

First Baptist Church of Oakville
 6741 Telegraph Road,
 St. Louis, MO, 63129



We're Going Back To School



First Baptist Church of Oakville
August, 2021 Newsletter

JOHN'S JOTS



Welcome to August!! This year is moving so fast! The Summer is 2/3 over, and soon, the entire year will be 2/3 done. And what a year this has been so far. Who could have expected that, after 15 months, coronavirus would still be dictating the circumstances of our lives? And yet, in spite of the time, the heat, and the corona virus, good things are happening.

I have to remind myself sometimes that God is still in charge, and that He is the Lord of our circumstances, no matter what they are. There has been sickness and heartache this year, some delays and some disappointments. But there has been healing and joy, blessings and victories. This life challenges us sometimes, and reminds us that we have to be patient in the process. Because God is in charge, the outcome is His. Thank God for that!

Katy Brumbaugh and Sean McGinnis are our Summer interns. They have worked with Rich Townsend, Steve and Ronda Brown, and our youth on mission to Love Packages, Fairmont City, a Summer float trip, and other activities. Please support Katy and Sean with your prayers and your encouragement—they have stood in the gap in this pandemic altered Summer. I am grateful that our Church family sees the value of student internships. The many young people who have served as interns through the years have proved a great blessing to our Church. My prayer is that they have been blessed by working with us. We pray God's rich blessings on Katy and Sean as they return to school this Fall. May they continue serving the Lord.

School starts in a few days. And who knows what this school year will look like, whether online or onsite, masked or unmasked. Please pray for all our teachers, for our pupils, and for their families, as they struggle together to educate the next generation of America's leaders. Only the future will tally the full cost of the pandemic on our children, our society, and our lives. But God made children durable and flexible—they can adjust to amazing challenges. I wish I could keep some of that durability and flexibility, don't you?

Our Church Council meets this Sunday. We will discuss our Fall schedule and what we can and cannot do, given that Covid-19 is still spreading. Please pray for our Council leaders as we consider the needs of our congregation, and the opportunities God is giving us to minister in Jesus' name. My heartfelt thanks to all who have faithfully supported our worship with your attendance or tuning in to watch, supported our ministry with your giving, and supported our Church family with your prayers.

The Nominating Committee is continuing their important work for the new year. Many have served faithfully for several years, and you continue serving. That is such a blessing to our Church. And some new folks are also serving in several ways, and that is a blessing, too. What is your **ministry?** Contact the Nominating Committee if you have any questions or feel that God is leading you to serve our Church in a particular ministry. We will hear their report in our September business meeting.

Gratefully Your Pastor
John Hessel

August Birthdays



- Brenda Robbins, Bob White.....2
- Norma Blank.....3
- Tyler Dierker.....4
- Barb Gray, Maggie McGinnis.....8
- Jim O'Shea.....9
- Becky Schulte, Dorothy Renner.....12
- Gwen Morris.....13
- Joey Emmons.....14
- Jerry Bishop.....16
- Iris Coats.....17
- Emily Schellhase, David Jacobi.....18
- Jean Rivers, Deb Gacem, Beth Boxx.....19
- Linda Downs, Kathy Johnston.....20
- Dixie O'Shea, Suzanne McGinnis.....21
- John Stanley.....23
- Sandra Caulfield, Mike Parker.....27
- Pastor John.....28
- Diane McDermott.....31

God Bless You on Your Birthday!

Coming In August

- Church Council.....2
- W.M.U Meeting.....8
- Red Cross Blood Drive.....10
- Building and Grounds Meeting.....11

Join us for Worship
Each Sunday—10:00 am
On Site or Online

GWEN'S Gallery

All In by Mark Batterson

Half way is no way to live! Quit Holding back. Quit holding out. It's time to go all in and all out for God.

The gospel costs nothing, but it demands everything. It's all or nothing.

Batterson writes, "When did we start believing that God wants to send us to safe places to do easy things? That faithfulness is holding the fort? That playing it safe is safe? That there is any greater privilege than sacrifice? That radical is anything but normal? Jesus didn't die to keep us safe. He died to make us dangerous."

