

First Baptist Church
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(719) 336-4953

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Visit us on the Internet: www.lamarfbc.org

Return Service Requested

Come join us Sundays!

8:45 am Sunday School classes for all ages
10:00 am Worship Service



The Messenger

Volume 53, Issue 5— May 2020



Class of 2020



Congratulations!



"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

- God in Isaiah 43:19, ESV

I remember a conversation that took place when I was younger. It was after supper during the summer break after my 5th grade year. We were clearing off the table when mom said, "Hey boys, I got a letter from the School District today. Guess what? That new school is finished and that's where you'll be going this fall." My brother looked at me and I thought, "Well, here's where I need to put on a happy face." Honestly, though, there was no happy face there. We had been told towards the end of the school year that this was planned. And Susie asked who was going to go there and who was going to stay. The teacher didn't know, but she did make it clear that we were going to be split up and mixed up with the other elementary school in town. And just to be clear, "new" isn't always something I look forward to, especially when I lack a perception of control. I wasn't excited about this at all. And as a result (if memory serves me well) my younger brother then wasn't excited, either. Mom saw our faces and did her best to make the best of it. I wasn't buying it. This was going to be horrible, I just new it.

And to be brutally honest, the first month or so wasn't the best of times. Everything was different. In the school where I came from, the 6th graders were the oldest and they knew everything. Not so for this 6th grade class. The layout of the school was different. The teachers were all different. There was a lady in the principal's office who was a Doctor but she couldn't fix anyone. ("What kind of doctor can't fix someone?" I remember distinctly thinking). I never had that before. Even the books in the Library were different. To top it off, there was a guy who was about twice my size who took a fancy in seeing if he could get me to cry. I just wanted to go back to school where most of my friends still were.

"Any better today?" Dad would ask at the supper table. "No." "Well, hang in there. It'll turn around. Watch and see." "If he only knew about the bully," I thought.

When I read the verse above, those first few months of 6th grade come to mind. Sometimes something new isn't something desired. For the Jews to whom Isaiah is writing, they aren't going to like this new thing God is about to do, either. He's going to have them dragged off to Babylonia. That'll be new! ...and painful beyond description.

But God wasn't necessarily talking about the trip to Babylonia when he made that declaration above. He was talking more about starting something new in the hearts of the people. Their hearts had grown cold and complacent. They thought that their lives would never change because they were God's chosen people and so why work at it? Why seek God when everything they needed was already in their possession? So God put in motion that which would start a new thing between Him and His people.

Sound familiar? Now God was clearly disciplining the Jews when He allowed Nebuchadnezzar on the scene. We know that because He tells us that over and over again in many of the Old Testament books. Are we being disciplined now with this new thing we are living through? I think there is a lot of opportunities for learning and growing closer to God in the midst of this new thing. The question is, "Do we perceive it?" Or are we just looking at the brand new uncharted wilderness in front of us, or the deserts that seem to have no resources to sustain us?

Do you see what God did in his declaration there in Isaiah 43:19. He declares a new thing, yes. But he also promises to take care of the Jews in this new thing. He'll make a path through what they perceive as uncharted. He'll provide water in the desert. The new thing isn't so much their geographical location as to how He is going to draw them closer in dependence upon Him, where they should have been all along.

He has a patent on turning mourning into dancing, and tears into joy. He did the same for the Jews in their new thing. He let Shadrach, Mechach and Abednego walk around INSIDE a furnace with Him right there in their midst. He raised up Daniel who became a world changer in three different world powers, not to mention a sleep over with a bunch of lions. He put Esther in just the right place for just a time as this. And when the time was right, He sent Nehemiah and Ezra back to start an even newer thing of regeneration along with reconciliation. True to his word, God never left them nor forsook them. And God hasn't changed one bit since then.

Continued....

In a very real sense, that which is taking place around us today should give us great hope for it is proof that God is at work in profound ways. I mean, look at the lengths He is going to to do this new thing! And yes, new things can be tough at first until we figure things out. That's OK. We've got God who knows what's going on and He'll carry us through. But He must be up to something big, yes? I mean, what will we be talking about 2-3 years from now about how God used this whole COVID-19 thing?

