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# June



**Revival June 7th - 10th**

Please be in prayer for our upcoming revival.

Click [HERE](#) for a prayer guide.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for specific times to pray.

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***The Pastor's Two Bits...***

Amos was an Old Testament prophet. He was a very no-nonsense prophet. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> chapters of Amos talk about judgment and repentance. Chapter 4 spells out God's many attempts to call Israel back to Himself. He inflicted lots of punishments on them, but they would not listen. Amos explained that God had afflicted them with starvation and drought and famine and *yet, have you not returned to Me, saith the Lord*. He mentioned other calamities, including a plague (their "coronavirus?"); but all with the same result.

Then comes Chapter 5.

(v4) *For thus says the Lord, to the house of Israel, Seek Me, and you shall live.* He said it in similar ways in verses 6, 8, and 14.

Some people want to say that the coronavirus is a judgment from God. Maybe it is; maybe it isn't. What about hurricanes and tornadoes and cyclones? Maybe they are; maybe they aren't. What about cancer or multiple sclerosis? What about tragic car accidents, mass shootings, drug overdoses? Does God have to cause any of these things to happen. Not necessarily. Our sinful nature creates plenty of opportunities for tragedy. We just have to find someone else to blame. But could God cause these things to happen? Of course. He is God. So does He? Maybe. He is God. But I don't think any of those questions are the right question.

The right question will lead to a definitive answer. Lots of people want to blame God when bad things happen. Or in the case our current COVID crisis, many want to look to science and politics for solutions. But regardless of whether it is Godly judgment or just a tragedy of life, the right question is something like this: When a tragedy or disease or disaster strikes, what should I do?

The answer is in Chapter 5. *Seek God, and you shall live.* He is the giver of life, both now and in eternity.

- *Pastor Doug*

P.S. Let's get serious about Revival. **Pray, Confess, Repent.** Use it as an opportunity to strike up **Gospel Conversations** with your friends and neighbors.

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### **Sports Camp 2020 is on!**

There will be two open registration dates this year. **June 3 & June 6.**  
Please pray for all the children that will be with us the week of Sports Camp  
and that everyone involved with stay healthy.

Visit the [website](#) to find out more information.



**June 21, 2020**

***JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries***



6/3 Shelby McDonald  
6/9 Denise Andrews  
6/9 Garrison Flower  
6/10 Betty Witt  
6/12 Ron Guenther  
6/15 Wyatt Petty  
6/15 Susan Riches  
6/15 Linda Schaffer  
6/16 Bil Dufendach  
6/18 Gerri Bojanzyk

6/18 Lois Ragsdale  
6/19 Christa McTurnal  
6/20 Joe Ragsdale  
6/23 Diane Roaten  
6/23 Bob Shipe  
6/25 Jo Archambault  
6/25 Peggy Valentine  
6/26 Bill Craig  
6/28 Chuck Lohman  
6/29 Valerie Mack



6/3 Bob & Carol Pantea  
6/4 Jeremy & Emmalee Cole  
6/4 Bill & Tracey Craig  
6/6 Ted & Pat Sakelarakis  
6/9 Randy & Kayleen Andersen  
6/12 Ray & Susan Harrison  
6/16 Ray & Nina Prigodich  
6/17 Chuck & Idella Lohman  
6/19 Ken & Sammie Cox  
6/19 Bill & Marilee Dufendach  
6/25 Ben & Frances Ann Ogletree  
6/26 Bob & Patty Zanone  
6/27 Tim & Justine Allen

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At the beginning of this, nearing 60-day period, I found myself anxious about the possibilities that might come through separation. I was quickly becoming more and more focused on the work that would not get done, the progress that might be lost, the experiences we were missing, and the drifting apart that might occur. The storm was brewing as I allowed myself to grieve all the things we could not do because of this pandemic.

I can't tell you that I was looking per se, but I can tell you what I saw. God gave me a rainbow! Do you remember what the rainbow represents? This is the symbol of hope! "I have placed My RAINBOW in the clouds, it will be a sign of MY covenant with Me and with the earth." Genesis 9:13 The Lord was telling me to re-direct my focus... to HIM! The rainbow was/is a gift from God to His people. It is His promise that gave us HOPE!

