

June 2020

On-line giving is available here: [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)

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- * Bright Beginnings Daycare is now open. ANY person entering the CLC/daycare spaces will have their temperature checked at the door.
- * The Food Pantry remains open during normal hours as a drive-thru operation.
- * In-person Worship Services will begin no sooner than Sunday, June 14. Some restrictions may apply.
- * In-person Sunday School will not resume until some later date, beyond June 14.
- * In-person VBS has been cancelled. Online resources will be made available.
- * Online worship services and Wednesday Morning Bible Study will continue to be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.
- * The Deacons will reassess the situation in early June. If you have questions, you may contact Steve Clark, Bob Weeks, or Pastor Nathan.
- * The church office will remain closed for the time being.
- * All calls and emails to the church are being rerouted to our secretary, Brenda, at her home. Please do not hesitate to call or email if you need something. (812-384-8459 or secretary@fbcbloom.org)

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1 st	Shelia McBride	8 th	Gabrielle Weeks	15 th	Mary Bailey
2 nd	Maran Nicholson		Tonya Templeton	18 th	Max & Sydney Terrell
3 rd	Brenda Flanagan	9 th	Karlie Thompson	25 th	Nancy Covey
	Becky Dayhoff	12 th	Savanna Roark	27 th	Steve Allen
6 th	Julie Hudson	14 th	Heather Malone	28 th	Emma Resler
			Austin Rollison	30 th	George Dallaire

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1 st	Norm & Nancy Sullivan	9 th	Bill & Debra Hudson	12 st	Eric & Jennifer Moody
3 rd	Joe & Jean Burcham	10 th	Don & Betty Sullivan	19 th	Gary & Carolyn Sullivan
	George & Marilyn Dalliare	11 st	Charles & Kimberly Porter	21 st	Bob & Sherry Weeks
				24 th	Nathan & Liz Brooks

A Note from Pastor Nathan

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom.
James 2:12 (NIV 1984)

Jesus commands us not to judge one another (Luke 6:37-38). This is much easier said than done.

Throughout history, we humans have been judging one another for almost every conceivable reason: age, ability, appearance, athletics, choices, diet, education, ethnicity, family, geography, health, housekeeping, parenting, performance, politics, skin color, speech, religion, wealth, weight – the list could go on and on. We judge one another about significant matters and we judge one another over trivial matters. We judge one another about things that can be controlled, and we judge one another about things that are beyond our control.

Each of us has almost certainly been on both ends of this judging game. We judge to make ourselves feel better about ourselves. We judge in an effort to compensate for personal pain or loss. We judge because it temporarily works to our own advantage. Jesus warns us that being judgmental actually does not work out well, ultimately or along the way. But we just keep judging because it seems so satisfying. We like to esteem ourselves to be right or better in everything.

This global pandemic has only added to the list of things for which we judge one another. A spectrum of responses to COVID-19 has been mirrored by a spectrum of opinions about those responses. Which precautions are necessary? Which are overreactions? How can anyone really know until we look back with benefit of hindsight? But our judgments are certain and loud. Harshly we blast one another for our responses to an event that is essentially unprecedented.

The most dangerous aspect of judging is the presumption about what another person's motives are.

He's just doing that because he's afraid.

She's just doing that because she's so stubborn.

They're just doing that because they love to be in control.

Maybe. But then again, maybe not. The motives of the person with whom I disagree might be more noble than I can imagine. I may still disagree with his or her course of action. But their rationale might not be so sinister. It is possible that the people who are responding differently than I am to this pandemic have good reasons for doing so. I don't have to agree with those reasons, but "those people" are probably not as terrible as I'm making them out to be.

And even if I fervently believe a person or group is wrong in their response to this situation, I can still have grace in my heart toward them. What do I really, ultimately gain by condemning them, even if that condemnation is deserved?

James says we are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom: "Mercy triumphs over judgment" (2:13). Those who receive and extend the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ will get what we've shown the Lord we love: mercy. Those who extend harsh judgment to one another will receive what we've shown we love: harsh judgment. I'm not making this up! Read Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 6:37-38; or James 2:12-13. Lord, save us from the deadly cycle of judgment! Set us free to be instruments in your glorious cycle of mercy!

We Christians know that we have received undeserved mercy from God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Spirit who has been poured out upon us. We know that we have received grace that we do not deserve. Indeed, our entire hope and future are grounded in this undeserved grace. Having freely and undeservedly received God's grace, again and again, we are free to extend this grace to those around us. *We can afford to give grace.*

What if, in a culture full of sharp polarization, the Christians were the people who could disagree with grace?

Grace to you, and peace.

Nathan

Bloomfield First Baptist Church 500 Lincoln Drive Bloomfield, IN 47424			JUNE 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	2	3 9:00 Bible Study	4 6:30 Deacons	5	6
7 Communion	8	9 6:30 Trustees	10 9:00 Bible Study	11 6:30 Ch Council	12	13
14	15	16	17 9:00 Bible Study	18	19	20
21 Happy Father's Day!	22	23	24 9:00 Bible Study	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sound System	Prayers 7 th Steve Clark	Nursery Care	Children's Worship (2 nd & 4 th Sundays only)
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<p><u>Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC</u></p> <p>Mondays: 6:30p.m. CubScouts-FH</p> <p>Tuesdays: 6:30p.m. GirlScouts-FH</p> <p>Thursdays: 6:00a.m. Men's Breakfast</p> <p>6:30p.m. BoyScouts-FH</p> <p>6:30p.m. Gideons(3rd Thurs.eachmonth)-FH</p>	<p><u>Deacon of the Month</u> <i>Bob Weeks</i></p> <p><u>Trustee of the Month</u> <i>Bob Templeton</i></p> <p><u>Usher of the Month</u></p> <p><u>Greeters of the Month</u></p>
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