

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of North East

May 2020

Newsletter

Vol. 51 No. 8

Dear church family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Once again I am writing to you from home. We are still deep in the midst of this Covid-19 pandemic. Hopefully soon, we will be looking at it in the rear view mirror. All of our lives have been affected by it, haven't we? I know our church life has been drastically altered. We are continually adapting and changing; stopping certain things and adding others. In this *Lamplighter* issue, we will attempt to update you all on some of those changes.



I have asked Sandy Jackson, the director of our *Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center*, to tell us about what is going on down there. She has also been directing our worship ministry on Sunday mornings. Isn't the music wonderful?! Praise the Lord for all you are doing at this critical time, Sandy.

I have also asked our church treasurer, Kathy Gray, to update us on a number of changes in our church's financial situation. Thank you Kathy for all you have been doing in this crisis. And thanks to all of you who have been and continue to be so faithful with your tithes and offerings.



Pastor Dan and I have been trying to stay in contact with all of you during these times. If we have missed anyone, please call us – maybe we don't have a current phone number for you. Jess Wagner, our ministry assistant, is trying to update all of that information. There is a contact update form (connect card) on the church website. Thank you to those of you that have already utilized it.

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For the most up to date information, please...

- Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FBCNE)
- Visit our website @ www.fbcne.org

Online giving is now available

- To give online, please visit www.fbcne.org/give/

The Lamplighter

Published 10 times a year.

An electronic version of our newsletter is available on our website as a pdf file and may be emailed to you upon request. It will be emailed to you instead of a mailed, printed copy.

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THY WILL BE DONE

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰Thy kingdom come, **THY WILL BE DONE** in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Greetings

Greetings to you and be well. Lately we venture to town one time a week to get groceries and stop by the church to pick up offering tabulations and bills. This is the new "norm". Now for many weeks, due to COVID-19, our Sundays watching the service on Facebook is the new "norm". It's been so good to hear Sandy Jackson sing, Andy Wagner sing and play the guitar, David Bibey play the drums and Pastor Dan Mohler play the accordion. Dr. Stephen Hokuf faithfully brings the weekly message.

New online features available

Our church, along with most churches in the country, scrambled to get the services broadcast on Facebook and to set-up E-giving (electronic giving). Many of our church family are using both. Andrew and Chrissy Norton and Andy and Jess Wagner spent countless hours implementing these new features of our church ministry. Also, CDs of the services are available. Contact Dr. Stephen Hokuf; he will personally deliver them in a safe manner. THANK YOU, ALL!

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May Birthdays

3	Thomas Perry, III
4	Roger Cann
4	Madison Wagner
5	Tim Glace
5	Caitlyn Johnson
13	Marsha Hall
13	Mike Marvel
14	Tom Perry Jr.
16	Erica Hudler
19	George Baker
22	Mary Beth Naggie
26	Melanie Glace
28	Ashlynn Reeder
29	Nicholas Naggie
30	Debbie Bogardus
30	Dan Mohler
30	Jimmy Veasey



May Anniversaries

2	Mark & Laura Gray
12	Vincent & Alice Marvel
29	Ron & Kathy Gray
29	Doug & Deanna Hokuf
29	Joe & Jan Kennard



(Pastor's letter cont. from pg. 1)

We are trying to reactivate the Deacon Family Ministry in these days. We will divide up our church families among our five deacons. Over the next few weeks, you may also get a contact from one of them.

Our deacons at this time are Duke Grant, Bobby Hudler, Eric Jackson, Ray Sommers and Ralph Veasey. Pastor Dan and I will continue to try to minister to all of you, but we hope this added component may be a blessing to all of us.

The most visible part of our church ministry is now our Sunday morning service. There are three ways you can participate until we are once again able to congregate in our building. First, you can listen in to an audio file on our church website (www.fbcne.org). We have had that available for years. You can listen to dozens of past sermons there. Second, you can watch and listen to the whole service on Facebook (www.facebook.com/FBCNE). We are now licensed to record and broadcast the music as well as the spoken word. My daughter and her whole family gather around the TV set in France for our services. With the right cables, you could do that too. Most TVs are now capable of that feature. The third way you can listen is with a CD player. Andrew and Chrissy Norton have been in charge of AV responsibilities during these last months. Andrew has been making

CD copies of our services for any of you who may not have internet capability. I have been delivering these to many of you. Please let me know if this is an option you would like to try. Thank you so much to Chrissy & Andrew for all they are doing to get our service out to all of you.



