

THE MESSENGER

AUGUST 2023

FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

Have you thought of what you might say, if someone asked you, “What’s good about First Baptist Church, Jefferson City? Why might it be a good church home for me?” I sometimes field such questions. Here’s a sample of the answers I give.



Congregational Care

FBC folk practice care-giving. The deacons and church members go to great lengths to lend their support to church members who face crises such as surgery, serious illness, drastic life changes, and the other challenges which come our way.

Freedom of Thought

Church members respect and encourage one another to think seriously about the Bible, Jesus, the mission of the church, theology, ethics, ministries, and the world at large. For the most part, they embrace the ensuing diversity and seek to learn from one another.

Commitment to the Least of These

FBC members minister to the poor through local, state, and national partners. Quite a few of the church members invest significant time and energy doing so in Jefferson City and Jefferson County.

Room For All Who Wish to Follow Jesus

The congregation welcomes all who seek to follow Jesus. Regardless of ones gender, race, economic status, education, sexual identity, or other descriptors, the congregation strives to assist individuals in their journey with Christ.

Focus on Jesus

When FBC members are at their best, they keep their focus on Jesus. Such a focus fuels their approach to ministry, treatment of others, and ongoing development as Christ followers.

What might you say, if someone asks you, “What’s good about First Baptist Church, Jefferson City? Why might it be a good church home for me?”

Mike

FEATURE ARTICLE

By Thomas Milligan, Chair of the Pastor Search committee

PSC Monthly Reports

June: The Pastor Search Committee presents a monthly report to the church. In June we had two meetings with consultant Bill Owen via Zoom. We worked on the interview process for prospective pastoral candidates: what we should tell them about the church and what questions we should ask them. Of course, if we want to continue to consider a particular candidate, there are multiple interviews, each with a slightly different focus, so we have to have multiple lists of questions. The committee created a good first draft of each list and will work to finalize them at our next meeting. If you know someone who you think would be a good pastor, you should ask them to submit a resume. We will start accepting resumes on Monday July 17 and will continue for 30 days. Resumes have to be submitted by email and the church will create a new email address just for resumes.. This email address will be posted on the church web site on July 17.

July: July was a busy month for the Pastor Search Committee. We conducted interviews of the church staff. We worked in small groups to finalize the questions that would be asked of pastoral candidates in the four interviews. The email address for submitting resumes was posted on the church web site. No resumes have been received so far, but there have been a couple of requests for more information. We met yesterday by Zoom with our consultant Bill Owen. The work of the small groups was presented to the entire committee for discussion and finalization. We drew up a list of friends of the church who might know possible candidates. We are already in touch with CBF leadership in Tennessee. We made plans to contact CBF leaders in adjacent states. Our next meeting with Bill will be in two weeks. Please continue to pray for our committee.



CAN YOU HELP?

NEED:

A VOLUNTEER TO LEAD A PREPARATION TEAM FOR A NEW MEAL TO BE ADDED TO THE ROTATION OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS!

-KITCHEN COMMITTEE

Contact Robbie Pinkerton at
865-475-4122

FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Josh Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through June 2023

Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 07/31/2023) = \$0.00
- **Forward in Faith Capital Campaign:** Updated through July 31 (Pledge period is September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2023):
 - Total campaign pledges = \$318,250.00
 - Total pledge gifts received = **\$285,003.50**
 - Total pledges outstanding = \$33,246.50
 - Fund balance = \$19,975.69
- **Our Forward in Faith Capital Campaign comes to a close at the end of August.**

	March	April	May	June
Income	\$20,637.44	\$29,851.65	\$30,957.87	\$25,563.08
Expenses	\$31,581.28	\$28,870.98	\$25,616.71	\$26,920.58
Net	\$10,943.84	\$980.67	\$5,341.16	\$1,357.50
YTD	\$2,769.84	\$3,750.51	\$9,091.67	\$7,734.17

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY*	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
July 2	51	63
July 9	45	73
July 16	35	78
July 23	40	74
July 30	38	79

**Bible Study number includes online participants*

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

- August 6:** Betty Watkins and Ray Dalton/Nenette Measels
August 13: Leon Shoemaker and Bruce Davenport/Josh Gibson
August 20: Ann Porter and Carey Herring/ Chad Hartsock
August 27: Karen Smith and Jim Wilson/Nenette Measels



HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenetete Measels, Interim Minister of Music

“People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’”

—Luke 18:15-17

As our children, parents, teachers, and administrators begin a new school year, we look forward to the opportunity as a church family of the Blessing of the Backpacks in our worship on August 6. The selected hymn this month reflects the gift of children and the challenge and commitment to nurture, teach, train, and lead them in the way of being Jesus-followers. May this be our prayer.

SEE THE CHILDREN HERE BEFORE US

See the children here before us	Now the church has come
Fresh expressions of God's love	together
Each young life a precious	With a promise we must share
promise	To be faithful to the children
Sent from heaven's realm above	You entrusted to our care
Lord we ask You now to bless	Let us see Your love reflected
them	In each small and precious face
As they learn and grow each day	Help us show them all the
Help us teach them all the lessons	wonders
That will guide them on their way	Of Your endless love and grace

Priceless gifts beyond all measure
Are the children in our care
At this hour of dedication
Lord please hear our humble
prayer
Bless these parents on their
journey
Through a vast uncharted land
Help them follow as You lead
them
With a gentle guiding hand

Jan McGuire | Pepper Choplin, © 2010
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair of the Children and Youth Committee



JOIN US FOR A

fall kick off

AUGUST 15 🍃 5:30-6:30

*Drop by the small playground to
grab some ice cream and hear
about our exciting fall plans
for First Jeff Kids!*

SUPPORT CDO!

Bring a donation of
baby wipes or
disinfecting wipes

*If you're interested in helping with fall kickoff, contact Bethany!

A graphic for "Blessing of the Backpacks" on a yellow grid background. It features a central orange backpack, three pushpins in the top left, a rainbow in the top right, three stars in the bottom left, and a ruler and protractor in the bottom right.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AUGUST 6TH 📌 10:45 AM

We want to be intentional about praying for our students and teachers as they head back to school. On August 6th, bring your backpacks and teacher bags to worship and receive a blessing as you prepare for the school year ahead.

SPECIAL BUSINESS SESSION

FOLLOWING WORSHIP
AUGUST 13

PURPOSE:
Personnel
committee will
nominate a
candidate for
Interim Senior
Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies
10:45am Worship Service

CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)
Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at www.fbcjeff.org or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

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