



The Bell Tower

February 2024



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 6th Michael Smith
- 9th Casey Porter
- 10th Lindsey Sullivan
- 11th Kay Pierce
- 12th Nancy Sullivan
- 14th Lucy Foxworthy
- 15th Annette Rice
- 21st Sharon Terrell
- 23rd Sherry Weeks
- 24th Benjamin Hudson
- 25th Wesley Porter
- 27th Paula Bartlett
Betty Miller

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14th Earl & Joanna White
- 16th Steve & Kathy Ham

FEBRUARY

Watch FBC online:

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

Tithes and Offerings

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

Church Office Hours

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

Church Office Hours

6 February through 26 April

Tues./Thurs. 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-4:00 pm
Wednesday 1:00-4:00 pm
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

Church Office Hours

Please note the temporary change of church office hours. Beginning 6 February, the hours will be:

Tues./Thurs. 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-4:00 pm
 Wednesday 1:00-4:00 pm
 Friday 9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-3:00pm

The hours will return to normal on 30 April. Thank you. ☺

Pictures for the Pictorial Directory

Pictures are still being taken for the pictorial directory. Come with your family & stop in the choir room before or after the morning worship service to have your family photographed.

Children's Program February 25

Our next monthly children's program will be February 25 from 4-6pm. Please let Tasha Hudson know if you can help!

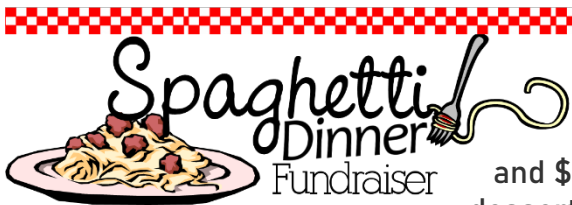
Worship at Parkview TBD

Stay tuned for our next Worship Service at Parkview. We look forward to worshipping with the residents!



Greetings from Eleanor Kingsley.

Valentines Day Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser February 14



Need somewhere to take your sweetheart this Valentine's Day? Boy Scout Troop 464 will be hosting a spaghetti fundraiser on February 14 at 6:30 at the Bloomfield First Baptist Church. Scouts will be selling presale tickets, or they can be purchased at the door. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids. Dinner will include spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, dessert, and a drink. Dine in or carry out will be available.

Indian Creek Summer Camp 2024

Registration is open to register for Indian Creek Baptist Camp. Register at <https://campindiancreek.com>. FBC will pay half of the registration fee for each camper from this church, but you must let the church secretary, Heather Malone, know that your registration has been accepted. 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. Questions may be directed to the camp by email: indiancreek@abc-indiana.org.



Grades	Sessions	Dates
Kindergarten- 1st	FIRST TIMERS	June 2nd - 3rd
1st - 2nd	EXPLORER	June 9th - 11th
2nd - 3rd	DISCOVERY	June 12th - 15th
10th - 2024 Grads	SENIOR HIGH	June 16th - 22nd
4th-6th Girls Only	GIRLS CAMP	June 22nd - 26th
4th-6th Boys Only	BOYS CAMP	June 26th - 30th
6th-8th	CHALLENGE	July 14th - 20th
7th-9th	FOCUS	July 20th - 26th
16yrs +	SPECIAL PERSONS	July 28th - 31st

Register Online at campindiancreek.com
 scholarships available where needed

Ash Wednesday, February 14

The sanctuary will be open all day for prayer on Ash Wednesday. A reflection and prayer guide will be made available.

Service Arrangements for Marge McIntyre

The following, are the arrangements for Marge, Lois Kirchoff's sister:

Friday, February 2

Welch and Cornett, Linton

Visitation 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Service 1 p.m.

Burial at Walnut Grove following

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

ABC-IN/KY FUSE Regional Youth Event

Six youth and 2 adult leaders traveled to Columbus, IN on a chilly Sunday, January 21 for an ABC-IN/KY FUSE Regional youth event. They enjoyed games, fellowship, and pizza with youth from 10 other churches.



Winter Jam Saturday, February 3, 2024

The youth are welcome to attend Winter Jam 2024 located at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. We will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. and leave at 2:00 p.m. We will stop for Wendy's on the way to the arena. Doors open at 5 p.m., show starts at 6. We'll be home around midnight.

Blanket Making with Karen Saturday, February 10

Karen Kutch is coordinating a youth get together to make blankets on Saturday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Youth do not need to bring anything. The blankets will go to benefit Open Arms or Erin's Purpose. See Karen if you have any questions.

King's Daughters
8th Annual
Free Ladies Conference
STAND ON THE ROCK
Saturday, February 24, 2024
9am-3pm
Greene Co 4H Fairgrounds

Scan the QR Code
below for
registration and
information

Music
Fun
Food
Vendors
Testimonies

Keynote Speaker: Rachel Barrentine



ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER

Because of the LORD's great love we are not
consumed, for his compassions never
fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23



Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:

all I have needed thy hand hath provided--

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
[Refrain]

Source: Trinity Psalter Hymnal #245

*Thomas Chisholm, the author of "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and 1200 other poems was born in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1866, and he lived a pretty unremarkable life: he worked as a school teacher, a newspaper editor, and insurance agent, then he retired and spent his remaining days at the Methodist Home for the Aged in New Jersey. Unlike many hymns that have heart-wrenching stories behind them (for instance "It is Well With My Soul"), "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is inspired by the simple realization that God is at work in our lives on a daily basis. He wrote, "My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness." The hymn reminds us that God doesn't only work in dramatic or miraculous ways, but also in simple everyday ways. It also reminds us that Jesus has never failed us in the past, so we have no reason to doubt his faithfulness in the future. -Greg Scheer, 1994**

*Sheer, Greg. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness- Notes". Hymnary.org,
https://hymnary.org/text/great_is_thy_faithfulness_o_god_my_fathe
30 January 2024

Its time for our

FIRST BAPTIST



Hopefully this isn't too easy this month. If so, you will need to be quick to win this one. These pictures were taken from VBS 1994.



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S ALL THINGS NEW CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 3. OLD
- 6. CREATION
- 7. TEAR
- 10. PEOPLE
- 12. ANYONE
- 13. ALL
- 14. CIRCUMCISION
- 17. NEW
- 19. HEARTS
- 21. RIGHTEOUSNESS
- 23. KNOW

DOWN

- 1. FOREVER
- 2. FREE
- 4. COVENANT
- 5. BRIDE
- 8. HEALING
- 9. SPIRIT
- 11. JOY
- 14. CREATE
- 15. MINDS
- 16. DEATH
- 18. WEEPING
- 20. MONTH
- 22. THRONE



Congratulations to **Norm Sullivan**! Norm was super-fast in his response to identify Pastor Wayne Brown and David Dean in our last month's *Bell Tower*. The year was 1979!



14 February 2024

COOKS IN THE BELFRY

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

This fun recipe was sent in by Virginia Hendrix. Original recipe by Lillian Randall. Remember, you too can have one of your favorite recipes published in the monthly *Bell Tower!* Just send it to secretary@fcbcbloom.org. Thank you, Virginia!

Scripture Cake

Ingredients:

2 ½ c. 2 Samuel 13:8 (flour)	¾ c. Jeremiah 6:30 (sugar)
5 tsp. Galatians 5:9 (baking powder)	1 Isaiah 10:14 (egg)
½ tsp. Mark 9:50 (salt)	¾ c. 1 Corinthians 3:2 (milk)
¾ tsp. 1 Kings 10:10 (cinnamon)	1 ½ c. Proverbs 25:11 (apples, pared, cored, diced)
3 T. Proverbs 30:33 (butter)	½ c. 1 Samuel 30:12 (raisins)

Follow [Numbers 11:8](#). Preheat oven to 350°. Sift dry ingredients together. Cream butter and sugar. Add egg to mixture and mix. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk. Mix in apples and raisins by hand. Pour into a greased 9 in. loaf pan. Bake about 45 minutes until golden brown. When toothpick comes out dry, cake is done.

This next recipe was submitted to the 125 year anniversary FBC Cookbook by Marie Farmer.

Sweetheart Salad

Ingredients:

8 oz. cream cheese	1 can chunk pineapple, drained
2 c. powdered sugar	1 small jar maraschino cherries
1 large Cool Whip	½ c. chopped nuts

Mix cream cheese and powdered sugar, then add Cool Whip. Next, add pineapple, drained, and cherries which you have drained on paper towels, then add nuts. Mix all together and chill.



MANNING THE ROPES

(Committee & Council Updates)



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS UPDATE

Bright Beginnings is seeking a new Preschool teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. This teacher will teach 3- & 4-year-olds two days a week, for 2 hours each day. Pay will be \$13-\$15 an hour based on experience and qualifications. It's a 6 hour a week position, including 2 prep hours per week. Help us find someone who loves the Lord, loves kids, and would love to teach children more about God's love for them!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The food pantry has served 87 families so far in the month of January and there is one more week left before January is over. Each week there are new families signing up for help. Bloomfield CVS, Rulers, Linton Walmart, Bloomfield Dollar General have donated many food items and the following churches have donated food or monetary donations: First Baptist Church, Holy Name Catholic Church, Mansions In Heaven, Bloomfield Methodist, Mineral Methodist and Bloomfield First Christian. Many thanks to Nancy and Dave Lamar, Allison Chaparro, Marvin and Trema Helms, Roger and Jane Helms, Albert Porter, Kenny Ferren, Doris From, and the Bloomfield Farmers and Mechanics for their very kind donations. The pantry could not continue without people, businesses, and organizations opening their hearts and helping other people who are less fortunate. God Bless those who Bless others!!!! THANK ALL OF YOU!!



Congratulations to the Baptist Food Pantry in Bloomfield! They were one of the recipients of the 2023 Community Matters Fund. Pictured are DaNae Seymour and Sharon Terrell.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Junior/Senior High Sunday School class has been performing a series of plays called Star Words, a Star Wars spoof, for Kathy Ham's 4th through 6th grade Sunday School class. Below we see Avery Malone playing the role of Only One Cannoli and Casey Porter playing the role of Derk Skywalker.



FROM THE MODERATOR

A special Congregational Meeting was held on January 28. The following church officers were approved unanimously via secret ballot: Mason Ellis as Assistant Moderator, and Aiden Malone as Sunday School Superintendent. Bob Templeton then gave a status update on the Bright Beginnings Preschool.



Please pray for First Baptist Church in 2024...

For abounding love and discernment,
Philippians 1:9-11

That God would renew our minds,
Romans 12:2

For purity and that we would faithfully minister to those in need,
James 1:27

That we would encourage one another,
Hebrews 10:24-25

For continual awareness of God's goodness,
Psalm 34:8

For continual experience of Christ's peace and joy,
Philippians 4:4-9

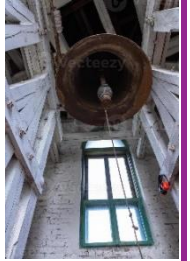
For confident, faithful perseverance,
1 Peter 5:10

Thank you for keeping our church and community in prayer!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

We love because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19



There are several verses throughout the Bible that pretty much sum up the entire Gospel message in one sentence. The above phrase from 1 John serves as an excellent example of this, and it fairly well summarizes what that letter itself is all about: *We love because He first loved us.*

First, this is a statement of origin. Where did love come from? It certainly wasn't our own invention. John writes that we know what love is *because God sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins*. Apart from the cross of Jesus, we would not really understand love. Because of the cross, we know what true love is. Love is God's idea, God's way of being. How great of a love it is, for by this love, we have become children of God!

We love because He first loved us.

Second, this is our appropriate response of worship. We can't claim to love God (whom we haven't yet physically seen) if we don't love other human beings around us (whom we have seen). The person who does not love does not really know God, because God is love. That is a challenging statement! The Bible calls us to love God, our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and even our enemies. That pretty much covers everybody. But people can be difficult to love! You can be difficult to love! I can be difficult to love! Nevertheless, if we *know* that we are loved by God, we will be moved to love others, that they also might know God's love through us. The beloved want others to know that they are also loved.

We love because He first loved us.

Finally, this is a statement of empowerment. The person who abides in love abides in God. Through the Holy Spirit, we abide in God and God abides in us. Jesus says the natural outcome of this relationship is fruit – right now, while we are abiding. Apart from this abiding relationship, we cannot ultimately or effectively love. If you and I are going to faithfully love the people in our lives, we absolutely must be empowered by God Himself, by the Lord Jesus Christ, who laid down His life for us. If the crucified and risen Jesus – the One who says, “Father, forgive them” – is living in us, then and only then do we have the capacity to persistently love even the most difficult people in our lives. Holy Spirit, help us!

We love because He first loved us.

I'd encourage you to make the time to re-read 1 John. If you don't have the time just now, put a reminder in your phone or calendar or watch to read 1 John later. I'd especially nudge you to read Chapters 3-4, which focus on God's love and our response to that love. In the course of writing this note today, I've gone back through those verses myself and it produces two things in me: gratitude for God's love, and a desire to be more faithful in extending God's love to others. Who are we, that God not only loves us, but involves us in the beautiful mission of loving other people with His love?

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God? And that is what we are!

