From the Pastor

Four Months On The Other Side...

Third is now entering fourth month of navigating issues related to Covid-19.

Beloved, your engagement, giving and participation in the midst of crisis has been exceptional.

As we head into heart of summer—here’s where we are:

**Tithes and Offerings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pledged and unpledged giving</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020: $140,780</td>
<td>2020: $307, 402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(increase of 3.4%)</td>
<td>(increase of 5.4%)</td>
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**Worship**

Third returned to live worship Sunday, April 26—along with access through Facebook and YouTube. We are committed to present live worship (from prelude to postlude) through social media.

And mask coverings and social distancing will continue throughout the summer.

So, how are we doing...?

I suspect around 40% of members/frequent guests are returning to worship.

The total views (number of people checking out service throughout the week) on Facebook—from May to mid-June is around 1,500, YouTube has averaged 60.

**Sunday school**

Sunday school for all ages returned May 3.

I understand attendance is light; however, this option is a blessing for those who need face to face conversations and a season of prayer.

**Wednesday Night Discipleship**

The adults gather at Third for dinner at 5:15pm and discipleship at 6pm. The mid-week service is a combination of participants at Third and those joining by Zoom. The number of participants has been solid and a healthy mid-week option for our members and guests. Third will not take our usual summer break for mid-week adult discipleship. We will roll along throughout summer months (taking a brief break July 1 and July 8).

**Family Ministries**

Drew and Maria will continue creative discipleship and fellowship options throughout the summer. Please review direction from Drew and Maria in this months issue of *Third Base*. 
Missions (Food Pantry)
Food Pantry meets 3rd Saturday of each month. The missions team has implemented common sense mask requirements and social distancing. The team has done a marvelous job packaging and delivering food in light of virus outbreak.

Administration
The administrative work of the church has continued through in-person meetings combined with Zoom.

Please calendar upcoming all church administrative gatherings—you may participate in person or through Zoom invitation.

Church Council following worship July 12.
Business Meeting following worship July 26.

Innovations Committee has connected in person and through Zoom—progress report will be shared at Church Council and Business Meeting.

Personnel
Byron Greer is retiring after many years of faithful service to Third Baptist Church. Byron will be recognized and honored in Morning Worship—after undergoing surgery and season of recovery.

Raymond Murphy has resigned from our facility staff. We wish Raymond well in his future endeavors and thank him for service to our community.

Music
Philip Barnes and music staff continue superb musical offerings for Morning Worship. I am thankful for our music teams wisdom and response to this virus—a good balance of quality music—while staying within common sense guidelines.

Facilities
Renovation of third floor—in preparation for new school year—have continued throughout Covid-19 crisis. The work is ahead of scheduled and will be ready for Northside Community School returns.

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Third will move forward with good cheer and a bit of holy stubbornness.
I know many of you are unable to attend in person and remain connected through other avenues. Walls and distance do not separate us—we are one family of faith in person and in Spirit.
Be strong and courageous.

Grace and Peace,
Tommy
Worship in July: Knowing God: Eyes to See, Ears to Hear, Hearts to Love

In 1526 Albrecht Durer addressed radicalism and exclusion with above portrait gifted to The Magistry of Nuremberg entitled The Four Apostles.

The German text beneath the apostles states:
All worldly rulers in these dangerous times should give good heed that they receive not human misguidance for the Word of God, for God will have nothing added to His Word nor taken away from it. Hear therefore these four excellent men: Peter, John, Paul and Mark, and their writings.
Missionary Updates

Tim and Kathy Rice serve at a Baptist Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Even though, they are currently at their home in Saint Louis and unable to travel to the Congo, they are in frequent contact with the doctors and nurses they serve alongside in the Congo. They are monitoring the COVID virus and its spread in the Congo and working to implement safety protocols and procedures to prevent the further spread of the virus.

Lillian Solt serves in Costa Rica. She has been reaching out to children and elderly adults who usually attend programs and have not been able to meet as a group due to the virus. She has been delivering food packages, as well as games and toys for the children. She recently received a donation to provide educational games and toys to 54 children who participate in kids club.

