



**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

MANNA

FEBRUARY 2021



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

KEITH INMAN

The new average national church attender numbers are out, and it is a reality no one would have thought possible. Some prominent national surveys are revealing this: of all the active pre-COVID-19 church attenders, the average church will see 36% on any given current Sunday. Basically, one-third of us who came to church before COVID-19 are coming now. Statisticians are predicting from current trends that 22% of pre-COVID-19 churchgoers may never come back, while another 23% are engaged in other church's on-line virtual services. Another 25% said they would not be coming back soon.

I am not "blaming" us for these numbers. There are obviously good reasons people are staying home. It is called a pandemic. However, there is still a tremendous need to stay connected. Someone has said that 2020 will be known as the year of isolation. This cannot be good. Isolation is powerfully detrimental to the human spirit. Maybe this is just one of the reasons God commanded all the "one another's" to enhance the quality and purpose of Christian community. We really need one another!

When you read the New Testament, you see that the followers of Christ were "connected" people. As a staff, we are committing ourselves to being more intentional when it comes to connecting. We are writing, texting, emailing, and calling "more". FB and "Messenger" are helpful too. Sometimes, given each one's proclivity to such, we meet people "in person". Zoom meetings are meeting a big need and helping us address necessary church business. Zoom has also been instrumental in keeping many of us connected in Bible study. And, we still worship together via our website, Facebook, and YouTube. (Hasn't the world changed?!)

Our staff invites you to join us in our efforts to "connect" with one another. It's very difficult keeping up with our members. We have now been living under COVID for 10 months. We need all of us to connect with one another. Make that call, send that text, write a note!

We miss seeing you and many of you have expressed the same to us! As a reminder, let me once again share this: we are seeking to offer the safest conditions possible when you come to church. Doorknobs and other surfaces are being sanitized. Social distancing is being encouraged. Masks are being worn and are provided. Our sanctuary seats approximately 700. Last week, in our 8:30 service we had 80 in attendance; we had 159 in the 11:00 service. There is room to spread out! Whatever you decide to do, be careful, and use good wisdom should you decide to come to church.

rightnow MEDIA

Our church's Bible study library is now digital...

AND GIGANTIC.

We have purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos

and are giving free access to everyone in our church.

Text RIGHTNOW FBCMURRAY to 41411 to sign up!



NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR JASON ELLERBROOK



Church Family – Here are some details concerning discipleship opportunities in the early spring for men, women, and college students. If you are looking for ways to plug in, please contact me at jellerbrook@fbc-murray.org or call me at 270-753-1854.

Men's Life Groups

We have several men's life groups meeting throughout the week. Some are meeting in person while others are meeting on Zoom. The purpose of these groups is to help men connect with each other and grow closer to God. Contact me for more information or if you are interested in finding a group that works for you.

Dave Eaton leads a Men's Bible Study on Zoom at 7 pm every Wednesday night. You are welcome to jump in at any time over the course of this study. Contact Warren Edminster at wedminster@murraystate.edu for more information and to receive the Zoom meeting invite for this group.

Women's Discipleship & Mentorship

We are excited about the women's discipleship and mentorship taking place through small groups. You can learn more about these groups by contacting Paula Alcott at salcott@twc.com or Debbie Bell at dbell8371@yahoo.net. They can connect you with the women leading groups or other women interested in joining a group.

College Sunday School and The Net

College Sunday School meets at 9:45 am in the upstairs mezzanine of the Family Life Center. Students also meet on Sunday nights at in the FLC at 7:30 pm for The Net. The Net (a college hangout time that includes worship, games, food, table conversations, etc). This is a great time to build relationships with other college students while being challenged to follow Jesus!

Mid-Week Studies for Adults

All adults are invited to a mid-week Bible Study beginning Wednesday, February 3 from 6:15 – 7:15 pm in the sanctuary. We will be taking a deeper dive into the book of Ephesians.

Study - The Power of a Woman's Words: How the Words You Speak Shape the Lives of Others by Sharon Jaynes
Leader: Paula Alcott (270.293.2903)
Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 am on Zoom. Begins February 2.

Study - Woven by Jennie Allen
Leader: Diane Thiede (270.293.9434)
Date and Time to be decided by participants.

Study - God's Redemptive Story by Kay Arthur
Leader: Rachel Riquelme (rriquelme@fbc-murray.org)
Thursdays from 1-2:15 pm in-person (room AE310) and on Zoom. Begins February 4.

