



# fellowship's heartbeat

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## the preacher's point

*...casting all your cares on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7*

For many of us the changes brought about by the arrival of COVID-19 were unexpected. We are accustomed to our own little bubble where not much affects us. Our life is rarely altered. Almost overnight, much of what we know about our world shut down. The one thing that many of us could be certain about was that churches were going to gather. Then, it became a health risk and a guideline came out against groups of more than ten to gather. We were collectively stunned. Of course, there is one to whom all of this was not a surprise. Our Sovereign God, who knows the beginning from the end, was not surprised by this. Our circumstances remind me of another time God's people were isolated and fearful. Jesus had been crucified and the disciples were in hiding for fear that they might be next. John 20:19-23 recounts the story. Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." Verse 20 says, "The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

Take heart, my brothers and sisters, a virus may stop us from gathering, but not even death could defeat our Savior! Rest in the coming Resurrection Day. Rest in the Resurrected Savior! May the "peace of God which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7). Until we can be together again, I am praying for you. Keep Loving God, Loving Others, and Living on Mission.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Clint**

## music's beat

We are in the midst of a unique season in the life of our church. The Coronavirus has drastically changed how we do ministry. Although in this season we have not been able to gather together in one building, Fellowship Baptist is the people that gather in the building. We are the church inside, or outside of the building, and my prayer is that we are a church that lives on mission for Jesus Christ every day. God is on the throne, and He is in complete control. I know He has a purpose for all that is going on in our world right now. During this season, I challenge you to look for ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around you.

My favorite hymn is *It is Well With My Soul*. I am always struck by the first words of the song:

*"When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say  
It is well, it is well with my soul"*

In the good times of life (when peace like a river attendeth my way), or in the tough times (when sorrows like sea billows roll), no matter what (whatever my lot), the Lord has taught me to say, "It is well with my soul." Place your hope in Jesus. Trust Jesus. He alone can and will sustain you, no matter what happens in your life. The old saying goes, "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good." He indeed is our good God. No matter what life throws at us, no matter what we face each day, may we strive everyday to say, "It is well with my soul!"

**Ryan Gant**  
Minister of Music and Missions

## money matters

While the Fellowship Family is not meeting together on Sundays, remember that your tithes and offerings are vital for the mission and ministries to continue.

### **Benefits to Giving Online**

1. You are taking a step of faith: When you sign up to give online, you are deciding in advance to faithfully give. God always blesses that kind of faith!
2. You will simplify your life: You won't have to remember whether you gave this month or need to send in an offering by mail when you're on a trip. You can set up a one-time or recurring gift to the general fund or building fund or any other church-approved fund.
3. You will be helping the church: Every person who gives through automatic giving makes our record-keeping much easier and our source of finances more consistent.

### **How to Give:** Log on to the church website:

[www.fellowshipbaptist.org](http://www.fellowshipbaptist.org). Select the ON-LINE GIVING tab at the top of the home page. Follow the prompts to be taken to a secure site where you can make a one-time gift or set up your own recurring tithes and offerings. See the step-by-step tutorial on the church website under the RESOURCES tab.

You can also give via TEXT. Text FELLOWSHIPBAPT to 73256 to give using your text messaging. Follow the prompts to be taken to a secure site where you can make a one-time gift or set up your own recurring tithes and offerings. Standard text messaging rates may apply. And you can MAIL your check to the church office. Questions? Call the church office for assistance.

## ELEVATE Students Ministry

**Bible Point:** "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

We are commanded not to worry, but instead take our requests to God through prayer and petition. Paul writes here that our requests should include thanksgiving because God has given us so much. When you pray to God with thanksgiving, then the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds. Notice that peace comes as a result of prayer. We must pray to experience this peace, which is part of following Jesus.

Follow the ACTS prayer plan: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. Start your prayer time in adoration. Spend this time worshipping God. Turn on your favorite Christian music to sing to God. Then spend time in confession. Ask God to help you identify actions that are not God honoring. Also think about action you should have taken to love God or love others. When you identify shortcomings, tell God that you agree with him, that those things are sin. Then spend time thanking God for all he has done and provided. Finally make supplication, which is asking God to meet needs. Pray for your needs and the needs of others. Ask God to meet physical and spiritual needs.

We should talk to God when we are worried about the Coronavirus. When we have success, let's celebrate with God. The goal of prayer is to know God. When we know God then we gain his perspective on life. God is who we need and his point of view helps us have the peace that will guard our hearts and minds.

