

THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2023

FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

With the congregation's decision to retain its facilities and grounds, our focus now turns to revitalization. Twenty-first century revitalized congregations share a number of traits. Here's a list of some of the most important.

Humility

Such congregations practice humility. They learn to admit when long-standing assumptions and practices have run their course. In addition, they actively seek to learn from other congregations who have preceded them on the road to revitalization. Congregations pursuing revitalization willingly assume the role of student.

Focus

Revitalization requires a sharp focus on those beyond the walls of the church. Revitalized congregations choose to reassess their use of time, spiritual gifts, skills, funds, and other resources to align with such a focus. Doing so is hard work, for it requires deciding to devote what we have to the service of those not yet affiliated with Christ or a congregation.

Relationship Building

Twenty-first century revitalized congregations reject short-term "fixes" in favor of starting, building, and deepening relationships with persons. Their members take up the challenge of making new friends. They do so in any number of ways, many of which involve gathering groups of people who share some common interest.

Being Themselves

Revitalized congregations and their members make a practice of being themselves, of being transparent to the community at large and to the new friends they are making. They do so because they've learned their commitment to Jesus, the way they seek to treat people, and the direction in which they are headed with Christ is all they have to share. To put it another way, they seek to tell the truth about themselves.

Might First Baptist Church of Jefferson City join the ranks of twenty-first century revitalized congregations? I'll join you in praying that it be so.

Mike



SAVED BY GRACE

By Don Garner

Waiting at the red light, I noticed the sticker on the rear window of the car in front of me. “God’s Got This” — and the capital T of “this” was an extra-large logo of the cross of Jesus.

Such car stickers are not my style. Neither are the personalized license plates that proclaim one’s entire identity or philosophy of life in 7-8 characters for the following driver to translate.

But I certainly understood the sentiment. Whatever “this” is — whatever comes at us along the highway of life — God is present with us *in* it, and *through* it.

Maybe “this” is a shocking diagnosis — for oneself or for a loved one. Or the sudden absence through death of someone dear to us.

Maybe “this” is a major change in our family circumstances. A welcomed newborn. An older child’s graduation. A painful divorce. A long-awaited but suddenly-very-real empty nest.

Maybe “this” is a benchmark decision that will shape life’s next chapter, the specific details of which cannot be predicted.

Asked to pray over the thick anxiety of a new students/parents orientation one summer, I quoted the reassuring stanza from “Amazing Grace”: *‘Tis grace that brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us on.*

No matter what life intersection we are passing through, no matter what life event we face, God’s grace is sufficient to save us. Guide us. Even carry us, when necessary.

That’s very reassuring as our congregation travels “by faith and not by sight” through this next stage of our journey of trust together.

YOUTH MINISTRY

By Chad Hartsock



Some of our students kicked off the summer with a magic show at the Grand Majestic Theater!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Josh Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

Summary of Operational Budget Income / Expenses through April 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 05/25/2023) = \$687.36
- **Forward in Faith Capital Campaign:** Updated through May 25 (*Pledge period is September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2023*):
 - Total campaign pledges = \$318,250.00
 - Total pledge gifts received = **\$281,173.50**
 - Total pledges outstanding = \$34,076.50
 - Fund balance = \$19,026.19
- **Our Forward in Faith Capital Campaign comes to a close 3 months from now.**

	January	February	March	April
Income	\$23,962.06	\$47,889.41	\$20,637.44	\$29,851.65
Expenses	\$31,041.04	\$27,581.18	\$31,581.28	\$28,870.98
Net Income	(\$7,078.98)	\$20,308.23	(\$10,943.84)	\$980.67
YTD	(\$7,078.98)	\$13,713.38	\$2,769.84	\$3,750.51

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY*	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
May 7	62	77
May 14	63	90
May 21	62	104
May 28	30	68
<i>*Bible Study number includes online participants</i>		

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

- June 4:** Heidi Thomas and Ray Dalton / Nenette Measels
June 11: Leon Shoemaker and Ken Morton / Josh Gibson
June 18: Ray Dalton and Betty Watkins / Chad Hartsock
June 25: Ann Porter and Jim Wilson / Nenette Measels



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair of the Children and Youth Committee



SUMMER REMINDER FOR FIRST JEFF KIDS

Beginning this Sunday, May 28th, there will no longer be 9:30 programming for children.

