



FROM THE PASTOR

Well, I finally drank the Kool-Aid and joined *Facebook* (for real) this week. The pandemic has caused physical distance and I suspect there is a need to bridge some of this gap through social media.

In addition, sermons are broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube. I'll drop an "Every Day People" podcast episode once per week.

My good buddies, Mark and Jack, were brilliant to include *instant feedback*. For every podcast, Facebook post and sermon—you can like it, love it or get mad at it.

I find myself, like an insecure child, checking these offerings—

how many likes, dislikes, and the very dreaded *nothingness*—no response—drifting away in cyber space purgatory.

My attitude and need for dopamine hits from thumbs up or down are ridiculous, and I have a renewed appreciation for coming of age—in spite of disco—in the '70s.

Coronavirus has brought me to two *extremes*:

- *An appreciation for social media and its ability to connect—in all seriousness—it has been a life saver.*

and...

- *A firm belief that church is relationship— together, face to face, sharing life together.*

All aspects of social media are a poor substitute for worship and fellowship.

We are called to live life together—and just like life—it can get a bit messy. But rolling out of bed, watching worship on your laptop—where one can conveniently turn down sound or switch off—is not a good diet of spiritual nourishment.

Now, before you vote thumbs down or send an “angry emoji,” if you're at risk you need to stay home—and *thank you* for connecting with your church family. We will continue social distancing, wearing masks and following precautions and guidance from Saint Louis City and County health officials.

Here's my point—and it's a word of hope:

Human beings are starved for authentic community. And working alongside you for over 5 years, it is what you do best. And I believe God will continue to send people our way, in the same manner, as occurred in our pre-pandemic world.

Therefore, in these days before life returns to normal:

Those who are able to attend in-person: have a renewed responsibility of welcoming the stranger, assisting families with children, and offering the right hand of fellowship to all who attend.

Those who are connecting through social media—in our minds eye—we see you and remember which pew and section of the church you usually reside. It's here and awaiting your return!

As we head into the 15th month of this pandemic, God continues to grace and bless our beloved community with financial health and relational vitality. And let's all nurture those relationships—keeping in touch with one another—as we labor...

in the City for good!

Now, if I can just figure out Twitter...and oh yes, Instagram...

Blessings all,
Tommy

A message from Ella Banks:

“Thank You so much for the many cards, e-cards, kind words and expressions of sympathy. You are always such a loving, caring church family.”

Family Ministries

Families,

It has been a long time since we have been able to be together.

I have been so impressed by you and your diligence in joining worship as it streams, or to check in later throughout the week, the way our children and youth have faithfully joined Zoom to laugh and play and pray and see one another. Even outside of a pandemic the most important discipleship with children and youth happens outside the church walls and is modeled and participatory.

As vaccination rates increase and we can consider safe reopening measures, I am inviting our families to join before worship at 10:15 a.m. in the Children's Department beginning June 20th – through September 5th. We'll have spaced out tables and ask families to sit together as families while we meet for intergenerational and activity-driven time. We'll have food, celebrate being able to reconnect, and practice some disciplines we can take home and use together throughout the week.

We will continue Zooming with elementary students for Godly Play, and youth, throughout the summer as we plan safe activities that will allow us to be together.

Thankful for this playing and praying community,
Drew



Rev. Drew Phillips
Minister to Families

A prayer for families to share as they approach each day:

Go before us, God, that we may follow in your steps. Go behind us, God, to steer us when we stray. Go beside us, God, as our strength and our joy for the journey.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you

May he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm

May he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you

May he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors.



"Healthy food pantry options" by Salvation Army USA West is licensed with CC BY-NC 2.0. Creative Commons.

THE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN! RAIN OR SHINE

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THIRD SATURDAY EVERY MONTH.  
VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE APPRECIATED  
AT 8 A.M. - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Assistance with the monthly food truck  
on the Thursday before each pantry date  
is also appreciated.

Contact Monica McDaniel-Collins for details.

# Sermons In May

## American Women Witnesses to Faith

**May 2:** Susan B. Anthony



G.E. Perine, History of Women Suffrage. Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons.



Harriet Tubman, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

**May 9:** Harriet Tubman

**May 16:** Fanny Crosby



James H. Earle & Company, 1906. Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons.

**May 23:** Pentecost



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**May 30:**  
Trinity Sunday



"Trinity Sunday Icon" by Will Humes is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

# Musical Notes

PHILIP BARNES, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

As many of you will recall, Third has been blessed in recent years by several original musical works written expressly for the church and its congregation. We have enriched worship through offerings made by our own Adam Kosberg, Martha Shaffer and Melissa Dunphy. A particular ‘friend’ to our offerings is the British composer, Sasha Johnson Manning, who has written several pieces for the choir, as well as the “Low Sunday Celebration” we recently heard played by Lansin & Brent.

The pandemic has curbed our choral worship, but even in these challenging times, Third has continued to champion the arts through its worship. Last December we were treated to Sasha’s new “Christmas Rhapsody” based on three beloved carols, and on Good Friday we were joined by Nathan Brown (tenor) and the Perseid String Quartet who offered us “Pilgrim” – words by John Bunyan – set to music for us by the distinguished British composer, Francis Pott.

Perhaps you don’t recall these works ‘in the time of COVID’? Well, the exciting news is that we are now able to upload them to the TBC website, where you can listen to them anew. And there’s no limit on how many times you can listen!

So, go ahead and immerse yourself in these elegant and profound works – they bear out the adage that music takes over where words leave off. We thank both the composers Sasha and Francis, as well as the performers, for their generosity in allowing us to add these pieces to our online ‘presence.’



**Wednesday night Zoom  
for Adults in May  
6 p.m.**

***Psalms: Poems, Prayers  
and Promises***

# EVERYDAY PEOPLE



# EXTRAORDINARY GOD

NEW EPISODES FOR THE PODCAST *EVERY DAY PEOPLE* ARE  
AVAILABLE ON THIRD'S FACEBOOK PAGE, IN EMAIL  
AND ON SPOTIFY

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

03 Jonathan Watson



06 Gary Thompson



15 Stephen Gray  
Craig Robinson



18 Berneice Donnelly  
Sally Stevenson



27 Julie Bruenger



**In the city for good!**

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