

People
FOCUSED



Church is
not a
place - it's
a people!

Newsletter, June 2020



From Pastor Jeff

"The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all"

Psalm 34:19

Nothing in this year has gone as we have planned. Being "at-home" with all the new social distancing rules have really made us take a step back and reflect and change how we do many things as a church. There have been many lessons we have learned through all of this:

1. **The church isn't a building or a place.** We've talked a lot about this in the past but these last few months have really highlighted this fact. I have heard and seen ministry happening in so many places (some rather unusual) besides the church building these past few months. It is exciting to see God at work in so many different avenues.
2. **The church isn't just you or me, but "we".** There is a reason Jesus said "Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them." The Scriptures also remind us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. I have heard it time and time again: we really have missed each other.
3. **God is bigger than any sickness or fear.** He has still been active and working in our lives and in the lives of those around us. In this time, I personally have been able to share the Gospel with more people than in any other time in ministry.
4. Finally, one thing that I already knew but that has been reinforced in such a dramatic way is that **you are faithful.** You have been faithful in so many ways through all this. You have been faithful in participating online even when it was weird and uncomfortable. You have been faithful in your generosity. The church is actually in better financial shape than it was before the virus! And you have been faithful to look out for each other and pray for each other in all this.

Thank you so much! I am so proud to be called your pastor. You make life and ministry such a joy and privilege for me and my family. You people are AWESOME!!! The great news is that we are opening up the doors, and we all get to come home again! All our regular schedules and activities will slowly and cautiously be restarting this month and we are looking forward to seeing how God is going to use this challenge in the months ahead. We understand and support your decision about your own personal timing in coming home to the building, so we will continue to stream online & on the radio as much as we can for the time being. You are loved.

Following Him,

Jeff

Church is opening June 7!

- **Sunday School for all ages in person (with adjustments)**
- **Worship Service with distancing guidelines**
- **Bible Study on site Sunday nights at 6pm for adults & youth**

We Care About Your Health!

- **The building has been cleaned thoroughly and will be disinfected in between gatherings**
- **Doors will be propped open, offering stations will be set up and physical contact will be limited**
- **See our website for the full list of guidelines & precautions**
- **If you are sick or at risk or simply not comfortable coming, please stay home! We will continue to put the service online!**

From Pastor Andrew

Camp was something I was excited for every summer. I accepted Christ at my first camp, and I made friendships that have lasted into my adult life. The weeklong camps when I was in youth radically changed my relationship with God. It is always amazing what a week of focusing on worshiping God and seeking His will for your life will do.

I remember my first camp when I was in youth being so excited. But I was taken aback when I saw a kid from my school was going with us. His name was Jordan, I knew him from school because we had to eat lunch at assigned tables. My class had gotten punished with assigned lunch tables due to fights during lunch and other forms of bullying. No one was happy about the new seating arrangement and this is where I got to know Jordan. I have always been outspoken and an open book about my life, feelings, and faith. Jordan did not like my life, feelings, or faith. He was quick to remind me of this each day at lunch. In short me and Jordan spent most of that school year arguing about everything under the sun. I was not happy to see Jordan in the church parking lot that morning as we loaded the bus for camp. Camp was the one week out of the year I could leave behind all my family drama and worries. Now one of the biggest problems from school was tagging along. Jordan was no happier to be going than I was that he was coming. He did not want to go but a sweet lady from the church paid his way and he was forced to go with two friends of his. That week all three boys were saved, and their lives were drastically changed. It took me sometime to accept what I was seeing. But over the course of that summer I became great friends with these three guys- especially Jordan. We realized our lives were similar in more ways than we would like for each other. We both were caught in the aftermath of young divorced parents with shifty priorities. The hurt we felt as kids and teens was similar in many ways, only I had met Jesus a little sooner. We connected not only on Jesus and family but had to deal with losing a loved one at a young age. In a short time, we became best friends- no, we became brothers. Jordan is currently pursuing the same degree in ministry as I am. Matt, one of the boys Jordan came to camp with, is currently in training for mission work to unreached people groups. Mitchell, who is Matt's twin that went to camp with us, currently serves in his local church anyway he can and is really on fire for Christ.

