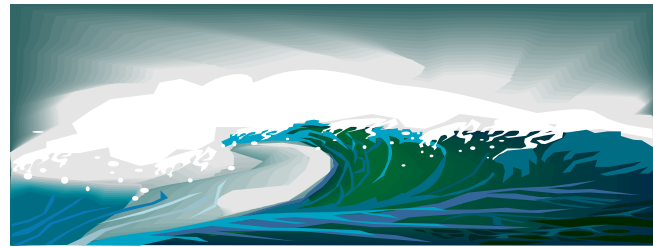




The *April 2020*
Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



First Baptist Church , 215 Ann Street, Ravenswood, WV 26164 ~
1-304-273-9910 ~ www.fbcravenswood.org

Who would have thought we would be heading into the month of April right in the middle of a novel coronavirus pandemic? The dictionary called the pandemic a disease which is prevalent “over a whole country or the world.” This disease, according to Science Daily, was not made in any laboratory, but rather through a natural process. Interestingly, coronaviruses are what Scripps Research Institute said is part of a larger family of corona viruses that range in severity. The date was December 31, 2019, when Chinese authorities alerted the World Health Organization of an outbreak of novel coronavirus, which has since been referred to as COVID19 because of the year it was detected. Since then, as of March 27, there were more than 102,000 2,331 cases in West Virginia, including 7 in Jackson County. This number will likely increase.

What makes this pandemic unique, is the impact that is has had on our day to day lives in this century, with the term “social distancing” becoming a part of our daily everyday conversation. The impact to the churches have been unprecedented. For the first time in my lifetime and probably yours too, churches have closed their building’s doors for the most part. The aim by the scientists in slowing the virus, is to keep people away from one another. Not only have schools closed, but restaurants can only serve take out or through the drive-thru, and all nonessential businesses are closed. Sure, the grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, gas stations, and some supply stores are open, having been deemed essential to day-to-day life. Businesses have forced their employees to work from home if that was an option, but others have faced layoffs.

These are difficult times for all of us. There are a lot of people who have anxiety about the virus which seems to be really hard on older persons. Consequently, the impact to our church services as a result the COVID19 have been challenging. For the first time, we are broadcasting our services on the Internet using Facebook Live and Zoom. Surprisingly, we had almost 100 Internet connections with families watching together, and in just a few shorts day afterward, the number of viewers soared to over 1,800. The gospel message is still getting out. The coronavirus19 may have caused church building doors to close, but it cannot silence the Gospel. The deacons and I want all of you to know that if you have a need of any kind during this time of mandated isolation, please call me and we will do our best to assist you. We have suspended in-home visitations unless they are deemed critical as a means to help protect you from any transmission of the virus. If you are reading this article and need help using either Facebook Live or Zoom we can help you set

it up. Zoom allows you to call a phone number and listen to the service or Bible study right over your telephone. While we have suspended services within the building until further notice, we are still very much preparing for messages daily at the church. Susan West and I are there to help meet your needs during this pandemic. Our Sunday morning worship service is being broadcast at 10:45 a.m. and our Wednesday evening Bible Study is being held at 6:30. However, we have temporarily suspended our Sunday evening services for folks to focus on the other two at this time, and not inundate your Internet. We are in the process of producing some God's Cadet Youth programs that will involve puppets. Ann Johnson is also exploring options for our high school youth as far as recorded programs and maybe even Zoom meetings.

To that end, I want to mention the Deacons and I are planning for a special service on Easter Sunday for the church. While the service will not be in the building, it will be broadcast as we have mentioned in this article. But, we have some ideas to make that Sunday special. In the meantime, please be in prayer for our family, your church family, your neighbors and friends and all of the citizens of West Virginia. We sure miss seeing all of you in the building. While we are living in this difficult moment, we know that God is bigger than any fear or problem we could ever have. He will take care of us as believers. He always does. May the Lord shine upon each of us and help those in control in this land to reduce the spread of this horrible virus, so we can get back to the assembling of ourselves together inside the walls of the church.

God bless you.

Pastor Toby





We are living in interesting times! Reaching out for Jesus nowadays may mean on Facebook, texting, You Tube and any other way that the youth can be reached.

