

The First Baptist Connection

December 2017

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

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

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Nursery Care

3 rd	
10 th	
17 th	Marlen Flynn & Mary Kent
24 th	
31 st	Sherry Weeks

Sound System

3 rd	Paul Schmidt
10 th	Braden Hudson
17 th	TBD
24 th	Eric Moody
31 st	Eric Moody

Prayers

3 rd	Janet Schmidt
10 th	Braden Hudson
17 th	Carolyn Burgess
24 th	Paul Stewart
31 st	Ginger Stewart

Children's Worship

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

10 th	Betty Miller
17 th	Janet Schmidt
24 th	Kim Schulte

December 2017

Birthdays

Prayer Concerns

3 rd	Jeff Coffin	17 th	Steve Clark
	John Cummings		Ton Resler
	Dixie Geyer	18 th	Virginia Hendrix
5 th	John Bailey	19 th	Shawn Hughes
6 th	Leslie Ayers	20 th	Paul Stewart
11 th	Carolyn Sullivan	22 nd	Brandt Hudson
12 th	Lois Kirchoff	24 th	Sue Eccles
13 th	Betty Dean	28 th	Donna Miller
15 th	Lydia Hunter		Mark Mullins
	Josie Geyer	31 st	Bruce Porter
16 th	Caleb Schmidt		

On-Going Prayer Concerns

Bright Beginnings Daycare and Preschool
Jerry & Jean Boyer
David & Lydia Hunter
Tammy Kirkman
Tyler & Georgene Lunberry
Charles & Mary Jane Parker

Hearthstone (Bloomington)

Charlotte Humerickhouse

Lyons Rehab Center

Nancy Canty

Anniversaries

17 th	Scott & Becky Dayhoff
18 th	Bruce & Carla Porter
26 th	Alan & Janet Brown
31 st	Richard & Brenda Nichols

FBC News & Activities

Concert @ Linton First Christian – December 2

On Saturday, December 2nd Pregnancy Choices will be presenting "Celebrate Jesus, The Greatest Gift" at the Linton First Christian Church from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The presentation will feature contemporary southern gospel music at its best from the Red Letter Vocal Group. An opportunity for a free will offering will be presented with all proceeds benefitting Pregnancy Choices.

Parsonage Christmas Open House – December 9

Nathan, Liz, and Tiffany will be hosting an open house at the parsonage (145 Dogwood Lane), Saturday, December 9, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. You are invited to join us! No RSVP necessary. Come and go as you are able. Merry Christmas!

First Baptist Church Cantata – December 10

Mark December 10 at 6:00 on your calendars for the annual First Baptist Church cantata! The program begins with musical selections by IU/Jacobs School of Music students. That will be followed by Kingdoms Kids singing Christmas favorites. Then the Adult Choir will perform Bethlehem's Child. After the program finishes, plan to join the musicians in the Fellowship Hall for a time of Christmas treats and fellowship!



Hoops for Him - 2018

The 2018 Hoops for Him Basketball Program will be held at the Bloomfield First Baptist Christian Life Center beginning January 27 and ending March 17, 2017. Any boy or girl age 4 through 6th Grade is invited to participate. Session 1 for Preschool and Kindergarten age kids will be 9:00-10:00am, Session 2 for Grades 1-3 will be 10:00-11:30am, and Session 3 for Grades 4-6 will be 11:30am-1:00pm each Saturday. The season will conclude with an Awards Ceremony on March 18th. Online Registrations will be available through our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/HoopsforHim/>).

Volunteers are needed every Saturday to lead each session, coach the kids, work the concession stand, and provide devotions. Please prayerfully consider how you can help make our 8th consecutive season successful. The volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated at church or you may contact Eric Moody (email eric.moody@navy.mil or text 812-227-0700) if you are willing to assist.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

We were discussing the Meaning of Christmas so I asked the Children what they wanted for “Jesus’ Birthday.” Here are some of their responses:

