

# THE FIRST BAPTIST CONNECTION

## *January 2020*

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

*Visit our website @ [www.fcbloom.org](http://www.fcbloom.org)*

\*~\*

### BIRTHDAYS

5 <sup>th</sup> Avery Malone	19 <sup>th</sup> Laynie Chambers
6 <sup>th</sup> Remington Roark	22 <sup>nd</sup> Erin Sullivan
9 <sup>th</sup> Pauline Auxier	25 <sup>th</sup> Evvie Nicholson
Teresa Coffin	26 <sup>th</sup> Jennifer Moody
Debra Hudson	Charles Parker
10 <sup>th</sup> Tasha Hudson	28 <sup>th</sup> Charlotte
12 <sup>th</sup> Janet Brown	Humerickhouse
16 <sup>th</sup> Earl White	

### PRAYER CONCERNS

#### On-Going Prayer Concerns

Bright Beginnings Daycare and Preschool  
Tyler & Georgene Lunberry  
Charles & Mary Jane Parker  
Betty Sullivan

#### Hearthstone (Bloomington)

Charlotte Humerickhouse

### ANNIVERSARIES



## ***Hoops for Him - 2020***

The 2020 Hoops for Him Basketball Program will be held at the Bloomfield First Baptist Christian Life Center beginning January 25 and ending March 14, 2020. We are celebrating 10 years this year! Any boy or girl age 4 through 6th Grade is invited to participate. Session 1 for Preschool and Kindergarten age kids will be 9:00-10:00am, Session 2 for Grades 1-3 will be 10:00-11:30am, and Session 3 for Grades 4-6 will be 11:30am-1:00pm each Saturday. The season concludes with an Awards Ceremony on March 14th. Online registration is currently available through our Facebook page at (<https://www.facebook.com/HoopsforHim/>).



Volunteers are needed every Saturday to lead each session, coach the kids, work the concession stand, and provide devotions. Please prayerfully consider how you can help make our 10th year successful. The volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated in the Sunday School classes or you may contact Eric Moody (email [moodyes@yahoo.com](mailto:moodyes@yahoo.com) or text 812-227-0700) if you are willing to help.

## ***Leadership Retreat – January 11***

The annual FBC Leadership Retreat will be here at the church on Saturday, January 11, from 9am – 2pm (lunch provided; inclement weather date is January 18). Members of the deacons, church council, Bright Beginnings board, and trustees, along with representatives from every ministry board/team/committee of the church are invited to attend. Please pray for discernment of the Spirit's leading during this event.

## ***Bible Study – January 15***

Wednesday morning Bible study will resume on January 15 @ 9:00 a.m. We will begin a study of 1 John.

## ***Blessing Box***

With cold weather arriving, we could use some NEW gloves and toboggans to put in the Blessing Box. Also, hygiene items, diapers (all sizes) and paper products are needed. These are items that are not available in the food pantry. God Bless you for blessing others.

## ***Open Arms Fundraiser – January 20***

Open Arms Christian Ministries is hosting a fundraiser for the HEbron Home for Boys on Monday, January 20, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m. If interested, please RSVP by January 13 to Alyse @ 812-659-2001 x 733, or [alyse@openarmschristian.com](mailto:alyse@openarmschristian.com).

# A Note from Pastor Nathan

*"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl... In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV '84)

The word *you* shows up twice in the passage above. In each instance, it is plural. It might best be translated, *y'all*. The word *your* appears three times. Likewise, it might be rendered, *y'all's*. Jesus is addressing His followers. That's all of us.

In our very individualistic society, we need to remember the communal nature of the people following Jesus. I am not following Him in isolation. I am following Jesus alongside all of you. You are following Jesus alongside me. The sharing (*koinonia*) of Christianity is a big deal. We collectively are Christ's Body. All of this is good for us to remember.

Yet there is no escaping that *you* (singular) are a part of the *y'all* whom Jesus commissions. I am a part of the *y'all*. This might be a good time to insert the related term, *you'n's*, which I'm not quite sure how to spell but I'm pretty sure it is shorthand for *you ones*. The big group, *you'n's*, (or, *all y'all*) includes *each one of you*, that is, *each one of us*.

I say this because, if 2019 was a year of looking back on 150 years of FBC history, 2020 needs to be a year of praying about the future of FBC. This will necessarily expose a number of ideas that at least somebody thinks we *should* do.

