

## THE MESSENGER

# FEBRUARY 2024

### FROM MAJOR TREADWAY

The lengthening days of February will see the church shift from Epiphanytide to the sacred season of Lent. In the early days of my faith journey, Lent was not a season, but something to be removed from one's church clothes (preferably, prior to arriving at church for Sunday morning worship). Perhaps, you had a similar experience.



Over the years, I have come to see Lent as a journey, one that begins on Ash Wednesday (February 14, this year) and stretches all the way to Easter. The journey of Lent is marked in a variety of ways. The most noteworthy is as a fast. The fast, by church math, lasts forty days (Sundays don't count). It is intended to mirror the forty-day fast of Jesus in the wilderness prior to the beginning of his ministry. In the modern church, folks engaging in a Lenten fast, often choose something from which to fast (social media, chocolate, coffee, television, etc.).

The object of the fast is not what is ultimately important, rather, it is hoped that the regular acknowledgement of deprivation will call one's attention toward God. So when thinking about the season of Lent and participating in a fast, we would do well to consider what excesses in our daily lives, if we were to fast from them, would stimulate turning our attention to God as we journey together toward the cross.



# HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenetta Measels, Interim Minister of Music

As you know by now, I enjoy sharing the rich stories behind the hymns we sing. While the hymn texts often speak to us personally from our spiritual journeys, learning why a hymn was written can also touch our hearts deeply. Luther Bridgers, a promising, 26-year-old Methodist pastor, with a wife and three young sons was struck by tragedy. While visiting his wife's parents in Harrodsburg, KY, a fire engulfed the home during the night. A neighbor awoke, saw the flames, and attempted to awaken the family. Tragically Luther's wife and children perished in the fire. In the deep waters of sorrow Luther remembered that the Lord had promised never to leave or forsake him. It was during this period of heart-searching and grief that he wrote the hymn, *He Keeps Me Singing*, #597 in our *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*.\*

*There's within my heart a melody;  
Jesus whispers sweet and low,  
"Fear not, I am with you, peace, be still,"  
in all of life's ebb and flow.*

*Refrain:  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
sweetest name I know,  
fills my every longing,  
keeps me singing as I go.*

*All my life was wrecked by sin and strife,  
discord filled my heart with pain,  
Jesus swept across the broken strings,  
stirred the slumbering chords again. [Refrain]*

*Though sometimes He leads through waters deep,  
trials fall across the way;  
though sometimes the path seems rough and steep,  
see His footprints all the way. [Refrain]*

*Feasting on the riches of His grace,  
resting 'neath His sheltering wing,  
always looking on His smiling face,  
that is why I shout and sing. [Refrain]\*\**

\**Al Smith's Treasury of Hymn Histories*, Alfred B. Smith, Heritage Music Distributors, Inc., Montrose, PA, 1982

\*\*CCLI License 120972



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Ricke Hester, Interim Administrative Coordinator

## Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through December 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 1/23/2023) = **\$4.85**

	September	October	November	December
<b>Income</b>	\$21,909.44	\$41,537.86	\$27,244.46	\$66,584.74
<b>Expenses</b>	\$23,614.63	\$25,566.67	\$23,733.09	\$30,422.48
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$1,705.19</b>	\$15,971.19	\$3,511.37	\$36,162.26
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$6,258.80</b>	\$9,712.39	\$13,223.76	\$49,249.30

## ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
January 7	57	88
January 14	59	102
January 21	*online due to weather*	*online due to weather*
January 28	63	106

## DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

**February 4:** Ken Morton & Peggy Dalton/Major Treadway

**February 11:** Susan Garber & Betty Watkins/Chad Hartsock

**February 18:** Carolyn Blevins & Karen Smith/Nenette Measels

**February 25:** Leon Shoemaker & Jim Wilson/Major Treadway

february

# YOUTH MINISTRY

By Chad Hartsock



On January 12-14, students from FBC attended the bi-annual Summit youth conference hosted at First Baptist Huntsville, AL. The conference is jointly sponsored by CBF of Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, and is a favorite trip for our students. We took 9 students and 2 adults, and our students were able to experience meaningful worship, challenging messages, and good community. Our student ministry continues to be grateful for the tremendous support of our church family.

---

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

February 2024 Event

FBC Jefferson City

*Senior Adults*

# FELLOWSHIP & LUNCH

11:30 @ Perkins | Tuesday, 2.20.24

If you would like to ride with someone, please meet at the church at 11:10am.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee

When: February 21st at 6 pm  
What: Internet safety training covering everything from cyber-bullying to sexting to social media usage  
Who: Parents  
Cost: FREE (including dinner and childcare)

---

## DEACONS' REPORT

The Deacons held their monthly meeting on January 24, 2024 (rescheduled from January 18, 2024) in the Agape SS Classroom at 4:00 p.m. Ten deacons were present. Pastor Major Treadway joined the meeting and stated he looks forward to working with the deacons and learning how we do ministry as a deacon body.

Updated family ministry lists were distributed and corrections were made. The corrected lists will be given to all deacons at the next meeting. Offering collection has been reinstated and deacons of the week will serve as ushers. An updated list for deacons of the week for 2024 was distributed. Ann Porter and Heidi Thomas will be the weekly ushers to be joined by the two deacons of the week. With three new deacons, the role of the deacon was reviewed. Family ministry remains the main focus but other duties such as offering collection, serving communion to shut-ins, assisting in filling out membership cards and introduction of new members were reviewed.

It was felt the welcome lunch hosted by the deacons had turned out to be a great way to fellowship. It was recommended the deacons host such a luncheon on a quarterly basis.

Discussion ensued on how a fund might be set up to meet a special need. Pam Hester will follow up and report back to the deacons.



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14, 2024  
6:00 PM | Sanctuary  
First Baptist Church Jefferson City

## 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
Chad Hartsock ( <a href="mailto:chartsock@fbcjeff.org">chartsock@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Interim Minister of Youth & College Students
Ricke Hester ( <a href="mailto:rhester@fbcjeff.org">rhester@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Interim Administrative Coordinator
Steven Lloyd ( <a href="mailto:sloyd@fbcjeff.org">sloyd@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Facility Caretaker
Nenette Measels ( <a href="mailto:nmeasels@fbcjeff.org">nmeasels@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Interim Minister of Music
Cameron Rowlett	Video Editor
Melanie Simpson	Pianist
Major Treadway ( <a href="mailto:major@fbcjeff.org">major@fbcjeff.org</a> )	Senior Pastor

*The Messenger* (ISSN 766010) is published monthly by First Baptist Church, 1610 Russell Ave., Jefferson City, TN 37760-2299. Periodicals Postage Paid at Jefferson City, TN POSTMASTER. Send address change to *The Messenger*, 1610 Russell Ave., Jefferson City, TN 37760-2299.