

*THE FIRST BAPTIST CONNECTION*  
*September 2020*

*News and Updates for our Family in Christ*

*Find us on-line at: [fbcbbloom.org](http://fbcbbloom.org); [youtube.com/fbcbbloomfield](http://youtube.com/fbcbbloomfield); or [facebook.com/groups/fbcbbloom](http://facebook.com/groups/fbcbbloom)*

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

\*~\*

*Updated guidance for those gathering in-person at FBC:*

- Please wear a face covering for worship as a gift of love to those around you. Exceptions include:
  - Children under age 5 in worship services.
  - Worship service leaders and Sunday school teachers only while leading/teaching.
  - All children's SS classes while in SS classrooms.
  - Outdoor gatherings.
- Please observe social distancing when possible and move conversations outdoors.
  - Sanctuary seating is every-other-row. Please allow six feet between families/households.
  - No food or drink is available in the narthex.
- Please do not attend if you or someone in your immediate household has symptoms of COVID-19 or has recently tested positive.
- An offering box is available in the narthex but is not being passed during the service.
- The nursery rooms are only open for changing diapers and nursing.

*We encourage anyone who is unable to attend in-person to participate online:*

- Links for live worship services are posted weekly at [Facebook.com/groups/fbcbloom](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fbcbloom).
- Recorded worship services are available to the public at [YouTube.com/fbcbloomfield](https://www.youtube.com/fbcbloomfield).

\*~\*

## BIRTHDAYS

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jerry Boyer	5 <sup>th</sup>	Kimberly Porter	13 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Schmidt	29 <sup>th</sup>	Gabe Rollins
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sandy Clark	6 <sup>th</sup>	Don Hendrix	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Henry		Taylor Johnson
	Brittany Nicholson	7 <sup>th</sup>	Katlyn Moody	21 <sup>st</sup>	Alan Kirkman	30 <sup>th</sup>	Ron McBride
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Sanford	12 <sup>th</sup>	Ginger Stewart	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Eleanor Kingsley		Hope Shirley
	Judy Stahl		Tucker Weeks	25 <sup>th</sup>	Oliver Foxworthy		Walter Pischel
	Brady Hudson		Steve Graf				
	Ella Rollison						

[illegible]

## ANNIVERSARIES

21<sup>st</sup> Jeff & Adrienne Hughes



# A Note from Pastor Nathan

*“...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

Philippians 4:11b-13 (NIV 1984)

I've been thinking lately about our need for “normal.” I want things to get back to normal. Several of you have had conversations with me about our desire for things to get back to normal. There are so many things that we used to do which we miss, and so many things we currently have to do that we'd rather not. We all miss normal.

We can't do normal just yet, because of this pandemic. I'm reminded of an experience I had on a mission trip eleven years ago. I had to paint the exterior of a house in the area where the electric lines attached. Our foreman said, “You don't need to fear electricity, but you do need to respect it.” So it is with this virus: we need not fear it, but we do need to respect it. Certainly we respect those for whom it has been – or could yet be – a truly horrible experience.

This respect has led us to pull back from much of what is normal. These sacrifices are hard for us. As many have pointed out, our legitimate sorrow is evidenced by the anger, denial, anxiety, depression and bartering that we often see in other contexts of grief. Therefore, we empathize with each other in the midst of a trial that has been hard for all of us.

And yet, we are compelled to put our loss of normal into perspective.

I have been thinking, for example, of our Christian brothers and sisters in Syria, who have been enduring a civil war for nearly ten years now. What is a normal Sunday morning like for them? Do they even have a normal?

I am reminded of the believers in China, Iran, and other hostile places, who must continually adjust their strategies just to gather with other Christians for worship. In some situations, physical gatherings of any size just aren't possible at all.

I think of the prophet Jeremiah, a prisoner within his own city, which itself was surrounded by the enemy army, on the brink of destruction. What was a normal day like for him?

I just listened to a song about the Apostle Paul, who was *repeatedly* beaten, imprisoned, and shipwrecked, all for the sake of Christ and spreading the gospel.

Then there is our Lord Jesus Christ himself. *“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering”* (Isa. 53:3). *“The Son of Man has no place to lay his head”* (Luke 9:58). *“And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him”* (Mark 15:20).

The daily “normal” of our Lord Jesus challenges our own attitudes about our loss of “normal.” At least, it challenges mine. As it turns out, the normal we were accustomed to prior to March of this year was a really good and fairly rare normal when placed alongside the various normals people have endured throughout the history of the world.

It is good and legitimate to grieve and to honestly name what we've lost and why it has been hard. It is necessary to listen to one another and to empathize with others who are hurting. But it is not wise to wallow in self-pity.

When I struggle with weariness or self-pity, the Lord directs me to Hebrews 12: *I have not yet resisted to the point of shedding my blood. And I've forgotten that the Lord disciplines those he loves, producing a harvest of righteousness and peace in us, that we might share in his holiness. Therefore, let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him endured the cross... consider him, who endured such opposition... so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.*

We may be pressed, but we are not crushed. Let us press on together, in Jesus' name.

Grace and peace,

Nathan

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

Sound System	Prayers	Nursery Care	Children's Worship (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays only)

<u>Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC</u>  <b>Mondays:</b>  <b>Tuesdays:</b>  <b>Thursdays:</b>	<u>Deacon of the Month</u> <i>Jeff Hughes</i>  <u>Trustee of the Month</u> <i>John Bailey</i>  <u>Usher of the Month</u>  <u>Greeters of the Month</u>
--	--