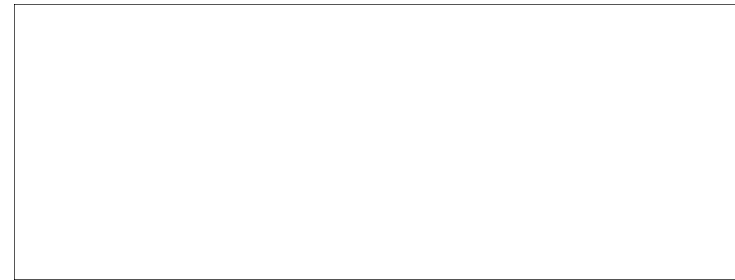


**THE BRIDGE**

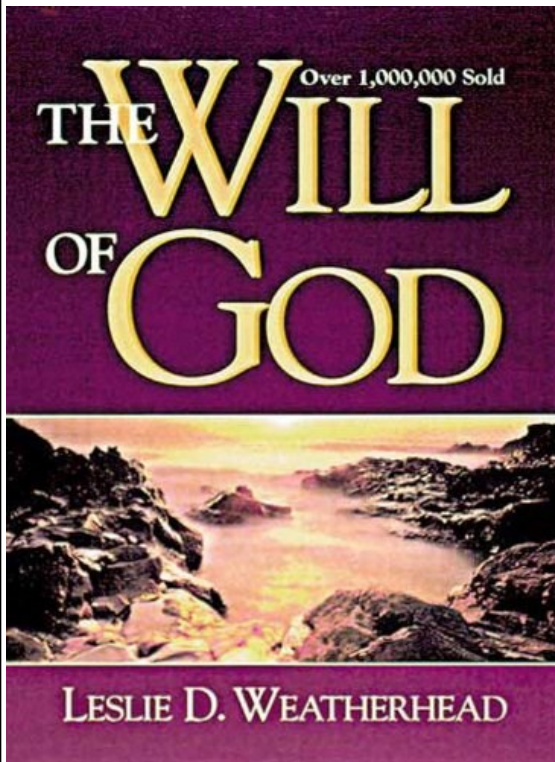
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**NEW BOOK STUDY VIA ZOOM**



We will begin a Zoom book study on Leslie D. Weatherhead's book "The Will of God" on Tuesday, March 31, at noon, facilitated by Richard Summers. This will be a five-week discussion of this very brief classic book written in the midst of World War II.

Zoom is available as a free download on your computer, smartphone, or other device. If you are interested in participating in the book study you will need to:

- Purchase the book (Kindle is a great option). We have 15 copies (\$8.00) available for pick up Monday, March 30, or Tuesday morning, March 31. Call the church before you come, and we will put a copy for you in the front lobby. You may pick it up and leave your payment there. Contact the office if you need one delivered to you.
- Email Richard Summers at [summers@fbcfrankfort.church](mailto:summers@fbcfrankfort.church) so a Zoom invitation can be sent to you.
- Be prepared to discuss chapter 1 during the first meeting.

Though the book is very short and can be read in a single setting, please do not read ahead. Read one chapter each week.

**THE BRIDGE, APRIL 2020**

†  
**He**  
is not here;  
he has risen!

Luke 24:6

**What glorious news!  
No matter where our physical bodies  
may be, our Lord is alive!  
God IS love!  
We ARE loved!**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

# »FROM THE Senior Pastor»

Dear FBC,

We are doing our best to navigate some difficult waters as the situation with COVID 19 continues to evolve. Every medical expert is advocating social distancing as one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of the virus. It is imperative for me to lean on the counsel of the healthcare experts as decisions are made concerning our 'in-person' gatherings. These decisions are challenging and coming to a conclusion of not meeting is one of the hardest choices a pastor can make. I am consulting our staff and FBC members who are medical personnel. These decisions are prayed over and discussed thoroughly. My first concern is your health and safety.

The good news is we can still connect, grow and serve during these trying times. Our tech team, led by Adam Columbia, is providing us a way to virtually worship together on Sundays. I appreciate their work every Sunday, but our current situation makes their service even more critical. Our Facebook page and website have the information on how to tune in live to our worship experiences and Bible study on Wednesday evenings. I realize this is not ideal, but let's be thankful for this technology and our members who have the skills to manage it.



I realize anxiety and worry abound for many individuals during this chaotic situation. I want to suggest that people of faith are built for troubled times. Frederick Buechner wrote, "Peace is not the absence of struggle, but the presence of love." The presence of God's love in our lives grants us a peace that passes all understanding. We can cast our cares upon God because God cares for us. Peace is having faith that whatever we face on this earth, that God, through Jesus, has overcome all the darkness and despair. In Hebrew, the term for peace – shalom – did not imply that wars have ceased. Instead, shalom, means having everything you need to be whole and happy. God made this kind of peace for us through Christ Jesus. Regardless of what virus is spreading, what war is waging or even what diagnosis may be given, you have everything you need in Jesus.