### Upcoming events for youth/college-young adults

During this time we are cancelling all events at Fellowship Baptist Church. We believe that God wants us to honor the government that he has established; therefore, we will follow their guidelines. Even though we will not gather physically there are opportunities on social media platforms to worship through song and preaching. Pastor Clint Ellis and Pastor Ryan Gant will lead in collective worship and preaching. I (Pastor Jayce) will hold Elevate Youth online each Wednesday with a game, prayer, musical worship and a message. We will be sending out details of the exact times and platforms where this will occur. If anyone is in need, they can contact me by calling the church office at (850) 562-2040 or email [jdubose@fellowshipbaptist.org](mailto:jdubose@fellowshipbaptist.org).

**Prayer points:** Pray that students will grow in their relationship with God; that God will work through our social media platforms to reach people for Christ; that people will receive peace from God as a result of prayer.

Following Jesus,  
**Jayce DuBose**  
Student Pastor

## children's ministry

Fellowship Families,

During this difficult time, I encourage you all to continue to pray for your church staff and children.

I feel extremely blessed to have the technology to continue to communicate with the children and to teach each week. While everyone is home, I am doing a Facebook Live on Wednesday nights at 5:30 to have Bible study with the children. If you haven't joined us yet, just go to Fellowship's Facebook page on Wednesdays.

In place of our children's Easter Eggstravaganza, we have sent home "At Home Eggstravaganza" bags so families can enjoy this together as part of their Easter celebration.

The Children's Ministry will continue to reach out and keep in touch with families the best we can. I have missed each child in our ministry so much and I can't wait to see them all again!

Wee Care is still operating and I am working hard to make sure that we are able to provide care for our families that need it. Please continue to pray for this ministry as we are already facing some difficult decisions.

Thank you all so much for reaching out to me during this time. Your kind words and encouragement have been so touching.

**Katie Jones**

Wee Care Child Care/Children's Ministry Director



## women's ministry

While we don't know what the future holds, we do hope that we will be able to come together for our **Kick the Can** aluminum recycling project **June 13** and the churchwide **Food Drive** for the pantry on **June 14**.

In conjunction with the Kick the Can, we'll also have the Breakfast Bash. The last time, we raised a combined amount of \$272.20. All of the money went to the Fellowship Hall fund and your participation helps.

The Food Drive helps to stock the Pantry through which Fellowship is able to help those in our church and in the community struggling with food scarcity. Pray for these who were already having a hard time.



## missions news

Psalm 91:10,11 says, "No harm will come to you; no plague will come near your tent. For he will give his angels orders concerning you, to protect you in all your ways."

As we go through this time that a "plague" is in our midst and we are told to stay inside our tent, this verse is a comforting reminder that God knows what is going on in our lives and he is here to protect us. This is a time to look around us for ministry opportunities in our family, neighbors, and church family. As several have said, "This is a time to show the church is beyond the walls of the building." The restriction of confinement to our home makes this difficult but any effort to reach out through phone calls, texts, emails, facebook—even calling to a neighbor across the yard—gives encouragement and support to those in our circle. The current economic shutdown will hurt many financially and some will even lose their job. This is a time we all should look at how blessed we are and see how we can "help a friend that has fallen." Luke 12:48 says, "From the one who has been given much, much more will be asked." We all need to be open and receptive to God's prompting as we go through this season and help whenever we can.



**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering:** Continue to be in prayer and consider your financial support of the *Annie Armstrong Easter Offering*. Our 4500 North American missionaries are going through the

same life changes as we are and need the security of this offering to continue their ministry. Donations to this offering will continue through April.



**Florida Baptist Children's Home/One More Child Offering in May**

When you make a gift to their annual offering, you are making it possible to change the life of a child. In Florida: more than 14,000 children were removed from their homes because of crises, abuse, abandonment or neglect; 1 in 5 children struggle with hunger; more than 1.5 million children live in single-parent families; Florida ranks third in the nation in the number of active sex and labor trafficking cases being prosecuted in federal court.

In 2019, The Florida Baptist Children's Homes reported that they met the needs of 261,691 children and individuals locally and globally, showing them the healing and hope they can only find in Jesus Christ. Together our gifts can do more for hungry children, foster children, trafficked children, single moms and struggling families.



### A Prayer for Strength When Weary

Lord, I'm weary. My energy is sagging, and my motivation is lagging. And I am so in need of you. I need your strength and your fresh touch to get back on track again. Your Word says the joy of the Lord is my strength. If that's true, then I need your joy to replace all the bone-tired parts of my mind, body, and soul.

The pressures of life sometimes push me into a corner, rendering me helpless to move forward. A hundred voices call my name, and I feel paralyzed at times to answer, not knowing where to turn. Lord, help me not to quit, to keep running the race faithfully, and to find strength in that safe, secret place of yours, under the shadow of the Almighty.

