From the Pastor

“I Never Thought I Would Experience Something Like This.”
-Kaelyn Smithers, 9 years old, commenting to her parents while watching Sunday, March 22 service online.

~

Dear Kaelyn,

Me too!
And I thank you and family for watching broadcast of worship last Sunday.

It was odd. I missed seeing you at the children’s table along with so many kind and familiar faces.

I was worn out driving to church Monday. And receiving this photo of you and your family lifted my spirits.

~

First generation Christians 2,000 years ago—worshipped in households—you are part of a rich heritage!

~

And we are going to do all we can during this outbreak—to continue our connection with you and all members/guests at Third. If any of our church members are aware of need—they can drop me an email and I’ll contact our deacons and volunteers to assist.

As you can see when you come into our sanctuary—we have several beautiful grandmas and grandpas who attend. And we’ll contact weekly—making sure they have enough food, cleaning or medical supplies.

~

Kaelyn, I have an idea—you’re a gifted artist. I think some of our grandmas and grandpas would love a picture from you. We all need to use our God given gifts to bless and serve others—who are vulnerable during this outbreak.

If you need a name—have your mom or dad drop me a note and I’ll pass along.

~

Kaelyn, I don’t know if you’re a fan of history—but I found an interesting document in Third’s archives.

~

Do you remember last Sunday I talked about Dr. William Henry Geistweit—who pastored our church from 1917-1923?

~

Dr. Geistweit lead Third during World War I and a terrible epidemic called The Spanish Flu—670,000 lives were lost in our country (1,700 in Saint Louis).

continued on page two

Third Base | 1
I found copies of Third Baptist newsletters from 1918. Here’s a photo of Sunday, October 27, 1918.

The bulletin is a Home Edition— a guide for Third Members—to worship at home during this pandemic.

Here’s a word from Dr. Geistweit to Third Members unable to arrive at the corner of Grand and Washington for worship (102 years ago)—here’s a pic of our church in 1918.

No service next Sunday is the word that comes to us from this writing. Yet life moves on, the sun rises and sets, and the clock ticks away the hours.

The work of the Kingdom goes on also. God does not stop, the great war does not stop; GOD’S PEOPLE will not stop, in faithfulness, devotion, loyalty to the things without which we are a lost people...

So... gather together again in homes. Sing the songs of Zion. Pray for Peace. Pray the plague does not come by your dwelling.

O people of Third! What a joy to have a part in such business. You will stand—more loyal than ever.

The next page will intimate a method of home worship...

-Sunday, October 20, 1918
Dr. Geistweit

And Kaelyn, 102 years later— in the midst of another plague— please review this issue of Third’s newsletter—you will discover options for worship, discipleship and missions. And be sure to pass on to your family.

You continue to be strong and courageous.
I can’t wait until we are all back together again.

And I hope you can join our broadcast Sunday at 11am.

Your friend, Tommy
We welcome these new members into our beloved community of faith.

Lawrence Bordoh

Alisha

Alisha’s children: Serena, David and Isaac

Worship

There will be no public worship on April 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Please join us at 11:00 AM on Sunday on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ThirdBaptistChurch/ or our YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoQu01t8YQ3Eu-DRlboyCkw.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 PM and a Good Friday service on Friday, April 10 at 7:00 PM. Both services will be available on Facebook and YouTube.
Update from Global Missions Committee

Judy Parham, Chair

Easter is the commemoration of the new life we can each have as a result of Christ’s death on the cross and resurrection from death. Which happened as a result of God’s love for us. At this time of year the Missions Committee brings to the attention of the church a Home Missions project that needs help to bring life to the project. Through our prayers and financial support of these projects, we show God’s love to others.

This year the committee was struggling to find a project that seemed to connect with our church body. None of our ideas seemed to be the right one. Then the tornado hit Tennessee. We learned the CBF of Tennessee was planning to help with recovery effects. We felt this was a project Third could really get behind, through prayer, financial support and perhaps manpower. I contacted the person in charge of this effort and found the plans were not yet formulated. Our planning for the Easter offering was formulating as the stock market was dropping. We felt perhaps this wasn’t a good time to ask the congregation to give financially but rather to focus on education about the impact the tornado had on that community, focus on prayer support as CBF discerns how to help the residents to recover and ask God’s guidance as to how we might help.

