



The Bell Tower

November 2023



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 7 th | Nathan Brooks |
| 9 th | Randy Flanagan |
| 10 th | Mary Jane Parker |
| 12 th | Mylee Manuel |
| 13 th | Marilyn Dallaire |
| 16 th | Brad Ellis Charles Porter |
| 17 th | Liz Brooks |
| 23 rd | James Malone Mike Stoner |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 16 th | Don & Virginia Hendrix |
|------------------|------------------------|



Watch FBC online:

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

Tithes and Offerings

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

Updated Church Office Hours

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-4:00pm |
| Wednesday | 1:00pm-4:00pm |
| Thursday | 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-4:00pm |
| Friday | 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-3:00pm |

*Office hours will return to normal the week of 20 November.

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

Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 5

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 5 which means turn your clocks back an hour. Don't forget or you will be an hour early for Morning Worship!



Love Feast Sunday, November 5

Our Love Feast will be held Sunday evening, November 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the CLC. The Social Committee will provide table service, drinks, turkey, ham, ham balls, mashed potatoes, noodles, and dressing. Our Church Family is asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

Silent Auction Sunday, November 5

Please take time to look at the variety of items/services available for bids in the Narthex for the silent auction. You are encouraged to bid on your favorites. You may bring auction items until Sunday morning, November 5. After our Worship service, all of the tables will be moved to the CLC. The bidding will close at 6:00 p.m. Winners will be announced after our meal and closing program. Any questions, contact Cheri Campbell Graf 812-384-8980 or 812-227-0117.

Preaching at Parkview Sunday, November 26

Pastor Nathan will be preaching at Parkview in Odon on Sunday, November 26 at 2:00pm. All are encouraged to attend and worship with the residents there.

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday November 26

Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, November 26, immediately after worship services. We will be decorating Christmas trees for the Fellowship Hall, Narthex, and the Sanctuary. Plan to join in the fun as our Church is transformed for the Advent/Christmas Season. The Social Committee will provide pizza for lunch.

Blessing Box Needs

As we transition into the fall season and cooler weather, we start adding to our blessing box some items that our clients may need. We could use all sizes of some new or gently used hats, gloves, and small throws or blankets. Our focus continues to be hygiene, cleaning items, and paper goods. When you are out shopping, consider buying a few extra things to donate or monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you so much for showing the love of God to those less fortunate in our community. Any questions, contact Cheri Campbell Graf 812-384-8980.