The end of February, we had a great group going to see Zach Graham's performance in Sense and Sensibility. All of us loved his horse!! Great job Zach!

On Wednesday March 18 - our last time together - we had 10 kids eating spaghetti and rolls. We studied God's word about trusting instead of fear.

I continued to stay in touch with the kids throughout the month of March. Before the isolation began, we mailed out cards, recognized the birthdays for Helen Johnson and Geraldine Wright. Some youth have turned in their Brother's Keepers forms. *Remember parents, if they need notarized, you need to stop in the office and have Susan West do that when you sign the forms.* The forms will be turned in by April 9. We were able to receive an extension for the early bird price.

Easter is coming up and I still want to include the Praise Band. Their praise song will be on Facebook for all the youth to learn.

Don't give up staying in touch! I am here for the youth if they need me.

Thanks for supporting our great group of kids!

Ann



Monthly Meetings & Activities

Apr 1 Red Cross Blood Drive 11 to 6
Deadline for Brother's Keepers registration
On line Bible Study
Apr 5 Palm Sunday—Holy Week Begins
Apr 8 1st Quarter Report Dues
On Line Bible Study
Apr 9 Maundy Thursday on line at 6:30
Apr 10 Good Friday - Office Closed
Apr 12 Happy Easter!
Apr 13 BOCE TBD
Apr 15 On Line Bible Study
Apr 16 CIRCLE TBD
Apr 21 Financial Committee Meeting TBD
Apr 22 Anchor Articles Due
On Line Bible Study
Apr 29 On Line Bible Study

TBD - To Be Decided

CommUnity Kitchen

Apr 4 Bag lunches to go only
Apr 11 NO CK - Easter
Apr 18 Episcopal Church (TBD)
Apr 25 Wagoner Family (TBD)

Many things are being cancelled or rescheduled.

Please follow your emails or call the church to confirm if a meeting or gathering will be held.

The First Quarter Business Meeting has been changed tentatively to May 13.

Please still turn in your reports by April 8.

Great online bible studies and shows are available for all ages at Right Now Media. This is free to all our people.



Focus on Sunday School:

Fear! Concern! Worry! Anxiousness!

We are going through a very uneasy time right now. No one is sure what the future holds.....except those who follow Jesus.

In times of trouble, He is our Rock.

In times of uncertainty, He is our Truth.

In times of our frailties, He is our Strength.

In times of our fear, He is our Protector.

In times of anxiety, He is our Guide.

In times of illness, He is our Great Physician.

In times of little faith, He is the Merciful.

In times of brokenness, He is the Potter.

Whether at the church building or in your home, learning more about Jesus is important. Parents, grandparents, adults and youth - set aside a time of learning and listening to what God is trying to say to you. Open your bibles and read, pray and be prepared to receive.

Take this time of isolation to be closely in touch with God.





Easter Events for First Baptist Church

April 5 - Palm Sunday - Listen On Line 10:45 a.m.

April 6-10 Holy Week Services On Line at Noon

April 6 - Pastor Toby Wagoner - First Baptist

April 7 - Pastor Chris Skeens - Freewill Baptist

April 8 - Pastor Jeff Moales - Praise Cathedral

April 9 - Pastor David Shire - First Nazarene

April 10 - Rev Fr Penn - St. Matthew's Catholic

April 8 - Easter Study On Line at 6:30

April 9 - Maundy Thursday 6:30 On Line

April 10 - Good Friday - Office Closed

April 12 - Sunrise Communion 7:30-9:30 a.m.

(individually prepared and sealed. Offered to you and your family in your car)

April 12 - Easter Sermon - Listen On Line 10:45 a.m.



Sunday's on the Way!

I love Easter! It is my favorite Holy Day of the year. Now with everything going on, I know this Easter will be different—no holy week services, no Palm branches, no egg hunts, no Sunrise Service with the Youth, no Sunrise Breakfast with the Men's Fellowship, no special choir pieces that uplift our souls. But there's one thing that all Christians can say - ***It's Still Easter - He Is Still Risen!*** I started thinking about a song I had heard Carmen do during one of his performances I attended. I'd like to share the lyrics below.

The demons were planning on having a party one night.
They had beer, Jack Daniels, and pretzels, there was red wine, some white.
They were celebrating how they crucified Christ on that tree.
But Satan, the snake himself, wasn't so at ease.
Well, he took his crooked finger, And he dialed the phone by his bed,
To call an old faithful, to see if he was dead.
"Hey grave, what's going on, did my plan fail?"
Grave just laughed and said, "The dude's dead as nails."

Chorus

A tranquilizer and a horror flick, couldn't calm Satan's fears.
So Saturday night, he calls up the grave, scared of what he'd hear.
"Hey, grave, what's going on?"
Grave said, "Man, you done called me twice,
and I'll tell you one-more-'gin, boss, the Jew's on ice."
Satan said, "Man grave, you remember when, Ol' Lazarus, was in his grave.
Everything was cool then four days later... BOOM,
Ol' Lazarus, he was raised.
Now, this Jesus, he is much more trouble than anyone has ever been to me,
And this man said he only gonna be dead, for three days."

Chorus

Sunday morning Satan woke with a jump, Ready to blow a fuse.
He was shaking from the tips of his pointy ears, To the toes of his pointy shoes.
"Hey grave, is he alive, I don't wanna lose my neck?"
Grave said, "Satan, you are a wreck.
Cool your jets Big D, my sting is still intact.
Jesus is dead forever, he ain't never coming back.
So mellow out man, just go drink up or shoot up,
just leave old grave alone,
And I'll catch you la... la... Oh no! Oh no! OH NO! OH NO!
Somebody's messing with the stone!"

Well, the stone was rolled away, and it bounced a time or two,
and an angel stepped inside, and said, "I'm Gabriel, who are you?
If you're wondering where the Lord is, at this very hour,
I tell you he's alive and well, with resurrection power!"

(Chorus) On Friday night, they crucified the Lord at Calvary,
But he said, "Don't dread, three days' later I'll live again, you'll see!"
When problems try to bury you, make it hard to pray,
It may seem like Friday night, but Sunday's on the way!

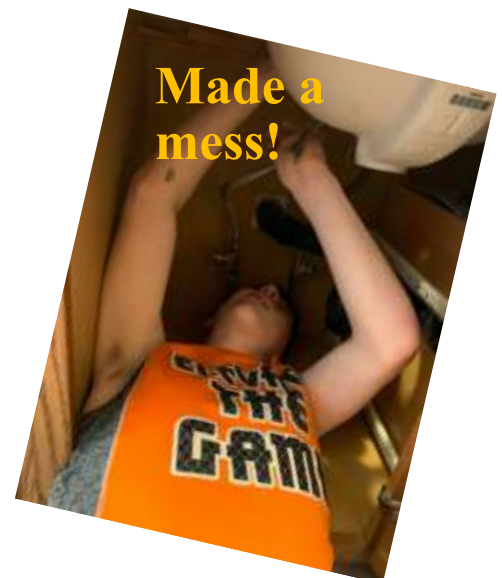
By: Carmen

Things may look grim at times. We may be isolated but never fear, Sunday's on the way! Jesus is alive!

Hallelujah!

Happy Easter!

What did you do during isolation?



A New CommUnity Kitchen

Staying safe but still helping becomes a way of life. Our CK took a new turn as we packed lunches to go. Thanks Tom Stephenson.

Also, John Stephenson and Richard Massey helped distribute 300# of potatoes we received. Bagged in 5# portions, all were given out.