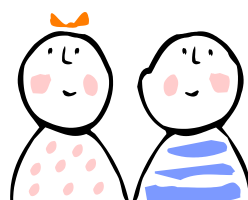
Many people believe they are following Jesus when, in reality, they have invited Jesus to follow them. Mark Batterson calls it the inverted gospel. He challenges you to go all in and all out by fully surrendering your life to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

If Jesus is not Lord of all, then He's not Lord at all.

Crisis Shot by Janice Cantore

Tess O'Rourke dreams of becoming the first female chief of police in Long Beach, California. As commander of the East Division, she is well on her way . . . until the night she responds to a call and fatally shoots an unarmed teenager. Despite being cleared of wrongdoing by a grand jury, Tess is so hounded by the public that she takes a job in Oregon to escape the bad press.

Winning over the residents of Rogue's Hollow might be more difficult than adjusting to her new role as police chief in the small, backwater town. Especially when her closest friend, the pastor's wife, goes missing and the woman's cousin is found shot. Tess finds an ally in sheriff's deputy Steve Logan, but as they track down Rogue's Hollow's first murderer, she worries that she's breaking one of her rules and getting too close to him.



**Please pray that our
Kidz Kollege
can safely resume
someday soon!!**

Kids Praise

Good afternoon! I hope your having a good day!

August is here, which means Kids' Praise is starting again! This month, we will be working on a mission project that will take us outside (weather permitting) periodically. What are we doing, you ask? You will just have to wait and see!

If you have any questions about precautions to keep our children safe, feel free to contact me at 314-435-3958. I cant wait to see your kiddos!

We Praise God by loving one another and we show that love through RESPECT.

Cyndi Harmon



A Note from Minister of Worship John Gorse



Greetings Everyone,

I hope you are all staying cool in another hot St. Louis midwest summer. Have you ever desired for God to do something in your life or a situation? I know that seems like a silly question because, as Christians, I think we have all wanted God to work in our lives. In fact, that is part of the function of prayer, that we petition God our needs and wants, hopefully in accordance with His Will, and that He will respond. Here in lies the sticky point.

We want God to act quickly on our time frame, and when it doesn't happen, we tend to grumble and get frustrated. Of course, when God is wanting us to do something like Moses or Jonah, we tend to make excuses or drag our feet in saying yes, and we usually don't recall those times... but once again I digress.

Rushing into something or going ahead and doing things our way, when we think we can help God when He is not getting things done as quickly as we would like, is not always the best solution, and in fact it rarely is. God is supremely capable, and has His own perfect time.

In the sermon series Pastor John is giving about the patriarchs of the Bible, we learned about how Abraham and Sarah chose to not wait for God to make him the father of the Jewish nation, and he had a child, Ishmael, with Hagar that has created havoc in the Middle East and for the world for thousands of years. If Abraham had only waited and kept with God's timeline, we can only imagine how events would have been better.

To make things real and bring it up to date, our church is embarking on a new building program with a welcome center and an elevator and new bathrooms and showers. We also have a pastor search committee that is looking diligently for a new pastor to lead our church. Both of these endeavors have recently experienced setbacks that have caused a pause in the building program and a reset in the pastor search. These may be frustrating a bit to many, if not all, because we want things to happen now and immediately, and many times yesterday, but in God's eyes, sometimes we are called to just wait. It's against our will many times, but in the long run it's just the right thing. In the song of Psalms 130:5-8 it states: *5 I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. 6 I wait for the LORD more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. 7 Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. 8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.* This is a difficult lesson to learn at times for me, and it's tough to wait on the Lord, but it is ultimately the very best for us. May we all have patience as we wait upon the Lord, as He works His plan in our church.

On a personal note it has been wonderful to see all the people in the unified 10 o'clock service on Sunday mornings. At this time, I'm hoping to resurrect God's Choir at Oakville Music Ministry in September, and hopefully, begin preparing for the Christmas Cantata. I do know that we are experiencing challenges with the new Covid variant, and we will have to make decisions based on what develops. Please stay safe and, just to let you all know, I chose to get the vaccine and pray that you make the right decision for you and your family.

May God Continue You to Bless Abundantly and I Love You All,

John Gorse