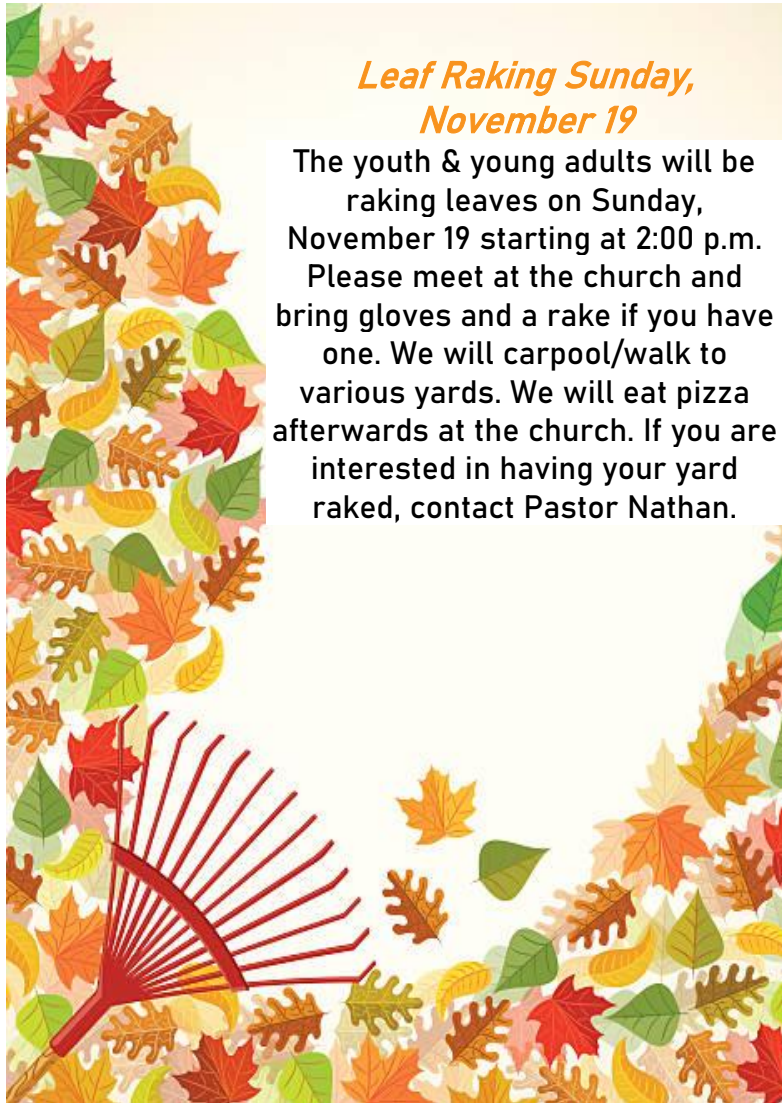
Operation Christmas Child 2023

If you are considering participating in Operation Christmas Child, now is the time to begin preparing. The National Collection Week is November 13-20. I have contacted Tammy Hart at Linton First Baptist Church to get drop off dates and times. The Samaritan's Purse website has a wealth of information. This year the cost of sending each box is \$10. We will have a display table set up in the Narthex with cardboard boxes, labels, and instructions on what items to include in your box. In the meantime, you or your family can begin praying for the child who will receive your box.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT HAPPENINGS

Young Adult Meet Up

The Young Adults are planning to meet in the CLC on Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 pm.



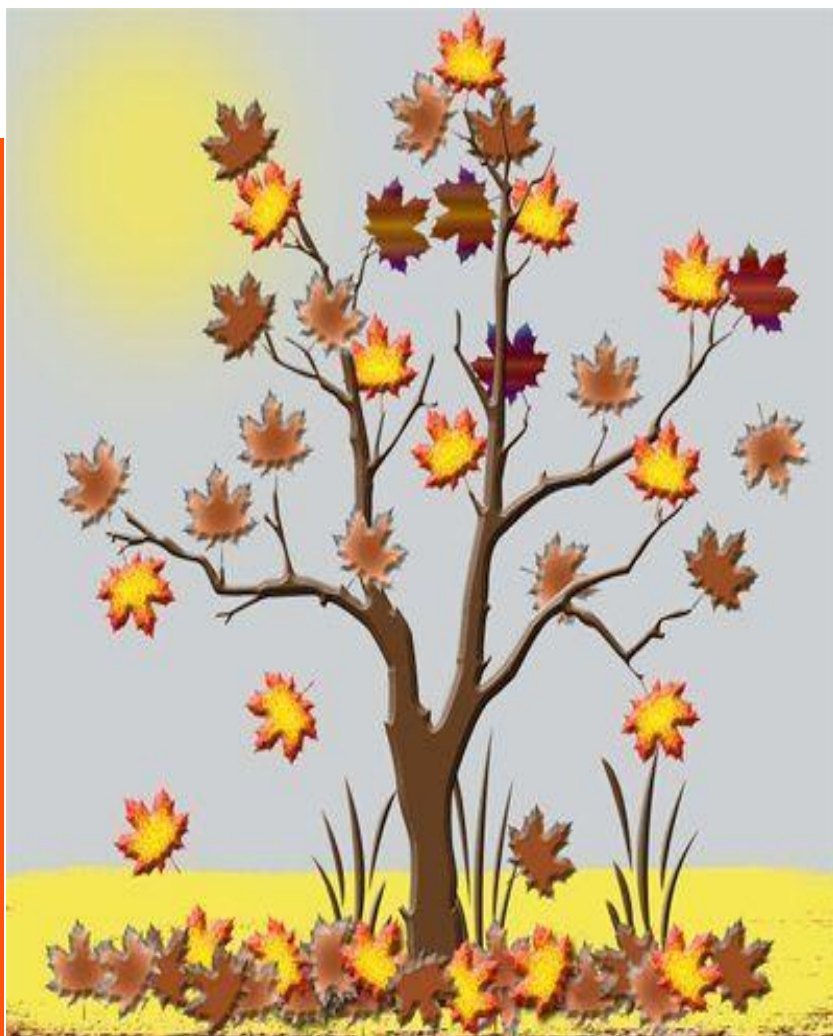
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

- December 10 @ 6:00 pm Christmas Cantata
- December 16 @ 9:00 White Christmas Distribution
- December 24 @ 6:00 Christmas Eve Service
- December 31 @ 7:00 Youth New Years Eve Party



ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER



November Scripture Memory Verse
Challenge

Psalm 106:1

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the
Lord, for he is good; his love endures
forever. --NIV

Thanksgiving Prayer

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
Father in heaven,
We thank thee.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ramblings of the Claury

Quotable Quotes:

"Thanksgiving: when the people who are the most thankful are the ones who didn't have to cook." ☺

--Melanie White

And now.... for our

FIRST BAPTIST



This month, we are announcing our BIGGEST First Baptist Flashback prize ever! Are you ready? Be the first person to email me the identification of these adorable Sunday School children and win.....the opportunity to be the envy of everyone..... by being the FIRST.....in line at our Love Feast on November 5!



2004



2009

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S APPLE FESTIVAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Yardstick
4. Chicken
6. Friday
9. Cold
10. Tacos
13. Apple
14. Shelterhouse
16. Gideons

DOWN

2. Safety
3. Thursday
5. Noodles
7. Runner
8. Popcorn
11. Half
12. Eleven
15. Rain



Congratulations to **Nancy Sullivan**! The winner of our October First Baptist Flashback. She was the first to correctly identify the individuals pictured from our White Christmas photo. They were Jean & Joe Burcham, Jean & Bill Resler, Charlie Farmer, and Lowell & Loraine Brewer.



COOKS IN THE BELFRY

(How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103 NIV)

The ham ball recipe is a favorite recipe at FBC submitted by Cheri Campbell Graf. The pumpkin bread recipe came from our official 1994 cookbook.



RECIPE Ham Balls

FROM THE KITCHEN OF Marie Farmer

INGREDIENTS

3 lb. ham loaf (from grocery)

2 eggs

1 c. tomato sauce

1-2 c. approx. bread crumbs
(half ritz crackers)

1 tsp dry mustard

Sauce

1 c. brown sugar

6 Tbsp vinegar

4 tsp dry mustard

1 ½ -2 c. pineapple juice

1/8 tsp ground cloves

DIRECTIONS

Combine the ham loaf, eggs, tomato sauce, and breadcrumbs. Form into small balls (not too small) and place in shallow pan. Cover and bake at 350 deg. for 45 min.

While that's baking, mix and heat sauce to lukewarm.

Turn the balls over, punch holes in them with a fork and pour sauce over each one.

Put back into oven for additional 15 minutes.



RECIPE Pumpkin Bread

FROM THE KITCHEN OF Charlotte Hummerickhouse

INGREDIENTS

3 ½ c. flour

1 ½ tsp salt

1 ½ tsp cinnamon

3 ¼ c. sugar

2 tsp soda

1 tsp nutmeg

4 eggs

1 tsp vanilla

1 c. cooking oil

1 can pumpkin (2 c. size)

DIRECTIONS

Put first 6 ingredients in large bowl. Make hole in center, put in remaining ingredients. Mix well. Add 1 cup pecans. Put into 3 pans. Bake 1 hour at 350 deg.

MANNING THE ROPES

(Committee & Council Updates)



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The food Pantry has served 94 families so far in October and there will be more to service the last day of the month. A trip to Terre Haute was made on the 19th and USDA of 2125 pounds was picked up plus 1962 pounds of food was purchased as the shelves were getting pretty bare!! Thank you to First Baptist members who donated spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. The pantry shelves look much different now. Another thank you goes to those individuals and churches who donated either produce, food items or money. You are doing God's work through the pantry when you donate!!!

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Peden Children's Farm north of Ellettsville was a pleasant surprise for everyone. Since we didn't know what to expect, we reveled in the discoveries. Farm animals to observe and pet, also emergency responders to interact with and see their vehicles. Children got to practice crawling under smoke and out a window in a fire simulation.

Children saw demonstrations on carding wool, spinning, leather work, processing persimmons, using a forge for metal work, stone carving, corn shucking, got a lesson in dialing 811 before digging, had lots of photo opportunities, and interacted in an Indian village! There was a hay ride and chances to climb on tractors and an excavator.



PRESCHOOL UPDATE FROM THE BRIGHT BEGINNINGS BOARD

Bright Beginnings Preschool has the resources to complete the 2023-2024 school year but will need additional support from individual donors or the church in order to operate in future school years. Here's a current financial snapshot:

| Monthly Income | Monthly Payroll Expenses | Monthly Classroom Expenses | Monthly Shortage | Annual Shortage (9 mos.) |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| \$1,350.00 | \$1,530.00 | \$150.00 | \$330.00 | \$2,970.00 |

At the November Congregational Meeting, the possibility of subsidizing preschool with an FBC budget line will be discussed. Alternatively, individual donors could support the preschool. The Bright Beginnings Board is also considering the possibility of *only* offering a 3-4 year-old class and *eliminating* our 4-5 year-old class. (Bloomfield School District began operating a preschool in 2019, with meals and transportation included, directly impacting our enrollment). There are currently no other stand-alone preschool options for 3-4 year-olds in our community.

Please join us in prayer regarding the future of our preschool ministry, and reach out to the Bright Beginnings Board (Tasha Hudson, Adrienne Hughes, Bob Templeton, or Jeff Coffin) if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you!

FROM THE MODERATOR

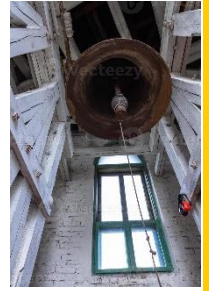
2023 Annual FBC Congregational Meeting November 9th

The upcoming Congregational Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Thursday November 9th in the FBC sanctuary. There are several important issues to vote on this year (see agenda below). There must be a quorum of at least 20 members present to allow a vote to be taken on any issues. To be eligible to vote you must be a member of FBC and at least 16 years of age. The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Approve minutes of the previous congregational meeting
2. Committee reports
3. Vote to approve the slate of FBC officers for 2024
4. Vote to add a budget line to allow continuation of the FBC Preschool
5. Vote to approve the proposed amount designated non-taxable for the FBC parsonage
6. Approval of proposed changes to the FBC Constitution/Personnel Policies Handbook
7. 2024 FBC Budget

*copies of proposed budget available on FBC library counter

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN



But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Ephesians 5:3-4 (NIV)

I'm taking the risk of writing this newsletter article before our sermon series on Ephesians concludes, but these verses above are worth magnifying for the month of November and our upcoming celebration of Thanksgiving.

There are a great many things that Paul is calling us to put off in this portion of Ephesians. Remember, we are putting off an old self and putting on a new self. We are forsaking an old way of walking and are instead pursuing a different path.

The kinds of activities Paul has been warning against have generally been self-centered behaviors: *What can I get from others for my own gain?* This is why he writes, in Ephesians 4:28, that we are to stop stealing (taking from others for our own advantage) and start working (so that we can share with others in need).

This is at the heart of what it means to be like God in all righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:24). Our holy, righteous God continually gives for the sake of others. The chief example of this is when King Jesus gave Himself up for us (Eph. 5:2).

This is the rationale in the text above. Sexual immorality, impurity, and greed are activities focused on gaining more gain for our "selves." Therefore, Paul exhorts us to focus on the *God who has already given extravagantly of Himself to us*. Thanksgiving is the posture through which we do this. We have already gained, because of God.

My mind immediately jumps to Hebrews 13:5, "Keep your lives free from love of money and *be content with what you have because God* has said, 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.'"

I've added my own italics to that verse. *Be content with what you have because God*. God is our great reward (Gen. 15:1). God has an inheritance for us that can never perish, spoil, or fade (1 Pet. 1:4). No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Cor. 2:9). He has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph. 1:3). God never leaves us or forsakes us.

There is tremendous contentment in the presence and provision of the Living God.

When I worked at Indiana Baptist Assembly many years ago, one of my coworkers always began his prayers by saying, "Lord, we thank you and praise you for who you are and for what you've done." He had a speech impediment, which meant that even though we knew what he was going to say, that predictable phrase came out very slowly each time.

Oh, that this November we would slow down, and pray that extended prayer of thanksgiving...

Lord,

We thank you...

And praise you...

For who you are...

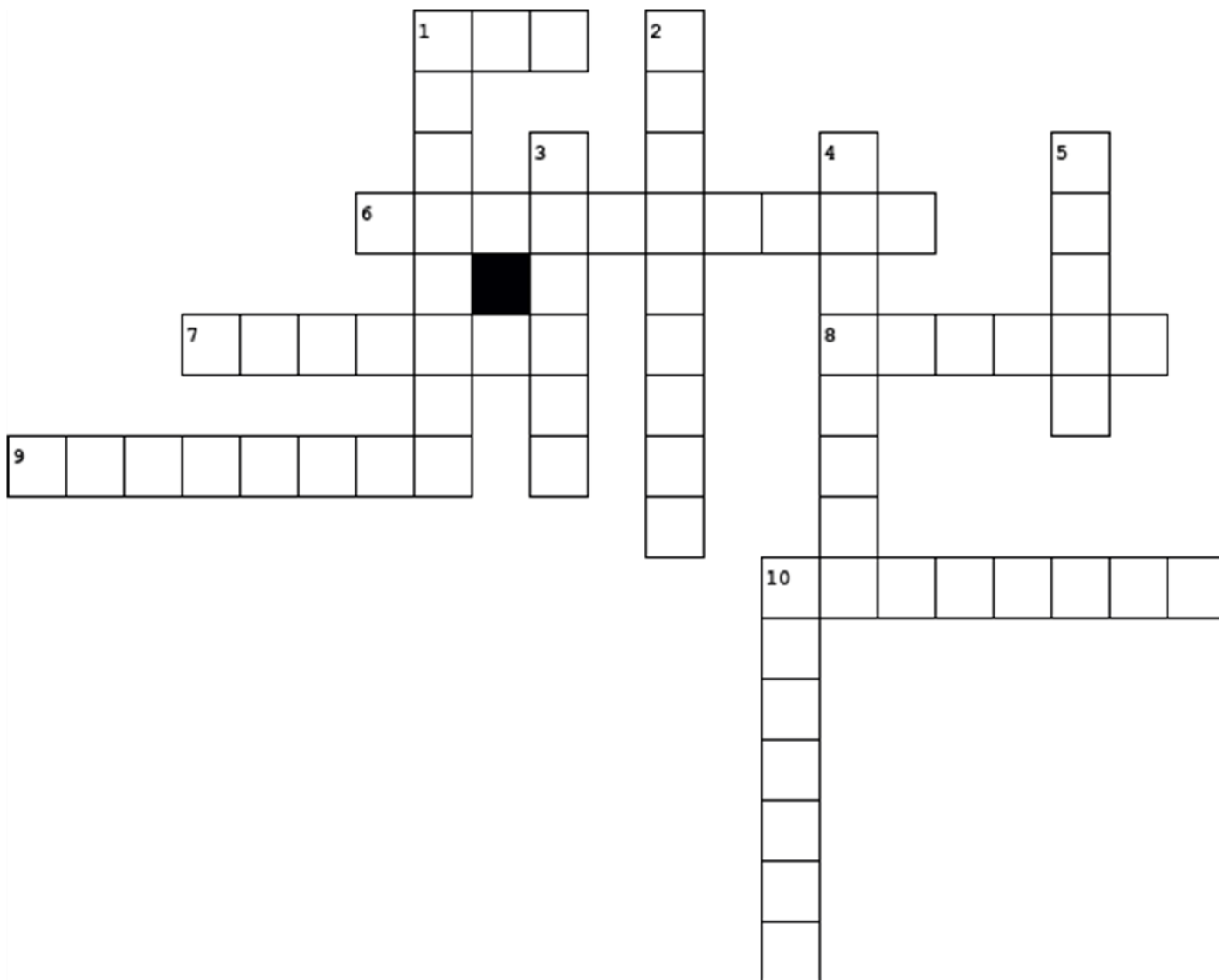
And for what you've done.