Shoulder-to-Shoulder Monthly Prayer Group
Join us as we pray for this ministry, classes and developing mentor relationships.
Contact Debbie J. Bell (270.293.3804)
4th Monday of every month. Ends in May.

If you are interested in one-on-one discipleship, contact Martha Riddle (270.293.1947) to see if mentors are available.

shoulder to shoulder
ZEPHANIAH 3:9

WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MURRAY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

MIDWEEK BEGINS FEBRUARY 3



IN ADDITION TO OTHER BIBLE STUDIES THAT ARE ALREADY HAPPENING, WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO OFFER MORE.

REACH OUT TO **JASON ELLERBROOK** AT JELLERBROOK@FBCMURRAY.ORG IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEADING A SMALL GROUP.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE?

We are in need of Volunteers for our Children's Ministry during Midweek and Sunday School. If you are willing to help, reach out to Rachel Riquelme at rriquelme@fbcmmurray.org



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NOTES FROM M.A.G.I.C. MINISTRY

BOYD SMITH

M.A.G.I.C. Friends!

I trust that you are doing well and being safe. It seems like that's what we have been saying for the last ten months but I truly believe that changes are coming in 2021. Hopefully and prayerfully, vaccines will be available for those of you who want them. I have missed you dearly and hope to see your beautiful faces very soon. I am making visits now for those who feel comfortable with it. Please let me know if YOU would like a visit.

Here are some scriptures that you can look up in your time of need:

When in sorrow, read John 14.

When men fail you, read Psalm 27.

When you are worried, read Matthew 6:19-34.

When you are in danger, read Psalm 91.

When you have the blues, read Psalm 34.

When God seems far away, read Psalm 139.

When you are discouraged, read Isaiah 40.

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY

MIKE ROSE



We are going forward with plans to have our composer weekend in June. I am excited about picking up where we left off last year and having this super event on June 25-27 with Camp Kirkland. If you aren't familiar with Camp's work, he has over 1000 published pieces for the church choir; probably the most prolific composer over the past 30 years! It will be a delight to work with him and hear stories of some of our favorite anthems. You will be familiar with many of the songs we will sing this weekend. I am excited about meeting and working with this giant in the industry!

We have purchased many of Camp's anthems and plan on doing a dozen or so in a special worship service on the afternoon of June 27. To do this, we will need to begin rehearsals no later than April 15. We will begin praying that this will all be behind us by that time so that we will be able to pull this off! If you are interested in participating in this wonderful event, please let me know, and I will reserve music for you.

Again, I am grateful for all the wonderful folks who have been helping lead worship over this past year. There have been 20 or 25 who have helped me in singing over this time...two or three at a time! We have some very talented folks here at First Baptist, and, again, I am so honored that I have been allowed to work with you during this season in our lives.

There are still opportunities for you to work with us. Let me know if you are interested in helping, and I will certainly plug you in to what we are doing here! I look forward to the time when we will all be together praising God beside one another, instead of in our living rooms!

Let me know if there is any way I can assist you. I am here to serve! God Bless you and your family. The end of this is near!



NOTES FROM STUDENT MINISTRY

JON KYLE ALLRED

FBC YOUTH DNow

April 24-25

Total cost: \$75

Deposit of \$50 due March 1
Cash and Checks only



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

Remind 101 texts

Text @fbcmky to 81010 to stay
connected and up to date on all
youth ministry things!



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

BEGINNING JANUARY 31
5-6:30 PM

LIFEGROUPS

JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR OUR LIFEGROUP MINISTRY. OUR STUDENTS MEET IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT MURRAY/CALLOWAY COUNTY. WE HAVE 18 COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS VOLUNTEERING TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS. PRAISE THE LORD! IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED, REACH OUT TO JON KYLE AT [JALLREAD@FBCMURRAY.ORG](mailto:jallread@fbcmurray.org)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

FUGE CAMPS

JOIN US FOR FUGE CAMP AT UNION UNIVERSITY

June 28-July 3

Total cost is \$300

A deposit of \$60 is due March 10.

Cash and checks only

Register at fbcmurray.org



NOTES FROM KIDS1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME



We are so excited to be back in Sunday School and to begin Midweek on February 3! Our elementary kids will be learning about Kindness and how to treat others. And our preschool kids will be learning about "The Big Sandbox" and how Jesus loves me. Both of these studies will take place during Midweek from 6:15-7:30 pm during the month of February.

