

The First Baptist Connection

April 2017

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

FBC sermons are available online! Visit our website @ fcbloom.org, and click on "Featured Media." Sermon recordings are listed there by date, title, and Scripture text

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Nursery Care

2 nd	
9 th	Kelsey Moody
16 th	Marlen Flynn & Mary Kent
23 rd	
30 th	Sherry Weeks

Sound System

2 nd	Paul Schmidt
9 th	Braden Hudson
16 th	Mark Kirkman
23 rd	Eric Moody
30 th	Eric Moody

Prayers

2 nd	Norm Sullivan
9 th	Tasha Hudson
16 th	Carolyn Burgess
23 rd	Nancy Sullivan
30 th	Athan Lamson

Children's Worship

(2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays only)

9 th	Betty Miller
16 th	Sandy Clark
23 rd	Janet Schmidt

April 2017

Birthdays

1st Barb Stoner
3rd Kelsey Moody
Jeffrie Porter
4th Cheri Graf
Gabe Brown
9th Brad Hughes
11th Shannon Dean
Ethan Dean
12th Jenny Yergin
16th Sadie Ross
18th Matt Cummings
Ben Stoner
Melissa Toon
19th Laverne Rollison
Steve Buccola
23rd Kay Allen
26th David Hunter
28th Lori Resler

Prayer Concerns

On-Going Prayer Concerns

Bright Beginnings Daycare and Preschool
Jerry & Jean Boyer
David & Lydia Hunter
Tyler & Georgene Lunberry
Mary Jane Parker
Kay Pierce
Peace seeking in Iraq & Afghanistan
American Baptist missionaries

Glenburn Nursing Home

Charlie Farmer

Autumn Hills (Bloomington)

Charlotte Humerickhouse

Lyons Rehab Center

Nancy Canty

Anniversaries

13th Paul & Janet Schmidt
18th Jerry & Jean Boyer
19th Doug & Barb Frye
Bert & Sharon Terrell
28th David & Tena Doane

FBC News & Activities

An Open Invitation – April 4

The Open Table is a long-term, relationship-based poverty engagement initiative. We may soon be able to start an Open Table ministry here in the Bloomfield area. You are invited to attend one of two informational sessions, hosted at Tulip Church of God, on Tuesday, April 4, either from 12:00-2:00 PM or 6:30-8:30 PM. Both sessions will cover the same material. Lunch will be provided for those attending the afternoon session. If you are interested in coming please let Nathan know. For more information, visit www.theopentable.org.

Fill The Pool Fundraiser – April 14

The committee hosting the Fill the Pool fundraiser is asking local churches if anyone would be willing to donate a dessert. They are asking each church for 4-5 desserts, enough to feed 12-14 people each. If you can help, please contact Brenda, in the church office, and let her know what you plan to offer. She will contact the committee.



Work Day at Indian Creek – April 29

Braden Hudson will be taking a bus load down to Indian Creek Church Camp to help the camp with their annual clean-up day on Saturday, April 29. Please sign up with Braden for a spot on the bus, or for carpooling. There will be jobs for every ability level, so please come help out! We'll meet at the church at 8:30am, and return about 6:30pm. Lunch and dinner will be provided.

Girls Night Out – April 29

Youth Group girls are invited to meet to watch the Grand March of Prom on Saturday, April 29. Please contact Tasha Hudson to make arrangements. We will meet at the church at 5:30pm.

Open Arms Donor Event and Annual Meeting – April 30

Please join us at the Greene County Community Events Center on Sunday, April 30 from 2pm-4pm for our 2017 Donor Event and Annual Meeting. After a brief annual meeting you will enjoy testimonies, achievements, blessings, desserts and some great comedy courtesy of Christian comedian, John Branyan. Registration is required by calling 812-659-2533 or visiting our website at www.openarmschristian.com. (Childcare will be available for children 7 and under.)

Let's Go Camping!

Camp schedules are on the large bulletin board outside the workroom. Reservation forms are located on the library counter or you can print them directly from the camp website at www.indiancreek.com. Our church will pay one half of the registration fee for children attending FBC. Registration forms and your half of the fee need to be turned in THREE WEEKS before your camp date. Checks should be made out to First Baptist Church. If a camp scholarship is needed see Pastor Nathan.

Family Fridays

Friday, April 7
Old tradition New Meaning

Come enjoy dinner, devotions, discussion, and fun activities together as a family!

