

# Crescent Hill Baptist Church

September 2020

## Life Together

### Love In Action Donation Drive September 19

**An Opportunity to Share Our Love in Action!**

**Saturday, September 19: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Donations will be accepted for drop-off at the Fellowship Hall entrance for the following local organizations.

#### United Crescent Hill Ministries

Canned Vegetables	Shampoo
Canned Fruit	Toothpaste & toothbrushes
Canned Meats	Toilet tissue
Shelf stable milk	Laundry or dish detergent
Low sugar cereals	Feminine care products
Dry pasta	Formula
Spaghetti sauce	Diapers, (sizes 1-5)
Body wash, hand soap, deodorant	Baby wipes

#### #FeedTheWest

#FeedTheWest is a community-led, food justice initiative working towards building Black-owned and sustainable food sources in the West End of Louisville.

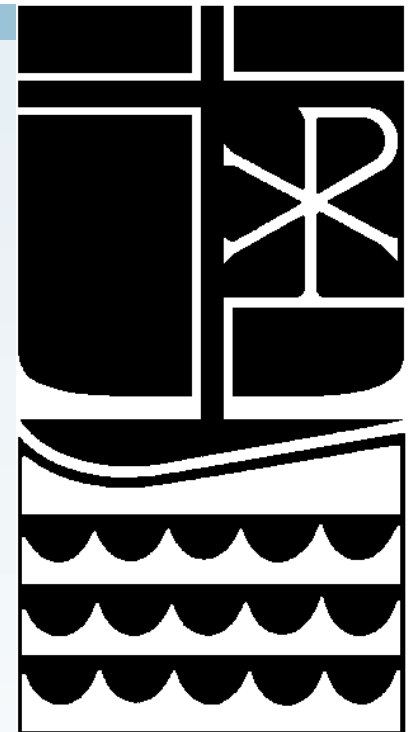
Canvas Bags/Grocery Bags	Snacks/Chips/Cookies
Small Boxes	Canned Goods
Cases of Water	Bread
Organic Fruit	Hygiene Items for Babies, Children, Women & Men:
Organic Vegetables	Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Organic Fresh & Frozen Meat	Deodorant, Bar Soap
Single Serve Desserts	Lotion
Banana	Shampoo/Conditioner
Eggs	Feminine care products
Oatmeal Variety Packs	

For more information or to give monetary donations, please visit

<https://change-today.org/feedthewest/#>

#### WaterStep

Shoes in good condition (athletic shoes preferred): no rips, no holes, no mud, no mold, no excessive wear.



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# Top 3 COVID Lessons — from Andrea

Twenty-five weeks ago (as of September 1) we moved our worship services online. Sunday school classes started Zooming as well as Wednesday prayer meeting and other small groups. March 15 was the first Sunday we had our worship service online. It was the start of the week when schools no longer met in their buildings, daycares closed, and most stores and other businesses suspended in-person operations. September 15 will mark that 6-month anniversary. Some days it seems like we have been operating in this pandemic for just a couple weeks, and other days it feels like we've been doing this for six years.

I don't know who said nor in what context, but the quote, "Don't waste a good crisis," has come to mind many times over the last several months. I have found that it is often during a crisis that we learn and grow more. It is during a crisis that we often take a realistic inventory of our life and determine what really matters and what can be let go of. It is during a crisis that behaviors and habits are examined and changed.

Not wanting to waste a good crisis, here are the top three lessons I have learned along the way.

## **1. People are resilient.**

When the infrastructure of our normal daily life closed in March, we figured it out. Teachers did an amazing job scrambling last minute to move everything online and teach in a way they had never done before. Students adapted their learning styles. Parents figured out how to work at home and teach their children. Senior adults learned how to connect with their Sunday School class over Zoom and how to order groceries online for pick up or delivery. Churches learned how to use a video camera. Families learned how to stay connected over video calls, Zoom, and other social media while protecting their high-risk loved ones. I am not saying things were perfect with NTI or balancing personal/school/professional lives or with online worship services or Zoom meetings, but everyone tried new ways

of doing things, kept persisting and came out with new skills.

## **2. Ask for what you need.**

It was difficult for some to ask for help; but people are ready and willing to help, so ask. I needed volunteers to help pack art boxes. They came. I needed Legos for activity boxes. We have Legos. Folks needed groceries delivered. Groceries were delivered. Folks needed masks. Masks were made. People needed help moving. Friends showed up. Meals have been delivered. Technology lessons on connecting with Zoom have been taught. Legos have been sorted and counted. Folks are ready and willing to help; just ask for what you need.