ETC will continue to be offered to preschoolers (kinder completers and younger) during worship.

Beginning June 4th, first-fifth graders will be able to visit the Kids' Worship Station in the lobby to pick up materials that will help engage them in worship.



First Jeff KIDS

Are you on Instagram?

For the latest on children's ministry events at FBC Jefferson City, follow us [@firstjeffkids](https://www.instagram.com/firstjeffkids)

HYMN HIGHLIGHT FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

By Nenetete Measels, Interim Minister of Music

Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.

Revelation 4:8

On the Christian Calendar June 4 is noted as Trinity Sunday (eight weeks after Easter). Although the term “trinity” is not found in the Bible, the truth of three Persons (Creator--Father, Redeemer--Son, and Holy Spirit), equal and eternal with each other, have been noted by scholars through the centuries as examples of the Trinity throughout the scriptures. The hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy”, the first hymn listed in our hymnal, *Celebrating Grace*, as well as many Protestant hymnals, builds up a magnificent picture of God in manifold glory. Reginald Heber wrote the hymn especially for Trinity Sunday based on Revelation 4:8-11 and is a favorite for worshippers at any time.

“Trinities” are scattered throughout the poetry: “holy, merciful and mighty,” “saints...cherubim and seraphim,” “wert and art, and evermore shalt be,” “power, love and purity,” and “earth, and sky, and sea.”

Reginald Heber was born in Cheshire, England in 1783 to scholarly and well-to-do parents. At the age of seventeen he entered Oxford University, where his scholarship and literary abilities received much attention. Following his ordination to the ministry of the Anglican Church he served for the next sixteen years at an obscure parish church in the little village of Hodnet in western England. In 1823, just three years before his early death at the age of forty-three, he was sent to India to serve as the Bishop of Calcutta. The pressures of his work along with the humid climate wore heavily on his health. One Sunday morning, after preaching to a large outdoor crowd, he evidently suffered a sun-stroke and died very suddenly.*

Dr. John Dykes, one of England’s leading church musicians, composed the tune, “Nicaea”, in 1861 and named it after the Council of Nicaea held in Asia Minor in 325 A.D., when the doctrine of the Trinity was examined and held to be a true and essential doctrine of the Christian faith.*

We will sing the hymn during our observance of Trinity Sunday. Additionally, Julia Bass, flute, and Angie France, organ, will play an arrangement of the hymn written by Terry Wilson, Carson-Newman graduate, whose mentor was Jim Pethel, retired C-N professor of music and former member of First Baptist Church.

*101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck, c. 1982, Kregel Publications

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy holy holy

Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy

Merciful and mighty

God in three persons
Blessed Trinity

Holy holy holy
All the **saints** adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea

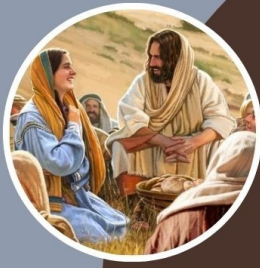
Cherubim and seraphim

Falling down before Thee
Which wert and art
And evermore shalt be

Holy holy holy

Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in **power**
In **love** and **purity**

Holy holy holy
Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In **earth** and **sky** and **sea**
Holy holy holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity**



Series Title

The First of Us

June 4, 2023

Andrew, John 1:35 - 42

June 11, 2023

Peter, Matthew 4:19 - 20

June 18, 2023

Phillip, John 1:43 - 44

June 25, 2023

Nathanael, John 1:45 - 50

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

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

CONTACT INFO

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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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