Our culture is a bit too infatuated with the word, *should*. Mostly, we misdirect it. We are all very good at identifying what someone else *should* do. Some other person. Some other group. They *should* be doing something differently than they are, and I can see it so clearly! I can also say my "*should*" very loudly! And where two or three are loud together, they must be right! So, most everyone seems to have an idea of what some other person or people *should* be doing.

So what *should* the church be doing? I'd imagine most of you who are reading this article have a few answers lined up. Each of us has ideas. And some of our ideas might even be right, or at least good. It's quite possible that your idea of what the church *should* be doing is rather heavily influenced by the Holy Spirit. Which is great. We need those ideas.

But keep in mind that, if the church *should* be doing anything, that *church* includes *you* (singular). And *me*. *Each of us*. The church is God's chosen means of expanding His Kingdom in this world. The church is not primarily a local nonprofit organization with a physical building and scheduled events. The church is primarily a group of people. A group of individuals following the same Master, empowered by the same Spirit, belonging to the same Father. We the people are the church through whom the Gospel advances, through whom the Kingdom comes.

What, then, does *your* (singular) role look like in this Gospel-proclaiming, Kingdom-advancing group of people? What does your role look like this year? What does your role look like as someone who lives in (or near) Bloomfield? What does your role look like at your workplace, your school, your most frequented places of recreation and business? In what ways is the Spirit of God longing to reveal Jesus Christ through your life? Are you open to that movement? Am I?

Throughout this article, I've been holding back on my true feelings about that word, *should*. *Should* is both terribly insufficient and potentially debilitating when it comes to Christian living. Jesus says, "If you *love* me, you'll obey what I command." It is only the love of Jesus – His love for me and my love in response – that motivates persistent obedience in a Kingdom direction. Guilt, fear, duty, pressure, appearances, even the *shoulds*, are not going to ultimately carry me along in obedience to my Lord. But *love* will. His love.

So, one of the first and best questions for 2020 is something like this, "**How is the love of Christ compelling me to be His salt and light in the places and relationships in which He has placed me?**" Our pursuit of that question individually will help us arrive at healthier answers as a church family. Will you join me in praying through this question in 2020?

Grace and peace,

Nathan

First Baptist Church 500  
Lincoln Drive  
Bloomfield, IN 47424

January  
2020

Pastor's Cell: 812-381-4189  
Church Office: 812-384-8459  
FAX No: 812-384-8982  
Bright Beginnings Daycare: 812-384-0400  
Bright Beginnings Preschool: 812-384-2647

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day  Church Office Closed	2  6:30 Deacons	3	4
5 Communion	6	7  6:30 Trustees	8	9  6:30 Church Council	10	11 9:00 Church Leadership Conference
12 8:00 Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 Kingdom Kids	13	14	15  9:00 Bible Study	16	17	18 *snow date* Church Leadership Conference
19	20	21	22  9:00 Bible Study	23	24	25 9:00 Hoops for Him
26 9:00 Kingdom Kids	27	28	29  9:00 Bible Study	30	31	

### Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC

**Mondays:** 6:30p.m. CubScouts-FH  
**Tuesdays:** 6:30p.m. GirlScouts-FH  
**Thursdays:** 6:00a.m. Men's Breakfast  
6:30p.m. BoyScouts-FH  
6:30p.m. Gideons(3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.eachmonth)-FH

### Deacon of the Month

*Bob Weeks*

### Trustee of the Month

*John Bailey*

### Usher of the Month

### Greeters of the Month

### **Sound System**

5<sup>th</sup> Paul Schmidt  
12<sup>th</sup> Braden Hudson  
19<sup>th</sup> TBD  
26<sup>th</sup> Eric Moody

### **Prayers**

5<sup>th</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup>  
26<sup>th</sup>

### **Nursery Care**

5<sup>th</sup> Sandy Clark / Taylor Johnson  
12<sup>th</sup> Paula Bartlett / Kinley Moody  
19<sup>th</sup> NEED VOLUNTEERS  
26<sup>th</sup> Janet Schmidt / Haley Brown

### **Children's Worship**

(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays only)

12<sup>th</sup> Betty Miller  
26<sup>th</sup> Sandy Clark