A SPECIAL SEDER MEAL WILL BE SERVED AND SPECIAL GUESTS FROM JEWS FOR JESUS!

PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 2 FOR A MEAL COUNT!

Registration @ 6:00 PM

Dinner @ 6:15 PM

Closing @ 8:15 PM

“...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD...” Psalm 78:4, NIV

First Baptist

500 Lincoln Dr.

812-384-8459

Call the church by 12:00 PM Thursday to schedule transportation!

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

FUNDRAISER!

Spring has sprung! We will be selling flowers again this year in a variety of colors, pots, tubs and baskets. Order forms and payments are due to Ms. Shirley by April 17. Flowers will be ready for pick up on May 2, in plenty of time for Mother's Day! ☺ Please make your checks out to Bright Beginnings Daycare. If you have any questions contact Ms. Shirley at 812-384-0400 x12. Order forms are on the library counter. Thank you for supporting Bright Beginnings Daycare Ministry.

I asked the children what they know about God. Here are some of their responses:

5-year-olds

Wyatt - "He takes care of us and he comes down with us. He loves us very much and He watches out for us."

Keaton W. - "He loves us. He made the sky and the whole world."

Matthew - "God is good. He helps us get the Holy Ghost. He washes our sins away."

(Matthew was saved and baptized at his church by his Daddy who is the Pastor on 3/19/17.)

Aliza - "I know He loves me because He is inside of me. He loves you too. He gives us the whole house."

Dylan - "He made the earth. He loves us. He made us."

Laynie - "He got born on Christmas. The Easter bunny comes on Easter when Jesus is back alive."

Nathan - "He is nice to people on earth. He lives in Heaven. He loves me. He gave us His Son, my Daddy, my Sister, and my Mom."

Avalyn - "He died on the cross for us. God is good for us because he loves us. We love Him too."

Keaton H. - "God loves us. God made the whole entire world. He loves our parents. He will never like us 'cause he loves us. He made us; he made you; he made you and everything inside the earth."

Lane - "Well, God can move a mountain for you. He can also watch down on you from Heaven. God could walk on top of the water."

4-year-olds

Emily - "I love Him. He loves me and all of my family loves Him. I love him very much."

Keegan - "He loves us. He does good things. He likes us. He likes our Dads."

Jackson - "God made us and He makes us feel better and He doesn't like for us to hit or be mean to our friends and don't be mean to our Mommy's and Daddy's."

Ava - "I love God. He lives in the Sky...Heaven. He keeps us safe."

Leo - "He stopped a storm once. He made the world."

Brody - "He made bugs, a butterfly, and a dinosaur."

Weston - "He helps people; He's nice; He made everything; He made water."

Adalynn - "He don't go to sleep; he don't brush his teeth."

Ellie - "He loves everybody. He made my birthday 'cause He's nice." The Bible story she remembers is "fighting the giant. He was dead."

Turner - "God made the earth, the animals and Jesus."

3-year-olds

Kennedy - "He loves people. He made us. Jesus loves me this I know, the Bible tells me so, little ones to him belong, He is strong. That's it."

Brooklyn - "He made Giraffes."

Bradley - "He rocks."

Our Children are learning about God's love for them and they are sharing this knowledge and helping to bring Christ to others.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Here are some answers to the question "Where do you go to church?"

3-year-olds

Noah - "I didn't even go to Church."

Bradley - "With My Daddy."

Brooklyn - "At Linton"

Katlind - "With my Mommy"

Kennedy - "Far, far away. Mamaw and Papaw pick me up and take me to church 'cause I have on my pretty dress and new shoe. They are cute."

4-year-olds

Weston - "At Grandma's"

Turner - "On Sunday"

Adalynn - "To my church"

Keegan - "I don't know, where do YOU go to Church?"

Emily - "Sunday Class"

Ellie - "I don't have a church. I only go to church here."

Melanie - "With my Mommy. Sometimes we go to church but my Mommy doesn't even know if we go to Church."

Leo - "I go to church across from my house with my sister."

Jackson-"I don't go to Church"

Ava - "I go to church with Grammy and Grampy."

Olivia - "I go here at Daycare."

5 year olds

Keaton W. - "Here"

Matthew - "You go to the library, go across, turn and there is Ken and Jerri's house. Then go up a hill and it's by that turn."

