

# Easter 2020



## FBC Ramsey Newsletter, May 2020



Celebrating Easter this year while maintaining physical distance was a very memorable experience! We loved seeing your faces through your car windows and honking and waving at one another! We will always remember the sound of car horns during worship and seeing Pastor Jeff preach from a bucket truck! But the best part was knowing that we were not alone as we celebrated our Risen Savior and the victory He gives us when we place our lives in His hands!

If you missed it you can go to [www.FBCRAMSEY.org](http://www.FBCRAMSEY.org) for a link to watch the full service on our YouTube channel.

# From Pastor Jeff

*"For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory." 2 Cor. 4:17*

What a weird year it has been. We are living in a momentous time of history which will define society for a while. We will tell stories of our isolation and of being sequestered in our homes. Many of us have cabin fever and are itching to get out and go places and do stuff. It is so easy to be overwhelmed by our circumstances right now. Everything is magnified and overblown. But this time, which no doubt is challenging, has been good for many people too.

First, it has elevated our desire to be in **community** with each other. I miss you guys! But instead of wallowing in that negative feeling, I have begun to anticipate our reunion and are getting things in motion to celebrate that day! The people I have seen during this time have been a blessing to sit and talk with (from six feet away). I relish the moments we have had, and I look forward to more of that.

Second, this time has forced us to be **creative**. We have been stretched in our actions and mindsets. We have adjusted the way we do ministry with online streaming, online events, Sunday School in unusual ways, etc... But we have adjusted our mindset as well. We could sit back and be discouraged because we can't do the things we used to do, or we can see this as an opportunity to try something new.

Third, "**Be still still and know I am God**" has never been more real. The Scriptures have come alive during this pandemic. And I'm not talking about some doomsday prophecy for the end of the world, but rather about being able to see God fulfill His promises in Scripture: I am with you! I will never leave you! I will always provide for you! And the list goes on and on. So I encourage you to take this time and use it as an advantage and not so much as a nuisance. **It's not an obstacle, it is an opportunity.** It is not as much of a curse as it is a blessing. Look to Him, and we'll see each other soon.

Following Him,

*Jeff*



**Preaching to an empty building is hard, but it's easier knowing that you're tuning in online and on the radio!**

# Volunteer Spotlight Candi Hayes



*Candi plays piano as part of our worship team & keeps our church building looking beautiful, too! Here are some fun facts about her:*

- I started playing piano for church when I was in the 6th grade
- I love playing anything for the Lord, but recently I have enjoyed playing "How Great Thou Art" in worship.
- I enjoy being part of the worship team because I can feel the music in a different way when we're all playing together. It adds more depth to the music and feels good when we're all worshipping together.
- I don't have much free time, but when I do, I really enjoy pursuing my dream of becoming a barber.



***Thanks, Candi, for coming to play in person while we worship together online!***

## Youth & Kids

YOUTH are meeting several times a week on Zoom to discuss their daily devotions, play games and encourage one another. Pastor Andrew posts weekly Bible studies on our YouTube channel as well! Make time to join the discussion and stay connected to the group! [Tues/Fri/Sun @ 7pm] Contact Pastor Andrew to be invited to the Zoom meeting.



FBKids have been studying the Armor of God and the Parables of Jesus with their families. There are new videos by Macey Heselton just for kids on our YouTube channel with more coming soon! Our website also includes several downloadable resources. If you want these resources printed and delivered to you please contact Pastor Andrew.

## Youth Dessert Auction

**Because we could not meet in person, this year's dessert auction was held online.**

**Thirty-six desserts were donated by our church bakers, and many people from the church and community participated in the auction on Saturday, April 25.**

**Over \$2600 was raised for the Youth Mission Trip!**

**Thank you so much for your support and generosity!**

# From Pastor Andrew

## From Fear to Forgiveness

In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because of their fear of the Jews. Then Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" Having said this, He showed them His hands and His side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." After saying this, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." John 20:19-23

Fear has spread across our great nation and the globe. All over the world people are locked away from each other. Like our current situation the disciples also locked themselves away in fear after the death of Christ. They feared the Jews might come for them next. But Jesus did not stay dead, He walked out of the grave and through the locked room of the disciples. He brought them peace when they had fear. Christ still brings peace today in the midst of our fears. Not even death can defeat our God, so what is there then to fear? Even still He offered more than peace, He restored their faith and proclaimed they could be forgiven. Jesus still does this for me and you today. He knows when we are hurting. He knows the guilt we hold in our hearts and the shame we have for our failures. In knowing these things He has the power to bring us peace and freedom from them. He did not look down on the disciples for their fears but offered them something better. We know this virus will come to an end, but Christ calls us to return on a mission and equips to complete it. He gave the Holy Spirit to us and the disciples so we could tell the world of the forgiveness and peace that is only found through Him. Our life after this virus should reflect the change in the disciples. To bring peace to a hurting world. To declare in both actions and speech that Jesus has made a way to free us from our pain, guilt, and shame if we just trust in Him. I ask you to join me in prayer during this time, ask God for the power to live boldly for Him. To show you what difference you can make when we return. My prayer is that every believer comes out of this time with a renewed passion to share the gospel and glorify a Holy God.

*Andrew*



Pastor Andrew interviews a special guest on YouTube

# Class of 2020

## Marshall Clark



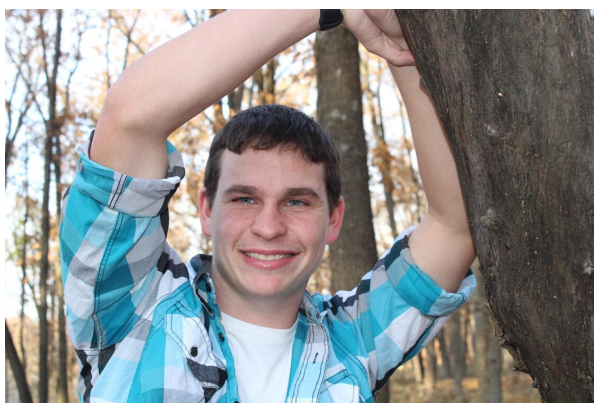
Marshall has enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard. He leaves for basic training on July 20 to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He will then do training in Springfield for Military Police. He will be attending Community College while in the Guard.

Maddi's future plans are to become a combat medic in the Army Reserves, and attend Illinois College as a pre-med student. She then plans to sign another contract with the Army to go to medical school and become a military physician, while running her business.

## Maddi Hayes



## Hayden Seaton



Hayden plans to attend the University of Evansville, Indiana, in the fall where he will study sports communication. While there, he hopes to play basketball once he recovers from knee surgery.

Kianna plans to attend Nyack College in New York City. She will be living just outside of Manhattan starting in September. She will major in Childhood Education and Bible. After getting her Bachelor's degree, she plans to become an elementary teacher in the inner city.

## Kianna Shouse



**We are so proud of our graduates!**

**Even though your senior year has been crazy, we know that God is in control and has a special plan for your life.**

**We are praying for you as you step into the next adventure!**