The coronavirus has prevented 80 percent of our church family from attending public worship.

The *face-to-face* connections through Bible Study, meals, tutoring children, choir rehearsals and performances, and fellowships are discontinued.

*Personal visits* in hospitals, long term care facilities, and homes place visitor and guest at risk.

*And how are we to respond?* The trials Third faces are written into our story for *purpose*. Joy can exist alongside hardship.

The present challenges will reveal Third’s character.
I believe these present trials are an opportunity for God to continue wonderful things among us!

Third’s worship team is well prepared. The services on-line and in-person encourage, instruct and offer creative on-ramps for participation. The number of views through *Facebook* and *YouTube* continue to increase.

All age groups are presented with weekly discipleship options through social media.
All administrative, missions and education committees are faithfully meeting through Zoom.

The finances are healthy because of your consistent and faithful giving—in-person, online, and through mail.

Third’s food pantry has implemented wise safety procedures in order to serve our community each month.

The Innovations Committee, superbly chaired by Jerry Bryan, has met faithfully for one year.

And you’ll soon review Innovation recommendations at these upcoming times:

- Sunday, March 14th reviewed by the **Church Council** at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 17th at 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 21st at 9:30 a.m.: **All are invited.**
- Sunday, March 28th at 9:30 a.m.: Third is called into **Business Meeting** for discussion and vote on the Innovation recommendations.

**And the road ahead?**

- Third Worship will remain open— in-person and broadcast live through **Facebook** and **YouTube**.
- Bible Study, Choir Rehearsals, Tutoring, Sanctuary Choir, Fellowship Meals, all Wednesday night events are unable to meet on campus.
- Adult Sunday school leaders will connect through Zoom in Spring—preparing and planning eventual return to campus.
- The above decisions are reviewed in Spring, Summer and Fall of 2021.

- The following should be taken for what it’s worth—it’s total conjecture. I am hoping Wednesday night discipleship and in-person Bible Study can safely and comfortably return by Fall 2021. I believe issues related to choir and rehearsals may not return to pre-covid days until late 2021. And I believe above is the best case scenario.

Now, saying all that—wisdom and discernment will be our guide. In this time of wilderness—it is paramount to remain connected.

**Sunday school teachers**—please intentionally plan social media connections with your class.

**Church family**—commit to reading prayer requests. In addition, discipline yourself to drop notes of encouragement to those traveling difficult roads.

**Listen to the Spirit**—has God laid someone on your heart? Please don’t let the moment pass—take action and connect.

Third, we are called to keep this wisdom from James in the forefront of our collective minds:

> **Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**
> *(James 1:2-4)*

Count It All Joy.
Be strong and courageous,
Tommy
The church of my childhood was simultaneously home to a Korean congregation. I know now, better than I did as a child, how much the friendships formed, meals shared, and worship experiences enhanced my relationship with God and my idea of who God calls, “child” (spoiler alert: it’s everyone!)

I have been thinking about this childhood church as I’m grateful for the diversity found at Third and as I’m thinking about my own young son’s development as we’ve celebrated his first Black History Month without interaction with our beloved community.

We are grateful that Julius’ library is as already as large as it is (in large part thanks to so many of you!) and as we read his books we are reminded that while grateful for examples of God’s love for all the children of our world there is also much work to do.

Cindy Wang Brandt’s Parenting Forward: How to Raise Children with Justice, Mercy, and Kindness is a helpful teacher to me and I’m appreciating her wisdom and guidance (and will share)!

One of things Brandt mentions is that only 5% of published children’s books contain non-white characters. I might not have though much of that if it had not been for the children of our church, my own experiences and my ever-increased awareness of the power of representation and exposure.

Continued on page four
This month, parents of children will receive Matthew Paul Turner’s *When God Made You* (one of those 5%) in the mail. I pray it enhances your family’s journey with Christ. If you already have it, share it with someone who needs it and I’ll send something else!

![Image of When God Made You](image)

Thank you for being a church who ministers in mind with all of the children of the world, from across the Mississippi River to Lebanon and everywhere in between.