## **3. I miss people.**

I may have said at the beginning of this pandemic, "Introverts were made for this." And while I have no doubt introverts adapted much more easily to the isolation and the social distancing than most extroverts (trust me, I live with one), even us introverts miss people. I have made a few porch deliveries of activity boxes in June and July. Seeing our kids through a window or glass door and simply getting to see how tall they have gotten, seeing newly lost teeth (or new teeth in the case of many of our toddlers), hearing how their families are faring has been refreshing for my soul. Seeing folks on Zoom is good. Seeing faces, hearing voices, watching facial expressions on a computer screen is good. But it is not the same. So if this seriously introverted, quiet, and private person is missing people, I can only imagine what the extroverted and outgoing people are going through.

Ministry changes and adapts also. In the churches I grew up in, we had "Visitation" on Tuesday evenings. This was one of the few things my family didn't really do at the church, but I participated a few times in middle and high school. So while much of ministry is happening online, through Zoom, and "virtually" right now, I will be reaching back to some old school ways of doing things. *(continued on next page)*

## COVID Lessons from Andrea ... continued

I am adapting my schedule a bit, and will clear my schedule on Fridays to do some old school visitation. If you find yourself weary of the isolation and miss people, I will devote my Fridays to come see you. This is where I need your help. If you need or want a visit, I need you to learn lesson #2 and ask for help. Let me know you want a visit, and we will schedule it. I would prefer an outdoor visit with masks on. When weather is not permitting, I am ok with an indoor visit as long as we keep some distance and both wear a mask. So let me hear from you. Email or texting is the best way to get a hold of me. Email: Andrea@chbcky.org; cell: 502-295-0285. (Please note, in an effort to keep a balance between work and home life, I do screen calls and texts during the evening and days off.)

### Children's Take Home Activity Box

We have had Art Boxes, Storytime Boxes, and Lego Bible Story Boxes for our kids. In early October we will offer a Holiday Craft Box. This will be a larger box of activities to get us through the major Fall/Winter Holidays. There will be crafts for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There will be an elementary version and an adapted preschool version. More details will be out later.

### The Best and Worst of Times — from Louie

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair...."

Somehow this quote came to me as I have been contemplating the current situation in our world and in society. The period of the pandemic has brought out feelings in me I have never felt before; and although not all of them are the most pleasant, I am grateful (some of the time) for the experiences afforded me.

I have learned things about myself I never knew: I can be very impulsive, and have learned to calm down a little (June would have to verify this!); I have had more time to spend with my family than ever — daunting and rewarding at the same time; I have seen myself in my sons in the best and worst ways; I have developed new realms of patience, trying to accept what is, and what isn't, and the wisdom to know the difference; I have learned new things about myself — mainly how unproductive I can be and yet that I am not ready to retire completely; and that I function better when I have something to do and some purpose to fulfill.

I have Zoomed many meetings and services, have planned and recorded worship at Crescent Hill and The Temple, have dealt with new guidelines for in-person gatherings at Highlands Latin School and The Temple, have been working on a weight-loss program, and have had medical tests and voice therapy sessions for some vocal problems I have been having.

June and I took a short vacation to Clifty Falls State Park, which was a nice getaway. I have been reading some challenging books and participating in book groups, right now, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, led by Brittani and Josh Bair. And oh yes...I have begun a couple of books that I need to finish.

I admit that when the lockdown began, I had grandiose ideas about things I would accomplish: online classes, multiple books read, hours of piano and organ practice. While I experienced some of this, I also realized my frailty and what the writer of Ecclesiastes says, "All is vanity."

As we come to the end of the summer, I am thankful for God's grace and for the opportunities to accomplish a few of the things I set out to accomplish. I find solace in the scripture where Christ said to the apostle Peter, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." (II Corinthians 12:9, NRSV). May it be so, in the best and worst of times!

## Startling Pandemic Realization — from Bobbe

When it was suggested that each of us write a little piece on what we may have learned during the pandemic, I giggled to myself thinking this would be a simple task. Well it's a week later and I have come to the realization that I've not learned a single thing during this time. Trust me. I asked Bill. I asked Jason. I asked Charlie. We all agree! I haven't picked up *any* new skills, nor have I acquired *any* new hobbies.

Yes, it's a fact that I do not know even one new thing that I didn't already know before all of this started.

What I can say is that because of this pandemic, I now place more emphasis on the *practice and observance* of what I do know.

### Here are ten of those things:

1. Cultivating and maintaining a sense of humor is important.
2. Making time to step outside in nature – even for a few minutes – resets a mood for the positive.
3. Writing and receiving letters and cards is meaningful for everyone.
4. Trading honest secrets and beliefs with a dying soul is life changing.
5. The best way to feel better is to help another human.
6. Singing the “Our Father” to myself quiets my mind.
7. “Because God sees” is a perfect explanation for just about anything.
8. Smiling into the eyes of a stranger is a double-sided blessing.
9. God is real and still in the business of answering prayers.
10. This too shall pass.

