



Dear Church Family,  
I would like to thank my church family for their love, prayers and support during the loss of my three brothers. Your kindness and compassion were greatly appreciated.  
Love in Christ, Skeets Franklin

Central Baptist Church,  
The family of Ayleen Sale would like to thank you for the cards, prayers, visits, donations to the church in mom’s memory, food and to those who served as pallbearers, usage of the church and the wonderful family meal after the Celebration of Life Service. Mickey, thank you for helping to make this a Time of Celebration of mom’s life, like the Bible tells us to do. Mom loved The Lord and her church. She lived life to the fullest for a 93-year-old and her absences is already being felt. Knowing she is in a much happier place with no more pain has made it a little more comforting. May God Bless each of You!  
Mike, Gwen & Bruce Sale

Dear CBC,  
We would like to thank you for your thoughts and prayers during this time of the loss of my wife and our mother. It has been a long, hard 8½ year journey. For those of you that made visits, called, sent food and cards, we deeply appreciate them. Mother loved the church and loved serving her Lord and Savior. Please continue to pray for us and pray for a cure for Alzheimers.  
The Biddle Family,  
Carroll, Glenna, Mike and Libby

Dear Church Family & Friends,  
I would like to express my gratitude for all the love and concern during my surgery and recovery. Thank you for all the prayers, cards & encouraging words. It means so much to me. I’m blessed to be part of a wonderful “Church Family.” Thanks again!  
Love, Tricia Dotson

**Ministerial Staff**  
TJ Daugherty: [tj@centralbaptistparis.com](mailto:tj@centralbaptistparis.com)  
Senior Pastor  
Mickey Ballard: [mickey@centralbaptistparis.com](mailto:mickey@centralbaptistparis.com)  
Associate Pastor of Music & Worship  
Jonathan Graves: [jonathancbc2019@outlook.com](mailto:jonathancbc2019@outlook.com)  
Associate Pastor of Families & Youth  
Church Secretary: [kaye@centralbaptistparis.com](mailto:kaye@centralbaptistparis.com)  
Financial Secretary: [cathy@centralbaptistparis.com](mailto:cathy@centralbaptistparis.com)  
visit us at [www.centralbaptistparis.com](http://www.centralbaptistparis.com)

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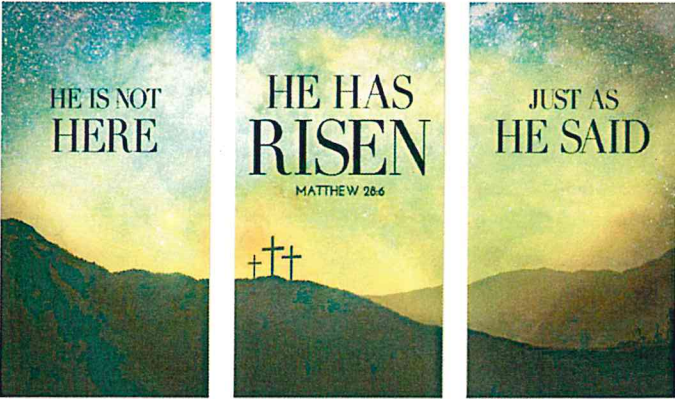
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829 High St. • Paris, KY 40361  
859-987-3951 or 859-987-5638  
[www.centralbaptistparis.com](http://www.centralbaptistparis.com)

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## TJ's Take

My call to pastoral ministry has always been clear. No doubt about it, God had been preparing me and calling me to shepherd the flock. To preach the Word. I had yielded to the call nearly a decade ago and been preparing for the task my entire life.

In God's providence, I was called to enter the pastorate here at Central Baptist Church in March.

After much preparation and anticipation, I began the long journey from my place in Fort Worth, Texas back to my old Kentucky home. I was making the drive on Wednesday, getting unpacked and settled in for a couple of days, and then entering the pulpit to deliver my first message on Sunday morning. This was what I had been preparing for, and I couldn't wait.

I got up very early Wednesday morning to tackle the cross-country trek in one day. While still early in the drive, my phone rang – "Jonathan Graves" appeared on the screen. No doubt, he was just calling to tell me how excited everyone was and to welcome me to town.

But that's not why he was calling. He was calling to tell me that COVID-19 was spreading quickly in Central Kentucky. That several cases had been confirmed in areas just outside Paris. And that Governor Beshear had just issued a statement suggesting that all churches suspend their gatherings for the coming Sunday. My first Sunday.

This isn't how it was supposed to go. This isn't how I had envisioned being a senior pastor.

I quickly made up my mind. I simply wasn't closing the doors. The people of God are ruled by faith, not fear. We gather together when times are good and when times are bad. We need to hear from God, and we need to be together. And it was my first Sunday. It wasn't going to happen. I was resolute.