Sixth grade did turn around for me. That bully? I think I've already told you about him. We actually became almost friends when I forgave him which kept him out of Juvie. I think it was the first time in his entire life he experienced true forgiveness. I got to become a millionaire. True story there. We had a mini-economy unit for Social Studies where we were able to open little shops for the last couple hours of class each day for the other 6th graders. I decided to bring popcorn and sell it. The teacher had to print more money all the time to keep the project going. I did have to do a lot of chores around the house to make up for the popcorn popper I burnt out in the process, though. The principal was so impressed, she asked me to help her start a school store. It's the first time I really stepped out of my shell and took any kind of real leadership. And that Doctor that couldn't fix anything? She became one of my most biggest encouragers throughout the rest of my public education. Even in High School, Dr. Trujillo was always checking up on me and telling me, "You can do it, Darren. You can't afford to mess up here. Stay the course. I believe in you!" I still have her letter of recommendation for college. I can't read it without getting all teary.

I would have missed out on all of that if I would have had my way and just passed by the "new thing" that God had in store in the new school. Oh, what a mistake we make when the sky gets dark and we think that worrying about it will bring back the sunshine of yesterday! When the clouds are there only to water the plans that God has already put in motion. Let God do His new thing and trust that He knows what He's doing. He hasn't lost an ounce of hope and neither should we!

Your servant In Christ



BIRTHDAYS

MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Teagan Callison	29 Jim Larrick
8 Juanita Widener	29 Cheryl Adkins
11 Eleanor Flint	30 Macy Rowan
12 June Schroeder	31 Cathy Callison
13 Louise Downing	
14 Mason Cave	
22 Elmer Roberts	
22 Darrel Dunivan	
25 Creed Anaya	
26 Kirstin Robertson	
28 Chad Surprise	

14 Milton & Lisa Mendenhall
26 Jonathan & Janet Tague

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary please call the church office at 719-336-4953 and let us know.



First Baptist's Graduating High School Seniors Class of 2020



Grayden Flint is graduating from Holly High School and is a member of the National Honor Society, a 4 year state wrestling qualifier and placed 4th his senior year, has played football all 4 years, and played baseball and ran track. He's been involved in square dancing since kindergarten. Grayden was named Outstanding Junior Boy. Grayden was introduced into Phi Theta Kappa this year at Lamar Community College for his hard work and studies in their dual credit programs. Grayden will be continuing his education at West Texas A&M University next year with a planned major in Mechanical Engineering.

Marley Flint is graduating from Lamar High School. She has played the saxophone in the school band since 5th grade, has played volleyball, softball, qualified for state in swimming as a freshman for the Ark Valley Tigers, and has been involved in square dancing since kindergarten. Marley has received many academic awards and introduced into Phi Theta Kappa this year at Lamar Community College for her hard work and studies in their dual credit programs. Marley will be continuing her education at Western Colorado State with a planned major in Wildlife Biology.

Sarah Carrillo is graduating from Lamar High School. Sarah has played volleyball, basketball, and soccer all 4 years of High School and won state basketball her freshman year, and made it to state 3years in volleyball. Sarah has received the scholar athlete award all 4 years of high school along with many other academic awards. Sarah's future plans are to attend University of Colorado at Colorado Springs with a planned major in Biology.

All 3 of these young people have attended First Baptist Church throughout their upbringing. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow from small children into such thriving young adults. Allen and Emily, along with the rest of their First Baptist Family, would like to say 'Congratulations!' We will miss each of them very much and wish nothing but the very best for their futures. We pray they look to God for direction and guidance and always know they have a place to call home.

God has planted greatness in you. Let today be the beginning of a great adventure as you step into the gifts He's given you. —Joyce Meyer

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

College Graduates

Emily Garcia— Adams State, BSN-RN

Kirstin Robertson— University of Arizona, College of Medicine-Phoenix, Med-Peds

Carter Block—Garden City Community College, AAS John Deere Ag Tech

Graduates of 2020 are experiencing graduation in a whole new way. We are including their addresses so that you may send them a note to let them know you are proud of their accomplishments.

