

- 4th Ron & Shelia McBride
4th Chris & Erin Wilson
14th Derek & Many Rollison
27th John & Mary Bailey

Reshaping Church Update from Pastor Nathan

January 2021

Our church is embarking on a journey called “Reshaping Church” in 2021. Below is a snapshot of the process...

Save the Date: Reshaping Church Launch Event, Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 PM

- The entire FBC family is welcome
- This will be an in-person AND online event
- Link will be provided beforehand

What is Reshaping Church?

Reshaping Church is a guided discernment process designed to help churches grow into more fruitful expressions of the Body of Christ. The program is a partnership between Central Baptist Theological Seminary (Shawnee, KS) and Pinnacle Leadership Associates (Chapin, SC) made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment (Indianapolis, IN).

Who is trying to reshape our church?

The Holy Spirit! Nobody from Central Seminary or Pinnacle or Lilly has any specific agenda for our church, other than to help us have a prayerful, intentional journey toward being the fullest expression of the Body of Christ we can be.

Who specifically is involved?

A “Community of Practice Team,” consisting of our pastor, moderator, deacons and several individuals who expressed special interest, is the coordinating group for this process. This Team will meet monthly with our Coach, Rev. Debra Griffis-Woodberry of Pinnacle, who will coach us on the journey. We are reading the book, ReShape, by Rev. Mark Tidsworth, who happened to serve First Baptist Church of Crane, Indiana, as a seminary student in the 1980s. The Team will also have some online interaction with Teams from other participating churches in Kansas and Ohio.

But, the whole congregation is involved! First of all, we need to **pray** for the Spirit’s guidance and our openness to that guidance. Secondly, there will be the **Church-Wide Launch Event on Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m.**, both in-person and online. Thirdly, we will offer an eight-week **Small Group ReShape Study** in the spring. Some Sunday school classes may choose to participate, and we may also create some new groups just for this journey. We want you to be included! These groups may meet virtually and/or in-person, and will read and respond to the ReShape book together. The whole church will ultimately be involved in discerning, blessing and implementing whatever the Lord is calling us to do.

Why “ReShape” now?

Rev. Soozi Ford, Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky, made Nathan aware of this opportunity in October. After looking into it and discussing with the deacons, we decided to commit to the program for 2021. We spent 2019 celebrating our church’s history, and we’ve spent 2020 making adaptations for ministry under unusual circumstances. It is therefore fitting for us to spend 2021 considering what adaptations the Lord has for us to make so that we can continue to faithfully serve Him and our community in a changing world for years to come.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me. I am convinced that this process will require a great deal of energy but also has the potential to produce great fruit. Thank you for your prayers and for being a valuable part of Christ’s family here at FBC Bloomfield.

Grace and peace,

Nathan

A Note from Pastor Nathan

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear... the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself...”

Matthew 6:25, 32-34 (NIV 1984)

Happy New Year! This is the ninth time I’ve written a January entry for our newsletter. Today, as I reviewed the previous eight samples, I was reminded how little I ever know about the year to come. Certainly that was the case in 2020!

I do have plans for this year. We will, Lord willing, have an “E-Learning” sermon series based on the lives of Elijah and Elisha which will take us up to Easter Sunday. We are embarking on a journey called “Reshaping Church,” which you can read more about in this issue. Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will dig into the book of Romans beginning later this month. I also have a few projects I’d like to work on around the house. It is not as though I am not looking ahead. I would much prefer to have things planned out than to improvise at the last moment.

But 2020 has changed my perspective on plans, which were all exposed as much more tenuous than I had previously acknowledged them to be. I had never before considered how I might need to change my plans in the event of a global pandemic. Now, most of my 2021 ambitions are qualified by when – or to what extent – this pandemic lifts and allows us to begin approaching something resembling our previous definition of “normal.”

In other words, I am much more realistic about my lack of control over the future.

Jesus already told me about this.

In fact, Jesus indicates that we don’t know very much about *tomorrow*. Tomorrow! There are many things I think I know about tomorrow, or at least about what I want to get done tomorrow. But if one circumstance can alter the course of an entire year, a number of things change the course of any given day. Jesus says I don’t know enough about tomorrow to spend time worrying about it today.

He has another plan: Seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all the other things we need will be given to us as well.

That is a command I can obey *regardless of all other factors*. In any circumstance, I can seek God’s kingdom and live in God’s ways. There are no exceptions to this. The Holy Spirit dwells in me regardless of what kind of world I dwell in. I belong to Jesus. He is able to accomplish His purposes through my life. The pandemic, or whatever might come next, is in no way a threat to God’s kingdom, or to the advancement of God’s kingdom in you and in me.

So, let’s invest ourselves primarily in the activity which cannot be canceled: the advancement of the kingdom of God. Let’s pray for guidance, seek His direction, and rely on His abundant grace. Let’s love God and our neighbors and our enemies and one another. Let’s walk humbly, do rightly, and show mercy. Let’s express our faith through love. Let’s have the same attitude in us that was in Christ Jesus. Let’s magnify the Lord together.

It is a tremendous privilege to serve the Lord here together with you all!

Grace and peace,

Nathan

First Baptist Church 500
Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

January
2021

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 |
| 9 Communion | 4 | 5 6:30 Trustees | 6 | 7 6:30 Deacons | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 6:30 Reshaping Church | 13 | 14 6:30 Church Council | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 9:00 Bible Study | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 9:00 Bible Study | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC

Mondays:

Tuesdays:

Thursdays:

Deacon of the Month

Trustee of the Month

Usher of the Month

Greeters of the Month

Sound System

Prayers

Nursery Care

Children's Worship
(2nd & 4th Sundays only)