Men's Sunday March 15

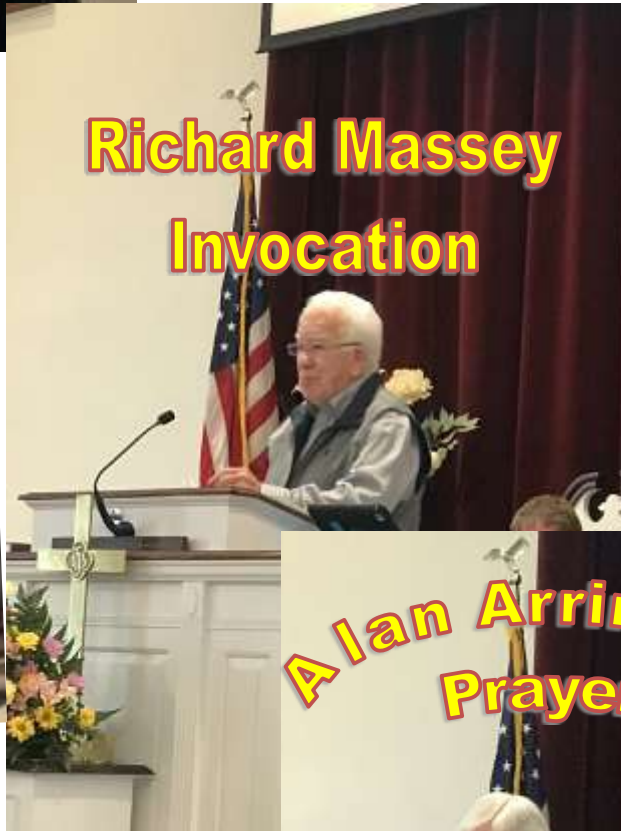
Landon King - Prelude



MC- Ben Mize



**Richard Massey
Invocation**



**Philip Lyons-
Call to Worship**



**Alan Arrington
Prayer**



Men's Choir





Game Night Success!



The Adults took the 'cup' for the win on Game Night 2020. The Youth served cups of ice cream to the adults after a fun evening of games. Many thanks to Dena Williams for organizing and keeping up on track! Great job!



Jacob Graham took Most Valuable Bowler for our night of Lazer Bowling.
Great Job Jacob!



Gusta Arrington shows off her beautiful quilting creation. ***Wonderful, Gusta!***



The American Baptist Women of West Virginia would like to introduce you to our 2020 Mission Outreach Project - Camp Alpha!

The Russian Baptist Union is bringing kids together in Bible study, worship, crafts, games, and fellowship so they can meet Jesus and grow as his disciples in a community of faith. Please join us in providing financial support to Camp Alpha so they can provide a safe and secure environment to the children. Donations can be made through your local church's ABWM-WV Circle group. For questions, please contact Dee Lallmont at dlallmont@yahoo.com.

announcements

**Bible Book of the
Month
April 2020
Zephaniah**



**No
Men's Fellowship
Till further notice**

**All April Meetings
Have been cancelled.**

Each group will meet as needed.

**1st Quarter Business Meeting
has been changed
to May
pending Covid19 mandates**

April Birthdays



**Xavier Donahue—4/7
Michael Casto—4/9
Kyle Hickman—4/10
Debbie Legg—4/14
Violet Donahue—4/15
Melissa Raynes—4/17
Brent Ritchie—4/18
Don Raynes—4/19
Jesse Mize—4/24
Aaron Bennett—4/28
Richard Massey—4/28**

**Is your birthday name
missing?
Tell Susan**

Red Cross Blood Drive

April 1

11:00 set up

End by 6:00 p.m.



Blood Drive!



**Roving Revival
has been
cancelled**

**Women's CIRCLE
Threading continues**



Have you checked out the prayer calendar today?

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



April 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Dale & Anna Vanderlaan	2 Dorothy Varney	3 Quinter Vought	4 Toby & Jennifer Wagoner, John Aaron, Hannah
5 Sami Wagoner	6 Pauline Walker	7 Janyce Watkins	8 Megan Watkins	9 Susan West	10 Danny & Kim Westmoreland	11 Dan & Amy Williams, Cody Kenley Hickman
12 Nick Williams	13 Dave & Dena Williams	14 Jordan Williams	15 Mike & Cara Williams, Deshone, Marcus	16 Kerry Wines	17 Jennie Wise	18 Beth Wood
19 Janet Wood	20 Kevin & Abbi Woods	21 Taylor Woods	22 Geraldine Wright	23 Brandon & Ashlee Wyant, Connor, Beckett	24 Anne Adkins	25 Sharon Adkins
26 Alan & Gusta Arrington	27 Micah Arrington	28 Anna Bailes	29 Gary & Pam Balser	30 Doug & Debby Bashaw		