Marley & Grayden Flint	Sarah Carrillo	Emily Garcia	Carter Block	Kirstin Robertson
14219 Cty. Rd. LL	27710 Quail Ridge Dr.	9 Yucca Dr.	32368 Cty. Rd 26	8225 N. Central Ave.#35
Lamar, Co. 81052	Lamar, Co. 81052	Lamar, Co. 81052	Holly, Co. 81047	Phoenix, Az. 85020

If we missed a graduate, please let us know and we will honor them in June's Messenger.

CHURCH BUSINESS

Sunday, April 19th would have been our monthly business meeting.

Some of our boards and committees have provided us with their monthly reports.

If you would like a copy of our financial reports or the minutes from our March meeting, please call the church, we will provide you a copy by email or drop a copy in the mail to you.

Dixie Gatchell had volunteered to do the devotion for our April meeting. She sent me a devotion that was given to her by Chuck Smith, her former Pastor from the Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California. Thank you Dixie for sharing this with us.

A Special Devotion



“Songs In The Night”

*But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,
and the prisoners were listening to them. -Acts 16:25*

While in Philippi, Paul and Silas were stripped of their clothes, beaten, and put in the stocks in the inner part of the prison. Can you imagine a more dismal plight?

What do you think that you would do under those circumstances? What would your thoughts be? You had only wanted to serve God. You had felt the call to take the gospel to Macedonia, and now your back is throbbing with pain; your hands, feet, and neck are fastened in the stocks. Your future is uncertain. You don't know how serious the charges are, and you don't know how long they are going to keep you in prison.

In this very uncomfortable situation, Paul and Silas did the only thing that made sense to them: they prayed and sang praises to God. Though their bodies were bound, their spirits were free. Instead of moaning and complaining, they turned their dark dungeon into a house of worship. Rejoicing lifted their spirits. The more Paul and Silas focused on the Lord, the smaller their problem became.

SINGING TAKES OUR THOUGHTS OFF OF OURSELVES AND FOCUSES THEM ON THE LORD.

The next time you find yourself shackled by worry or confusion or pain, look up. Take your eyes off your problem and place them on God. Sing to your Creator and watch your dark prison change into a house of praise.

*Father, we thank You for the songs that You put in our hearts-
songs of joy and blessing and rejoicing in Your goodness.
In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

Let your
Faith
be bigger than your
Fears

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you,

“Do not fear, I will help you.” - Isaiah 41:13

Deaconess Report-

The nursery makeover is nearing completion. The deaconess are working on a couple of different mural ideas for the north wall. John Gersick has volunteered to do the art work once a decision is made.

Will be hosting a diaper shower in May for Michaela Mendenhall.

Over the next few weeks we will be discussing how we can honor our men on Father's Day. Last year we made a contribution to the Deacon Fund in honor of our fathers, we also provided a small treat bag for each of them.

Board of Christian Education-

Jenni has been leading Virtual Sunday School with the FBC children each week. It is such a joy to interact with and worship with the children in this way!

With the uncertainty of what lies ahead for the summer months, and not knowing when we might be able to resume social gatherings, the CE Board has decided to cancel Vacation Bible School this summer. The decision did not come easy but we feel this is best for everyone involved.

We have 3 high school and 3 college graduates this year. Once we are able to gather again we have plans to honor them in our Sunday morning service. We also have several of our Sunday School kids that will be moving up to the next class, they will be promoted at that time as well.

We are waiting to find out if summer camps will be happening this summer. If you have one or more children who are interested in attending summer camp, please reach out to Jenni at 691-9387 so that she can keep you updated.

Missions Committee Report-

The Missions Committee's last in person meeting took place in February. During this meeting, the committee had several questions regarding the different monthly missions, how funds were distributed through these missions, and how we could positively impact our local community through our mission program. Thanks to Pastor Darren, our questions were answered, and we have a much better understanding of these different mission opportunities.

