



The Bell Tower

June 2023

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ www.fcbloom.org

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Shelia McBride
- 3rd Brenda Flanagan
- 6th Kylene Wilson
- 8th Tonya Templeton
- 14th Heather Malone
- 15th Mary Bailey
- 18th Max & Sydney Terrell
- 22nd Josh Osborne
- 25th Nancy Covey
- 26th Andrew Sohn
- 28th Emma Resler
- 30th George Dallaire

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st Norm & Nancy Sullivan
- 3rd George & Marilyn Dallaire
- 9th Bill & Debra Hudson
- 11th Charles & Kimberly Porter
- 12th Eric & Jennifer Moody
- 16th Casey & Annette Rice
- 19th Gary & Carolyn Sullivan
- 21st Bob & Sherry Weeks
- 24th Nathan & Liz Brooks

Watch FBC online:

1. Links for live worship services are posted weekly at Facebook.com/groups/fcbloom.
2. Recorded worship services are available to the public at YouTube.com/fcbloomfield.

Tithes and Offerings

If you would like to support the church online, please visit our website at www.fcbloom.org.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-3:00pm

Food Pantry Hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-11:00am &
Tuesday Evening 4:30pm-6:00pm

CLC Access

Daily access to the CLC, for those who don't have a key, will now be available during regular church hours by checking/signing in with FBC Secretary Heather Malone. Access to the CLC will be by utilizing the walkway through the church Narthex.

FBC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Date: July 23-27

Time: TBD

(dinner included)

For more information call:

812-384-8459

Pool Party: Friday, July 28 6-8pm

*New friends • Amazing crafts • Creative games • Super-fun snacks
Surprising adventures • Incredible music*

You Asked for It Round Five- 2023

June 4 – Serious Savior
Did Jesus take sin seriously?

June 11 – Your Servants Are Listening
What are all of the ways God communicates with us?

June 18 – Hatred and the Enemy-Loving God
How do we understand Bible passages in which God “hates”?

June 25 – Bob Weeks will share his testimony about his recent Colombia trip

Eagle Scout Fundraiser Sunday, June 4

Avery Malone will be holding a Baked Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser immediately after church on Sunday, June 4. Come even if you didn't sign up. There will be plenty of food provided. Funds donated will be used to support his Eagle Scout project of raising the second row of the choir loft in the sanctuary.

Address for Lois Kirchoff – She would love to hear from you!

Lois Kirchoff
Harrison Crossing
395 8th Ave. Room 225
Terre Haute, IN 47804

It's Time to go Camping – Indian Creek 2023!

Register at <https://campindiancreek.com>. FBC will pay for half of the registration fee for each camper from this church. If you need assistance with the remaining funds, please contact Pastor Nathan, one of the Deacons, or Heather in the church office to see about a scholarship. Let Heather know once your registration has been accepted so that we can be praying for you! Questions may be directed to the camp by email: indiancreek@abc-indiana.org

Make Indian Creek a part of your summer plans!

2023 SUMMER SCHEDULE

Grades	Sessions	Dates
Kindergarten - 1st	First Timers - \$100	June 2-3
1st - 2nd	Explorer - \$190	June 11-13
2nd - 3rd	Discovery - \$200	June 14-17
10th - 2022 Grads	Senior High - \$320	June 18-24
4th-6th Girls Only	Girls Camp - \$220	June 25-29
4th-6th Boys Only	Boys Camp - \$220	June 28-July 2
7th-9th	Focus - \$320	July 9-15
6th-8th	Challenge - \$320	July 16-22
TBD	Edna Martin CC	July 23-26
Ages 16 and up <small>and/or moderate special needs</small>	Special Persons \$225	July 28-31



First Timers Camp this Friday-Saturday June 2-3

Please be in prayer for our campers this summer. This Friday we send off our first group of campers to Indian Creek. Joey Rice is going for his first camp experience and Alex & Aiden Malone are going as counselors.

Church Softball League

Church league softball practices are underway. Practices are Sunday afternoons weather permitting. If you are 14 this year you are eligible to play. You can contact Braden Hudson directly at 812-381-1937 if you are interested. Game schedule will soon be available.

The 2023 Non-Pictorial Directory and Prayer Guide is available

Pick up your copy on the library counter.

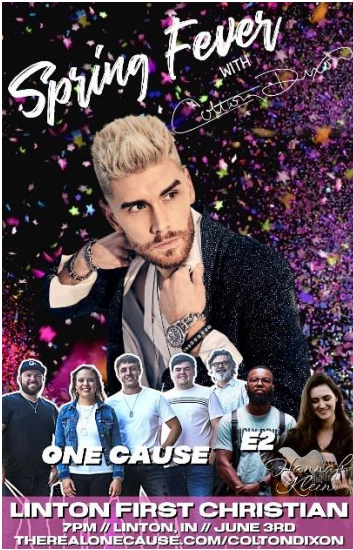


Like to Borrow Free Materials?