During Sunday School and Kids1st Worship, we will be studying about the early church. Join us on Sunday mornings to learn more. We can't wait to see you!

It is time to sign up for Crossings! Kids who have finished 2nd-5th grade are invited to come to camp the week of July 25-28. The total cost is \$320 and a deposit of \$75 is due by March 1 to reserve your spot. Scholarships are available, so let me know if cost is a concern by emailing me at rriquelme@fbcmurray.org. Cash or checks can be turned in to the church office. Register online at fbcmurray.org/kids.

Know that our team prays for you often and we love you!

Bottom Line:
Jesus loves me.

Memory Verse:
"A friend loves at all times."
PROVERBS 17:17, NI-V

THE CHURCH GREW

The early church's rapid growth led to some disagreements and problems. The leaders of the church addressed these problems by reminding everyone that Jesus is their ultimate leader and that they share the common mission given by Him to take the gospel to the entire world.

KINDNESS

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

Sign up for Kids Camp at Crossings

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KY

July 25-28
Total cost is \$320
Deposit of \$75 is due March 1
register at fbcmurray.org/kids



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

TINA MYERS

Parents – please bring your children by the library on Sunday, February 14th, for a special Valentine’s Day surprise!

If you love to read, please sign up for our online e-book and audio book online system! To do so, click on the link under library on the FBC website, and login with your library card number. You will need to put fbc in front of it and add enough zeroes to make it eight digits. For example, fbc00000534. You will then add your name and email address and click register. If you don’t know your library number, or have trouble getting registered, call the library and we will help you get started!

On Sundays the library is open after the first service, during Sunday School, and after the second service. During the week, we are open Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**VALENTINE'S DAY
SURPRISE IN THE
LIBRARY**

**SWING BY THE LIBRARY ON FEBRUARY 14TH
FOR A SURPRISE! COME BY AFTER THE 8:30
AM SERVICE, DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND
BEFORE OR AFTER THE 11 AM SERVICE.**



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, a decision regarding the cancellation of Sunday morning services will be made by 6:00 am. If services are cancelled, WPSD (Channel 6) and WAAJ-FM (89.7) will be notified by 6:15 am. We will announce via our website, social media, phone system, and church-wide email. A cancellation decision will be made by noon concerning Sunday and Wednesday evening activities and be reported in the same manner.

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"RIGHTNOW FBCMURRAY"
TO 41411.**

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WWW.RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY OUR CHURCH STAFF

FOR MEN: THE BOOK OF JONAH BY ERIC MASON

FOR WOMEN: PERFECT LOVE BY LISA HARPER

FOR ADULTS: THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS BY
LOUIE GIGLIO

TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT BIBLE STUDIES THAT RIGHTNOW MEDIA
OFFERS, GO TO RIGHTNOWMEDIA.ORG/ROADMAPS



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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MEET THE CHURCH MEMBERS



**FIRST
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Debbie and Dwain Bell

A Jersey girl, I came to Murray State seeking a nursing degree (which changed), but instead found a husband. That's right...three weeks after arriving in Murray in the fall of 1971, I had my first date with my sweet husband, a Murray boy, and we've been together ever since. As a city girl who grew up outside of New York City, I had to adjust to the open spaces and the "y'alls", and he eventually adapted to my city driving, and since we both love Jesus, God has always been in the center of our lives.

We have attended FBC for about thirty-one years after serving in a small country church. Through the years Christy, Jennie, and Jon, our children, participated in a number of FBC activities like youth camps, mission trips, youth choir, Acteens, GA's, AWANA, and during this time many sweet individuals nurtured them in their Christian walk. Now, along with their spouses (Matt, Eric, and Janna), they find ways to serve God through their church, careers, and family. Now, we are blessed to watch our nine grandchildren grow to love Jesus and develop in their faith.

When our children were young, I stayed home with them but eventually accepted the calling to teach a number of subjects, first in the Murray School District and then in the Department of English and Philosophy at Murray State University. Even though my husband, Dwain, retired from Vanderbilt Chemical a few years ago, he still works fulltime farming all but a few months during the year.

