

## THE MESSENGER

# MAY 2023

### FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

Lately, I've been thinking through how I respond to change.

Perhaps doing so comes with aging. As I age (and believe me, I am keenly aware that I am aging!), I find I sometimes long for stability over change. I like keeping to an established schedule, eating the foods I've long enjoyed, sitting on my old and comfortable chair, interacting with people I already know, using computer software I've utilized for a long time, and serving and worshipping God in places and ways I've known for years.

Of course, my preference for stability collides with inevitable change. Circumstances alter my schedule, some foods no longer agree with me, my favorite chair eventually falls apart, people I know move out of my life and folk new to me come on the scene, computer software gets updated or discarded, and evolving circumstances require me to serve and worship God in new ways and places.

Change ultimately overwhelms stability. I decided a long time ago that, while I love stability, I must try to embrace and deal well with change. When I recall scripture stories, I recognize that doing so is normative for a Christian and for God's people. The life of faith is just that: a life grounded in trusting God to guide and accompany us on the road to wherever God may take us.

Like I said, I've been thinking about how I respond to change. I've found doing so helps me focus on trusting God.

Mike



# AN END AND A HORIZON

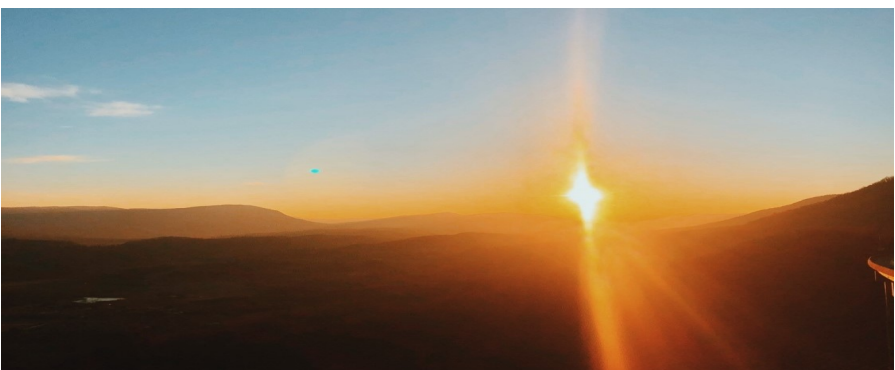
By Noah Snyder

As the end of the school year approaches, a sense of closure has washed upon me, and yet, the world seems anything but quiet. While my junior year in high school has been a roller coaster ride, I would say that I have come out of it more productive and successful with my work. I have managed to accomplish many of my goals and made breakthroughs in my academics, competitions, and college research, but now I have begun to find myself asking the question of “What next?” moving forward.

While pondering this question, it came to me that the beginning of May marks the end of an important time in my life, as the end of May falls with my eighteenth birthday. From there, I will soon slowly begin my journey into adulthood after a summer cram packed with Governor’s School, Boy’s State, and Summer Camp. I look forward to these adventures as I begin to look out onto a new horizon, but as someone who thinks objectively, I feel uncomfortable not having a plan or goal in mind for once in my life.

After much meditation, I have realized that this is not a bad thing. I will admit, I do not have a plan or goal in mind for this upcoming summer. This is not the worst thing that can happen though. The worst thing for me would be closing my heart due to the anxieties from my own expectations. The Lord has transformed the world through the lives of people such as Abram, Moses, and Ruth, who were not expecting adventure. God called out to these figures, and a Great Nation rose through them. Jesus’s disciples found themselves struggling to find their footing in the world after the Death and Resurrection of Christ and had their own “What next?” moment. The Lord made them “fishers of men” out of this diverse group of people, and soon the church was developed from their work.

The reason for these references is to point out in my prayer to you that God unexpectedly works in the lives of unexpected people. If there is a beginning, an end, or a period of uncertainty, I urge you all to open your hearts and go out on the horizon, listening for the Lord out there. I ask for you all to adventure at your own pleasure instead of relentlessly hunting out there for some form of self-validation. Those who take larger bites often do not fully enjoy their food as much as those who take smaller bites to appreciate and savor the moment. I pray that these times are relaxing and joyous so that one may reflect upon oneself and meditate on the little wonders of life as much as the big ones. The present is a gift, one that the Lord speaks to us in, and if we do not take the time to enjoy it because we worry about the future, then it loses its value. Open your hearts out on the horizon and listen for the Word of our Lord.