## A Sense of Place—from Janet

In many ways I am one of the lucky ones. I still have a job. I can still pay my bills. I can find most everything I want or need at the grocery store.

Coming to work has been quite a different experience, however. I missed the hustle and bustle of the Latin School this spring, even the traffic at dismissal time. Members aren't dropping by to pick up materials for coming weeks, drop off contributions, attend classes or Wednesday evening dinner. In fact, I see very few members during the course of an afternoon. There are no publications to prepare or print except for this newsletter. No longer do I call Thursday Bulletin Day!

There are several posts on Facebook concerning what church is — or is not these days. Most of them say it is not the building, but its people. I agree in part with this. What I have experienced as the occasional person comes in for some kind of business is, almost without exception, a sense of gratitude for our space. “I am so glad to be **in** this building.” “I can't wait to be back here.” “I want to see what has been done in the Parlor.” And on and on.

As with the rest of us, I sorely miss seeing, hugging, being with the church family. Zoom has helped, but it goes only so far! It doesn't compare to the fellowship around the tables on Wednesday evenings, to the sharing of joys and concerns in the Sunday School class, to the passing of the peace on Sunday mornings.

Know that until we are able to gather in person once more that the building waits for us to return to that warm sense of holy place. God is still here as well as in each of our hearts as we worship, minister, and fellowship remotely.

Until we meet again....

## Silver Linings — from Jason

I hope that everyone has found some silver linings to the storm clouds that have gathered over our heads over the course of the past several months. Obviously, we all wish that our lives would return to more normal rhythms and routines. However, until the pandemic subsides, or at least comes under better control, We will continue to live in abnormal times.

The disruption of normalcy, however, does present opportunity for new, positive experiences. I imagine that many of you, like me, have had time to declutter a closet or a room. I hope that many of you, like me, have found the time to take more walks through a park. I hope that many of you, like me, have had the chance to expand the horizons of your mind during this time of physical confinement.

So, in order to help us all count some of the blessings that have come our way during these days in this edition of Life Together the staff of Crescent Hill Baptist Church is sharing some of what we have learned during Covid.

I have learned...

- All of the lyrics to the musical Hamilton. Our children (and parents) were fans of Hamilton before the pandemic began. However, since the pandemic began the musical has been on repeat in our house nearly nonstop.
- How to smoke meat. Last June, Kate purchased a Green Egg grill for me for Father's Day. I had not had the opportunity to learn how to control the temperature on the grill at a low level for a long period of time until the pandemic began. I have smoked salmon and ribs, and I hope to be able to share some of what I have smoked on the grill with many of you very soon.
- How to ride a road bike. Many of you know that I am an avid runner. Before I became a runner I was a swimmer. Friends of mine have encouraged me to get a bike and start riding so that I could compete in triathlons. Well, that finally happened in the past few months. When this is all said and done, I will compete in my first triathlon.
- About Kentucky history. A lot of my day is spent reading various religious related books and articles. However, an interest of mine that I had not been able to cultivate fully is a better grasp of the history of Kentucky. I am a born and bred Kentuckian. I love our city and I love our state. The pandemic has afforded me the opportunity to read several books that have broadened my understanding of the history of our city and state.
- And finally, on a more serious note, I do feel that I've learned how to be a better father and husband. When you spend so much time with a spouse and children (at the age that my children happen to be) you can't help but learn more about them, yourself, and the relational dynamics present between us. Some days stuck at home with a working mother and father and school-aged children have proven to be really hard. Most days, however, have been wonderful. Days that we will never forget. I'm grateful that I've learned just how much I love my family.

I hope you've learned some new skills, gathered new insights, and been able to find some goodness in the midst of the struggle. Let's give God thanks for the silver linings.

In peace - Jason

## Perspective — from Brittani

In mid-March 2020, we thought this pandemic would be relatively short. I remember when the fear that it could alter our summer plans seemed like a worst-case scenario. But it turns out that COVID-19 is likely to wipe out a year or more of special occasions and long-anticipated plans, and for some, a lifetime of these things. It has shifted from an inconvenience to an existential threat.

With this shift in perspective, we have learned that many of the things we had thought were “must-do” items on our lists, are things we don’t actually “have to” do at all. Maybe it feels liberating to some of us, that so much is actually *our* choice after all?

Reflecting back on everything that we had added to our schedules before March, how busy we all used to be, it would appear we have an obsession with productivity and with filling our time. The pandemic has revealed a deeply held and largely unexamined core belief: If you aren’t visibly producing, you aren’t worthy.

