

THE FIRST BAPTIST CONNECTION

March 2020

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ www.fcbloom.org

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SPRING FORWARD!!!!

*Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour NEXT week.
Otherwise you'll be late for the Fazoli's fundraiser luncheon!*

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BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Miriam Rollison	14 th	Taylor Rollison	23 rd	Kristopher Lanz
	Jessa Ayers		Ava Manuel	25 th	Sophy Groomer
6 th	Carla Porter	18 th	Andrew Templeton	26 th	Doug Frye
7 th	David Dean		Aiden Malone	31 st	Joan Vaughn
8 th	Jim Foxworthy	22 nd	Ivy Foxworthy		Aden Romans
10 th	Skyler Pittman				

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ANNIVERSARIES

14th Steve & Cheri Graf
20th Tony & Lori REsler
24th Rex & Lois Kirchoff

Women's Bible Study

Ladies, it's Bible study time! I'll be leading my new study "Under Christ's Authority: Ephesians" at 6:30 on Tuesdays, April 28 – June 23 in the FBC sanctuary. We'll be exploring the letter to the Ephesians and focusing on the theme of authority (especially Christ's authority) throughout. Any lady youth age and up are welcome! This study will follow a similar format as my previous studies, with daily homework lessons and Tuesday evening teaching sessions. The cost of the booklet is \$20. I'll need your RSVP by March 22 so that a book can be ordered for you. If you cannot afford the price of the book, one will be provided for you. ~ Liz

Church Camp Registration

The schedules for Camp Tippecanoe and Indian Creek are posted on the bulletin board by the workroom. You may register online or pick up the forms from the library counter. Paper forms may be filled out and returned to the church office along with your half of the camp fee. If registering online be sure to provide the church secretary (Brenda) a copy of your statement showing your part of the payment. To register online please visit the individual camp websites at www.camptippy.org or www.campindiancreek.com.

Mission Trip Fundraiser – March 8

We will be having a Fazoli's fundraiser following church on Sunday, March 8th. All proceeds will go toward the Mission Trip in July. We will be selling tickets ahead of time to give Fazoli's a count as to how many people will be coming. However, any donations are also greatly appreciated. Thanks, Debra

Hands of Hope/Every Child – March 14

A one-day symposium on behalf of Indiana's vulnerable children.

<https://handsofhopein.org/Every-Child>. MARCH 14, 2020 - 9 AM - 4PM

Eastern Star Church, 5750 30th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana

The Church is God's plan for caring for vulnerable children. Join us for a day full of inspiration, equipping, and encouragement as well as practical ideas so that EVERYONE can do SOMETHING to answer God's call to care for vulnerable children!

Examples of some breakout sessions you can choose:

- It Takes a Village: Meaningful Relationships Other Than Parents
- Raising Awareness and Recruiting Volunteers for Your Ministry
- More Than Enough: Become an Actively Engaged Church
- Developing a Holistic Approach to Foster Care Ministry
- Where Do I Fit In? – 50 Simple Ways to Serve That Have a Great Impact

Mission Trip – July 5-11

This summer, July 5-11, there will be a mission trip with Mission Serve Group to Cincinnati, Ohio. All youth, freshman and up, will be welcome; as well as any adults who would like to join us as chaperones. The cost is \$260 per person with a \$50 deposit being due by February 1. If you are interested in going, please contact Debra Hudson (812-384-4779 or 812-384-2805) by January 28. A fundraiser for this trip is being planned...stay tuned for details.

A Note from Pastor Nathan

"Mercy triumphs over judgment."

James 2:13

The 1996 St. Louis Cardinals adopted the marketing slogan, "Baseball the way it oughta be." Natural grass replaced the artificial turf at Busch Stadium, where multipurpose-blue walls received a fresh coat of ballpark-green paint. New advertisements adorned those walls, including two signs for GAP, a clothing company. These were cleverly displayed in the "gaps" created by the typical positioning of outfielders. GAP eventually employed this scheme at several stadiums throughout baseball. The scheme would work in any ballpark, because there are always gaps.

