

July 2020



Where Do We Stand?

Over the month of June, we have been meeting outdoors and the Lord has provided us some fantastic weather. Many have asked me about the plan to meet indoors, so I thought I would address this. First of all, I want to talk about why we are meeting outdoors right now. There are several

factors that have driven the decision for this approach for us. First, we believe it is the safest way to meet given what we know and don't know about COVID19. Second, we believe it respects what our governing authorities are laying out to mitigate the spread of the virus and still gather for worship. Third, we have the facility to do this. What a blessing to have enough land to meet in an outdoor setting. Fourth, we know many of you have a variety of perspectives about the mask issue, and meeting outdoors seemed to be the best way to navigate this.

We know meeting outdoors is not a long term solution and, frankly, I can't wait to meet indoors again. However, we will do so in a way that protects you and protects the church. We are not exactly sure when this will happen, but certainly we desire for it to happen by the fall.

Here are some of the things to expect when we meet indoors.

- We will be having two services, but only using the sanctuary and another room that we can properly ventilate for a mask only room. The service times will be 9:30am and 10:45am. We will be opening up the windows in the sanctuary and utilizing the fans for ventilation.
- We will be having a program for children from birth thru 3rd grade during each service. There will be some safety protocols in place for those volunteering as well.
- We will be encouraging masks. I know this is a sensitive issue, but we are doing this because of health concerns and legal concerns. Lawyers for our insurance company are telling us that churches must be able to prove reasonable precaution if sued for negligence. Encouraging masks are part of that. Please be understanding even if you don't agree.
- We will be cleaning between services. We are using the wipeable vinyl chairs from the outreach building to make the cleaning process easier between services.
- We will be encouraging Life Groups to meet on their own, and allocating space within the church and outside of the church for that to happen.

I am ready for normal, but unfortunately we are not there yet. We are still recording an online service for those who can't make the outdoor service. Now is the time for grace to be shown by all as we press on through this new and uncomfortable territory we are in.

-Pastor Jon

[Dis · ci · ple]

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children”

— Ephesians 5:1

The prophet Jeremiah wrote these words in a letter to the exiles living in Babylon. What he wrote were God’s very words to his people exiled in Babylon. And this is how God wanted them to live: “But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jeremiah 29:7). Think about that for a moment. These people were exiles living in a pagan land. They were certainly afraid. They had made a long journey. They were tired. They didn’t know what the future held. Their freedom had been taken away. Their religion had been taken away. Their entire world had been turned upside down in the period of a few months.



Despite all of this, God commands them to seek the welfare of the city. Why? Because *God* had put them there (see also Jer. 29:14). God commands the exiles to love the place to which God had sent them. Serve it. Make it prosper. Pray for it. God commands them to do this because he had bound up his people’s welfare with the welfare of its neighbors, even if their neighbors were their enemies.

We in many ways are not in exile, and yet we are going through a tumultuous time. Some are worried about their health, some about their freedom, and the rest of us are at least tired of it all. What are God’s people called to do in this midst of this? Serve. Love the place where he has placed us. Even when we’re tired, even if the good we do may go unnoticed, even if the good we do seems insignificant against the world’s mammoth problems. Seek the welfare of the city.

With this in mind, please come and join us as we serve our community during Love Week. Love Week is a time in which we seek to do good for our community. We are partnering with Impact Church again this year to bless our city. This is an opportunity for our community to see that the church is here in its midst praying and seeking its good. We go to the same restaurants, drive the same streets, and go to the same schools. And in times where everyone wants to emphasize what divides us, the church is called to overcome division for the common good.

Love Week is July 13-17, and we will be working at Creekside Park and Richard’s Park. More details will be out soon, but please plan to come out and serve an evening or two to show love to our community. We are called to seek the welfare of *our* city. It’s where God has placed us for the good of the city and for the glory of God.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



This summer we will be holding sports camp for children ages 8-12. Due to the current concerns with the virus, we will be holding VBS outdoors and will be taking precautions to keep both the children and volunteers safe. In order for us to be able to hold VBS this summer we will need volunteers in some unique roles. To help out at sports camp does not require any specific sporting skill, just a love for the children of our community.

Some of the unique rolls that we will need volunteers helping with are:

- Adults/teens to help sanitize sporting items throughout the evening
- Adults/teens to help fill water cups for children throughout the evening
- Adults/teens who would be able to help children follow directions from the sports coach and have meaningful gospel conversations with children

You can sign up your child to attend sports camp and also sign up to volunteer by [clicking on this link](#).

Please note that we will be limiting the number of children who can attend, please sign up early to ensure your child has a spot.

This year we will not be serving our volunteers dinner, however you are welcome to bring your own dinner and eat together as a family at one of the many picnic tables that are outdoors.

If you have a school aged child that is not old enough to attend sports camp but you would like to help, please email me (christi.swain@fbclowell.org) and I will help make arrangements for you to be able to help out.

FBC Youth

Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church,

For many of you, the pictures below are of a scene with which we have become all too familiar. Nonetheless, Zoom provided a way for us to continue to connect with our FBC students. I am so thankful for all the leaders and students who showed up for our virtual youth groups to share what was going on in their lives and to study Scripture together. I am looking forward to being able to meet together in person during the summer. Here is the schedule for the month of July, and, Lord willing, we will be back to our normal schedule using the New City Catechism starting in August.

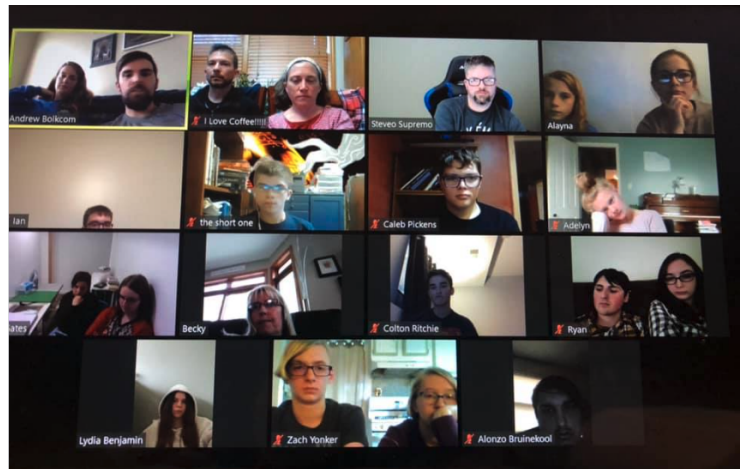
July 6th -- No Youth Group

July 13th -- Serve for Love Week

July 20th -- Youth Group @ FBC Fire Pit

July 27th -- No Youth Group (VBS - Sports Camp)

-Pastor Andrew



MISSIONARY CORNER



Wolfgang and Kelly Grotendiek
Missionary Aeroplanes

Wolfgang and Kelly Grotendiek serve with Missionary Aeroplanes (MAPS-Mision Alcance a los Pueblos de la Sierra). Wolfgang is a native of Germany and came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ after his brother shared his recent salvation with him. As time passed his interest in full-time foreign missions increased. After talking with missionaries, people from church and friends about God's working and leading in their lives and how they understood and acted upon it in vital decision-making, and since he was already a pilot he felt led to missionary aviation. In the Fall of 1998, after completing his Bible studies, he attended the Grand Rapids School of Missionary Aviation Technology to receive the Airplane Mechanic's Rating. It was here in Michigan that he met Kelly and

they were united in marriage in February 2002. Kelly grew up in the church hearing about Jesus and God and after being encouraged by a Sunday school teacher became saved at the age of eight. At the age of twenty-two God gave her an increased hunger to read His Word and discover Truths that she had not realized were in there. He brought people into her life who have counseled her and helped her make decisions that have brought her to a living love relationship with God. Wolfgang and Kelly are currently pursuing setting up a base in Mexico once the borders are open again.

Greetings from Building and Grounds!