The next couple of days were some of the craziest days in recent American history. Sports were canceled across the board. Government mandates rolled in, barring gatherings of any substantial size. The weight of the impending decision began to weigh on me. Should we cancel services? Do we try to put together a live stream? What do I say to the flock?

This isn't how it was supposed to go. This isn't how I had envisioned being a senior pastor.

After so much weighty prayer, countless phone conversations, and several sleepless nights, I finally recognized the wisest decision for our congregation was to close the doors on Sunday morning and to cancel all activities throughout the week. We would try to put together a livestream option for Sunday morning, something that had never been done at Central Baptist Church.

I was supposed to be preaching to a large gathering on Sunday. There was supposed to be natural momentum with the new pastor. There was supposed to be excitement and anticipation and energy.

Instead, the doors had to be closed. Instead, I preached to an empty room with a small phone right in front of my face. Instead, there was uncertainty and fear and disappointment.

This isn't how it was supposed to go. This isn't how I had envisioned being a senior pastor.

But in the midst of all the chaos and the uncertainty, there has been a strange sense of calm. There have been many, many difficult decisions. Leadership has never been more challenging. And never before has so much been at stake. But you – my church family – continue to show me grace and mercy during this trying time. You continue to encourage me. And you continue to eagerly await the preaching of the Word of God.

I thought pastoral ministry would include big gatherings on Sunday morning to hear the Word preached. I thought there would be a normalized routine, lunch meetings with church members, handshakes with folks after the service, and a whole lot of time together. That's how it was supposed to go. That's how I envisioned being a senior pastor.

And somewhere along the way, those things will happen.

But not right now. Right now, ministry looks different. Ministry looks like livestreaming services, phone calls and emails to keep our distance, and navigating uncertain times together. Ministry looks like providing leadership and counsel and stability by pointing people to the Rock of Ages. Like preaching and teaching the truth and helping the people of God understand how to respond to the new world around us.

And this is exactly how it was supposed to go. This is exactly how God envisioned me beginning my time as a senior pastor. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Times right now are challenging for all of us. There is uncertainty and fear and disruption to the normal routine. But we can rest in the fact that no matter what happens, God remains on his throne.

On a more personal note, I am happy to report that Chloe and I closed on our house and now have a home to grow into – which is good, because she is also pregnant! We are thrilled to have a home here in Paris and have a church family that loves us so well already. Thank you for praying for us and for showing us such great support and hospitality even from afar.

I so greatly long for the day when we will gather together again and sing praises to the King of Kings in worship together. And in God's timing, it will happen.

Until we gather again,  
Pastor TJ





## MICKEY'S MUSINGS

**Congratulations** are extended to the following individuals who auditioned and were selected to the KY Baptist Convention Children's Choir for 4th-6th graders: Elle Frank, Halle Harms, and Kelby Kenimer, Samuel Morris, Casey Thacker, and Laney Warner. Regrettably, the event was cancelled for this year due to the pandemic. Take a moment and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for these children and their accomplishment.

**Boomers and Seniors** Activity Schedule will be completed at a later date when planning is more feasible. Until then, if you need assistance please reach out to me. I miss seeing you and look forward to sharing meals and going on excursions together.

I cannot put into words how much I miss the encouragement I receive from members of the **Worship Choir** who so faithfully and diligently serve the Father and sacrificially attend rehearsals on Wednesday nights and serve on Sunday mornings. There's just something about joining hearts and minds and voices in the common purpose of praising the Lord! May God bless you 'til we meet again.

A special word of thanks to Chris Jones, Jack Crump, Cam Kenimer, Sue Ellen Ballard, Jake Ballard, Eric Horine, Christian Beauman, Vicky Fleming, and Frank Arcari. We are doing our best to execute safe practices of social distancing and to live stream our worship services. In an effort to limit exposure to ourselves and others, they are the **"Livestream Team."** They have committed to serve every week so that we can worship together—separately. It will never—and should never—replace our gathering together. As Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler said recently, "Any answer I would give and one that I've given repeatedly is that

YouTube is a lousy place to go to church, which is to say there is no electronic digital social media replacement for what Christ intends by calling his church to gather together—the exhortation, the command that we find in Hebrews 10 not to neglect the assembling of ourselves together." I, for one, look forward to the day we join together again in one space to praise the Almighty!

**The Road to Easter**, our Easter outreach event scheduled for April 4 has been cancelled. Continue to pray for those in our community who need to know Jesus as savior or need to be reminded of His love and grace.



