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VBS:

Jesus Loves You Day & Knight

Children taking part in FPC's Vacation Bible School were invited to meet princesses and knights of North Castle, characters straight out of a medieval legend, during its drive-by parade. With a program designed to enhance children's understanding of God's love for them, VBS 2020 combined in-person drive-by activities, at-home projects, Zoom gatherings, and daily emails.

In addition to a treat, the drive-by participants received a DIY kit containing activities for art, science, and mission, parent guides, a music CD for the Knights of North Castle theme, a mission collection box, and a family Goat Bingo game. Each morning families received an email outlining the activities in the box as well as links to videos including science experiments, Bible story videos created by FPC children, and Mission moments about their Mission project. Zoom meetings during the week helped children connect with leaders and friends and featured fun themes such as Crazy Hair Day or Wear your Favorite Shirt Day.

On the final day, leaders provided fun carnival games for children to play from their family vehicles, along with a contact-free photo opportunity with some of the fun-loving FPC staff. The Children's Ministry crew has definitely "slain the dragon" and created a fun, innovative approach to Vacation Bible School this year.



The Rev. Dr. Ryan Moore
Pastor

At the center of Jesus' ministry is the constant desire to gather people together in community. This is where Jesus promises to meet us. This is where we come alive in the most meaningful sense. And this is where we're fed, strengthened, and empowered for joyful service to His kingdom.

In the usual ways, this pandemic has kept us apart. And yet, in so many new ways Christ has continued to gather His people together to will and work for His glory. Here's a snapshot. There have been 45 youth small group Zoom bible studies ongoing. Through the 15:25 Project 400 gifts have raised around \$92,000 dollars to support our local mission partners. Average weekly attendance in our children's Sunday school virtual program has been 179 people per week! There were 72 kids, representing 51 families, who participated in last week's Staycation Bible School. Our weekly Sunday worship services have reached on Vimeo around 800-1000 each week and on Facebook we've weekly reached 900-1,000! Over three Sundays 95 dozen (that's 1,140!) donuts were delivered to First Church families. Over 2,000 Operation Barnabas calls have been made to check in on our members. And the list goes on...

With Session approval, we are prayerfully and sensibly beginning to reopen our facilities. There are already morning Bible studies meetings outside in the Columbarium. The staff have begun to return in shifts. Noonday prayers see the Sanctuary return to operation (Monday—Friday, noon to 1pm), and plans are in the works to begin Sunday morning services July 12.

Surveying the last three months, I have come to believe that the Lord Jesus can bless and mightily use this broken road we've been journeying on. I am confident, with the Lord doing the part only He can do, that Nashville's historic First Church will move from strength to strength.

Warmly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Events

Fridays in July

FIRST FRIENDS CROQUET
5 p.m. | FPC Front Lawn

Contact Brenda Geise at bgeise@fpcnashville.org for more information.

July 3

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

July 12

SANCTUARY REOPENS FOR WORSHIP
Sundays | 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. | Sanctuary

Please let us know if you would like to attend.
Call the church office at 615-383-1815 or email hospitalitycenter@fpcnashville.org.

July 17

MISSION CAMP

August 8 – 9

NaCoMe
Registration now open at fpcnashville.org.

For more news and updates, sign up for our weekly Parish News email at fpcnashville.org or email communications@fpcnashville.org.