We have found several new ways to experience fellowship and share together. I have been looking for the rainbows in the midst of the storm. 🌈

In addition to seeing the one God put in the sky, I have also been seeing this symbol hanging on windows, being drawn on sidewalks, parking lots and driveways! This symbol of hope is our reminder that this season will not last forever. In the words of Maya Angelou, "I've had a lot of clouds [in my life], but I have had so many rainbows." We have not been stopped from being a rainbow in someone else's clouds! I hope you have been looking for opportunities to shine light in the darkness, to love and serve others well. There is a precious gift in serving, sharing a smile or a kind word – like the rainbow, you can purpose to bring hope to the hopeless and hurting or be the rainbow someone isn't looking for in the midst of the storm.

My prayer is that we never go back to the way things were before COVID-19. Let's not go back to complacency, let's not go back to routine. Let us maintain a hyper awareness and fervency of being a rainbow and offering the hope of Jesus Christ. Let's continue to go to greater lengths to share The Gospel and BE the light in the darkness. Let us embrace the "new norm" of facing life with

a new resilience! Yes, we are capable of making a difference from home with what we have, but we've also seen the difference that still needs to be made. The urgency remains to share the hope of the original rainbow as we have seen the presence of fear and hopelessness in the eyes around the world.

Has God allowed COVID-19 to help His people see? Has God allowed COVID-19 to afford Christians a glimpse into the darkness? Has God allowed COVID-19 to help us see how inward our focus has become? Had you grown passive? Were you the Christian who sits and shakes his head at the news, the media, the general public? OR... Have you been reminded of our purpose while being made aware of the work that is still yet to do? "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Matt. 28: 19-20

As we journey into the next 60 days, whatever they may hold, may we claim the promise that hope is still here. The world is still in great need of that hope. There may be clouds, but there are also so many rainbows. ☁️

Your Worship Leader,  
Kristie



### **Youth Notes - June 2020**

Well, this spring has been...interesting! I am pretty sure most if not all of us have had our plans greatly impacted and changed due to the pandemic. Our youth ministry is no exception. Fundraisers were cancelled, Camps and trips were called off, including King's Fest Christian Concert Series in June and our Mission Camp to Carson-Newman University in July. With that said, we have had to make new plans, and believe it or not, these plans are just as exciting, if not more so, than our original ones!

I want to take this time to once more recognize our graduating seniors. Our FBC Class of 2020 has 2 seniors from Stone Memorial High School – Taylor Gannon and Destiny Farris. Both intend to attend TCAT in the fall and pursue careers in the medical field. Keep them in your prayers as these two wonderful young ladies prepare for a hero's career in the future.

Now, let's talk calendar. First of all, our youth ministry is planning to assist camp preparations at our local Camp Ozone June 1-4. There will be a lot of grounds and maintenance type of things to accomplish to assist the camp in preparing for a fast-approaching camp season. The pandemic caused many of their partner groups to miss planned, and needed, weeks of work at the camp, so, we are going to help to prepare Camp Ozone to receive kids and families through the months of June, July and August, with the hopes of them hearing the Gospel and accepting Christ!

Second, we will be taking a venture into the mountains of Virginia to Massanutten Resort the first week of July. Here, the youth group will experience a week-long retreat experience. The intent is to a) get the kids away from home since most of them have been quarantined there since mid-March, but also b) to have a great team-building and worship/study experience together as well.

Finally, several of our youth have already volunteered to assist with Sports Camp here at FBC at the end of July. This is a great time for the youth to be able to invest in the younger children, learn from some of the college students from Infinity as well as our own adult volunteers, and just give back to both the church and community.

These have been crazy days. Prayerfully, we will see some sense of normality return very soon. Again, I thank you all for your continued support, encouragement and prayers! It truly is a joy to serve our youth and our church here at First Baptist! Blessings to you and your families!

Going 'til He Comes,  
Pastor Robert

**Check the website, [www.onhisrock.org](http://www.onhisrock.org), for new information, new links and the church's calendar - updated daily!**



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