Keaton H. - "Across the Daycare"

Nathan - He said he goes to church. I asked him what he learns and he replied he doesn't know. I asked him "Do you learn about God?" He said "most of the time." He said he goes to church in Indiana he thinks.

Laynie - "Up there" and points toward the church here.

Lane - "Here"

Avalyn - "Right by my new house and I'm moving in. I think I go in Florida."

Wyatt - "Where McDonalds is."

Aliza - "Somewhere I don't know where. I go when I stay with my Nana."

Dylan - "I don't go very often."

Blessings,
Tamra D. Kirkman
Daycare Director

A Note from Pastor Nathan

A Request for Stories and Prayer

In this newsletter, you will find a copy of an insert that has been appearing in the bulletin over recent weeks, as a follow-up to our February sermon series on “interfaces.” Jesus commands us to love God with our whole selves and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This calling requires intentionality about our relationships. How, when, and where am I connecting with God? How, when, and where am I connecting with my neighbors? And who is my neighbor? Not just the person next door (although they are always included!) but also the people at work, school, the store, or any other place life takes me.

(If you missed any of the sermons from February you may visit fbcbloom.org and click on “Featured Media.”)

We need help with this. Many churches, including ours, have been defined for a long time by the events we have inside our church buildings. When and where do I connect with God? “On Sunday mornings at church.” When and where do I connect my neighbors to God? “I invite them to come to my church.” It is good to come to a church building on Sundays. It is good to invite neighbors to church. But if our relationships with God and neighbor are not deeper than these “inside-the-building” interfaces, we are missing out on something more.

It is difficult to do something I’ve never done before if I don’t know how to get started. To that end, I am asking for stories. How have you connected with God? How have you connected with neighbors? You might have stories of a tried-and-true practice you’ve done for years, or you might have a new idea that you’ve barely tried but think might work well. You might just have a sentence to write or you might have a long story to tell. I am interested in all of the above. I intend to use this space – the church newsletter – to share some of your stories, and I also hope to invite some of you to share in upcoming Sunday worship services. We will all benefit from and be encouraged by our stories as we discover new (or rediscover old) ways of connecting with God and with our neighbors.

It is also difficult to do anything enduringly meaningful apart from prayer. So, I am asking for names – not full names, but initials or first names only or descriptions – “my heating and air conditioning guy” or “the clerk at the grocery store.” Not “Abraham Lincoln” but A.L. or Abe. In this way, the prayer list will not be a giveaway list or source of gossip, but rather a list where we know just enough to pray intentionally. We will pray for the neighbors whom God has laid on our hearts.

Specifically, I think that many of us may want to have prayer partners in this venture of loving our neighbors. If you check “yes” on the bottom half of the insert enclosed, then I will connect you with another person in the church who wants prayer. You can pray for their interaction with their neighbor. They can pray for your interaction with your neighbor. This will be a venue for both accountability and encouragement.

You don’t have to fill out the insert to share this information or to ask for prayer. You may email me at pastor@fbcbloom.org or text or call me at 381-4189. Please pray about how to respond, and then respond.

A few stories have already begun to trickle in and I have included some in this newsletter issue. Let’s keep the “interface” stories coming. We need the ideas from one another. We need the prayers from one another. And we need the encouragement from one another.

The conviction behind all of this is simple. People who love God and love neighbors will inevitably talk to the One we love about the ones we love (prayer) and to the ones we love about the One we love (witness). We are called to be that people. Holy Spirit, help us!

Grace and peace,
Nathan

INTERFACE FOLLOW-UP

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Stories...

We need to share “success” stories with one another. How have you connected with God? How have you connected with your neighbor? The Deacons and Nathan are interested in your testimonies. Please consider...

1. Writing down a description of how you have been able to connect with God or with your neighbors. You could use the back of this paper or send an email to pastor@fcbloom.org. Your contribution might show up in an upcoming FBC newsletter (anonymously if you prefer) or Nathan might read or paraphrase it in an upcoming Sunday service. Nathan might edit for length and to protect anonymity.
2. Sharing a short, 5-minute testimony during an upcoming worship service. If you’re not comfortable standing up front by yourself Nathan can do this “interview style” or read something you’ve written. Connect with Nathan in advance and we’ll figure out the best way for you to share your story.