If you want to join a midweek Bible study, please contact Tim Bayer our youth associate. We get together on ZOOM, every Wednesday evening at 7pm. There are children's resources available through Facebook. Due to copyright rules, you must join our children's ministry page, to access this material. Please search for FBCNE Children's Ministries. We are trying to do a variety of these sorts of things, to help you and your family through these difficult days. If you have a prayer request, there is a place on our website to do that too. We like to hear answers to prayer, too. Right now, Chris Moyer's grandfather has contracted the coronavirus in a rehabilitation facility in New York. Please pray for his recovery.

Let me close with congratulations to all of our graduates. This is an

unusual time for them. Social distancing keeps us from celebrating, but not from telling you how proud we are of this accomplishment. Madison Wagner is a homeschool senior, graduating this year. She has been taking dual enrollment classes at Cecil College, and will continue attending there in the fall. Jesonnie Wright is graduating from North East High School, and will attend Penn State University in the fall where she will study engineering. Taylor Johnson is graduating from University of Maryland Baltimore County with a degree in Psychology. Tim Bayer has finished his college studies at Liberty University online and is heading for pastoral training at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. We are proud of all of you. If I missed anyone, please let me know.

As I close, let me remind you that God is still in control. He is the master conductor of a vast, almost infinite orchestra playing a most beautiful piece of music. This pandemic is like just one little measure, in this huge masterpiece. He is still able to make all things work together for good. We may not see how this part fits into the whole, but that is God's business. Trust Him.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Steve

Dr. Stephen D. Hokuf



FLOURISHING FAITH

It has been a busy month here at Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center, with unexpected turns and speed bumps around every corner! We had no idea where the road was going to take us over a month ago when we agreed to be certified as an Essential Personnel Child Care Center. That road seems to be longer than we all expected or hoped for. Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center opened over 21 years ago to share the love of Jesus and meet the childcare needs of our community and that mission has not diminished!

One of the conditions to being certified to offer childcare as an EPCC was that we would no longer be permitted to receive payments from parents for the childcare we are providing. As of March 30, 2020, the State of MD has agreed to pay the childcare expenses for all essential personnel. What we did not know was that the State would be so backlogged and slow at issuing payments to the nearly 3,700 childcare providers across the state. As of April 27, 2020, we have yet to receive any payments from the state for the childcare we have been providing. We have furloughed several staff and cut hours to meet our new enrollment needs and to be able to pay our staff until payments from the State arrive. Reserves are being depleted with no incoming funds to replace them. It has been a challenge and the barrel is only so deep!

The teachers at JLMCC are amazing! They have rolled up their sleeves and adapted to whatever is thrown their way! Taking temperatures daily before children can enter our building, washing hands every hour, sanitizing and disinfecting our classrooms and all the items in them, countless times per day! It is exhausting work! But they still manage to do it all with a smile, plan and execute educational and fun activities, laugh with and love on the children, and show up the next day to do it all again! JLMCC is blessed to have each and every one of them! Why in the world would they subject themselves to this uncertain environment?

FAITH! That's why we do it! We often throw that word around like grass seed on a bare lawn, praying that it will take root and grow! We need to do more than just throw the word "faith" into our conversation. We must put it into action! It takes water, sunshine, and rich soil to get a seed to take root and thrive. Where do we find those things in our daily lives? The Holy Spirit is our water, helping us to face the challenges of each day. The love of Jesus is our "Son"shine, spilling freely through us to others! And the soil is the Word of God, feeding us with all the nutrients we need to sustain us throughout the day! When we add those things to the seeds we sow, what grows is beyond all our imaginations! At JLMCC, we are learning that this little word, faith, can often be the only thing that gets us through our day! While we rush around trying to meet new license requirements, God is making a way for us to meet them! While we struggle to understand the daily changes in routines and policies, God continues to show us that HE is the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow! While we see our resources being depleted, God continues to replenish our strength and resolve! Our mission here at JLMCC has not changed! I ask you all to continue to pray for JLMCC and that we stay faithful, giving God ALL the glory for ALL He has done and is still doing!

