

THE MESSENGER

MAY 2024

FROM MAJOR TREADWAY

The month of May brings the end of Eastertide and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Nestled between these two seasons is Pentecost.



Pentecost is when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. It is the annual reminder to the church throughout the world that it is the Holy Spirit that breathes life into the church and animates our faith.

And just like on that first Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit still has a reputation for being unpredictable. Church is that way, too. We never know who will step through the church doors or who we will encounter beyond the church property. We cannot always anticipate the opportunities we will have to be the Body of Christ, nor where we will have them. But we do know that the Holy Spirit accompanies us and empowers us. Beyond that, we are told, in Romans 8, that the Holy Spirit “helps us in our weakness,” interceding on our behalf “with sighs too deep for words.”

So as these East Tennessee Spring winds blow, be on the lookout. For it was with a sound like a loud rush of wind that Pentecost began in Acts 2. It just might be that the Holy Spirit is stirring. And you don’t want to miss out on whatever the Holy Spirit might be up to.



AN AUDIENCE OF ONE—THOUGHTS ABOUT WORSHIP

By Nenet Measels, Interim Minister of Music

A common misconception in churches today (and has been for a long time) is that the “up front people”—the worship leaders (including pastor, singers, choir, soloists, instrumentalists, Bible readers, etc.) are the performers of worship and the congregation is the audience. Many like to sit back in their seats, fold their arms, and say, “Entertain me. Bless me. Give me a great song and an inspiring sermon.” —a common attitude for our entertainment-driven culture. They are sometimes called “pew potatoes.”

One of the most profound illustrations that has helped me understand the various roles in worship comes from Søren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher, theologian, writer and psychologist, who said:

Worship isn't God's show. God is the audience. God's watching. The congregation, they are the actors in this drama. Worship is their show. And the minister is just reminding the people of their forgotten lines.

Many people view the roles of worship like this:

- The worship leaders are the **performers** of worship. They sing the great songs, preach the powerful sermons, and perform instrumental solos with great precision.
- The congregation is the **audience**. They sit back and take in the great show.
- God is the **prompter** of worship, i.e. He tells the worship leaders what to do—what songs to choose, what passage of scripture to read, etc.

Kierkegaard stated that in corporate worship:

- The people should be the **performers** of worship. They are actively participating in the act of worship.
- The worship leaders are the **prompters** of worship. They lead the congregation on a journey of worship, helping them to voice their praise to God.
- God is the **audience**. He is receiving our offering of worship.

If congregations fully understand that worship is not something done for them, but they are active participants in the journey, it can truly transform worship in our churches. We worship the Audience of One.

(Source: Kenny Lamm, An Audience of One)



FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Ricke Hester, Interim Administrative Coordinator


Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through March 2024

Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 4/24/2024) = \$108.27

	December	January	February	March
Income	\$66,584.74	\$18,379.18	\$45,976.42	\$33,355.16
Expenses	\$30,422.48	\$41,733.71	\$30,169.56	\$29,031.84
Net	\$36,162.26	\$23,354.53	\$15,806.86	\$4,323.32
YTD	\$49,249.30	\$23,354.53	\$7,547.67	\$3,224.35

ATTENDANCE		
SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
April 7	54	98
April 14	59	109
April 21	53	106
April 28	56	95



A.M.O.S. WORK WEEK
JUNE 3 - 7!

For more information or answers to your questions, please contact Ken Morton (865-293-6773).

If you are unable to join every day of the work week, that is okay. You are welcome to help out on the day or days you are available!

WELCOME KELLI EPPS!

Administrative Coordinator



We are very excited and grateful to have Kelli Epps joining us as our new part-time Administrative Coordinator. Kelli and her husband, Allen, have been married for thirty-two years. They have three children: Jake, Nick, and Olivia. Kelli is a lifetime resident of Morristown, Tennessee and is an active member of Manley Baptist Church. She graduated from Walters State Community College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Accounting. Kelli has extensive experience in church administration and corporate accounting. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking, and vacationing to the beach.

Please join us in welcoming Kelli to FBC!

DEACONS' MEETING SUMMARY

April 17, 2024

The Deacons held their monthly meeting on April 17, 2024 in the Agape SS classroom at 4:00 p.m. Ten deacons were present.

Pastor Major Treadway joined the meeting and expressed his thanks to the deacons for their good work in ministering to the members of the church. He expressed his appreciation for the good communication when members are sick or in the hospital and asked the deacons continue to communicate with him and the staff and each other when needs arise. He would like to hear from deacons concerning visits to shut-ins and would welcome their accompaniment on such visits. He asked that he be called to schedule those visits.

Sunday, April 21, will be the first scheduled Church Ministries meeting to be held following a Subway sandwich lunch for members. Ninety people signed up for the lunch. The next Church Ministry meeting/luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, July 21, 2024.

Jim Wilson shared several ideas to connect with neighbors and ways to send e-cards. He also shared some websites of interesting folks who the deacons might want to read and/or share with other members. The church website is being updated. The web address is fbcjeff.org. There is also a way to watch the livestream of the Sunday morning worship service on YouTube each week.

The deacons agreed to a new meeting schedule. They will meet every other month on the third Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. The next two meetings are scheduled for June 19 and August 21. Time will be announced since suppers will not be served in the summer months.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee

2024 has been a busy year for our children and families thus far! Parents participated in Internet Safety Training. We celebrated Easter, and we had a very fun Family Paint Night! Sunday School classes have been having lots of fun learning and playing together, and we're very excited about what's to come this summer.

While all of our summer plans are in the process of being finalized, here are a few things to note:

1. Sunday School will continue through the summer with the exception of three dates: June 2, July 7, and August 4. On these Sundays, babies, toddlers, and preschoolers will still have class, but children in 1st-5th grade are invited to participate in worship with their families.
2. Blessing of the Backpacks will take place on Sunday, August 4! Mark your calendars!

Summer plans will be communicated as soon as they're available. In the meantime, if you have questions or want to get involved with our children's ministry, please let Bethany know!



DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

May 5: Ken Morton & Peggy Dalton/Major Treadway

May 12: Susan Garber & Betty Watkins/Chad Hartsock

May 19: Leon Shoemaker & Karen Smith/Nenette Measels

May 26: Carolyn Blevins & Mel Hawkins/Major Treadway



Senior Fellowship BINGO

Bingo and prizes!
Bring your own lunch and drink.

7TH
MAY

FBC JEFFERSON CITY
FELLOWSHIP HALL

12:00
PM

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies
10:45am Worship Service

CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)
Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at www.fbcjeff.org or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

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