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Josh Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

## Summary of Operational Budget Income / Expenses through March 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 04/26/2023) = \$1,422.22
- **Forward in Faith Capital Campaign:** Updated through April 26 (*Pledge period is September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2023*):
  - Total campaign pledges = \$318,250.00
  - Total pledge gifts received = **\$280,933.50**
  - Total pledges outstanding = \$37,316.50
  - Fund balance = \$18,186.19
- **Our Forward in Faith Capital Campaign comes to a close 4 months from now.**

	December	January	February	March
<b>Income</b>	\$53,094.94	\$23,962.06	\$47,889.41	\$20,637.44
<b>Expenses</b>	\$31,355.45	\$31,041.04	\$27,581.18	\$31,581.28
<b>Net Income</b>	\$21,739.49	(\$7,078.98)	\$20,308.23	(\$10,943.84)
<b>YTD</b>	\$19,704.87	(\$7,078.98)	\$13,713.38	\$2,769.84

## ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY*	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
April 2	66	97
April 9	65	128
April 16	68	86
April 23	67	97

*\*Bible Study number includes online participants*

## DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

- |                |                                                   |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>May 7:</b>  | Leon Shoemaker and Ken Morton / Chad Hartsock     |
| <b>May 14:</b> | Carolyn Blevins and Jim Wilson / Nenetete Measels |
| <b>May 21:</b> | Susan Garber and Heidi Thomas / Josh Gibson       |
| <b>May 28:</b> | Ann Porter and Bruce Davenport / Chad Hartsock    |



## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

By Bethany Davenport, Chair of the Children and Youth Committee

As the school year comes to a close, the Children and Youth Committee is looking forward to summer and fun fellowship opportunities for our preschoolers and children. Here's what you need to know:

- Beginning Sunday, May 28th, we will be taking a break from Sunday Morning Bible Study. ETC will continue to be provided during worship for children from birth through kindergarten completion, but there will be no activities for children during the 9:30 hour.

- Instead of planning a traditional Vacation Bible School this summer, we will be scheduling a series of fun summer activities with integrated Bible lessons. That schedule will be finalized and released soon!

- We will continue to need ETC volunteers, and beginning in August, we will need Sunday Morning Bible Study teachers. Please pray over this opportunity and consider teaching some of our youngest congregants!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bethany Davenport at [bethanyk83@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyk83@gmail.com).

## **CHILDREN'S DAY OUT UPDATE**

By Jessica Lawson, CDO Director

We are nearing the end of another successful school year! We currently have 14 students graduating on May 16th, who will start kindergarten in the fall. Please be in prayer for these 14 families as they prepare to send their children to school full time. The staff looks forward to spending summer with our family and friends, but we always miss our students over the holiday break. We have had a great year at First Baptist Church.



## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone who helped us with Mom's service, loved on us during this whole season of grief, provided delicious food for the luncheon, and prayed/continues to pray for us.

Our church family is always there for us and we appreciate that very much.

Love,

Carolyn and David Johnson, Rusty and Dana Hedges, and Debbie Selland

# MUSIC FROM MY HEARTLAND

Marki Lukyniuk

Ukrainian Violin Music Major  
The University of Tennessee

May 7th, 2023 at 7:00pm

First Baptist Church  
1610 Russell Ave  
Jefferson City, TN 37760



Mr. Lukyniuk will be presenting Folk Music and Popular Music from the Ukraine, along with a palate of classical works.


A love offering will be taken following the performance, benefiting Ukrainian displaced children and pets.

Sponsored by the First Baptist Church with Bill and Odette Shults.

## DEACONS' MEETING SUMMARY

By Heidi Thomas, Deacon Chair

The Deacons held their monthly meeting on April 19 in the Agape SS Class at 4:00 p.m. Five deacons were present. Pastor Mike Smith joined the meeting. He reported the pastor search committee has been approved and the committee has already met with consultant Bill Owen. The date for the next meeting is May 13. The Ministerial Association has been working on a Pentecostal Service for the last two months and another meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023. The service most likely will be held at the First Methodist Church in Jefferson City. He reported Rick Bennett will fill in for him on Sunday, April 30. He said he is working on a series of sermons built around the twelve apostles in the Early Church. Discussions are continuing on outreach for shut-ins and new residents.



Sermon Series:  
*The Good News at Work*

April 16, 2023:  
*Parting Gifts, Acts 1:1-11*

April 23, 2023:  
*How to Make Our Lives Count for Christ,  
Acts 7:54-59*

April 30, 2023:  
Dr. Rick Bennett, Guest Speaker

May 7, 2023:  
*The God of All Peoples, Acts 11:1-18*

May 14, 2023:  
*The Gospel in the Marketplace,  
Acts 17:22-24*

May 21, 2023:  
*When We Meet Jesus, Acts 9:1-9*

May 28, 2023:  
*The Promise of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-21*

**SENIOR ADULT LUNCH/BRUNCH**

**MUG & MASON**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16  
11:00 AM**

THE RESTAURANT OFFERS A BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENU. LOCATED IN THE BIG LOTS SHOPPING CENTER. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

**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](http://www.fbcjeff.org) or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

**STAFF**

Sierra Bevins ( <a href="mailto:sbevins@fbcjeff.org">sbevins@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Ministry Assistant
Angie France	Organist
Josh Gibson ( <a href="mailto:jgibson@fbcjeff.org">jgibson@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Administrative Coordinator
Chad Hartsock	Interim Minister of Youth & College Students
Jessica Lawson ( <a href="mailto:cdo@fbcjeff.org">cdo@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Children's Day Out Director
Steven Lloyd ( <a href="mailto:sloyd@fbcjeff.org">sloyd@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Facility Caretaker
Nenette Measels	Interim Minister of Music
Cameron Rowlett	Video Editor
Gage Rustin	Youth Ministry Intern
Melanie Simpson	Pianist
Mike Smith	Transitional Pastor

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