Kihomi Ngwemi and Nzunga Mabudiga serve in Haiti. Recently, they have reopened their eye clinic, which has been closed since March due to the COVID crisis. The clinic is serving 20 patients a day, but due to social distancing guidelines, some patients are turned away.

Keith Holmes and Mary Van Rheenen serve as resource coordinators for the Romany people and those serving the Romany people throughout Europe. They live in the Netherlands. Mary has been sewing masks for their ministry partners. Additionally, she has been working to build the website for Davar: A Bridge to Literacy website to be used by the Romany people. This summer, Keith and Mary will work remotely with two interns from the United States to develop videos to be used in their ministry.

Parenting Conference with Rev. Hannah Coe, Pastor of Families at Faith Formation at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, MO
Saturday, July 25
3:00 PM—4:00 PM
Via Zoom
Contact Maria to register.
Children-Zoom on Sundays at 4:00PM
We have been doing a modified version of Godly Play following the church calendar through Lent to Pentecost and are now working through Matthew’s Gospel. We hear the Gospel lesson, look at and create art, and wo(a)nder with God. We conclude with prayer.

Youth Group-Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:00PM
We are about halfway through the individuals in the book: Moral Leadership for a Divided Age—14 People who Dared to Change the World. I had no idea when I selected this book to study how timely it would be. We are reminding ourselves each week of God’s gracious invitation to practice love, forgiveness, hospitality, repentance, and truth-telling as we talk about these timeless figures and our current events.

If your children and youth would like to join in either of these weekly zoom meetings please send an email address to dphillips@third-baptist.org for a zoom invitation.

I will continue to email Sunday School lessons for families of children and youth.

Virtual Vacation Bible School will happen on Zoom July 27-31.
Our theme is “Great Big Beautiful World” if you would like to volunteer to record a lesson, join in for music, or help lead a story, please contact Drew dphillips@third-baptist.org

We will host movie nights in the sanctuary June 27 and July 18 both at 6:30 PM.

Each week I am thankful for our young people and their families. Their commitment to maintain community, to have difficult discussions, and listen and pray together heightens my hope. I am grateful to serve with you!

Please be on the lookout for:
-Youth group social distance hang out with games and food
-Zoom parent training: Parenting as Spiritual Discipline for parents of youth and children
-August 1 youth trip to the St Louis Aquarium: we will be following the distance and health rules required by the city and the Aquarium. If interested, please let Drew know by July 20 as we will make a reservation.
Thank you for celebrating our six seniors: Isaiah Collins, Andre’ Jackson, Gabi Moore, Lydia Thiems, Matthew Watson, Carson Wright!
July Events

July 12
Church Council

July 18
Food Pantry
Youth Movie Night

July 25
Parenting Conference
with Rev. Hannah Coe

July 26
Business Meeting

July 27—31
Virtual Vacation Bible School

Sunday Schedule

9:45 AM  Sunday School
11:00 AM  Worship
4:00 PM  Godly Play for children via Zoom

Wednesday Schedule

5:15 PM  Dinner
6:00 PM  Bible study with Pastor
6:00 PM  Youth group via Zoom

July Birthdays

4  Linda Roos
6  Tommy Simons
10  Harold Jackson
14  Arris Harris, Alice Worrell
15  Elizabeth Hoffman
16  Lynda Sharpe
17  Elijah Kimler
18  Marvelle Johnson
19  Andrea Banks
22  Karen Stewart
25  Gerri Robbins
29  Dea Hoover
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Tommy Simons</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASTOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Maria Stinnett</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR MISSIONS &amp; COMMUNICATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Drew Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>MINISTER TO FAMILIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Philip Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ella Banks</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASSISTANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Harrison</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUSTODIAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Stewart &amp; Linda Freiburghaus</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHURCH HISTORIANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Johnson</td>
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<td>ORGANIST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Kurtz</td>
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<td>BUSINESS MANAGER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lansin Lim Kimler</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIANIST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine McCarthy</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally Stevenson</td>
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<td>PARISH NURSE</td>
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