Our library has many wonderful Christian resources available for our church family to borrow including numerous biblical texts, DVDs, children's books, and magazines.

Youth Bike Trip Sunday, June 11

A youth bike trip in Bloomington will take place Sunday, June 11. More details to come. The trip is being led by James Malone and John Cummings.



Concert at Linton FCC June 3 @ 7pm

One Cause Missions and Destiny Rescue are both non-profit organizations that have an emphasis on spreading the Gospel, helping those in need (the least of these), and raising awareness and funds to combat human trafficking. They are partnering together and putting on a concert at Linton First Christian Church on June 3rd at 7 pm with Colton Dixon! They are very excited to have him, as he is an excellent musician and a strong, Christian man. They will also have 3 Indiana bands playing. At the event, they will raise awareness and funds to help combat child slavery around the world. They are hoping to have up to 800 people attend this concert.

Cub Scout Community Touch-A-Truck Event Saturday, June 24

There will be a Touch-A-Truck Event hosted by Bloomfield Cub Scouts Troop 468 here at the First Baptist Church on Saturday, June 24 1:00pm-4:00pm. There will be multiple first responder vehicles and a Lifeline helicopter will be landing in our upper lot!



Open Arms Christian Ministry Needs: They are located in Switz City 812-659-2533

<p>Hebron Home Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper towels Outdoor activities Snacks for mystery box Laundry detergent Plastic cutlery Fidget toys 	<p>Miriam Home Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canvas' & paints Board games Snacks for mystery box Laundry detergent Tiny rubber band ties Lawn chairs Movies PG & PG 13 	<p>Foster Care/Office Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coloring Books & Crayons Watercolor paint Play Dough 12, 24, 2T boy summer clothes Manila Folders Paper Clips Black & blue pens Copy paper
---	---	--

No Bible Study Wednesday, June 21

Pastor Nathan will be preaching @ Parkview at 2:00 June 11

COMMITTEE & COUNCIL UPDATES

The Food Pantry News

The food pantry served 96 families in the month of April. Staple items such as bread, milk, eggs, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned soups, tomato juice, hamburger, chicken, Chef Boyardee products and dried beans are used to stock shelves. The Bloomfield Baptist Church is to keep the shelves stocked in spaghetti and spaghetti sauce which is very low at this time. Different churches donate items like crackers and Jiffy Mix and other items that are very low or nonexistent. Any and all items are very much appreciated. The local Bloomfield Elementary School and the local Post Office helped to keep the shelves stocked. God is good to help the pantry provide food for the community. Praise God from Whom all Blessings flow!!!!

The Blessing Box Musings

It is hard to believe, but our Blessing Box ministry is almost 4 years old! We began the ministry in June of 2019. Julie Huffman and her students at Bloomfield High School constructed the box with materials they had on hand. Bill Hudson and his grandchildren installed the box in the northwest corner of our parking lot. We have had donations from churches, individuals, businesses, sororities, and the American Legion in Bloomfield. Of course, our FBC church family continues to support us each week. We appreciate everyone who has had a part in making this ministry a success. This outreach ministry is showing our community the love God has for them.

Children's Summer Sunday School Program

The Children's Department will be doing Sunday School together as a large group for the summer. This has gone well over the past two years. Leaders are Sandy Clark, Kathy Ham, Alecia Henry, Tasha Hudson, Alex Malone, and Kim Schulte. We are studying the Parables of Jesus with skits, crafts or game, Bible lessons, and memory verse. Here are our lesson topics for the following weeks. Please help bring children to Sunday School!

June 4: The Sower

June 11: Talents

June 18: Good Samaritan

June 25: Unforgiving Servant

July 2: Wandering Sheep

July 9: Mustard Seed

July 16: Wise and Foolish Builders

July 23: Lost Son

A Bright Beginnings Board Daycare Follow-Up

The Bright Beginnings Board has received several questions about the closing of our Daycare ministry and would like to take this opportunity to explain some of the details of the situation.

In 2019, Bloomfield School District began offering after-school, free childcare until 5:15 p.m., and bussing those children home. The school also opened its own preschool serving 4 and 5 year-olds.

This reduced both our Preschool and Daycare enrollment for those age groups. While we used to maintain full Daycare classrooms of 3, 4, and 5 year-olds, we now had 5 total children in those categories. Required staffing ratios allow a maximum of 15 children to 1 caregiver for 5 year-olds; 12 to 1 for 4 year-olds; and 10 to 1 for 3 year-olds. Rooms of 2 year-olds are limited to 7 children; 1 year-olds to 5 children; and infants to 4 children per room. The income-to-expense ratio is therefore favorable for older age groups but prohibitive for younger age groups. Income from childcare receipts must also cover wages for our director and kitchen staff as well as food and other program expenses. The sharp decline in older children enrolled made care for younger children financially unsustainable over the long run.

Hiring and retaining staff have been challenging throughout the history of Bright Beginnings Daycare. Several incremental wage increases were made over the years, including two such raises in and March and October 2022, up to a final figure of \$11 per hour for new employees. While each wage increase further strained the financial picture, it was deemed essential to do something to attract additional staff. However, these raises did not result in an increase of employees; we struggled to retain enough staff each day to keep the rooms open. Rooms were combined, which reduced the number of children we could serve. The State also became extremely tardy in processing required background checks, resulting in a loss of potential employees who found work elsewhere while waiting.

When we raised our childcare rates in 2021 by \$5 a week, we were already more expensive than all other daycares we were aware of in Bloomfield and Linton. The pandemic also resulted in more parents working from home, reducing the overall demand for full-time childcare. In May of 2016, there were 63 full and part time children enrolled and 20 school aged children for a total of 83 regular attendees. Typically, only 22-25 children were attending daily from 2021 onward. On the day we informed our employees that we were closing, March 23, 2023, there were 11 children and 9 employees. In comparison, income receipts for May 2016 totaled \$30,798 and the 2022 monthly income averaged \$14,845.

Board assessments in 2022 determined that we would ideally need about 57 children to sustain the Daycare program, and that the ministry was losing about \$4,000 monthly. The Board established a checkbook threshold below which the Daycare would not be able to pay its outstanding costs. That threshold was reached in 2023, precipitating the closure.

We know some in the church would have liked to help the Daycare financially, and some parents were willing to pay even higher rates so that we wouldn't have to close. However, the overall landscape had changed to the point where even some very big Band-Aids and exorbitant tuition increases would not have overcome the long-term challenges.

The Board sought to be transparent at Congregational Meetings, Council Meetings, and Deacon Meetings about the significance of our Daycare challenges. We considered holding a churchwide prayer meeting regarding Daycare difficulties, but at the time we were trying to keep the Daycare afloat and didn't want to cause panic among parents and employees. When the closure decision was announced, we sought to communicate swiftly and uniformly, beginning with caregivers and parents, and then to the entire congregation. If any feelings were hurt by this process, we apologize.

The Bright Beginnings Board is going to take the summer to evaluate what materials are left behind. As the church body comes together in prayer for new ministry opportunities, we hope it

will become clear what furniture we leave in the rooms and what resources we can bless someone else with. We will prepare our recommendations for the Aug. 10th Council Meeting.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact any of us.

Respectfully,

The Bright Beginnings Board (Jeff Coffin, Adrienne Hughes, Tasha Hudson, Bob Templeton)

Church Council Update

The FBC Council met on Thursday, May 11th, 2023. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

FBC Scholarships: A motion was made and approved to award scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year to one high school senior and four currently attending college. These scholarships will be presented on Sunday May 28th with a taco lunch provided after church service.

Safety Deposit Lock Box. Deputy Moderator Kathy Ham reported after locating the key to the box she met with a Northwest Bank official and was able to review/inventory make a list of the contents of the box. Most documents appear to be outdated and no longer relevant. She is continuing to determine what contents should be saved. It was also discussed about the church purchasing a fire safe box to store valuable documents at the church rather than pay the \$40 annual fee for the security box.

Christian Life Center (CLC) Issues. With the closing of Bright Beginnings Daycare, three issues were discussed pertaining to the future of the facility. They included:

Security/Access. Daily access to the CLC, for those who don't have a key, will now be available Tuesday-Friday 9AM-12PM and 1PM-3PM by checking/signing in with FBC Secretary Heather Malone. Access to the CLC will be using the walkway through the church Narthex.

Daycare Property. It was decided that the Bright Beginnings Board will prepare a list of Day Care property and bring it to the next Board meeting scheduled for August 10th with a recommendation what should stay/go.

Future CLC Usage. Discussion began on the possibilities for use of the CLC. It was decided by the Council to form a Group with members reflecting the makeup of the church that included some committee members, young people, not so young people, male and female. Bob Weeks has agreed to lead this group as they "embark on this journey" to determine how God wants us to use this wonderful facility. If you're interested in being part of this group let Bob, Pastor Nathan or myself know. Please be in prayer that God will lead us where we can best serve Him through its use.

Regards,
John Bailey
FBC Moderator

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND REPS

If you have information for the July newsletter, please submit it to the church office (preferably via email) by Monday, June 26. Thank you, Heather.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8

This is an exciting time for First Baptist Church. We've just completed a successful, monthly, Sunday evening children's program and are anticipating the arrival of VBS, July 23-27. A new graduating class of preschoolers celebrated their completion of our program in May. We finished our Wednesday morning journey through Hebrews and will study Malachi this summer. Our healing service was a special time of encountering God's presence. We're in the midst of another summer "You Asked for It" sermon series. The food pantry rolls along, having served five more families yesterday as of this writing. Summer camp at Indian Creek is about to begin a new season, and many of our children, youth, and adults will be headed to Avoca to experience God's Spirit in that special place. Good things are happening!

What I am most excited about at the moment is the potential of our Christian Life Center. While we have used the CLC for many things over the years, the dominant ministry in terms of time and space has been Bright Beginnings Daycare. Understandably, we may have a variety of emotions about seeing this longstanding ministry come to an end. But with change comes hope. The Lord prunes fruitful branches for the purpose of making us even more fruitful (John 15). That is what excites me. We have an opportunity, perhaps in entirely new ways, to bear fruit for the kingdom through the CLC.

"We pray this will be a place of mission and ministry, advancing the kingdom of God on earth, sharing the love of Christ with all," we say on the CLC dedication plaque. Those are beautifully broad and clear objectives, but the way forward will require much prayer and discernment. Our situation is somewhat like Abraham's – we are called to move forward but aren't sure exactly what that looks like. We need to consider at least three questions, in no particular order:

First, what are the capabilities of the CLC building as it stands today? We have used it in many ways, but it also has untapped potential. From the standpoint of the facility itself, let's dream broadly about what might be possible.

Second, what are the needs of Bloomfield and Greene County? The CLC could become an alternate or additional site for one of the ministries we already partner with. The CLC could become the base of a much-needed ministry that does not yet exist. The CLC could become the answer to prayer for an unfulfilled vision of someone who loves our community.

Third, what are the passions the Lord has already laid on the hearts of our congregation? Several of you have already raised ideas about activities we could pursue with the CLC in the post-daycare era. There are no bad ideas! By suggesting and listening to possibilities, new ideas will emerge.

Where these three areas overlap – facility potential, community need, and congregational passion – is where we will find our way forward. This journey is not so much a matter of "figuring it out" as it is "discovering what the Holy Spirit is already up to." The Spirit was at work two decades ago as the CLC was being planned. The Spirit is at work in our community, revealing opportunities for ministry. And the Spirit is at work in our hearts, nudging us forward.

The Church Council has decided to establish a separate entity for the Spirit-led exploration of these questions. For now, let's call it a "Discovery Group," to be distinguished from any board, committee, or team we already have. This group will consist of enough people to faithfully represent the makeup of our congregation. The group will need to listen well to the congregation, the community, and one another, and present whatever we discover back to the council and to the congregation. Praying, listening, learning, communicating, humble recommending, with continual self-reflection. *What are we hearing? Are we listening well? Who else do we need to listen to?* That's the ideal posture of this group.

We need to focus on doing all of this well rather than rushing to finish. There is no set timetable for this process. May the Holy Spirit lead our journey and direct the outcomes, for the advancement of God's kingdom and sharing the love of Christ with all people. Abraham didn't know where he was going, but I'm glad he went. So let's go, too, by faith!

Grace and peace,

Nathan

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

June
2023

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 5:00 Girl Scouts FH 6:30 Boy Scouts CLC 6:30 Deacons	2 5:00 Youth Outing	3 11-3:00pm Pavilion res 11-3:00pm FH res 6:00-9:00pm CLC res
4 Communion 12:00 VBS Meeting & Eagle Scout Fundraiser 6:00 Softball Practice	5	6 10:00 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00-9:00pm CLC res 6:30 Trustees	7 9:00 Bible Study	8 6:30 Boy Scouts CLC	9	10 6:00-9:00pm CLC res
11 8:30 Fellowship Breakfast 2:00 Nathan @ Parkview Youth Bike Ride	12	13 10:00 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00-9:00pm CLC res	14 9:00 Bible Study	15 6:30 Gideons 6:30 Boy Scouts CLC	16	17 6:00-9:00pm CLC res
18 Father's Day 12-4:00pm CLC res	19	20 10:00 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00-9:00pm CLC res	21 No Bible Study 10:00-12:00 FH ovens res	22	23	24 1-4pm CS Touch A Truck 6:00-9:00pm CLC res
25	26	27 10:00 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00-9:00pm CLC res	28 9:00 Bible Study	29	30	