In March, we were unable to meet in person, but we did speak over the phone to discuss how each member of the committee was getting along, and also to obtain clear input about remaining funds gathered in December for the White Cross missions. Our committee was unanimous in its decision to donate these funds to Sparrow House, the local food bank, as our community is seeing an increase in the need for food items, due to the affect of the current COVID-19 virus. Our recommendation was passed along to the Deacons and other board/committee members during an online Advisory Council meeting.

For April, our mission emphasis was the Care Net Pregnancy Center of S.E. Colorado. While we were unable to meet as a church body at First Baptist, our church family was encouraged to support this local mission through the monthly mission statement in the April bulletin. Our mission emphasis for May is Vacation Bible School. Set to take place in June, VBS offers local children the opportunity to learn about God's love for them and how they can share His love with family and friends.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our monthly missions!

Youth Report-

We miss our youth! We hope everyone is staying healthy and doing well. Right now, we are following social distancing and the stay at home guidelines. We have been able to reach out to our kids on a regular basis through texting, face time and snapchat. We are just trying to stay positive and keep in touch.

It was a hard decision to make, but we have decided to cancel our mission trip for this summer. While it is sad, I think God has bigger plans ahead and this is best for the safety of our group.

If anyone from our congregation, any of our youth or their families need anything during this time, we are just a call away. God bless!

Allen & Emily Garcia

Our Weird 2020

The youth has been doing a number of things to prepare for the mission trip that sadly will not be taking place this summer. I'm sure we will find something else to do, but it is a bummer to all of us. We were really looking forward to going to sunny Florida. Of course though we understand that sometimes God has another will, another way. We may not know what that is or understand why he chose a different path, but that is why we have faith. He sees a bigger picture that none of us can see, and when this is all over, the amount of awes at what God will accomplish, will be beautiful. I know I'm not the only one struggling right now. Being the social person I am, the social isolation has been hard. I have come to a realization though of how much I take for granted everyday, normal life. To be able to get up in the morning and just go about my day. I am still trying to have some perspective with this, even though I am upset. I saw this quote that said "Sometimes God takes it all away from you, to show you who you are without it." I truly believe that God is doing this to teach us how to be appreciative of all the small things in life. Not the big blessings, but the everyday blessings that we so often forget to thank him for. Things like going out to eat with friends, going on a random road trip with the family, or just going grocery shopping with your mom have become things that I have become immensely thankful for. When those things return, when normal life returns, I can say that my priorities have changed. I never realized how quickly life could change from one day to the next. While things are sad though, there is a lot of good coming out of this. Families who used to run around and never stop are finally sitting down together at the dinner table. Parents who are constantly working are getting to spend more time with their kids. For once in a lifetime the world has come to a complete stop, in a world where people never stop. Some people are getting much needed rest. God knows how hard this is for us, but after every storm, there is a rainbow. "God promises to make good out of the storms that bring devastation to your life."- Romans 8:28. We are all #AloneTogether, and while this is hard, what we are doing, is helping our country. So while we may be apart physically, we are not apart spiritually. We will soon be together again physically, but spiritually God is holding us all together. I hope school and work or whatever your situation is right now, is going well for everyone! I ask that we all pray for the thousands of health care workers, dental workers, law enforcement workers, and many others during this time. They are all putting their own health at risk to help others, and our country would be in a lot worse shape without them. I miss every single person that I used to see on a weekly basis, and I can't wait to see you again! Stay safe and stay well.

There Is a Plan

God has a plan,
For me and for you.
God has plan,
For all of America too.
Continue to pray,
Continue your faith.
God is in control,
It is up to him.
He puts us through tough waters,
He knows that we can swim.
Physically apart,
Spiritually together.
He says be at peace my child,
This won't go on forever.

-An original by Cailey Reid

Love, Cailey Reid

G N R P W H C X D V N P L R T
 K O I E E R E I G E F E U E I
 V I D A O A S A R U R R F C R
 T V N W T C C D V E P S I E I
 J H D G I N L E G E H E C I P
 E S G P D I U N M T N C R V S
 S W L U H O U O R A O U E E N
 U E F C A H M A M P K T M L R
 S R I G H T E O U S N E S S U
 B L E S S E D M E E K D R Y O
 D E T R O F M O C Y H A T S M

Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”