

The First Baptist Connection

April 2022

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ www.fbcblloom.org

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Barb Stoner
3rd Kelsey Moody
Jeffrie Porter
4th Cheri Campbell-Graf
Gabriel Brown
6th Sylvia Pischel
Lora Kutch
9th Brad Hughes
11th Shannon Dean
Ethan Dean
15th Adrienne Hughes
16th Carolyn Burgess
19th Laverne Rollison
23rd Kay Allen
28th Lori Resler

ANNIVERSARIES

- 13th Paul & Janet Schmidt
19th Doug & Barb Frye
Bert & Sharon Terrell

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

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

Blessing Box Needs

Our Blessing Box is a resource for those who need items not available in the Food Pantry. Please consider donations of sunscreen, paper products, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and baby items. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you for supporting this ministry. Any questions can be directed to Cheri Graf @ 812-384-8980.

Tithes and Offerings

We have three simple options for giving tithes and offerings:

1. Give online at fbcblloom.org.
2. Mail a check to the church at 500 Lincoln Drive.
3. Place tithes in the Giving Box in the Narthex.

FBC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Easter Event – April 9

The Children's Easter Event will be the Saturday before Palm Sunday, April 9, from Noon till 3 PM. A lunch will be served. Events that happened between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be presented. There will be crafts and games. Children ages 4 yrs to 6th grade are invited. We encourage children to bring a friend with them to the fun afternoon. There will be a sign-up sheet so we can plan for each child. You may also call the church office (812-384-8459) or email the church secretary to sign up. (secretary@fbcbloom.org) Mark your calendar.

Community Service Work Day - April 10

We are looking for volunteers to assist with general lawn care, such as cleaning garden beds, cleaning the house exterior, trimming bushes, removing vines, and removing shrubs. We will meet at the church Sunday Afternoon April 10th at 2pm and divide labor between Sue Sanford and Joan Vaughn's house. Pray for good weather and please bring any tools you think would be helpful. Some suggestions are shovels, sheers, rakes, hoes, tarps, wheelbarrows, pickaxes, etc. Most importantly, bring gloves! One pair for yourself, and any additional pairs you have to share with others who might have forgotten them. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions feel free to reach out to Joshua Osborne at joshua.lebanonoz@gmail.com.

Ukraine Relief

If you would like to support relief work in Ukraine through our partnership with One Great Hour of Sharing, please write a check to First Baptist Church with "OGHS: Ukraine" on the memo line. Thank you!

Easter Lillies

This year, our church family will be able to purchase Easter Lilies in honor of or in memory of a friend or family member. On Easter Sunday, a list of names of those remembered will be in the bulletin. An order form will be available in our April 3rd and April 10 bulletin. Please leave the order form on Brenda's desk. Any questions contact Cheri Graf 812-384-8980

*"I am the
resurrection
and the life."*
JOHN 11:25



Scholarship Opportunities

Bloomfield 1st Baptist Church offers three scholarship opportunities to assist active members as they pursue their college goals. The scholarships are the Brad Pridemore Memorial Scholarship, the Bloomfield First Baptist Memorial Scholarship, and the Headley Memorial Scholarship. To request an application for any of these scholarships, please email our church secretary at brenda.nichols@fbcbloom.org. The applications are due to the Secretary by May 3 and will be announced on May 15 at Senior Recognition. Details and requirements are on the application forms

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND REPS

If you have information for the May newsletter, please submit it to the church office (preferably via email) by Monday, April 25.

*Thank you kindly,
Brenda*

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

*He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariots with fire.
“Cease striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*
Psalm 46:9-10 (NASB)

This month I offer a few thoughts on how to pray in times of war. The bloody conflict in Ukraine rages on as of this writing, and there is understandably fear that this war might grow longer in duration and larger in scope. I pray that will not be the case. Regardless of what happens in eastern Europe, war is almost constant on this planet in which we live. Somebody, somewhere, is fighting against somebody else. War can be so disheartening. How might we respond?