I need your strength to say "no" when I'm tempted to surrender to harmful things, or when selfishness clings to my clothes and won't let go. I need your strength to say "yes," when cowardice and fear nudge me to deny the convictions of my heart. I need your strength to reach out in love to those both close to me and all around me. When don't I need your strength, God?

You are my rock, and I run to you today, believing that you will lift up my heavy arms, that you will fuel me for the tasks you've given me, and that your joy will completely consume the weakness of my life and make me strong again. I don't want to stay grounded, crippled by limitations and failed attempts. I'm tired of feeble efforts. Lord, I want to mount up with wings like an eagle and not just fly—I want to soar!

Keep the faith during this terrible crisis. No matter whether our doors are open or closed lean on our Loving Lord Jesus Christ.

Jimmy



## men's ministry



Even though we're in a time of social distancing, be sure to stay in touch and encourage each other in other ways like through texts, phone calls, cards or letters. As iron sharpens iron.....



A way you can serve the church and keep the 6 foot distance is by weeding the flower beds at the church. Call Wayne Langston to sign up to help with the grounds care of the church campus (mowing, edging, trimming).



# heart to heart

## news for and about the family of fellowship

### heart notes

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all our church family has done to comfort us in this difficult time after my husband, Ken Brock, left our physical presence to enter the presence of our Lord and Savior. We know how tired and weary Kenny was because of his heart condition, and God was with him and us every step of the way. Pastor Clint, Ryan and Roger and Janice were at my home immediately when they got the word to hold us up in prayer. We have felt the prayers of each of you and are grateful for every remembrance. The flowers will remind me of my church family.

Gratefully,  
**Sharon Brock**  
and the entire Kenneth Brock family

Dear Fellowship Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for the way that you have partnered with our ministry at A Women's Pregnancy Center! We are so grateful for your ongoing support. The diapers and wipes that you collected for our Belly Boutique were such a blessing. We also appreciate your members providing food for our New Counselor Training in January. It was delicious!

Blessings,  
The Staff at AWPC

Dear Fellowship,

The Women's Ministry's Festival of Tables was a wonderful success! Thank you to the ladies who hosted and decorated tables, for those who prepared and served the delicious meal, for our speaker Margaret Kennedy, and those who attended. The Festival of Tables contributed \$1,765.00 to the New Building Fund! Again, church, thank you for your support of the Festival of Tables.

Terri Fleming for  
Women's Ministry

#### Notes from the Church Office:

For the present time, staff will rotate working in the office and working from home. If you have a need, call 850-562-2040 or email [serve@fellowshipbaptist.org](mailto:serve@fellowshipbaptist.org). You may need to leave a message, but your call will be returned as soon as possible. Also, if you need to drop something off to the church, please call before you come to be sure someone is available to assist you. As we are being safe, we hope you will enjoy the time available to spend in God's Word and in prayer for your neighbors, our community, our nation, and our world. How will you be God's hands and feet?

Dear Pastor Clint,

On behalf of Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Florida, North America, and around the world I want to say thank you to Fellowship Baptist Church for your faithful commitment to giving through the Cooperative Program. For the year 2019, your church is recognized as a Top 100 giving church in our state, and of churches with 200-700 members, your church is recognized as a Top 20 giving church in our state. Your compassion and generosity are helping to propel the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

I want you to know that here at the Florida Baptist Convention we continue to steward the sacrificial gifts of churches like yours with the utmost care. It is my joy to serve your church in helping to mobilize these resources. All so that the Gospel will be shared, that lives will be transformed, and that God's Kingdom will be expanded. Together we have a greater reach than we ever could alone.

In Christ,  
**Dr. Tommy Green**  
Executive Director-Treasurer

Fellowship Church,

Thank you to everyone connected with Fellowship for showing the love of Jesus and demonstrating a servant's heart to our family during the loss of our son and brother, Tony Milner. Thanks and may God bless.

Bob Milner, Jr.  
for the Milner family



### births

#### congratulations to...

...Michael and Joanne Drane on the birth of Michael's first grandson David **Randolph "Randy" Drane** on March 3. Proud parents are Tommy and Erin Drane.

...Sandra Sellers on the birth of her sixth great-grandson **Charles Clarence Sutton** on February 12. Proud parents are Josh and Krista Sutton.

### in sympathy

#### our hearts and prayers go out to...

...Sharon and Brent Brock and family in the passing of her husband and his father, Kenneth Brock.

...Glenda McDonald and family in the passing of her nephew Arthur Carter.

...family and friends of Ealmar Wiley on her passing.