Both my husband and I have served in many roles at FBC from Acteen and RA Leaders to Sunday School teachers, but the role my husband and I feel called to embrace is the ministry our church extends to the people of Brazil through AMOR, the organization started by our past pastor, Dr. Richard Walker. Bringing Jesus to those who live on the Amazon from remote villages to indigenous tribes has opened doors for serving on the mission field for many of our church members. Dwain works tirelessly working with those in Brazil, planning ministries, and praying for God's will in and through our teams. First Baptist has been faithful in their support of the ministries on the river. You can follow AMOR's ministries on Facebook at AMOR family-updates.

I can't end this without mentioning God's blessings. We've been blessed by our church family, but we can't thank God enough for our nuclear family, some still with us and others who have moved on with Jesus...our children, grandchildren, parents, aunts and uncles, and many more who extend unconditional love to one another gives us a small window to imagining God's immense love for us. God is good...always...He is with us...always...like Jesus says, "and I am with you always, even to the end of the age." We thank God for His work in our lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU NOTES

Melva Hatcher thanks the church for all the food, prayers, phone calls, and cards following the passing of her husband, A.R.

Betty Wagar thanked the church for placing a FBC “you are loved and missed” sign in her yard.

The Cunningham family thanked the church for the support and love given during Naomi’s surgery.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Attention all students! If you are affiliated with FBC and pursuing a degree (especially as an international student or with an emphasis in Christian or music ministry), you are welcome to apply for a scholarship through FBC. You can download the scholarship application at fbcmurray.org/scholarship. The deadline is Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Email Lori Morgan (lmorgan@fbcmurray.org) or call the church office (270-753-1854) for more information.

NEEDLINE

There is a collection box located in the Welcome Center for you to drop off non-perishable food items to be donated to Needline. For the month of February, the featured item is packages of spaghetti and jars of sauce. Different food/household items will be collected each month.

STAY CONNECTED

Keith Inman - Senior Pastor

kinman@fbcmurray.org

Jason Ellerbrook - Executive/Discipleship Pastor

jellerbrook@fbcmurray.org

Boyd Smith - Pastor of Prayer and Care

bsmith@fbcmurray.org

Jon Kyle Allred - Student Pastor

jallred@fbcmurray.org

Rachel Riquelme - Children’s Ministry Director

rriquelme@fbcmurray.org

Mike Rose - Traditional Worship Minister

mrose@fbcmurray.org

Facebook and Instagram

[@fbcmurray](#)

[@fbcmurraykids1st](#)

[@fbcmurraystudents](#)

[@fbcmurraycollege](#)

YouTube

First Baptist Church of Murray

Email

info@fbcmurray.org

Website

fbcmurray.org

Phone

270-753-1854

CHURCH INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

Allison Sugg joined by baptism on Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Kunliang Zou (William) joined by baptism on Sunday, December 20, 2020.

FINANCES (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020)

\$1,371,148.00 Budgeted as of 12/31/2020
\$1,453,117.33 Budget Receipts as of 12/31/2020
\$1,288,756.57 Budget Expenditures as of 12/31/2020

\$ 140,000.00 WMO 2020 Goal
\$ 153,914.82 WMO Receipts as of 12/31/2020

\$3,441,659.70 Family Life Center Receipts as of 12/31/2020
\$ 939,096.56 Family Life Center Borrowed as of 12/31/2020

MEMORIALS

FINANCIAL

Contributions to the Family Life Center have been received in honor of Don Cherry, Pastor Keith & the FBC staff, Lisa Ray, Eleanor Spry, Joyce Herndon, Allen Fowler, Jasper Wyatt, Ted Thiede, and Ken & Shirley Winters and in memory of Pauline Parker, Blanche Blalock, Norma Wallis, Louanne Wright, Sarah Hussung, Vester Orr, Jeannetta Bennett, Barbara Tutt, Randall Underhill, Betty Chandler, Ann Carr, Richard, Jones, A. R. Hatcher, Emily Watson, and Anita Mansfield.

Contributions to the 2020 World Mission Offering have been received in honor of Don Cherry and in memory of Ann Carr, A. R. Hatcher, and Anita Mansfield.

ATTENDANCE

	8:30 am Service	11:00 am Service	The NET
December 20	N/A	150	N/A
December 27	N/A	N/A	N/A
January 3	N/A	N/A	N/A
January 10	N/A	N/A	N/A
January 17	34	158	N/A
January 24	80	159	39



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203 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 42071 | fbcmurray.org | 270-753-1854