I recommend praying through various passages of scripture. The first set of texts declares the Lord's victory over the powers of this world. **Psalm 2** and **Psalm 46** (partially quoted above) declare the victory of God (and of his Son, his King) over the vainly warring kings of the earth. **Isaiah 2, 9, and 11** envision a King whose work results in comprehensive peace among the nations. **Philippians 2:5-11** paints Jesus as the crucified servant who will be vindicated as Lord over all things, reminding us of **Daniel 2** and **7**. **John 16:33** assures us that even while in this world we have trouble, Jesus has *already* overcome the world. In the final scenes of **Revelation 21-22**, there is no more death, crying, mourning, or pain, and the leaves of the tree of life are for the healing of the nations. These references and many more provide assurance that evil will not ultimately prevail. As news of war (or other hardship) around the globe overwhelms us, we would do well to return to these scriptures again and again, to pray.

That first group of passages restores hope. The Lord will prevail. He has already won. In addition to discouragement, however, there is another danger of war: hatred. There is the risk that our hearts will become polluted with hatred. We might develop hatred for those who wrongly started this war. We might experience hatred toward those who have the capacity to intervene but are not. We might become hateful toward those who have different opinions about the war than we do. In this regard, several texts come to mind. I think of Jesus' command to love our enemies and pray for them, **Luke 6:27-28**. I continually need **James'** warning to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, because my anger does not bring about God's righteousness (**1:19-20**). The Lord desires that none should perish but that everyone would repent and live (**2 Pet. 3:9; Ezek. 18:23, 32; Isa. 55:6-7; Ps. 130:3-4**). Our struggle is not really – or not simply – at the human level, but against the spiritual forces in unseen realms. Therefore, our best response is not hatred of people but spiritual preparation, culminating and continuing in prayer (**Eph. 6:10-20**).

Finally, I think that it is especially appropriate this time of year to consider the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' death was not only a response to our sins, but also to all of our infirmities and sorrows (**Isa. 53:4-6**). In the suffering of and death of Jesus (**Matt. 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; John 18-19**) we see Him bearing all of the wounds and hatred of the powers of this world. The accounts of Jesus' resurrection (**Matt. 28; Mark. 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; 1 Cor. 15:3-8**) proclaim our hope, that our Lord has experienced the worst this world can dish out – death itself – and has overcome (**Rev. 1:18**). We have been given new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (**1 Pet. 1:3-9**). Our Lord Jesus transforms our perspective on all of the suffering we encounter in this world.

I realize that there is a lot of scripture in this article. You don't need to read it all today. But let us consider which voices we allow to dominate our thoughts during difficult times. The 24-hour news channels are not concerned about our peace of mind. But Jesus is (**Matt. 11:28-30; John 14:27; Phil. 4:6-7**). Let us therefore listen for the voice of Jesus and pray fervently as we live in this violent world. Let us take time to “cease our striving,” to be still before the Lord, in anticipation of the stillness that will come when He brings all earthly conflict to an end. It is only a matter of time.

“Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus (**Rev. 22:20**)!

Grace and peace,
Nathan

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

April 2022

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 Communion	4 7:00 Choir Practice	5 6:30 Trustees	6 9:00 Bible Study	7 6:30 Deacons	8	9 12:00 Easter Event
10 Palm Sunday 8:30 Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 Kingdom Kids 2:00 Church Work Day	11 7:00 Choir Practice	12	13 9:00 Bible Study	14 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	15 Good Friday 7:00 Good Friday Service @ 1 st Presbyterian	16
17 EASTER SUNDAY! 7:00 Sunrise Service @ Blfd United Methodist. 	18 7:00 Choir Practice	19	20 9:00 Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00 Kingdom Kids 12:00 Youth - Pizza & Pickle Ball	25 7:00 Choir Practice	26	27 9:00 Bible Study	28	29	30

