

MAY 2021

# The Bridge

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY  
"THE CHURCH AT THE SINGING BRIDGE"

INSIDE:

THE DETAILS OF  
OPENING THE BUILDING

MOFFATT BUILDING  
RENOVATION UPDATE

CHILDREN'S EASTER  
CELEBRATION



# Reopening

...THE BUILDING OF A  
BELOVED COMMUNITY



# Grateful

BY DR. KEITH FELTON, SENIOR PASTOR

For over 200 years, First Baptist has been making hope visible to the city of Frankfort, Franklin County, the Commonwealth, and the world. This past year has been one of the most challenging in our history. In difficult times, one of the best exercises for the mind and heart is to name things of which we are grateful.

You have heard the staff say frequently how thankful we are for Adam & David Columbia. They have tirelessly kept us connected with each other on Sundays by broadcasting our worship through live streaming. Our church is indebted to them for their faithfulness and technological expertise. Well over a year ago our church voted on creating a brand-new staff position, Director of Communications. I knew how important this would be before we knew anything about the pandemic. We needed a point person for extending our reach through social media, educating the public about FBC, and coming to age with all things in an ever-increasing virtual world. We have all witnessed the critical nature of this position held by Kara Johnson, especially during this pandemic. Thank you, Kara.

I am grateful for creative and industrious Associate Pastors. Michelle, Richard, Amanda, and Marcus adapted and simply excelled in a ministerial world they were not trained for. We hired an excellent new Office Manager in Amy Carpenter during this crazy time, and she has surpassed all expectations in meeting our needs in this important position. As always, our Facilities Manager, Tony Hager, has done an outstanding job in making sure everything in our building was taken care of, especially with the flood. Our Accompanists did not miss a beat during this past year. Linda McKinley and Lois Summers brought us beautiful musical offerings every Sunday, providing a sense of normalcy in a chaotic time. When we thought it was safe, many of you came to our Sanctuary and helped us with a song, a reading, or a prayer that enriched our services. Others didn't hesitate to get on camera and provide us a video of your prayer or

some other contribution for the service and for all of this, we are eternally thankful.

I still shake my head at times when thinking about how incredibly faithful all of you have been with tithes and offerings. To be in the black after a year of pandemic speaks volumes about your spiritual maturity and understanding of church life. I can't tell you how encouraging it has been for me to experience the devotion and care you have for our church. This made it possible for us to confidently call two new Associate Pastors and launch a significant construction project to provide accessible ADA restrooms on the main floor of our building. I have found myself on more than one occasion getting emotional in talking to colleagues about your commitment and support.

Our staff has relied more on Deacons this year than any other. Our Deacons took on a huge task of having monthly contact lists of our membership and making sure we all stayed connected and needs were met. On several occasions I've been contacted by various members on how much this has meant to them. We are all grateful for our Deacon body and how they have stepped up during this time. We are grateful for our Sunday school leadership and their adjustment to Zoom meetings and teaching in these conditions. Our committees, our Children's Wednesday night leaders, participating at our business meetings, and Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer Meeting have all been done differently this year, but you have made it work!

We are going to reopen the doors soon and return to in-person activities. Let's be respectful of those who choose to continue participating with us virtually. My prayer is that we will champion and cherish our gatherings more than ever. I know I will. Thank you for your patience, prayers, and encouragement. I believe with every challenge comes opportunity and lessons that can help us grow and become the Christ-followers and beloved community God desires.

# REOPENING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

On Wednesday, April 28, First Baptist Church will begin the process of reopening the building to church events. Please carefully read all procedures and guidelines.

## WHO WILL MEET AT FBC BEGINNING APRIL 28

- ADULT BIBLE STUDY, Wednesdays at 6:15 pm
- COMMITTEES/TEAMS and other SMALL GROUPS have the option to meet at the church. Chairpersons and small group facilitators will determine whether to meet in person or keep their group virtual for now.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ATTEND

- Use the back entrance, across from the parking garage.
- Enter NO EARLIER than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- Wear a mask/face covering, correctly and at all times, when in the building.
- Sit at a table in Fellowship Hall. Seats will be limited to 3 chairs per table. Do not move the chairs to other tables.
- Please respect the FBC guidelines and respect that others may have different levels of comfort than you. Wear your mask and physically distance yourself from others for now. Even if *you* feel comfortable without a mask or in approaching your neighbors, others may not.

## OTHER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY FBC

- Gatherings are limited to Fellowship Hall for now.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the back entrance and in Fellowship Hall.
- Tables will be sanitized before and after Bible study and any other meetings.

