

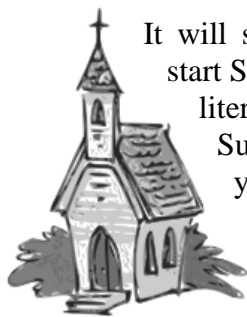
VITAL SIGNS

Budget Gifts Sunday\$7,876.64
 Budget Gifts to Date\$15,169.64

Birthdays

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| May 17 | Laurann Mucha |
| May 18 | Grey Prescott |
| May 20 | Ansley Triplett Alexander |
| May 20 | Jason Wallace |
| May 21 | Samuel Frantz |
| May 21 | Cathie VanWechel |
| May 22 | Judy Adkins |
| May 22 | A. J. Tovar |

Sunday School



It will still be awhile before we are able to start Sunday School classes back but the new literature is in. It starts with the first Sunday in June. If you would like to get your literature you are welcome to stop by the church office and get it anytime Monday –Thursday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please call ahead and we will have it ready for you. If you need further assistance please contact Randall.



35 Nelson Avenue, Garden City, GA 31408
 912-964-1448 or fbcgc@yahoo.com
www.fbcgc.net

Office Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm Monday - Thursday
 Closed on Fridays

Vol. 60 No. 19 May 13, 2020

Tommy Duke—Interim Pastor
 Randall Frantz—Minister of Ed/Youth
 Debbie Traywick—Director of Music



ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday 11am and Wednesday 7pm
 Join us at fbcgc.live

Past Services

*You can now go to the website (fbcgc.net) and watch previous services under the **WORSHIP SERVICES** tab

Online Giving

*You can now give online by going to the website (fbcgc.net) and click on the **ONLINE GIVING** tab

Office Hours during COVID-19

Monday – Thursday 10:00am to 2:00pm



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DEMONSTRATING HOPE WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGES

Our Sunday messages over the last several weeks have looked at Jesus' "I AM" statements in the gospel of John and how they lead us to Hope in tough times.

While the Coronavirus crisis seems completely new for us, a quick survey of church history reminds us that this isn't the first time the Church has gone through a wide-ranging public health crisis.

One such example here in the U.S. was just over a century ago. A deadly and frightening influenza pandemic had spread, ultimately claiming over 50 million lives around the world.

To slow the spread of the disease and try to limit the death toll, local and state governments instituted shutdowns, prohibiting public gatherings like worship services (sound familiar?).

While some churches pushed back, complained or sat back and waited on the shutdown to lift, most exhibited hope by finding new ways to be the church.

Responding with HOPE looks like CREATIVITY.

In the 1918 crisis, churches around the country tried new methods, pivoting to use the newspaper (aka: social media) to get the Word out. They also equipped people to worship, study and grow at home. Finally, they sought new methods for serving each other and the people of their communities.

Here's a reminder that one Kentucky pastor shared at the time:

The days of the church's greatest power have not been when believers were cozy and comfortable in magnificent houses of worship.

The people have been more powerful in saving the world when persecution shut them out of the synagogues and forced them to find refuge for fellowship and worship in the dens and caves of the earth.

As a church, we've sought to demonstrate the hope of Jesus through creativity in several ways in these days. We've moved worship services and Bible studies online, used video conferencing to engage our youth and children, and worked to stay connected with as many of you as possible through all available tools. And we continue looking for and trying new things to reach, disciple and care for people through this time.

As a church, the limit of our creativity often depends on how each of us plays our part, sharing the ideas God gives us and using our gifts to further the mission. So here are a couple of questions for you:

What are some creative ideas to love our neighbors right now?

How can we continue to innovate in pursuing God's mission, individually and as a church?

(Please let us know your ideas)

Be sure to tune in the next two Sundays at fbcgc.live.

- Sunday, May 17
Hope... When the System Seems Broken
- Sunday, May 24
Hope... When I Feel Disconnected

Yours in Christian creativity,
Tommy

How Do We Get Back

In looking how we will reopen our church services and activities isn't as easy as one might think. Ranging from the Governor's guidelines, keeping people safe as we can and just using common sense. Let me share some wisdom I learned from World Changers that has really helped and applies to our situation.

My first project I was also the crew chief which made it quite interesting, trying to figure out all the procedures and a whole new set of circumstances. I have also led several crews where the work was well above my pay grade but I had experts to guide and give advice along the way. So many times Monday morning would roll around and we would arrive at the worksite and it would take an hour to get things rolling. The kids were ready to jump in as soon as they got out of the van but there was always work to be done to get organized so the work would run smoothly the rest of the day and the week. You have to be patient and flexible as things get started. Sometimes you are just waiting on materials before you can begin because they haven't arrived yet.

We continue to make plans and get things ready for us to join back together. We are walking through all scenarios to make sure we have everything covered. We have purchased some sanitizing supplies and are still waiting on a few more things that come in later this week. We are also working on transitioning from a recorded service back to a live service and we need to make sure it all runs smoothly. This way if you are not comfortable coming back when we reopen you will still be able to worship online. God has blessed us through this time and we need to continue to stay focused on God and work through all this together. Our attitudes and patience with each other as we come back together will also make all the difference.

Randall