I believe this is an unprecedented time for connecting, growing and serving. During this season, we can truly see how the church is not a building, but it is people. Church hasn't been cancelled – it can't be. YOU are the church – so go be the church. Find an elderly person or someone with underlying conditions that categorize them in the most vulnerable for this virus and offer to get their groceries, cook them a meal or get their medications for them. Offer to help children with their homework over the phone, via skype or email since they don't have their teachers

immediately available like they would in their classrooms. Invite people to join us on Sunday morning through our Facebook page for worship. Use this time to grow in your prayer life. Do a Christian book study with someone – read a book together and discuss it over the phone. Think about creative ways in which we can be the church in this unique period.

continued



From the Senior Pastor, continued

Our tithes and offerings are critical during this time. We have a way to give securely online through our website. We can also mail our gifts to the church. I understand our current situation will impact individuals uniquely. Some may be worried about employment or other financial strains. If you need to 'catch up' later on your giving, that is totally understandable. For those of us who are able to contribute normally, my prayer is we will remember to do so as our church faces these uncertain times. I've communicated for months now that 2020 will be important on several levels and financially we need to be ready to face our challenges and opportunities. With the joy and excitement of bringing on new Associate Pastors soon, this also accentuates our need to support our FBC budget. My prayer is when the dust settles from this pandemic, we might look back and see our faithfulness in giving. Thank you, in advance, for your gifts to FBC as we seek to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



As we think about upcoming special occasions in the life of the church, namely, Palm Sunday and Easter, we are faced with the likelihood of not being physically together. This saddens me as I know it does you. It is my favorite time of year and I always look forward to seeing the pews filled. I want to encourage you to celebrate the Risen Lord in a new way this year. Even though our 'online' service for this season of pandemic may be unique, I believe we still can rejoice and praise God with all our might because of the Resurrection. I hope you will plan on participating and inviting others to connect virtually with our church through Facebook live.

I am extremely grateful for Dr. Keith Stillwell and his service to FBC as Interim Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation. His new job/ministry with 'Together for Hope' is exciting and will be beneficial to many in Appalachia. Of course, he and Dianne are members, so they won't be leaving us and we are grateful for their presence and participation in our family of faith.

You will be updated on a regular basis concerning our activities – the cancellations and when we will resume. Please be understanding as we pursue the best course of action in the weeks to come. Call on me if I can be of any assistance.

In Christ,  
Keith

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Brent McCullough  
March 8, 2020

## IN MEMORIAM

Rose Smith  
February 19, 2020

Jim Morris  
March 17, 2020





**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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Associate Pastor of Music & Administration  
rsummers@fbcfrankfort.church

**Rev. Marcus Pernell**  
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**Dr. Keith Stillwell**  
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**Jenny Luscher**  
Interim Associate Pastor of Children  
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**Kara Johnson**  
Director of Communications, Office Manager  
kjohnson@fbcfrankfort.church

**Linda McKinley**  
Organist

**Lois Summers**  
Pianist

**Anthony Hager**  
Building Superintendent

**Seldon Jackson**  
Assistant Custodian

**STAYING CONNECTED**

During this temporary time of change, we want to make sure FBC is doing all it can to stay connected to you and communicate in the most effective ways possible. Please carefully read all the ways you can stay connected with First Baptist.



- **WEEKLY UPDATE:** Each Monday afternoon, a weekly update is posted with FBC's schedule for the week along with important announcements. A link to the update is the first scrolling slide on our website homepage. In addition, an update link is posted on facebook and twitter.
- **PHONE/MAILING LIST:** If you do not have internet access, please notify me. We want to make sure ALL members are receiving announcements and spiritual formation curriculum provided during this time.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Follow us on facebook and twitter. Each day we post reminders, announcements, and uplifting messages of love and support.
- **ONLINE WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY:** We are working hard each week to offer live Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening Bible Study. FBC is also offering live and/or recorded Sunday School and is starting a Zoom book study group! Read your WEEKLY UPDATE each week to find all the ways you can CONNECT! REMEMBER, our service is also on Cable 20 on a one week delay.
- **PRAYER LIST:** While we hold Wednesday Bible Study online, Dr. Felton will not be reading the prayer list as he would in a normal, Prayer Meeting situation. Please continue to let the office know, each week, who you would like to be listed on the prayer list for that week. A prayer list will be emailed to staff and deacons on Thursdays. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE PRAYER LIST EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST, SEND ME AN EMAIL.