## OTHER CRITICAL INFORMATION

- FBC STRONGLY encourages only those who are FULLY vaccinated to begin attending in-person gatherings at this time.
- RESPECT each other. Respect those who are not ready to return in person, yet. Respect those who are ready to be in the building. Respect the guidelines and procedures.
- The reopening process is a FLUID PROCESS. At any time, the plan may need to change. Be flexible when necessary.
- VIRTUAL Bible study will still happen at 6:15 pm on Wednesdays and remains a valid method to learn, grow, and worship.
- The building is still closed to in-person traffic throughout the week except for the pre-approved, scheduled times.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE FBC OFFICE AT 502.227.4528 OR [INFO@FBCFRANKFORT.CHURCH](mailto:INFO@FBCFRANKFORT.CHURCH).

# REOPENING TO IN-PERSON SUNDAY WORSHIP AND OTHER FBC MINISTRIES

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school and FBC's Sunday morning worship service are set to begin, in-person, on June 6. Guidelines and procedures for the re-opening will be published 7-10 days in advance.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Rev. Richard Summers is currently making plans to begin handbell rehearsals and choir rehearsals on Wednesday, May 19. Quartet, or smaller, size instrumental groups may soon begin practicing together, also. If you are interested in joining one of FBC's music ministry groups, please contact Richard. He can add you to his distribution list so you are aware of the guidelines and procedures for music ministry,



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rev. Amanda Standiford is in contact with parents of children to understand the comfort level of families. She'll be aided by her children's ministry team to make plans for the summer.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Rev. Marcus Pernel is in contact with parents of youth to understand the comfort level of families. He'll be aided by his youth ministry team to make plans for the summer.

## MISSIONS MINISTRY

Michelle Carroll, in cooperation with the missions ministry team, is working to continue all mission aspects at FBC and analyze the process of returning to in-person missions events as opportunity allows.

## MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information regarding any ministry at FBC and/or that ministry's plans for regathering, please call 502.227.4528 or contact any staff member directly.



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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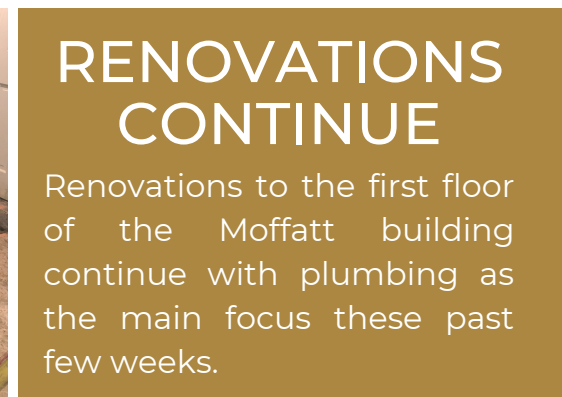
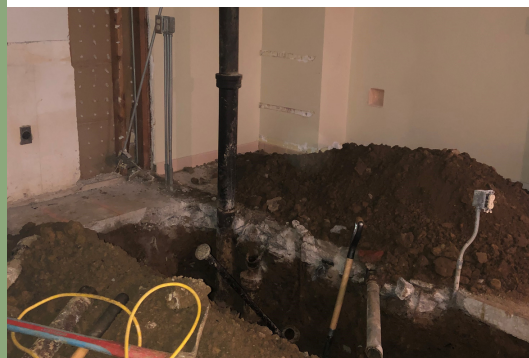
*We welcome  
new member  
**GARY MASON**  
to FBC!  
April 4, 2021*



## FBC CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION

Children, friends, and youth had a wonderful time celebrating Easter by venturing to FBC members' homes where they completed art projects to make a resurrection wreath, found hidden candy, had a beautiful photo opportunity, and even met a familiar looking rabbit!

Thank you, FBC, for being a congregation that encourages intergenerational activities that build beloved community, help us grow spiritually, and are just plain fun!



## RENOVATIONS CONTINUE

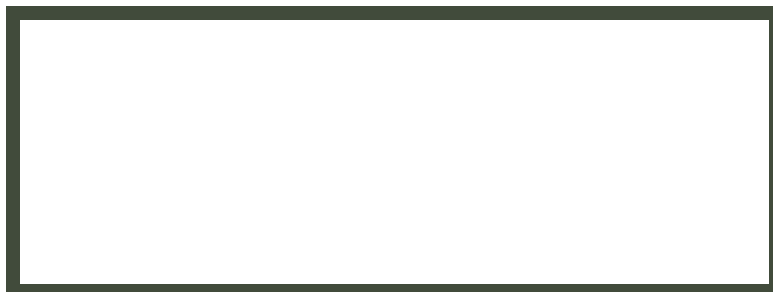
Renovations to the first floor of the Moffatt building continue with plumbing as the main focus these past few weeks.

**THE BRIDGE**

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A SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER  
REGARDING THE PROCESS OF

*Reopening*

THE FBC BUILDING.