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# Reflections

Volume XLV, No. 13

May 14, 2020

[www.bereafbc.org](http://www.bereafbc.org)

(864)246-1921

## Regathering this Sunday

As we look forward to regathering in worship this Sunday here are some reminders:

Doors will open at 8:30 for the 9:00 a.m. service.

Doors will open at 10:30 for the 11:00 a.m. service.

### Here are a few additional notes related to Sunday:

1. If you arrive at 10:30 and the doors aren't open, please be patient knowing that volunteers are working quickly to have the building as clean as possible for you. When the cleaning is complete, the front Sanctuary doors and Welcome Center doors will be propped open.
2. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please know that it is perfectly appropriate to wear one while attending worship.
3. The offering will be collected at the end of the service when you are leaving the auditorium.
4. Families are encouraged to sit together.
5. We will have every other pew roped-off. Plan to leave some space between you and the next person.

Dear Church Family,

I'm thankful that things are beginning to open again. This has turned into one of the most difficult times in modern history. The virus and the ensuing restrictions have impacted each of our lives in some way. Fortunately, there are signs that the situation is gradually improving.

The unfortunate aspect of the slow progress is that our summer ministry activities will be impacted. We waited as long as possible to make a decision on these ministries in hopes that there might be a more rapid reduction of COVID cases. As you know, the context of VBS, Camp, and other trips are not conducive for any measure of social distancing. In fact, it would be virtually impossible to sanitize in a way that would mitigate COVID-19 exposure.

Here are the plans for summer ministries:

- Otter Creek - June 7. Postponed to a possible later summer date.
- VBS - June 8-12. Postponed to July 27-31.
- LEADNOW. Canceled
- Camp Weeks - June 21-July 2. Postponed with the potential of rescheduling a couple of weekend camps in late summer or early fall.
- Kentucky - July 11-17. Postponed with the potential of rescheduling for a weekend trip in late summer or early fall.

\*\*Each of the postponed events will depend on the COVID situation at that time. Let's pray that things begin to improve more quickly so these ministries can take place later in the summer or early fall.

This has been and continues to be a challenging time. Yet, often when God slows our activity, it is so that we can better hear from Him. Moses heard from the Lord when he turned away from what he was doing to observe the burning bush. I pray that months from now, when things have greatly improved that each of us will be able to look back and see that our relationship with the Lord was deepened because of the extra time we devoted to spending with Him. May we, like the apostle Paul, value knowing Jesus above all things.

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him" (Philippians 3:8-9).

Let's use this time to pursue Jesus!

For Him,  
Chad

## College and High School Graduates



Class of 2020, I know this is not how you pictured your senior year ending. I am so sorry this health crisis has hit at what should be one of the most joyful seasons of your life. I want you to know how much we love you and how very proud of you we are. In the midst of unprecedented obstacles, you have risen above it all, and nothing—not even a pandemic!—can take away what by God’s grace you have achieved. Regardless of what lies ahead, we are still going to do something special to honor you and celebrate what God has done to bring you to this moment. **We plan to recognize our graduates on Sunday, May 31.** Stay tuned for further details. **For now, we need a couple of things from you. Please email me ([rstark@bereafbc.org](mailto:rstark@bereafbc.org)) your senior picture and a baby picture along with a favorite Bible verse, where you’re graduating from, and what your future plans are. This information is due by May 24.** I am praying for you, and I am so excited for what God has in store for you. If you are in Christ, He knows the plans He has for you—and they are plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future (Jer 29:11). And if your hope is in Him, your future is bright.

—Ricky

### The Reaching Center

Items needed in May: **CANNED VEGETABLES**

Our Reaching Center has remained open the entire quarantine time with the support of our church members and some local donations. Please continue to help us keep the shelves stocked by purchasing a few extra items as you grocery shop each week. We want to continue to minister to our community during this time.

### In Need of Prayer?

- Call 246-9182, ext. 1 and leave a message
- Send an email to [prayerrequest@bereafbc.org](mailto:prayerrequest@bereafbc.org)

Our faithful prayer servants work throughout the week lifting up the requests/needs of our church and beyond. We pray for all types of needs that are brought to the attention of our intercessors.

## Financial Report Sunday, May 14

Total Annual Budget.....\$1,429,626.76  
 Budgeted Gifts Rec'd 5-14.....\$23,431.00  
 Legacy Gifts.....\$163.00  
 Designated/Reimbursement.....\$3,810.00  
 Total Deposit.....\$27,404.00

### Sympathy

*Sympathy is extended to:*

The family of Lilly Phillips.

Anna Brock in the death of her grandfather, Bud Miller.

David League in the death of his mother, Doris League.

Sherilyn Hampton in the death of her father-in-law, Dale Hampton.

Peggy Peterson in the death of her sister, Kay Sykes

### Memorials

*Gifts have been given in memory of:*

Pat Waldrop by:

Shep and Debbie Tallon

Sonny Epps by:

Epps/Jones Sunday School Class

Jim and Diane Harrill

Douglas Neil Baker by:

Harriet Baker

Joyce Patterson by:

Walter and Evelyn Watson

Harold and Pat Batson

Bob and Kay Dobbins

## Online Giving

We will have ushers at the door Sunday morning after the service collecting offering, but we still encourage you to take advantage of our online giving. This is a touch-free option that allows you to give regularly to the church. We look forward to when we can return to ministries like Good News Club, daily classroom volunteers, church activities, and so much more. Your faithful support during the shutdown period was a great testimony to your obedience to God’s call to give sacrificially. Thank you for supporting the work God is doing through Berea First Baptist Church.

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## Mother's Day Memory Mayhem

We love our moms, and we had a blast honoring them last week with our Mother’s Day Memory Mayhem. Students and families took their favorite childhood photos and re-created them in modern day to share on social media. Here were some of our favorites:

