a brighter Christmas for many children.



THE LENTEN STORY

BY REV. AMANDA STANDIFORD, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CHILDREN

When you first pick up the Godly Play materials for Lent, they are decidedly dull-looking. In a room that contains gold boxes full of felt parables, wooden replicas that help tell Old Testament stories, and even real live candles, the Lenten story with its seven simple wooden cards and purple felt roll hardly screams, “Pick me!”

And yet, six(ish?) years into practicing Godly Play, I’ve come to love the Lenten story – in fact, it’s one of my favorites. The materials for the story, which is titled “The Faces of Easter,” are simple, but the words are rich. In just seven cards, presented during the six weeks of Lent and on Easter, kids hear the whole story of Jesus’ life, from birth to resurrection. They learn about Jesus going missing on his family’s trip to the temple as an adolescent. They hear about Jesus’ baptism and time in the desert being tempted and contemplating who he was and the work he had been given. They hear about Jesus doing that work – coming close to people and telling stories about God’s dream. Finally, they learn about the last supper, crucifixion, and resurrection. There is so much life packed into these seven wooden tiles.

If your kids haven’t been participating in Godly Play on Zoom, Lent is a great time to start. If they have, let me encourage you to keep up that practice heading into the Lenten season. The links are available in our weekly children’s ministry emails and through the prayer list page on our website.

The Lenten story may not be the one that jumps out at your kids when they’re surveying the shelves in the Godly Play classroom, but it’s certainly one that will write itself on their hearts and that they’ll come back to for years and years to come.

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

BY REV. MARCUS PERNELL, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENTS

If the month of February had to be summarized in one sentence, I believe the Beatles said it best when they told us, “All you need is love.” Now it may seem a bit odd that your friendly neighborhood youth pastor is quoting The Beatles, but I think there’s a lot of merit to this statement. All we really do need is love, and I think the month of February is a wonderful time to really live this out through our church’s theme of Beloved Community. How, though? We could share love with others in the form of flowers, chocolates, and even those little heart candies with corny one-liners on them. We could write a card or create a short video expressing our love to others and what they mean to us. A wonderful demonstration of love could even be something as simple as inviting our friends and neighbors to worship with us and reminding them they are beloved by God.

How might we - how might you - share this need for love throughout the month of February?

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LOOKING FOR THE SPIRIT DURING LENT

BY REV. AMANDA STANDIFORD, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday – February 17. During this season, we remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism, preparing for what was ahead. There are, of course, many good and valuable ways to practice Lent, but this year, as we continue to move through this challenging season in our country and in our world, I invite you to consider a quiet, reflective observance.

There's a Quaker addition to Godly Play called Faith and Play that contains a story I very much love. It's titled "Listening for God" and it invites us to consider

the many ways the Holy Spirit nudges us toward communion with the divine. Sometimes, the story tells us, we come close to God all alone. Sometimes it happens when we're with other people. Sometimes we experience God through our senses or through the story, the songs, and prayers of the people of God. And sometimes we find God in the gathering of the community for worship and fellowship.

This year, our Lenten devotional materials will invite you to look for the Spirit at work in your life and in the life of our beloved community at FBC. This year's simple guide will ask you both to reflect on where you've seen God's Spirit at work and to make space for fresh connections. I look forward to journeying alongside you through this season. Watch for announcements in early February about how to obtain your materials!

*Lent begins Ash Wednesday,
February 17. Watch for
announcements about how to
obtain your Lenten materials!*