## Jonny's Corner

It sure is quiet around here! The corona virus has caused all kinds of issues for everyone throughout the world. It has put a lot of things in question and caused many activities to be cancelled. On top of that, everyone is to stay quarantined for the foreseeable future. Schools are out, businesses have been shut down, and mostly everybody is stuck at home. But, there are some much needed positives in this time of chaos and frustration.

Look at it this way. All the excuses we have, whether it is being too busy, etc., we have time to focus on what is important. This is a great opportunity to spend more time with God through prayer and His Word. As believers, we should want to have a stronger relationship with Christ, so we have time right now to spend with him. We have time to show God's love to others. I know we are supposed to keep social distancing, but we have technology that will allow us to keep close contact with friends and family all over the world. Take the time to make phone calls, have digital meetings, and spend time checking on people with the technology we have access to.

Right now, there are many activities that have been cancelled. There will be future activities that will, more than likely, be cancelled. I am not sure yet how this

pandemic is going to impact VBS, camps, and other summer activities as of yet. As soon as I get more information from these events, and the decisions they make, I will let everyone know what is going on.

I truly miss everyone. I miss the fellowship with my church, having people stop by to talk and just stopping in to see how everyone is doing. I know Amy and I truly miss spending time with the students and children. I miss my Bible studies with the students, I miss seeing the smiling faces of the children, I miss the laughter from the students, and I miss spending time with my church family. But, on the bright side, God is still in control and knows exactly what is going on.

At this time, I believe God has opened the door for all of us to feel His presence. I believe God is using this pandemic to bring glory to Himself and to help us open our eyes towards Him. I understand that this pandemic is impacting billions of people across the world, but for those that believe and put their faith in Christ, there is nothing to worry about. God's glory will shine, and I truly believe He has given us the perfect opportunity to grow in our relationship with Him, to experience His grace, and to truly see His glory through a rough period of life.

I keep coming back to my go-to verse. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." Take the time to see God at work through this rough season of life. People are looking for hope through this pandemic, and there is no better hope than Jesus Christ. He is at work, and He will be exalted throughout the earth.

We serve a great and mighty God! Put your trust in Him and allow His grace to bless you through this time of hardship. Put your faith completely in Him and He will get us through this. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and that light is Jesus Christ!

God Bless,  
Jonny





### **Tennessee church partners to advance gospel in the Himalayas**

(South Asia) Volunteers from First Baptist Church in Dickson, Tennessee, regularly partner in ministry with Chase and Rita Tozer\*, IMB workers in South Asia. Multiple teams of volunteers, ranging from college students to retirees, have seen tremendous results during their visits.

FBC Dickson began their partnership in South Asia as a result of a couple from their congregation who made a short-term trip in 2012. The couple, now retired, has returned every year to train and equip pastors. One summer they trained 40 new pastors.

That same summer, seven young adults from FBC Dickson traveled with local believers to remote areas of the Himalayas to share the gospel with unreached people groups. Chase said he has yet to travel to this area due to its remoteness. Over ten days, 149 people made professions of faith and two new churches started because of the team's witness. The churches join over one thousand new churches started by these local believers and their network.

One member of the FBC Dickson team stayed for seven extra weeks to participate in evangelism and discipleship. Another team from the church composed of six women, spent time in a major city and surrounding villages sharing the gospel alongside the Tozers and their team members.

Chase says the church is a great example of what God can do through partnerships between US churches and IMB missionaries.

-Caroline Anderson

\*Names changed

### **Average Attendance & Giving Report through March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Average Sunday School 178   Average Worship 256  
Year to Date Budget Giving \$93,977.23  
Year to Date Budget Required \$121,191.27  
Budget Shortfall \$27,214.04

### **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**

Central Baptist Church Goal - \$5,000  
Collected as of March 29<sup>th</sup> \$1386.50

**Tithes and Offerings** can be mailed to the church office at 829 High Street. Also, online giving is being set up on our website very soon at [www.centralbaptistparis.com](http://www.centralbaptistparis.com)

### **Sunday Morning Services**

If you don't have Facebook live but are still wanting to access our services on Sunday morning, you can tune in to AM 1440 or FM 100.9 through Easter Sunday. Please spread the word!

### **April AWANA Calendar \*Backpack Snacks**

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Regular Club Night  
April 12<sup>th</sup> – No AWANA – Easter Sunday  
April 19<sup>th</sup> – No AWANA  
April 26<sup>th</sup> – Regular Club Night  
**\*This may have to change accordingly**

### **Mark your calendar! July Mission Trip to Inez**

If our mission trip to eastern Kentucky is allowed to happen it promises to be a trip where we interact more with people of the community. The dates for this trip are July 12th-17th. We will be staying at Haven of Rest. For more information contact Bill Sprinkle or Vicky Fleming.

### **“all NEW things”**

Kentucky Baptist Women's Conference  
Postponed until October