In His Service,

Sandy Jackson, Director, Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6



(Thy Will Be Done, continued from page 2)

Finances

The main purpose of this article is to inform our dear First Baptist Church (FBC) family of our current financial status. PTL! We are in good shape considering the current “norm”. Church staff continues to be paid and bills are being paid. May God bless all abundantly for their faithfulness in tithing. If you haven’t been able to give your tithe/offering, it may be: (1) mailed to the church (2) electronically given through E-giving @ our website, www.fbcne.org, and/or (3) sent to the church through your bank’s online electronic pay services.

Again, the church has been managing fairly well; actually much better than perhaps what we expected. PTL! Along with keeping up with our payroll and bills, we were able to send our promised support (\$1,725 total) to 11 missionaries/missions for the 1st quarter of 2020. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has received about a third of our \$1,400 goal. As of April 19, we are about \$11,000 behind in our budget; we have spent about \$7,000 more than receipts for the year for which we have used surplus funds from 2019. God continues to bless. For an update on JLMCC please read Sandy Jackson’s article on page four

Payroll Protection Program (PPP)

Congress passed a bill to help small businesses, including churches. Our church leadership wanted to apply to the Small Business Administration (SBA) for a PPP loan. We applied through our PNC bank on behalf of Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center (JLMCC) **and** FBC. The process was very complex and the rules seemed to change daily. Everything was done online. We applied for a loan of \$91,502 (27% for FBC/73% for JLMCC). The loan is based on our combined, monthly average payroll for 2019 times 2.5. Our application was accepted by PNC and is waiting in a queue to be sent to the SBA. Then we were notified that the queue would be as far as it would go, as funds rapidly depleted.

Congress passed another bill for further funding. PNC can now send our application to the SBA. PNC bank forewarns us be prepared that our loan may not be granted due to the volume of applications. Chaney & Associates (an accounting firm that serves churches/faith-based organizations) reported that there were 20 million applications for loans the first time around and only 8% of those were granted. **We firmly believe and trust that if God wants the church and childcare center to receive the funding, it’ll be done because it’s HIS WILL.**

If we are recipients of the 2nd loan, we must use the funds (for payrolls and utilities) during an 8-week time frame. Unused funds MUST be returned. We can apply to get the loan forgiven, which would make the loan a grant (no payback required). We’ll need to keep good records to substantiate the use of funds.

Prayer and support

Your continued prayer and support is needed more than ever during this pandemic, an unprecedented time in the history of our church. In the past, 1 Sunday snow day would set our finances back. None of us can single-handedly fix the problems. We pray, “THY WILL BE DONE”, O, LORD.”

Kathy Gray, Treasurer





We would like to honor all the moms out there, as we celebrate you on Sunday, May 10th.

Thank you for always being there,
for always being supportive,
for your words of encouragement,
for your warm smiles and warm hugs,
but most of all...thank you for your love.



First Baptist Church of North East
206 Mechanics Valley Road
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES/EVENTS

Sunday

8:30am

WORSHIP

9:20am

Breakfast *(1st Sun, monthly)*

9:30am

 **Sunday School/Bible Study**

10:30am

WORSHIP/Children's Worship

Tuesday

6pm

 **Praise & Worship Team Practice**

Wednesday

6:30pm

Kids' Klub

6:30pm

Youth

6:30-7:30pm

 **Prayer/Bible Study**

BUSINESS Mtg *(2nd Wed—after Prayer Mtg)*

Thursday

10am

Fold Lamplighter *(Last Thurs of the month)*

10am

Ladies' Prayer Time

(Please note: All weekly services are cancelled until further notice.)

Budget/Attendance Analysis

Budget/General Fund Weekly
Average as of 4/19/2020
(16 weeks): **\$3,124**

Needed Weekly: **\$3,820**

Budget Status: **-\$11,139**

Maintenance/Building
Repairs Fund: **\$3,645**

PARKING LOT FUND:

Received to date: **\$43,550**

Church goal: **\$47,745**

Annie Armstrong Easter

Offering Goal: **\$1,400**

Received to date: **\$450**

Average morning worship
attendance: **N/A**