Grateful to serve with you,
Drew

---

**HOW GOD GUIDES THROUGH THE WILDERNESS**
**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM FOR ALL ADULTS—6 P.M.**
Dear brothers and sisters at Third Baptist,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of $690 to our programming fund. In doing so, you have contributed to children’s Bible clubs in Romany villages in Transylvania, Romania, and in Moldova. You have helped translate Davar: Bridging to Literacy materials into target languages. You have given towards the tools and connectivity I need to mentor a new Student.Go missions intern this spring (virtually). Thank you for your partnership financially and in prayer. We pray that sometime in the not-too-distant future we may meet again, face-to-face.

Yours in Christ,
Mary VanRheenen &
Keith Holmes
Resource coordinators,
CBF Romany Ministries

Birthdays in March

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Michelle Robinson</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tom Kurtz &amp; Steven Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Kaionta Dabney</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Naomi Thiems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Juanita Wallis</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Lynn Spencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Maria Bradford</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Richard Stevenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Gracie Moore</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Patricia Whitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Virgil Dickinson</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Elizabeth Berger &amp; Tena Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Nancy Furgerson</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Christie Kincannon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brent Johnson</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Don Wainwright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Church members have heard many times how Third is making a concerted effort to champion the role of women composers in its worship. We were among the first, if not the first, congregation to accept this challenge, and it is gratifying to see that we are no longer alone in St. Louis, though it is still ‘early days.’

One such female composer whose music has graced our worship is a French artist, Germaine Tailleferre. Destined for greatness, she was gradually overlooked by the ‘Establishment,’ and without too many financial resources of her own, at 84 years old (an age when many are benefitting from a pension) she had to support herself by playing piano at a private school in Paris. Even then, and despite painful arthritis, she managed to compose, albeit in an idiom that seemed hopelessly outdated. Nearly four decades after her death, we are gradually realizing how beautiful was her creative voice. On March 21, when our Message will focus on ‘The Overlooked’, her music will enrich our worship through piano, organ and trombone.

Two weeks earlier, a giant of English music whom we have heard for several years at Third – Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983) will provide much of the harmony for our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Our service will open with one of the most exquisite, if not perfect, preludes ever written for keyboard. Its title provided a pun for its original purpose: inspired by their walks together to ‘Chosen Hill’ in the English county of Gloucestershire, HH wrote his ‘Chosen tune’ for his wedding to Dorothy Dawe – his own ‘chosen.’

Finally, peeking into the start of April, please make a note to attend in person or virtually our observation of Good Friday on April 2. This is always a profound experience for those who gather to consider Christ’s suffering, but this year it will be especially meaningful thanks to the offering of the Perseid String Quartet who will play the “Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ,” composed by a towering figure of classical music, Franz Joseph Haydn.

Complementing this masterwork will be a brand new piece written expressly for us at Third, and featuring not only the Perseids but also our own Nathan Brown (tenor). The distinguished composer (‘Google’ him to confirm this!), Francis Pott has written a setting of words by John Bunyan that he has titled PILGRIM. This is sure to be performed by ensembles around the world, especially because it has already been accepted by the publisher Peters Edition, but it will be heard here first, at Third Baptist, and will be sure to help us as we contemplate our own pilgrimage, on which we are never alone thanks to Christ’s sacrifice.
EVERYDAY PEOPLE

EXTRAORDINARY GOD

A NEW EPISODE FOR THE PODCAST EVERY KINDA PEOPLE WILL BE AVAILABLE EACH WEDNESDAY FROM LENT TO EASTER – FIND IT ON THE THIRD BAPTIST WEBSITE

Worship
March 7
Separating Sheep and Goats

March 14
Bohemia: Cradle of the Reformation

March 21
The Overlooked

Palm Sunday
March 28

Good Friday
April 2
Perseid String Quartet
7pm

Easter Sunday
April 4
The Tomb and the Garden

Rogier Van Der Weyden
The Last Judgement