

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RAMSEY



FBC RAMSEY NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2020

We miss you! Just a couple of weeks into the Covid-19 "social distancing" mandate, and we are already aching to be together again! But just because we cannot meet in person, does not mean we cannot still worship together, pray together and be the Church together. The Church is not a building you go to, but a family you belong to. We are the Church and will continue to be the Church no matter what!

We are working to stay connected while limiting interaction. The next few pages contain details on where you can find information about our new schedules and the variety of ways God is providing for us to communicate. Please stay in touch and remember that you are not alone!



Praise the Lord, all nations! Glorify Him, all people! For great is His faithful love to us; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Hallelujah! - Psalm 117

Fear seems to be the currency of today (well, fear and toilet paper). But **we have no cause for fear, especially when we are reminded of who God is.** He is the Lord, which means He is in charge of all things. He was not taken by surprise by this virus and the changes to our lifestyle. He has a purpose and plan in all of this. Remember all the times people's lives were upset in Scripture: Noah, Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, etc... In the Bible we see that when God does something amazing, He moves people and situations around in order to be a greater witness and demonstration of His power. Because of this reality we can glorify God. **We look to Him and know He is going to be lifted up and known in the Earth because of this situation.** He will be clearly seen and known by so many more people because of this situation. *Ministry is happening all around us these days and in ways we never would have thought possible!*

When God is clearly seen and known, then **we experience the love He has for us.** We have seen His love as His presence has been in each of our homes when we worship together separately. Online worship has been a challenge for us, for sure. But it has accomplished several things. First, because of it, we can still worship "together." No, it's not the same, but it's better than the alternative... not worshipping together! Second, this is NOT the new normal. Online worship has reignited within many of us the need and desire to be together as a family. *When we do get to come together again, what a service that is going to be!!!!* But we have seen and experienced His love through this, even with all the technical difficulties.

Finally, **we see the Lord's faithfulness as we endure.** There are always concerns whenever challenges arise, and we never quite know what to expect. But we have seen God work through you in the midst of all this chaos. Your faithfulness to His church during this time has been such a blessing for me to experience. Continue to pray for each other. Continue to love each other. Continue to give to each other. *Continue to Know Him and make Him known to each other.*

See you soon,

JEFF



CONGRATULATIONS!

**Danielle Hill, daughter of Jay & Laura Hill,
gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on
March 13!**

**We are doing a virtual diaper shower for
this new little one!**

**You can order diapers online and have
them shipped to 827 Johnson Street,
Vandalia, IL 62471.**

**Or you can drop them off at the church
during office hours and we will deliver.**

Some great things happened last month!

On Sunday, March 15, the church voted unanimously to elect Travis Elliott & Will Hayes to the office of Deacon! These men have already been serving faithfully in the church and are well-equipped to serve in this new way. During the service the men shared their personal testimonies and what it means for them to serve as deacons: the higher responsibility as well as the humble role. We are thankful God has raise up these men as leaders and servants in our church family!

Deacon Ordination



Deacons Pictured Right:

Mike Hayes
Will Hayes
Jim Lay
Gerald Casey
Travis Elliott
David McFarland



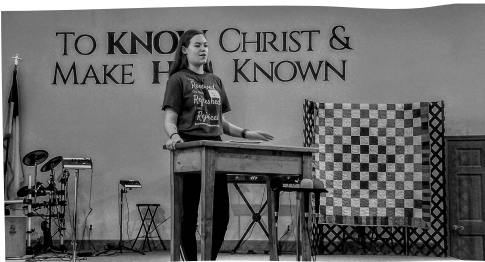
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R3 Girls Conference

On Saturday, March 14, girls in 7th thru 12th grades enjoyed a time of worship, teaching and having fun together.

The girls learned how to keep their hearts and minds refreshed through God's Word, forgiveness and prayer; how to renew their relationships with God and one another; and how to rejoice every day with their words and actions.

Special thanks to the R3 Women's Ministry who sponsored the conference and all the women worked to make this ministry successful!



YOUTH & KIDS

SIBLINGS AT CHURCH...



We know being out of school and unable to go anywhere is hard! But we're so excited about all the amazing opportunities that technology gives us! Online field trips, streaming movies, and free resources are great! Check out our website and Facebook pages for links to some amazing sites!

SIBLINGS ON DAY 8 OF "SHELTER IN PLACE"...



SEND US YOUR PICS!
OFFICE@FBCRAMSEY.ORG

YOUTH- Download the **Zoom** app and come be part of our weekly online video chats! We are discussing the daily devotions found in your Sunday School book on Zoom **every Tuesday & Thursday @ 7pm.**

New video devotions are being added to our **YouTube channel** every week. These videos are for youth AND kids- Watch, Share & Enjoy!

Caution: Do Not Worry.

Consider the ravens: They don't sow or reap; they don't have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than the birds? Can any of you add a cubit to his height by worrying? If then you're not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest?

Luke 12:24-26

While many of us have scavenged together supplies to wait out this virus, it is important that we keep our focus on our God who provides. Worry is both destructive and deceptive. Worry causes us to think and do things we know are wrong. On a deeper level our worry is destructive to our trust in God. Worry brings a distorted view of our lives, the situation, and God. It convinces us that we need more provisions or that we are against the world. Jesus's illustration of the raven should remind us that everything is in His mighty hands. The raven does not even take its meals into its own hands. It depends completely on God for every meal, and it is provided. God loves us so much He died and took the punishment of our sins for us. Surely He cherishes us even more than a bird. Our worry is almost exclusively things out of our control or we would not worry. But nothing is out of God's control, and He cares greatly for us. So, I caution you not to worry, but to rejoice that God is in control. Few things may give greater glory to our God than our trust in Him when we need Him most.

~Andrew

**First Baptist Church
Ramsey, IL 62080**

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Jeff Shouse, Pastor

PastorJeff@fbcramsey.org

Andrew Lewis, Pastor of Students

PastorAndrew@fbcramsey.org

Please note our abbreviated office hours are M-F 8am-12noon

Stay up-to-date on our website: www.fbcramsey.org

Worship Together!

Sunday School Discussion @ 9am

Streaming LIVE on Facebook & YouTube

Sunday Worship Service @ 10am

Streaming LIVE on Facebook & YouTube

Also airing on WTRH @ 10:03am & 5:03pm

Bible Study Wednesdays @ 7pm LIVE on Facebook

Need help? We have people willing to assist with food/prescription pickup, technical issues, prayer and more. Contact the church office and we will get you connected!



Find us on
Facebook



YouTube



WTRH 93.3 FM