I know what change Christ brought in my life, and I have witnessed how he changed the lives of these three friends of mine. *My prayer is that many more teens will have a similarly eye-opening experience at camp this summer.* I am excited to announce that our church youth group will be going to Rehoboth Camp on June 15th-19th to worship and grow closer to God. If you would like to help with meals, activities, discipleship, worship, or have a teen that can join us please contact me at (352) 267-8022. Due to COVID-19 we will be using this time to invest into the youth God has already put in our care. I believe this will be a time of spiritual growth that will better equip us for the future.

Youth Group Camp
June 15-19
Rehoboth Baptist Camp
Contact Pastor Andrew for details



Volunteer Spotlight Gerald & Laurna Casey

This couple has been part of our church family since 1992, and now we're not sure what we would do without them! Not only do they lead from the front in their roles as Deacon/Sunday School teacher/Funeral Dinner Coordinator, but they also serve in many unseen ways. Gerald changes lightbulbs and fixes toilets (among other things) while Laurna pulls weeds and pesters the pastors (don't worry- they deserve it).

- **What do you enjoy doing when you're not at church?**

Gerald -eating out occasionally, bow hunting, ice fishing, fishing in general and meeting with friends.

Laurna -eating out, visiting with family and friends, and of course, playing with their great granddaughter Olivia.

- **What have you missed most about not meeting in person for church the last few months?**

Gerald- seeing everybody (Gerald has been teaching in our online Sunday School discussion, so he has actually been at church each week!)

Laurna- meeting with our Sunday School class and singing with the whole church

Thanks, Gerald & Laurna for all you do for FBC Ramsey!

**VBS is coming soon!
Mark your calendar
August 3-7**



About Re-Opening...

We understand everyone may not feel comfortable returning to normal activities. So we will continue to put our services online and on the radio for this month. Stay connected from home in the following ways:

Sunday School Discussion @ 9am

Streaming LIVE on Facebook & YouTube

Sunday Worship Service @ 10am

Streaming LIVE on Facebook & YouTube

Also airing on WTRH @ 10:03am & 4:45pm

Bible Study Wednesdays @ 7pm LIVE on Facebook

Get the latest info on our website:

www.fbcramsey.org

**Welcoming back our
kids & youth!!
June 7**

**Sunday
School for all
ages
at 9am**

Children's Church

Kids in Pre-K thru 6th grade will
learn VBS music during the
service on Sundays

Nursery will be open
for parent use only.
Service will be
broadcast to
nursery.

**Wednesdays
Ignite Youth
@ 7pm**

**Mission Kids
on
Summer Break**

**Youth LIT
Sundays @ 6pm
At the Church**

Summer Lunch Program

The lunch program will begin in June. We are collecting peanut butter, jelly and individually wrapped snacks.

Donations can be dropped off in the basket in the foyer or in the box by the office.

We also need volunteers to distribute lunches on Thursdays. Call the office or contact Sue Albert to be part of ministering to our community in this way.

First Baptist Church Ramsey, IL 62080

2756 US Hwy 51
Ramsey, IL 62080

Phone: 618-704-7655
Email: office@fbcramsey.org
www.fbcramsey.org

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
AUTOCR
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RAMSEY, IL
PERMIT NO. 10

Jeff Shouse, Pastor
PastorJeff@fbcramsey.org

Andrew Lewis, Pastor of Students
PastorAndrew@fbcramsey.org

June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Open!! Sunday School 9am Worship Service 10am Bible Study 6pm	8	9	10 Business meeting 7pm	11	12	13
14 Church Council calendar meeting 7pm	15 Youth Group Camp →	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 RHS Graduate Recognition	29	30				