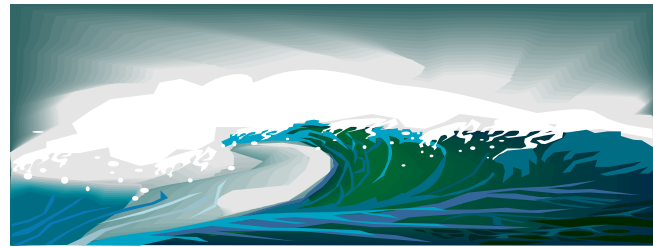




# The *July 2020* Anchor

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



As we enter the month of July, we think of the freedom that we have living in the greatest country on the planet. The personal wealth and vastness of agricultural land that brings about food to all, demonstrates God's love for his people. Just think, we could have been born in any nation on Earth, and God put us here. Even further, is the notion that we live in West Virginia, away from a lot of the problems that plague so many of the other states with violence, rioting, looting, etc. A lot of people might badmouth our state from time to time, but let me tell you, I am proud to be a West Virginian and an American. The Bible tells us, "*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom*" (2 Cor. 3:17, ESV). We know that "*..if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*" (John 8:36, ESV). As we think about Independence Day for our nation, the freedoms we cherish, let us remember that the true freedom each of us have begins with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Without Him, where would we be today? Without a few righteous people living in this great land, like you, where would we be? I will be forever grateful for the men and women who fought for the freedoms we have in this nation that allow us to worship as we please. I am also forever grateful for my Savior, who died for me, while I was still in sin. **Praise be to God!**

I want to thank everyone for coming out to our worship services and watching the services online. It's been interesting, to say the least, not just assembling ourselves in the sanctuary. We are having 9:45 a.m. services outdoor now, which is an hour earlier than normal, but it allows for us to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures. Oh, how I long for the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions to be lifted so that we could get back inside the church and worship from the sanctuary. I know you feel the same way. But, for the time being, we must use what God is allowing us to use, knowing that He is in control. That while we worship outside and online on Facebook, we are reaching some people that we may not reach otherwise. I have to believe that God can use this entire ordeal for good. I have to trust that He will. Perhaps, it's so we all can learn to be a little more patient. Maybe, that's what I need to learn from all of this myself. But walking side-by-side with you, I can do this. Knowing that you pray for me and the deacons as we strive to lead the church in the way that is in accordance with the health regulations and insurance requirements, but also helps reach the lost where they are. Keep praying that God will use the services we have to reach the lost. Wouldn't it be amazing one day to hear that COVID-19 brought me to Christ? God is bigger than we are, and in His infinite wisdom, He can do just that. You and I need to keep doing our part. Stay faithful with our tithing and finances, stay faithful with our prayers, and support the services either online or in-person when we can.

Additionally, I want to pause to congratulate our eleven senior high kids who graduated high school last month. We will be honoring them in our July 5<sup>th</sup> service. We were blessed to have them as a part of our church. Let's hope they continue their journey with the Lord as they enter adulthood and as some move away to college. To close, remember I would tell them all, to keep in mind what Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me*" (ESV). Let us all hold fast to the faith and cling to our Deliverer. In life, it always won't be easy, but we don't have to travel life alone. God will be with you every step of the way. Read your Bible and Pray, and attend church services when you can. He knows the burdens we carry. Yet, Jesus still loves you and me -- immensely. That my friend, is the bold love, that only our Savior can show, and because of the freedom we have in Christ.

In His service,

*Pastor Toby*





Brother's Keepers! Youth Yard Sale! Youth Groups! We have been keeping so busy running and working and learning!

We had 5 BK at Home youth working around Ravenswood - John Wagoner, Nikki Nicholson, Holly Hord, Grace Shirley. Then Lucas Hodge joined us later in the week and helped out. Aaron Wagoner helped a group in Pennsylvania. We met at Bob and Helen's each day for lunch and some pool fun. Check out our video at [brotherskeeperwv.org](http://brotherskeeperwv.org). (Our part starts at 17:40 in the video for Thursday Worship.) We ended our BK week with a meal at Buffalo Wild Wings in Parkersburg.