Connecting with you,  
Kara



Follow us on Facebook:  
First Baptist Church at the Singing Bridge  
OR @FirstBaptistFrankfort



Follow us on Twitter:  
First Baptist Church of Frankfort, KY  
OR @FBCFrankfortKY

**RESOURCES & IDEAS**

**RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

- ♦ Search "Godly Play Foundation" on Youtube. They have 62 videos that can help ALL ages GROW spiritually.
- ♦ The National Museum of Natural History has several distance learning options including a large archive of Smithsonian Science How Webcasts, <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/distance-learning/smithsonian-science-how-webcast-archives>
- ♦ Several art museums provide virtual tours:
  - ◊ British Museum, London - <https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>
  - ◊ National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC - <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-gallery-of-art-washington-dc?hl=en>
  - ◊ Louvre Museum, Paris - <https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>
- ♦ CONNECT with others by being a teenager... which means, talk on the phone! Call friends every day. Listen to their worries. Talk about your fears. Take time with each other to name, out loud, your blessings.
- ♦ Take part in all FBC has to offer during this time!
- ♦ Get fresh air every single day. If you are unable to go for walks, simply sit outside for a bit. Unable to get outside? Open a window.

**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

It is important during these uncertain times to acknowledge your stress, fears, and anxiety. It is also important to take time to "count your blessings" each day. You might

- ♦ Start a Blessings Journal. Each day write down three blessings for that day. Blessings come in all shapes and sizes. When anxiety starts to overwhelm, read your journal to remind you of all God has given.
- ♦ Share your blessings with others. Whether on social media or through a phone call, be the positive light SERVING your community by sharing God's gifts. Each blessing is a testimony!
- ♦ Intentionally pay attention, each day, to where you see and hear God. God is everywhere! Perhaps we could see this time as a gift to listen more carefully, watch more deliberately, and CONNECT with God on a deeper level than ever.
- ♦ Share your blessings with others! Fill the world with a VIRAL LOVE FOR GOD!



**THE BARNABAS GROUP**

Acts 11: 23-24: <sup>23</sup>When he (*Barnabas*) arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup>He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

It has been 19 months since The Barnabas Group (TBG) had its first meeting. One Sunday morning in September of 2018, we met for breakfast where we laughed, and shared ideas, and made plans together. I had only been a member of FBC at the Singing Bridge for three months, but you accepted me and let me serve side-by-side with you. That meant a lot to me and showed me the spirit of FBC. Since that day, a lot of things have changed in the life of our church – staff changes, deacon changes, member changes, and more. We have welcomed many folks and said goodbye to a few. But through all of that change, there hummed the constant melody of love and caring and compassion and fellowship and encouragement that is hard to find in many churches. There is a confidence of faith that everything is going to be all right. We know Who is in control and strive to live accordingly.

When The Barnabas Group started, we adopted the name of the apostle whose name means Son of Encouragement or Son of Comfort. One of the goals of TBG was to bring encouragement and comfort to each other, our church staff, and our community. Now is the time to act on that goal, more than ever. In these days of discomfort and anxiety, we need more and more comforters. Everywhere Barnabas went, he encouraged those facing disappointment and discouragement. We live in uncertain times right now, but the folks of FBC and TBG are encouraging, good people, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. We see it in each other. This spirit is what drew me to you and what I love about you. Let's continue to BE THE CHURCH and take that spirit of love and caring and compassion and fellowship and encouragement and service and strong faith to the community. Continue to be a Barnabas.

Looking forward to the day when we can be together again,  
Mona



For the past year and a couple of months, I have been serving part-time as the coordinator for Together for Hope Appalachia. I hope you will learn more about Together for Hope at [www.cbky.org/together-for-hope](http://www.cbky.org/together-for-hope). The Emma Quire Mission Center is a major part of the Together for Hope family. When the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Together for Hope initiative began in 2001, FBC was involved from the start.

I am now a full-time employee with Together for Hope, so as of March 15, my time as your part-time Interim Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation has ended. Well, sort of. I continue work on an hourly basis as needed and as I am available. Dianne and I are members and will continue to participate, though the distance (we live in Danville) and my Together for Hope job will keep us from joining you as often as we would like.

I am so blessed to have been part of your church staff this past year plus. You were good to Dianne, Brittany, and I when we were members here as a young family some 30 years ago, and you continue to be good to us today. I was unemployed when we joined the church in October of 2018. The interim position here and the Together for Hope job became available at a perfect time for us. I am so grateful for the opportunity to do what I love, to serve this loving missional church, and to work with your amazing staff. The climate of the church and the working relationships among the staff inspire and bring out the best in each of them. May you continue to stay focused on God's mission for you; may you connect, grow, and serve; and may you love God and your neighbors as yourself.

With much appreciation,  
Keith Stillwell