These could be stories of a repeated practice or a one-time experience that you found to be fruitful. We are interested in stories of connecting with God and stories of connecting with neighbors (using the term neighbor very broadly). Please ask Nathan if you have any questions about this. Pray about how you might respond.

Prayer for our neighbors...

My Name: _____

The Best Way to Contact Me: _____
(write a phone number or email or whatever else is best for you)

My Neighbor: _____
(please use either first name only or initials or a generic description like “cousin” or “boss” or “teammate”)

Yes, please connect me to a prayer partner to follow up with me about my relationship with this neighbor.

This information will be used in two ways:

1. *A list will be posted in the newsletter and bulletin of neighbors that we are requesting prayer for as we build relationships with them. Only first names, initials, or brief descriptions will be listed, and your own name will not be listed.*
2. *Those desiring prayer partners will be connected with one another, so that at least one other person from among our church family will be praying for you and your relationship with your neighbor.*

You may place this card in the offering plate, leave it on Brenda’s (secretary’s) desk, or hand it to Nathan.

A story about connecting with God...

“Recently, I’ve started a new way of memorizing scripture when I walk [outside for exercise]. I am working on [learning] a whole chapter of the Bible. On my walk each day, I add a new phrase or verse. I spend the first part of my walk just repeating the new part, and then the last part by trying to recite everything I’ve learned so far, plus the new phrase tacked on to the end. The rhythm of walking helps me learn the verses better, and the natural pauses of walking (I have to stop and take breaths, after all!) forces me also to stop and think about the words I am memorizing. And I end up talking with God about it so the scripture memory kind of morphs into prayer. He speaks as I memorize.”

A story about connecting with neighbors...

“I would definitely use the term neighbor loosely as I feel like one of the ways I'm called to connect is through all the patrons [at my workplace] each day. There are so many people that come in ... that have some very deep needs, more than just the [products and services we offer]! I really feel that part of my job, not as a[n] employee, but as a Christian, is to meet their needs as best I can. My thirty-second or two-minute encounter with them, whether helping them use a computer or faxing their papers, may be the only time they see Jesus. Therefore, I want to act in a way in which I can be the hands and feet of Jesus for them. [T]his is where I feel being called to serve and connect with others most.”

An Easter idea for connecting with our neighbors...

“Here's my idea: get little baskets and fill with goodies like chocolate maybe munchies like cheese, sausage whatever fits. Add a card that says a Bible verse and invites people to our church, like, “if you don't have a church home, try ours.” With maybe a picture of the church and our location. I found some \$1 baskets at the dollar store and guess what! they had these prayer cards with praying hands or a cross in chocolate! For \$1. I bought 5, and 5 baskets. I plan to deliver them to my neighbors.” *EDITOR'S NOTE: We have brochures about FBC available next to the main doors upstairs. Feel free to take some! More have been ordered and are on the way.*

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

April
2017

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 Lenten Breakfast @ 1st Christian
2 Communion	3	4 6:30 Trustees	5	6 6:30 Deacons	7	8 8:00 Lenten Breakfast @ FBC
9 8:30 Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 Kingdom Kids	10	11	12	13 7:00 Maundy Thursday service	14 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 Good Friday service @ 1st Christian	15
16 EASTER 7:00 Sunrise Service @ Bloomfield United Methodist	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 Kingdom Kids	24	25	26	27 6:30 Church Council	28	29
30						

Deacon of the Month <i>Steve Clark</i>	Trustee of the Month <i>Bert Terrell</i>	Usher of the Month <i>Athan Lamson</i>	Greeter <i>Jeff & Teresa Coffin</i>
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<u>Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC</u>			
Sundays: 8:00 a.m.	Handbell Practice	Wednesdays: 10:30 a.m.	Enhanced Fitness - FH
		6:15 p.m.	FLAMES - CLC
Mondays: 10:30 a.m.	Enhanced Fitness - FH	Thursdays: 6:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
6:30 p.m.	Cub Scouts – FH	10:30 a.m.	Enhanced Fitness - FH
6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.	Boy Scouts - FH
Tuesdays: 6:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts - FH	6:30 p.m.	Gideons (3 rd Thurs. each month) – FH
6:30 p.m.	Cottage Prayer Group		

Sound System	
2 nd	Paul Schmidt
9 th	Braden Hudson
16 th	Mark Kirkman
23 rd	Eric Moody
30 th	Eric Moody

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Nursery Care	
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Children's Worship <i>(2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays only)</i>	
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