We have been driving around picking up treasures for the yard sale! Soon the fellowship hall will be bursting with items to sell. Let me know if you have anything to donate if it needs picked up. You can drop it off at the church yourself too. Our yard sale will begin Thursday July 9.

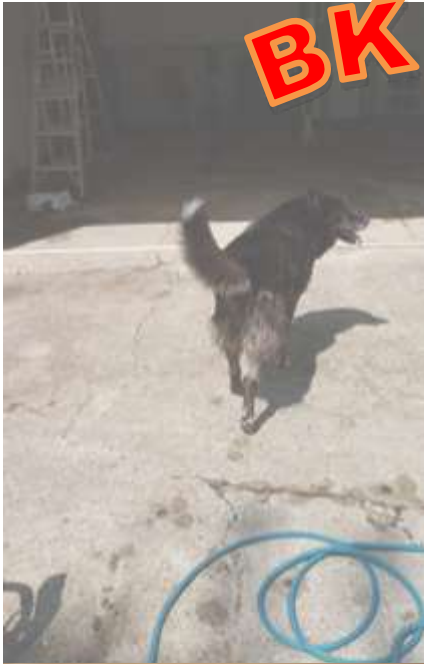
Our youth began meeting again on Wednesday and Sunday nights - social distancing, of course. We've had good numbers at each meeting. We'd like to thank Bob and Helen Johnson for their hospitality and letting us use their pool.

Here are some pics of our activities. Hope you enjoy them!

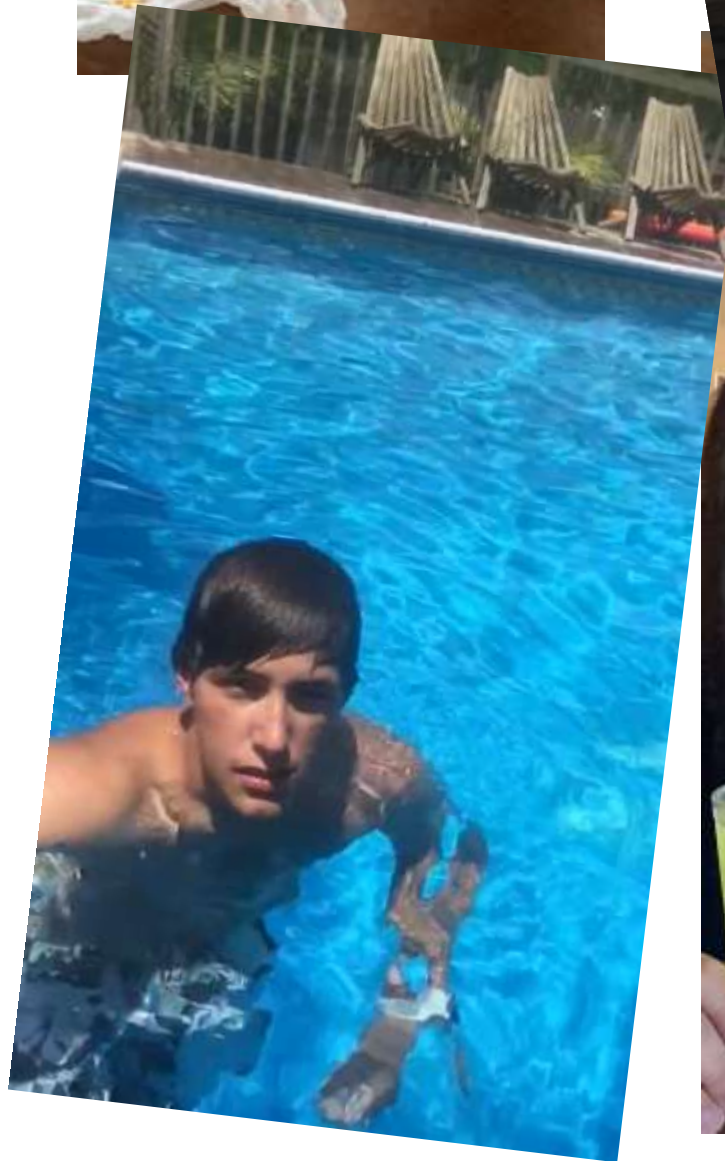




# BK At Home 2020













# Together Again



Youth



## Youth Yard Sale



**Don't forget! The Annual Youth Yard Sale begins Thursday, July 9 and 10 in the Fellowship Ship Hall. Opening will be 8:00 a.m. each day.**

