

The First Baptist Connection

May 2021

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ www.fcbloom.org

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

5th Piper Hughes
7th Gracie Hudson
Cannon Roark
8th Marlen Flynn
9th Mandy Rollison
13th Monica Hudson
16th Samantha Groomer
26th Jason Brown
29th Derek Rollison
31st Meredith Pittman

ANNIVERSARIES

11th David & Shannon Dean
12th Paul & Ginger Stewart
14th Skyler & Emily Pittman
24th Braden & Tasha Hudson

In Person Gathering at FBC:

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/fcbloom](https://facebook.com/groups/fcbloom).
- Recorded worship services are available to the public at YouTube.com/fcbloomfield.

Blessing Box Needs

Happy Spring! When you are cleaning and purging unwanted items, remember our Blessing Box. We accept non-perishable food that is not outdated, along with paper products, cleaning supplies, hygiene, and baby items.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.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

Jesus Wept

I was praying this morning about what to share with you in this newsletter. Many who are reading this are going through difficult seasons of life. The Lord brought to mind the story of Lazarus in John 11. I urge you to sit down and read that entire chapter. It has been formative and encouraging for me personally, with new layers to discover on each visit.

Jesus does a lot of things in John 11. Jesus hears. Jesus speaks. Jesus loves. Jesus stays. Jesus comes. Jesus listens. Jesus sees. Jesus exudes faith. Jesus even commands a dead man to come out of his grave! (Which he does!) But among all of these things, we also read that Jesus *weeps*.

Today, we don't use the word "weeping" as much as we talk about "crying." From a quick check of online dictionaries, it seems that "weep" is a more intense word than "cry." We see the image of Jesus freely and unashamedly crying. Tears were flowing. He was so moved by the sight of Lazarus' grave and of the mourners gathered around. Jesus really wept.

My assumption is that the Gospel authors were very intentional about what they chose to include in their writings to us. John felt it was important to let us know that in the midst of this tremendous episode, Jesus was in fact weeping.

Our culture discourages weeping in many ways, especially among men. "There is no crying in baseball," it has been said. Toughness allegedly means we cannot express certain emotions. But the suppression of emotions isn't very good for us.

Churches have often inadvertently reinforced the idea that weeping is a bad thing. I'm not sure exactly *how* we've done this, but the fact *that* we have is evident whenever a person feels compelled to apologize for getting emotional. We feel some level of shame about weeping. Somehow we think that we are supposed to have our emotions under control.

In this context, it is significant that "the One who has the power to bring everything under His control" would weep. This is an authentic entry into our suffering. Jesus shows us what the heart of God is like. God is a God who weeps.

If the Maker of heaven and earth weeps, then weeping is probably not the sign of weakness we thought it was. Weeping is probably a window into a soul that really feels, really cares, and really hurts. The God who loves us weeps with us.

I wonder if we might take the time to weep with God. Not that actual weeping is required, although certainly it is welcomed. What if we found some way to sit or walk or rest in God's presence and to get honest with Him about what is on our hearts? This may or may not require words. It could just be a time of holy silence. Or groaning. Or weeping.

There is also the ministry of being the safe Christian brother or sister around whom someone else can weep. This could happen in person. It could happen on the phone. It could happen one time. It could happen repeatedly. But it would definitely be a gift. You can be the gift of a compassionate, listening presence in the life of someone who is hurting.

Life is hard, and this last year has been especially hard on us all. Now is a fitting time to remember that Jesus gives us permission to weep. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted. And He calls us to love as He loves us. This sets us free to weep before Him and to weep with one another. I encourage you not to bottle up the tears. Jesus wept. It is okay to weep.

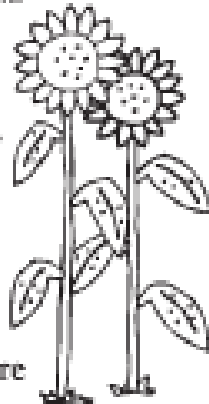
Grace and peace,
Nathan

Follow the Son

Make a sunflower, which turns its head to follow the sun.

What you need:

- Paper plate
- Yellow marker
- Scissors
- Yarn (black and brown)



What you do:

1. Color the entire plate yellow.
2. Around the edge, cut out an odd number of triangles. Evenly space the cuts to form flower petals.
3. Poke a hole in the plate's center. String black yarn through the hole and over one triangle cut. Tie a knot at the back of the plate.
4. Continue looping yarn through the hole and over the remaining cuts. Secure the end. The flower should look like a wagon wheel with black spokes.
5. Tie the brown yarn to a black "spoke." Weave the brown yarn over and under the spokes in a circle. Continue until the sunflower has a large center. Then tie the end.
6. Display your craft as a reminder to follow the Son, Jesus!



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

"But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."


ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

Complete this proverb: "Like snow in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool."

A. springtime
B. summer
C. seedtime
D. autumn



Answer: B (See Proverbs 26:1, ESV.)

First Baptist Church 500 Lincoln
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May
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
2 Communion	3	4 6:30 Trustees	5 9:00 Bible Study	6 6:30 Deacons	7	8
9 Mother's Day Baby Dedication	10	11	12 9:00 Bible Study	13 6:30 Ch Council	14	15
16	17	18	19 9:00 Bible Study	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 9:00 Bible Study	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					