

Oikosfocus

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church | June 2020

First B Family,

Welcome Back!!!

As we begin to open the church back up there are a lot of things to contemplate. What will things look like moving forward? Will church service be conducted the same way as in the past? What will youth ministry look like? What will fellowship meals and small groups look like?

I would surmise that some things will stay the same and some will change. Our mindsets on shared space may change and we may be leery of others' health conditions among us. Whatever the church landscape looks like moving forward I hope that you have a mindset of Being the Church.

The church has never been about buildings or facilities. The church is the "called out ones". The ekklesia. The set apart ones. We simply use buildings or facilities to conduct ministry from and out of to the masses. But I think there can be a balance of being faithful to one another and our gatherings and "being out there" for one another.

We are working our way through the Book of Hebrews and tucked within the pages of that great book is Hebrews 10:24-25. Two passages that challenge us to "stimulate", "stir up" (- *paroxusmós*; to stir up, provoke. In a good sense, a sharpening). We are to find ways to sharpen each other for the ministry ahead. That ministry is based on love and good deeds. So, the question is how is this done? We find the answer to that question in v25 where the writer of Hebrews says, 'not forsaking our own assembling together'. The "not forsaking" is obviously negative since it's asking for an action to stop. It's in the pre-



sent tense meaning that this action is continually happening and the writer wants it stopped. So, the question for us as contemporary worshippers is this -What is keeping you from gathering with your fellow believers on the Lord's Day? What keeps you from attending the assembly? I'm not talking about Sunday School because that is small group ministry. I'm talking the larger assembly of gathered believers, where we, collectively celebrate baptisms taking place. Where communion is taken together. Where new parents express joy in dedicating their baby. Where we give together, worship together, pray together and do life together. WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK?

Whatever the issue is one must be willing to address this complication and rectify it for the betterment of one's own spiritual health. In these days take precautions, be wise, be smart but DON'T forsake assembling. Return to your church family gatherings and "consider how to sharpen one another for love and good deeds."

By His Grace,

PD

Thank You!

Thank you for being a Care Portal church! Your dedication to the children and families we serve is appreciated.
Blessings,
Jae Hedrick

How **GREAT**
the **FATHER'S**
LOVE for us...



On Sunday, June 14th – we will be open for FULL business and encouraging attendance at whatever service you choose and will hold communion services at this time. Communion stations will be set up around the sanctuary during this re-opening also lessening exposure via passing the communion plates. We anticipate subsequent Sundays will be normal as always in our activities.

If you feel that you are still at a point where you are not comfortable in getting out and being around a large crowd just yet, please feel free to remain home until you are comfortable joining us again in our larger gatherings. No one will disrespect that decision of you taking your personal health serious. We would also ask that that same respect be afforded to those who choose to gather with their church family on the above dates of progressive opening.

If you are feeling ill and/or not able to come to our reopening gatherings, the Elders and I would love to pray for you. Please let us know how, when and where we might be able to meet your prayer needs during this time.

Pastor Dave

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”

Dial-A-Devotion

Call (620) 442-5000

for a new devotion every day!

- 1 Larry Longshore
- 2 Judy Reedy
- 3 Janet Sparks
- 4 Kim McJunkin
- 5 Twyla Hawkins
- 6 Dick Reedy
- 7 Suzanne Moore
- 8 Helen Czaplinski
- 9 Dick Reedy
- 10 Jason Brewer
- 11 Lucy Stockton
- 12 Ernestine Kennelley
- 13 Dorothy Johnson
- 14 Frankie Meek
- 15 Susie Bolf
- 16 Pam Broce
- 17 Jan Miller
- 18 Kathy Foust
- 19 Joyce Jordan
- 20 Larry Longshore
- 21 Amber Wiley
- 22 Janet Sparks
- 23 Judy Reedy
- 24 Phyllis Bradfield
- 25 Jacque Ramirez
- 26 Frankie Meek
- 27 Susie Bolf
- 28 Suzanne Moore
- 29 Mark McGuigan
- 30 Kathy Foust



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| Ernestine Kennelley | Pam Bowker |
| Terice Watts | Howard Wissinger |
| Lacy Abrams | Corinne Brewer |
| Elise Brewer | Paul Klaassen |
| Lisa Klaassen | Shelby Massey |
| Robert Ramirez | Keith Broce |
| JoLynn Warren | Robert Onelio |
| Ella Foust | Camden Moya |
| Gabe Onelio | David Stanley |
| Hattie Ard | Hanlee Virden |
| Jim Lazelle | Kaitlin Schmidt |
| Jake Abrams | Caleb Stanley |

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
220 E Central Ave
Arkansas City, KS 67005

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Nursery Volunteers

Jun 7	Grace McJunkin / Trudy Masingale
Jun 14	Morgan Musson
Jun 21	Pam Broce
Jun 28	Avery Foust

Kingdom Kids Volunteers

Jun 7	Onelio / Ewert
Jun 14	Wiley
Jun 21	Hedgecock
Jun 28	Tackett



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