Drop your treasures soon or at least by Wednesday evening July 8. There will be no youth that evening.

Come shop till you drop on Thursday and Friday!

## Senior Youth Activities

Wednesday July 1, the Junior and Senior High youth will be meeting pool side at Bob and Helen Johnson's home from 6:30 to 7:30.

Sunday, July 5 is Graduate Sunday. Ann will be taking our high school graduates out for breakfast. Our morning worship service will be recognizing those graduates. We have 11 who are affiliated with our church and graduated the end of June.

On Sunday evening, there will be no Junior High Youth. *The High School youth will be meeting at the church at 4:30 for a formal dinner and pictures in Parkersburg.*

On July 8, no formal youth gathering this night due to yard sale set up.

## Nominating Committee

One of the most difficult jobs in the church is being on the Nominating Committee. This group will be getting together in July to start reaching out to members who are willing to accept a position at the church.

Please be in prayer for First Baptist Church and where you fit in.



Where two or more are gathered







Together in My Name....



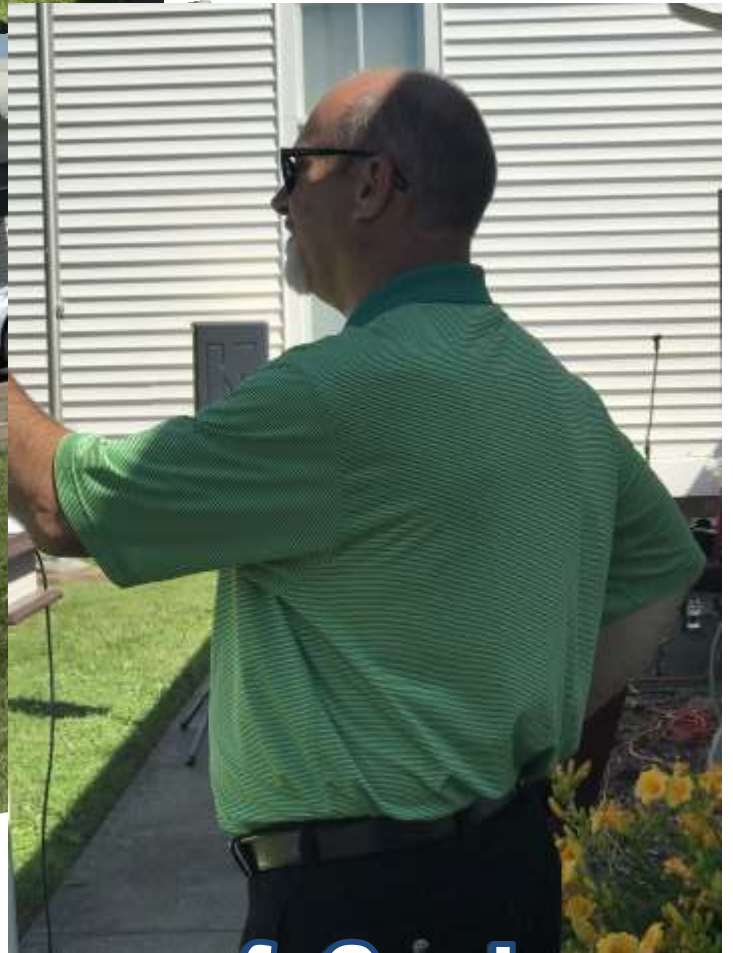


# I am there in the midst





Nothing shall separate us...



from the love of God



**Happy Birthday!!**



**Pastor Toby**

**July 1**

## *In the Sweet By and By*



Beth Wood  
6/4/2020

June was a difficult month for First Baptist. We lost 3 dearly loved members from our congregation. While we have a sense of loss and miss them, we also celebrate with jubilation the fact they are feasting at the table with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

You will be missed by many.