Indeed, there are always gaps in life. Gaps between "the way things are" and "the way things oughta be." Gaps at home. Gaps at work. Gaps at school. Gaps at church. Gaps in the world. We have expectations for how things should be, but reality often falls short of our expectations. (Just ask the '96 Cardinals!) These gaps become sources of pain, anger, frustration, and disappointment. We want things to be better. How do we respond?

There are basically two approaches toward the gaps. The first approach seeks someone to blame for the gaps. Surely the current circumstances are somebody's fault. There is a hint of truth to this. Whether I messed up, or you did, or they did, somebody might be able to learn from past mistakes. Circumstances can improve. Change can happen.

But the danger here is with *our attitudes* about the *enduring* gaps, especially the gaps that are *beyond our ability to change*. We can easily become cynical, judgmental, or bitter toward somebody who (or something that) is preventing the world from being the way it ought to be. The more we think about these culprits, the less we like them. We grow more convinced that we are right, and they are wrong. We often feel compelled to share our negative feelings with others, pulling them onto our bandwagons, getting them to join us in our miserable attitudes.

None of this changes the gaps, except to create a greater gap, between the peace we could be experiencing in our souls and the strife we are only self-perpetuating. When we respond poorly to the external gaps, we cultivate internal gaps in our hearts. We have nobody to blame for these gaps but ourselves, and nobody to save us but Jesus.

Which leads us to the second approach toward the gaps. Jesus Christ our Lord personally enters into the most egregious gap that ever existed – sinful humanity continually rebelling against our good and gracious God. Jesus walks to the cross, where the gap between "what He deserves" and "what He gets" is as wide as possible! In that place, He says, "*Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing!*"

Jesus leads us into a better response to the gaps. Forgiveness. Mercy. Grace. And, of course, *hope*. Hope, because Jesus who died in that great injustice rose victoriously on the third day. "I am the Living One. I was dead, but behold, I am alive forever and ever!" And He promises us that one day there will be no more death, morning, crying, or pain! The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea! The gaps will be gone.

The Healer has done everything necessary to ensure that eventually the gaps will be no more. And there is healing He wants to do in our hearts regarding the gaps we must yet endure. Yes, we have been wronged. Yes, people have done foolish things. Yes, there are unjust systems and practices in our world. Yes, we have opportunity, from time to time, to be instruments of change. But the biggest change that needs to happen is the change in our hearts, that we wouldn't respond to the gaps with bitterness and resentment but with grace and hope.

What if there was less of a gap between our response to the world's gaps and the Lord's response to our gaps?

Holy Spirit, help us!

Grace and peace,

Nathan

Bloomfield First Baptist Church 500 Lincoln Drive Bloomfield, IN 47424			MARCH 2020	Pastor's Cell: 812-381-8459 Church Office: 812-384-8459 Bright Beginnings Daycare: 812-384-0400 Bright Beginnings Preschool: 812-384-2647		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion	2	3 6:30 Trustees	4 9:00 Bible Study	5 6:30 Deacons	6	7 9:00 Hoops for Him
8 SPRING FORWARD 8:00 Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 Kingdom Kids	9	10	11 9:00 Bible Study	12 6:30 Church Council	13	14 9:00 Hoops for Him
15	16	17	18 9:00 Bible Study	19	20	21 9:00 Hoops for Him
22 9:00 Kingdom Kids	23	24	25 9:00 Bible Study	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sound System	Prayers	Nursery Care	Children's Worship (2 nd & 4 th Sundays only)
1 st Paul Schmidt	1 st	1 st Sandy Clark / Taylor Johnson	
8 th Braden Hudson	8 th	8 th Paula Bartlett / Kinley Moody	8 th Betty Miller
15 th TBD	15 th	15 th NEED VOLUNTEERS	15 th Sandy Clark
22 nd Eric Moody	22 nd	22 nd Janet Schmidt / Haley Brown	
29 th Eric Moody	29 th	29 th NEED VOLUNTEERS	

<u>Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC</u>	
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 rd Thurs.eachmonth)-FH

<u>Deacon of the Month</u> <i>Bill Hudson</i>
<u>Trustee of the Month</u> <i>Bert Terrell</i>
<u>Usher of the Month</u> <i>James Malone & Casey Rice</i>
<u>Greeters of the Month</u>