While waiting for more information from CBF, the Coronavirus began making a larger and larger impact on lives here and around the world. As we heard more information about the number of lives that are being affected by the disease, by lose of income, by closing of institutions, this year’s Easter emphasis became very clear. The project to support – give life to and show God’s love was right here in front of each of us. Rather than asking for a monetary offering, we are asking that each of us be in prayer for and give support emotionally and materially if needed to each member of our church, our families, friends, all of God’s people-all people. With God’s guidance, Pastor Tommy is the lead on this project. We ask that each of you do what you can to give life to this project and extend an extra dose of God’s love to all.
Preschool Discipleship Opportunities
As we continue to adjust schedules to the covid-19 outbreak, preschool parents should look for a short discipleship lessons for preschoolers and their families to be emailed each week. These lessons will be emailed on Thursday afternoon in preparation for Sunday.

Meeting Needs in Our Community
Each week, our ministerial staff and volunteers are reaching out to those in our congregation who are vulnerable. If we learn of a need from one of our members, the pastor is notified. The pastor will contact our deacons or a volunteer who is able to meet that need.

Food Pantry
Food Pantry is scheduled for Saturday, April 18. We do not need volunteers. We will be distributing pre-packaged bags with food and hygiene items from the ramp door. To practice social distancing, clients will not be allowed in the building.

Discipleship
There will be no Fellowship Dinner or Adult Bible study on Wednesdays during month of April.

For adults, each week, Tommy will email Sunday School materials.

For youth and children, Drew will be emailing some Lenten practices for home. Additionally, he will email families with children a video of a Godly Play lesson, which is used in Children’s Church. The youth are meeting each week on Wednesday at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

For preschoolers, each week, Maria will email a devotional and activities to parents. These devotionals are focused on the Lord’s Prayer.
For Families,

Please note that all regularly scheduled and other events through April 29 are canceled.

In place of Sunday School and Wednesday night in the coming weeks I will be emailing some Lenten ideas and suggestions to practice at home.

I will send a short Godly Play video, an abbreviation of what we do in Children’s Church to share with parents of children.

The youth will meet on Zoom at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays.

For the last few weeks in Sunday School our youth have been using the Examen prayer, an ancient form to help:

Use this template to foster discussion and prayer as individuals and as a family:

- **Begin with a posture of gratitude:** Recall one or two experiences that filled you with hope and happiness.
- **Ask for the light of the Holy Spirit to see my day honestly and fully:**
  - Pause for a moment to gain some perspective so that you may recall the whole of your day.
- **Slowly review your day:**
  - See the faces of the people you met and the places you have been. Recall things you thought said and felt.
- **When did you experience beauty, joy, freedom, generosity? When did your heart grow bigger and lighter?**
  - **When did you experience anxiety, fear, cynicism, bitterness?**
  - **When did your heart grow smaller and heavier?**
- **Ask for forgiveness for any time of selfishness:** Admit where you have fallen short of living as your best self. Place these moments into God’s heart.
- **Look toward tomorrow in hope and confidence:** Tomorrow offers another chance to live more freely, joyfully, and generously.
- **Close with a prayer or words of your choosing.**

For children it might look more like this:

- **What brought me sadness today?**
- **What brought me joy today?**
- **What was the best thing that happened today?**
- **I would like to thank God for__________.**

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1 From Saint Louis University Office of Mission and Identity
2 From Rev. Hannah Coe, FBC Jefferson City, MO
Administration

The church has opened an account with Zoom, a teleconference platform. If a committee would like to meet via Zoom, please contact Maria Stinnett to set up a meeting. Zoom can be accessed on a PC, Mac or phone. For more information on Zoom, go to Zoom.com.

The Trustees will meet Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Staff Meetings are Mondays at 10:00 AM via Zoom.

Giving

Please remember your tithes and offerings, as we navigate the financial health of our church.

You can mail your offering to: Third Baptist Church, 620 N Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103.

You can give online at www.third-baptist.org/giving
*Click Give Now
*Choose Unified Budget Pledged (if you turned in pledge card)
*Choose Unified Budget Unpledged (If you did not turn in pledge card)
*Enter amount of your gift
*The system will ask for a credit card or bank account information and billing address
*Click Submit

April Birthdays

3  Etornam Dzunu, Alexis Fay, Sue Haverman, Caren Simons

7  Sylvia Barnes

20  Colton Simons

22  Ella Banks
In the city for good!

620 North Grand, St. Louis, MO 63103
Church Office: 314.533.7340
third-baptist.org

Staff

Dr. Tommy Simons
PASTOR

Rev. Maria Stinnett
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR MISSIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Edem Dzunu
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Drew Phillips
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

Dr. Philip Barnes
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Ella Banks
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT

Byron Greer
BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Timothy Harrison
CUSTODIAN

Karen Stewart & Linda Freiburghaus
CHURCH HISTORIANS

Brent Johnson
ORGANIST

Tom Kurtz
BUSINESS MANAGER

Lansin Lim Kimler
PIANIST

Christine McCarthy
FINANCE

Raymond Murphy
CUSTODIAN

Sally Stevenson
PARISH NURSE