In slowing down and walking this walk of thanksgiving, we may discover new freedom from that old walk in the flesh.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Nathan

THANKSGIVING



Across

1. American, like baseball and apple....
6. President who proclaimed day of thanks in 1789.
7. President who set Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November.
8. Almost the national bird, now dinner.
9. Thanksgiving became fourth Thursday of November by act of this.
10. Pilgrims and Native Americans held 1621 feast here.

Down

1. Mashed starchy tubers.
2. Fruit or sauce.
3. Give this to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.
4. Lions and Cowboys host these games.
5. Orange version of 1. down.
10. Also orange, but usually bigger, rounder.

Answers will be printed in next month's *Bell Tower*.

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

November
2023

Church Office: 812-384-8459
FAX No: 812-384-8982
Bright Beginnings Preschool: 812-384-2647

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|----------------------------|--|--------|-------------------------|
| | | | 1 9:00 Bible Study | 2 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Deacon Mtg 6:30 Boy Scouts | 3 | 4 Love Feast Dec. |
| 5 Communion Daylight Sav Time Intl. Day of Prayer 6:00 Love Feast | 6 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir | 7 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Trustee Mtg | 8 9:00 Bible Study | 9 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Congregation Meeting | 10 | 11 Veterans Day |
| 12 8:30 Fellowship Bfst 9:00 Kingdom Kids 12:00 CLC res | 13 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir | 14 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 1:00 FH res 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Pastoral Mtg | 15 9:00 Bible Study | 16 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Gideon Mtg | 17 | 18 10:00 CLC res |
| 19 2:00 Leaf raking 5:30 FH res | 20 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir | 21 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res | 22 9:00 Bible Study | 23 Thanksgiving 1:00 FH res | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 Kingdom Kids 2:00 Preaching at Parkview | 27 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir | 28 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res | 29 | 30 | | |

Deacon of the Month
Cheri Campbell-Graf

Trustee of the Month
Bill Hudson

Usher of the Month
Mike Smith

Prayers

5th Tasha Hudson
12th
19th
26th

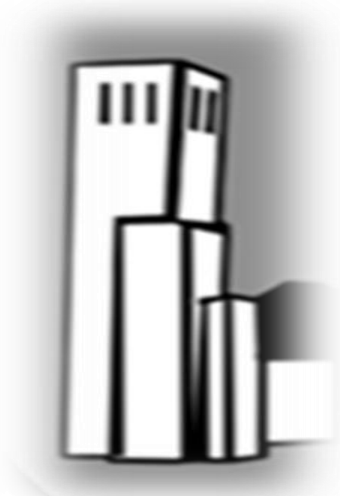
Snacks in the Narthex

5th Braden & Tasha
12th Fellowship Brkfst
19th James & Heather
26th Ashley & Wesley

Greeter

Nursery Care
5th & Sandy Clark &
Taylor Hudson

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