Jim Eubank  
6/9/2020

Anne Adkins  
6/29/2020



*We Shall Meet on that Beautiful Shore*



# My Flag

**Wafting gently on the breeze  
Like a bright-hued butterfly  
It's hard to think this flag has seen  
The brave, the valiant die.**

**Oh she has waved on many shores  
And seen her young ones fall.  
And she has over caskets lain  
When she heard her country call.**

**She's been raised with pride, mid battle cry  
And caught from falling hands.  
She has ruffled all her colors new  
To the swell of marching bands.**

**She has known the sadness, felt the hate  
And watched as grown men cry.  
She's been burned and storm tossed all her days  
But for her I'd gladly die.**

**Wave on, in glory, not disgrace  
For you're treasured and you I love,  
And I'll gladly claim you as my own  
Thanking God that you wave above.**

Carolyn H. Brown  
June 14, 1996  
12:45 p.m.

# Happy Independence Day!

### Focus on Sunday School:

#### **Why Am I Complaining?**

My cross is not too heavy,  
My road is not too rough  
Because God walks beside me  
And to know this is enough...  
And though I get so lonely  
I know I'm not alone  
For the Lord God is my Father  
And He loves me as His own....  
So though I'm tired and weary  
And I wish my race were run  
God will only terminate it  
When my work on earth is done....  
So let me stop complaining  
About my "LOAD OF CARE"  
For God will always lighten it  
When it gets too much to bear....  
And if He does not ease my load  
He will give me strength to bear it  
For God in love and mercy  
Is always near to share it.

*When thou passest through the waters, I will be with Thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned.*

*Isaiah 43:2*



#### **July Birthdays**



**Pastor Toby—7/1**  
**Micah Arrington—7/4**  
**Dena Williams—7/5**  
**Christie Mize—7/5**  
**Allen Palmer—7/5**  
**John Stephenson—7/12**  
**Roger Rader—7/12**  
**Jeff Flesher—7/16**  
**Zach Wood—7/17**  
**Annabelle Flesher—7/19**  
**Jordan Williams—7/19**  
**Carolyn Brown 7/21**  
**Ron Starkey 7/30**

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

#### **Bible Book of the Month July 2020**

#### **Song of Solomon**



#### **Right Now Media Link**

For over a year, FBC people have had the opportunity to enjoy Bible Studies, Children's shows, a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want on *Right Now Media*. There is content for all ages and stages of life.

Some of you have already signed up for it. If not, I encourage you to register today. Here is the link:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/fbcravenswood>



## 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.



# 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ross & April Mellinger, Katie, Logan, Peyton	2 Don & Phyllis Michael	3 Daryl & Roberta Miller	4 Sue Miller
5 Ben & Christie Mize	6 Cari Miz	7 Jesse Mize	8 Josh Mize	9 David & Mary Jo Moore, Hunter	10 Jon & Jane Moore	11 Eugene & Jessica Morgan, Aiden, Jazalyn
12 Rick & Cathy Murray	13 Nikki Nicholson, Allana Reece	14 Megan Noble, Brody	15 John & Jennifer Ortt	16 Allen & Holly Palmer	17 Adam Palmer	18 Tyler & Jennifer Pitts, Owen, Isabella
19 Mick & Susan Price	20 Mary Proctor	21 Amy Perdue	22 Kay Pursley	23 Roger & Belinda Rader	24 Juanita Raines	25 Don & Melissa Raynes
26 Lee & Connie Reynolds	27 Tyler & Michelle Ritchie, Josh, Mary Beth	28 Rhonda Ritchie	29 Brent & Angel Ritchie, Connor, Lincoln, Beckham	30 <b>David &amp; Felisha Scott</b>	31 Darrell & Camille Smith	



# One Nation, Under God