Consider Aesop’s fable of the ant and the grasshopper. In summary, the grasshopper sang and frolicked all summer while the ant worked hard collecting food. When winter came, the ant was comfortable, and the grasshopper was not. Did the ant share? No. This is lifted up to us as a life lesson about being prepared and productive.

This year, many of us have become involuntary grasshoppers in the ant world. What a transformation. But, have we let the shift in

perspective sink all the way down into what we believe about ourselves and what we value? Does the grasshopper actually deserve to starve in the cold winter? The ant thinks so.

Maybe Aesop didn’t understand the vital role grasshoppers play the ecosystem? Research suggests that even the mood of the grasshopper can affect which plants thrive in an ecosystem. And as it turns out, in the harsh ways of Nature, grasshoppers aren’t designed to survive the winter. They lay their eggs in the fall and die. With a life designed to be so short, storing up food would be a waste of time. Perhaps the grasshopper spent the summer wisely after all. My point here is that I do not believe time and productivity are the best measures of a life well lived. We need to challenge that false belief and the systems that perpetuate it. These have been days of experiential learning for me. When my existence is threatened, I would rather not measure my worthiness as a person by what’s stored in my ant hill or by the amount of time I spent on Earth. I might rather measure my worth by the number of songs that touched my soul this summer or the beauty of the words I shared with others. And maybe, I would rather not waste the only season I’m designed for, storing up for someone else’s winter?od, grant us the courage to believe, that we are worthy of life and love, just because you said so, for however long we have. Amen.

## Promotion Sunday

We recognize the following students who are attending new schools this fall:

### 9th Grade

Dah La Eh—Iroquois  
Sanier Moo—Iroquois  
Orlando Ping—Doss  
Paw Say Roe Po—Manual  
Alexander Say—Male  
Ah Na Watt—St. Francis

### 6th Grade

William Holt—KCD  
Hser Htee—Olmstead South  
Barnabas K’Paw—Olmstead North  
Just Sent Moo—Olmstead North  
Eh Ku Soe—Olmstead North

### 1st Grade

Alex B  
Mallory Cheng  
Salem Conrad  
Danny Leidner  
Hser Ku Shee



# Be Ready to Vote November 3

## October 5 at 4pm is the deadline to register to vote! It is easy!

- U.S. citizen over 18 years old – or will be 18 by November 3
- If you registered once, you do not need to register again.
- But, if you moved since you registered, you must turn in a change of address.  
All you need is:
  - Social Security number
  - Address where you live now
  - Decide if you want to be a Democrat or Republican
- **Register:** [www.govoteky.com](http://www.govoteky.com) Ask for help if you need it to register!

## Other important dates: some of these plans are still updating but as of now:

You can request an absentee/mail-in ballot by Oct. 9 starting the week of Aug. 25 (You can use COVID 19 as your excuse.) [www.govoteky.com](http://www.govoteky.com)

Ballot must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and received by November 6, 2020. Drop Boxes will be available with locations to be determined.

Someone chosen by the voter can return a ballot for them.

**Early in person voting: Recommended!** Every work day between October 13 and Election Day, November 3. Every Saturday for at least 4 hours (TBD).

**Election Day voting:** Will be at least one “Super-Center” and some other locations all to still be determined. Voting is 6AM to 6PM.

**Please plan to vote and help and encourage others to do so!**

**If you are able, please consider signing up to be a poll worker on November 3. More workers = more polling places open!** <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/ovrweb/pollworker/>

## September Birthdays

2	Bruce Landis	12	Tom Doyon	23	Alvin (5)
3	Paige Hoyer (16)		Rebekah McAuliffe		Matt Dyer
4	Anne LaMaster		Htee Shein	24	Lora Lee Diehl
	Jackson Htoo (7)		Diane Taylor		Jackie Shahroudi
5	Stacy Arnett	13	Tony Hammons		Williams
	Sam Blythe	14	Rhonda Gilliland	25	Nate Creech
6	Stephen Holt		Matthew Mahanes		Eh Kaw Lah John (16)
	Julia McCall		(13)		Tom Scott, Jr.
7	Melanie Claypool		Lah Say Wah (19)		Eh Ywa
	Arnold Hook	15	Ross Allen	26	Chuck Leach
	Htoo Lwe Say (21)	17	Bob Smith	27	Sarah Conder
8	Tim Baker		Martha Von Bokern		John Pfingston
	Steve Horner	18	Sharon White	28	Ba Blu Moo (6)
9	Angela Goff (19)	19	Hsar Kee Lar	29	Lisa Goff
	Leslie Picken	20	Jessica Kettle Clay		Hero Klo
10	Betsey Weisser	22	John R Claypool	30	Winston Holt (14)
	Hai Moo (14)		Suzy Crowe		Mark Payton
11	Aye Cho		Bonnie Lyons		Todd Weber

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