Your presence has been severely missed around the buildings of First Baptist Church of Lowell. With the buildings shut down due to Covid-19, I have been able to accomplish a number of maintenance tasks that have been further down the priority list. Seeing some of these tasks to completion has been nice, but quite frankly I have had a hard time getting excited about it. It has been reaffirmed to me that the major emphasis in my job description is preparing an area, whether indoors or out, that facilitates and encourages a wonderful worship experience for the church.

That would be referring to you! I am looking forward to a busy calendar schedule soon. God has blessed us with amazing facilities. If you

haven't been able to attend an outdoor service (I understand that sometimes circumstances may preclude you from doing so) you're missing one of the blessings that God the Father has given to us.

Pastor has been encouraging us to utilize the facilities for D group meetings. I am hoping to soon have picnic tables set out at various places around the grounds that provide an opportunity to meet outside. As soon as they are ready I will let you know!

We've had a few people spend a fair amount of time sprucing up the grounds and parking lot islands. It looks great and has been a wonderful encouragement. Thank-you! It won't be long until VBS is here, and our grounds and parking lot is ready to be a tool of ministry!

Looking forward to some normalcy,

Russ Race – Building and Grounds.

July Memory Verse

46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? **47** Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: **48** he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. **49** But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

Luke 6:46-49 (ESV)

July Reading Plan

Week 1 Starting July 6	Week 2 Starting July 13	Week 3 Starting July 20	Week 4 Starting July 27
Day 1: 1 Timothy 1	Day 1: 1 Timothy 6	Day 1: Titus 1	Day 1: 1 Peter 3
Day 2: 1 Timothy 2	Day 2: 2 Timothy 1	Day 2: Titus 2	Day 2: 1 Peter 4
Day 3: 1 Timothy 3	Day 3: 2 Timothy 2	Day 3: Titus 3	Day 3: 1 Peter 5
Day 4: 1 Timothy 4	Day 4: 2 Timothy 3	Day 4: 1 Peter 1	Day 4: 2 Peter 1
Day 5: 1 Timothy 5	Day 5: 2 Timothy 4	Day 5: 1 Peter 2	Day 5: 2 Peter 2
Bonus: Rom. 7:1-6	Bonus: Rom 7:7-25	Bonus: Rom 8:1-4	Bonus: Rom 8:5-11

Birthdays and Anniversaries July 2020

Birthdays		Birthdays		Anniversaries	
* Kaleb Farmer	07/01	Bob Bennett	07/14	George & Sue Raimer	07/07
Donna Gerard	07/01	Terre Ritchie	07/14	Phil & Amber Ritchie	07/08
Dave Bosscher	07/02	Darlene Riegling	07/15	*Roy & JoAnne Schwarcz	07/08
Sabin Ingram	07/03	Millie Degner	07/19	J.J. & Christi Swain	07/17
Ben Ingram	07/03	Kimberlie Watson	07/22	Ernie & Gail Blanchard	07/19
Phil VanLaan	07/07	Tyler Ritchie	07/23	Tracy & Tena Sawdy	07/20
Bob Copeland	07/08	Milo Runstrom	07/24	Mike & Heather Sullivan	07/24
Tyler Milley	07/10	Don Gerard	07/26	George & Terry Watson	07/26
Jackson Fleenor	07/11	Thelen Yantz	07/26	Mike & Karol Burnham	07/31
Hunter Wieland	07/11	Karen Onan	07/27		
Alexis Antles	07/12	Caleb Swain	07/28		
Mady Degner	07/12	Jenny Green	07/31		
				* Missionary	

FBC Calendar: July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1			2	3	4	
			4:00 pm Missions Team Meeting	5:30 pm Family Matters Team		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am: Morning Service				7:00 pm Admin. Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm Mercy Deacons Meeting		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am: Morning Service		6:30pm Elder Planning meeting		7:00 pm Children's Ministry Team		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am: Morning Service Church Picnic to Follow	Youth group firepit gathering					
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am: Morning Service	6:30 - 8:30 pm VBS Sports Camp	6:30 - 8:30 pm VBS Sports Camp	6:30 - 8:30 pm VBS Sports Camp	6:30 - 8:30 pm VBS Sports Camp	6:30 - 8:30 pm VBS Sports Camp	