- 3 year old Brynn wants a bicycle and a Christmas cup.
- 4 year old Bradley wants a monster truck
- 5 year old Keegan wants a skate board, a hot wheels set and a cat-boy costume
- 4 year old Stella knows she wants something but doesn’t know what yet
- 5 year old Amelia wants toys and Barbie’s
- 4 year old Ava wants a guitar, a real kitty cat, and a baby doll
- 5 year old Jackson wants a monster truck, a bulldozer, a dinosaur and an alligator.
- 3 year old Austin wants trains and a little wreath
- 5 year old Adalyn wants a baby doll and a blanket
- 4 year old Weston wants a dinosaur and a new bed
- 4 year old Daytona wants a choo choo train and a necklace
- 3 year old Toby wants a choo choo and a drum
- 4 year old Katlind wants a stuffed animal kitty
- 5 year old Reba wants a tablet and a phone
- 3 year old Eli wants owls that he can paint at home
- 4 year old Brooklyn wants a baby with blonde hair, a horsey to sleep with and a zebra and a giraffe
- 2 year old Mason wants food and presents
- 2 year old Lysander wants a fire truck, a police car and an ambulance
- 2 year old Samuel wants a dinosaur and a kitty cat
- 2 year old Josie wants candy and a Minnie mouse
- 3 year old Mia wants a mango cause they are so cute and so soft and a giraffe
- 3 year old Bria wants a Elsa say and a dolly
- 2 year old Kael wants an Elephant
- 2 year old Rylon wants boots and coco
- 2 year old Vivian wants a teddy bear
- 2 year old Clayton wants a Kit-Kat and a choo-choo
- 2 year old Colton wants a vroom
- 7 year old Johni Lynn wants a real bunny, a magic wand, a picture of her “elf on the shelf’s” friends and gym, a stuffed dog and drawing books
- 6 year old Lane wants a pocket racer, a paw patrol boat, a falcon that shoots bullets, and a stuffed animal giraffe
- 6 year old Jeremy wants a toy dog, a toy snake, a fluffy stuffed animal, a toy roller coaster, toy hot rods with a big track for them to drive on, and toy race cars
- 5 year old Nathan wants a watch, a race car, a toy cell phone and a list of my friends
- 6 year old Matthew wants a toy gun, cowboy boots, a handkerchief and a hat
- 7 year old Emmi wants a giant unicorn, a vetch watch, a tablet and a new baby sister
- 7 year old Ayden wants an x-box 1, pokemon blocks, a Samsung galaxy phone, a mastodon nerf gun, another drone, a bigger bike, a hover board and some video games
- 9 year old Ethan wants some transformers, a fidget cube and a spinner, Nike shoes and clothes
- 6 year old Braylon wants a spy drone and a trac phone
- 7 year old Dixie wants a real dog, a tablet, shopkins, a stuffed animal wolf and a fake white owl

A Note from Pastor Nathan

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan— The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:1-2 (NIV '84)

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Luke 2:12

Christmas is God's love coming to unexpected places. Really, all of Jesus' life and ministry is God's love coming to unexpected places. A manger? Galilee? Tax collectors, prostitutes, and sinners? Why does Jesus come to *those* places and hang out with *those* people? Because God loves those people. He loves us. And the difference between "those people" and "us" has never been quite as great as we might fancy it to be.

Human beings tend to segregate ourselves. We are typically most comfortable around other people who are most like us. Who looks like me, thinks like me, and acts like me? Who has similar resources as I have? Who dresses, drives, and lives like I do? Those are the people I am most likely to be found around. Perhaps this is true of you as well.

Nobody taught us to do this, at least not explicitly. We just like being around those who are like us. There is nothing sinful about this, per se. Not until we begin to believe that "we" – and those like us – are superior to "them," on whatever basis. That's where the problem comes in. We begin to define our worth by how we contrast with others, rather than embracing our shared value as people who are created in the image of God.

With His blood Jesus has purchased for God a people from every tongue, tribe, and nation. His Kingdom will forever be a diverse group of people. It therefore seems appropriate for us to intentionally ask the Holy Spirit to stretch us. *Lord, help me to discover your image in someone who is different than I am. Lord, help me to feel your love – and compassion – for someone I would not normally get to know.*

Christmas is God's love coming to unexpected places. So, a proposed Christmas project for us is this: let each of us seek some opportunity to bring God's love to a person with whom we might not naturally connect. There are probably as many different ways to do this as there are people reading this article. How is the Lord calling you and me to bring His love to unexpected places – to unexpected people – this Christmas?

"Oh boy, what's the Lord going to ask me to do now?" I confess, I feel that as I write this note to you! God might call me to leave my comfort zone. Then again, isn't that what Jesus did at Christmas, for you and me?

It might be hard. But it might be beautiful. And that, too, is Christmas.

Grace and peace,
Nathan

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

December
2017

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	2
3	4	5 6:30 Trustees	6	7 6:30 Deacons	8	9 4-6pm Christmas Open House at the Parsonage
10 6:00 Cantata	11	12	13	14	15	16 9-11:30 White Christmas Box Distribution
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 6:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Deacon of the Month <i>John Bailey</i>	Trustee of the Month <i>Eric Moody</i>	Usher of the Month <i>John Cummings</i>	Greeter <i>Mike & Barb Stoner</i>
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Reoccurring Weekly Activities @ FBC

Sundays: 8:00 a.m. Handbell Practice	Wednesdays: 6:15 p.m. FLAMES - CLC
Mondays: 10:00 a.m. Enhanced Fitness - FH 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts – FH 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	Thursdays: 6:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Enhanced Fitness - FH 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - FH 6:30 p.m. Gideons (3 rd Thurs. each month) – FH
Tuesdays: 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts - FH 6:30 p.m. Cottage Prayer Group	

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