

# The First Baptist Connection

## April 2021

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ [www.fcbloom.org](http://www.fcbloom.org)

### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARI

#### BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Barb Stoner

3<sup>rd</sup> Kelsey Moody

Jeffrie Porter

4<sup>th</sup> Cheri Campbell-Graf

Gabe Brown

6<sup>th</sup> Sylvia Pischel

9<sup>th</sup> Brad Hughes

11<sup>th</sup> Shannon Dean

Ethan Dean

15<sup>th</sup> Adrienne Hughes

16<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Burgess

19<sup>th</sup> Laverne Rollison

23<sup>rd</sup> Kay Allen

28<sup>th</sup> Lori Resler

#### ANNIVERSARIES

13<sup>th</sup> Paul & Janet Schmidt

19<sup>th</sup> Doug & Barb Frye

Bert & Sharon Terrell

### SPOTLIGHT ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AWAY

Ted Lamson

College: Anderson University

Major: Double major in Social Studies Ed and Christian Ministries

Activities: I play two sports here at Anderson University. I play cornerback for the football team and I run hurdles for the track team. I participated in the corn hole intermural and sadly lost in the championship game. I also attend two Bible studies and chapel throughout the week.

Other: I am often very busy but when I have free time to relax I am usually playing video games or on FaceTime with my girlfriend. I love everything about Anderson University and I think God put me here for a reason! One takeaway is our food is not as good as past years because of Covid from what I have heard. Although we do have Chick-Fil-A on campus which is really nice!

Address: Feel free to send mail if you would like. My address is:

Ted Lamson  
Anderson University  
1100 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anderson, Indiana 46012

# *News & Activities*

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

Beginning NEXT Sunday, April 11, we ask that you please wear a mask during congregational singing, and when social distancing is not possible. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust guidelines as necessary in order to protect the congregation during worship at FBC. Thank you for your continued patience and faithfulness in making FBC a safe place for all to worship.

## *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://Facebook.com/groups/fbcbloom).
- Recorded worship services are available to the public at [YouTube.com/fbcbloomfield](https://YouTube.com/fbcbloomfield).

## *COVID-19 Vaccine*

COVID-19 vaccinations are being hosted by our church. The Greene County Health Department will be administering the vaccinations in the Fellowship Hall. We can expect the Fellowship Hall to be occupied for several weeks. The vaccine is currently available to Hoosiers who are **40 years of age or older**. If you need to schedule an appointment, you or a representative may call 2-1-1 or visit [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov). Please call the Greene County Health Department @ 812-384-4496 with any questions.

## *You Asked for It, Round 4*

This summer Pastor Nathan will again be preparing a sermon series inspired by your requests. If you have a Bible or theology question or would like to hear a biblical sermon regarding a particular topic, passage, or character, please submit your ideas to Nathan before April 30. You can offer suggestions in-person or by emailing [pastor@fbcbloom.org](mailto:pastor@fbcbloom.org) or calling/texting 812-381-4189.

## *Blessing Box Needs*

Happy Spring! When you are cleaning and purging unwanted items, remember our Blessing Box. We accept non-perishable food that isn't outdated, along with paper products, cleaning supplies, hygiene, and baby items. All donations can be placed in the tote by the Library counter. Your continued support of this ministry is greatly appreciated. Any questions can be directed to Cheri Graf 812-384-8980.

## *Disaster Relief*

American Baptists can show support for those impacted by extreme winter weather in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana by making donations to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Donations to OGHS can be made via a check to First Baptist Church. Please write "OGHS-Cold Wave Disaster Relief" on the memo line of your check.

# A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV 1984)

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV 1984)

We are greatly rejoicing with an inexpressible and glorious joy. This is how Peter describes Christians around the world, on the basis of our living hope through Christ. We are greatly rejoicing with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

Or are we?

Joy is an interesting thing. I cannot really make you have it. You cannot really make me joyful. Scripture repeatedly invites us – even commands us – to rejoice. We are called to rejoice in the Lord *always*. Yet sometimes, frankly, we're just not feeling it. The call to rejoice may feel hurtful or insensitive: "How does God expect *me* to rejoice in *this*?"

But we do not need to *feel* joyful all of the time. Consider the death of a loved one. We may cognitively rejoice that a person whom we love has "departed to be with Christ, which is better by far," and yet at the same time we may feel great depths of sorrow or other emotions beyond words. Joy does not offer immunity from hardships. Joy does not produce indifference toward suffering. Joy does *not* mean we are always smiling. Was Jesus smiling on the cross?

But joy and suffering go together. We see this in the texts above. Jesus persevered *through* opposition *because* of joy. Jesus' victory enables us to endure trials *for a little while* because of the *imperishable* inheritance we have in Him.

There is a paradox here. *Joy is most necessary in the very situations when we are least likely to feel joyful.* The joy of the Lord empowers us to faithfully endure even the most joyless situations. The joy of the Lord, who personally endured the most joyless situation – the cross – powerfully enables us to endure all other difficulties in His Name.

Hardships have a way of draining our joy, or at least draining our *sense* of joy. We get discouraged by the difficulties of life. Consider the pandemic and its various effects. Or the political and societal tensions of our time. Or personal illness. Or the loss of loved ones. Challenges at work, home, school, or church. Conflicts and misunderstandings. Life throws many things at us that make us want to give up. These discouragements can become overwhelming.

Knowing this, the biblical authors frequently call us to rejoice. They remind us of our source of joy, and that the joy we have in the Lord is an enduring joy. *The very joy which enabled Jesus to victoriously endure is, because of His victory, alive and well in us.*

In this spirit, we receive the exhortation from Hebrews. *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus!* Jesus, who for the joy set before Him, endured *the cross*. Consider Him, who endured *such* opposition, from sinners, so that you, when you face the inevitable hardships of the Christian life, will not grow weary or lose heart. Remember Jesus.

What we most need in our deepest seasons of discouragement is to look to Jesus. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

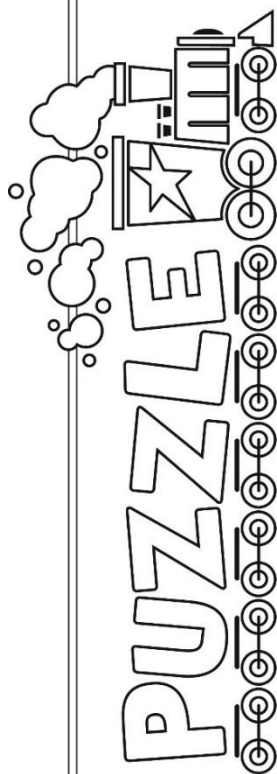
Grace and peace,  
Nathan

First Baptist Church 500  
Lincoln Drive  
Bloomfield, IN 47424

April  
2021

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  6:30 Maundy Thursday Service	2  7:00 Good Friday Service @ 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian	3
4 Communion  7:00 EASTER Sunrise Service @ Bloomfield United Methodist Church	5	6  6:30 Trustees	7  9:00 Bible Study	8  6:30 Ch Council	9	10
11	12	13	14  9:00 Bible Study	15	16	17
18	19	20	21  9:00 Bible Study	22	23	24
25	26	27	28  9:00 Bible Study	29	30	



## BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

*Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.*



VDEO

— — — — (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

— — — — (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

— — — — (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

— — — — (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

— — — —

“Are not five — — — — sold for  
two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten  
by God. .... Don't be afraid; you are worth  
more than many — — — —”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