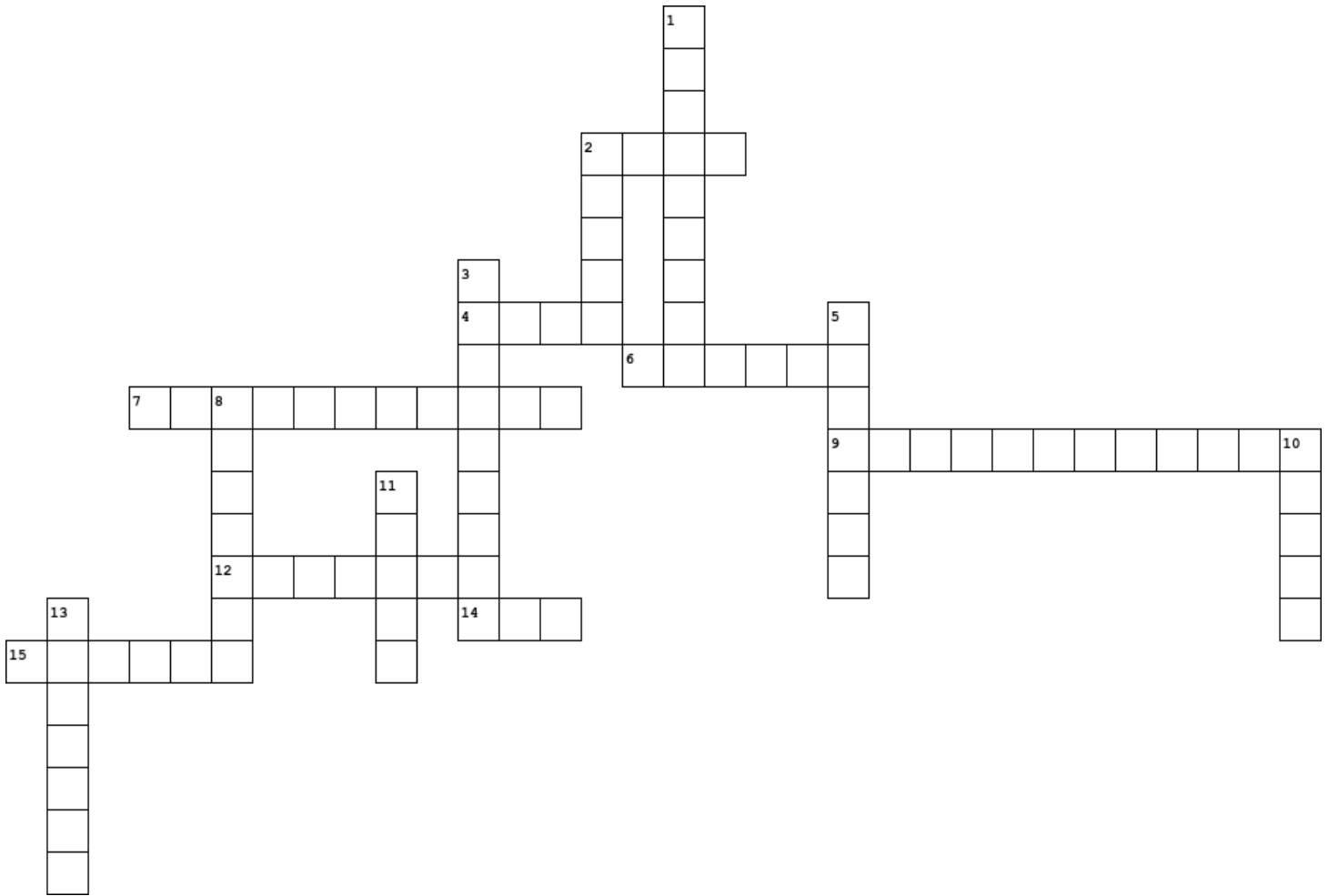
1 John 3:1

Beloved, let us love one another!

1 John 4:7

Grace and peace,
Nathan

FBC Prayer Verses 2024



Across

2. Spur one another on to love and ___ deeds (Heb. 10:24).
4. This is my prayer: that your ___ may abound (Phil. 1:9)...
6. Blessed are those who take ___ in Him (Ps. 34:8).
7. Be ___ by the renewal of your mind (Rom. 12:2).
9. ...by prayer and petition, with ___, make known your requests to God (Phil. 4:6).
12. Look after _____ and widows in their distress (James 1:27).
14. Taste and ___ that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8).
15. ...will guard your _____ and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).

Down

1. Do not give up the habit of meeting together, but _____ one another (Heb. 10:25).
2. The God of all ___, who called you (1 Pet. 5:10)...
3. ...so that you may be pure and _____ until the day of Christ (Phil. 1:10).
5. ...will _____ you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast (1 Pet. 5:10).
8. Do not be _____ about anything (Phil. 4:6)...
10. ...to his eternal ___ in Christ (1 Pet. 5:10)...
11. The ___ of God, which surpasses understanding (Phil. 4:7)...
13. _____ in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4)!

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

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

**February
2024**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Deacon Mtg	2	3 9:00 Hoops for Him 2:30 Winter Jam 6:00 CLC res
4 Communion	5 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	6 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Trustee Mtg	7 9:00 Bible Study	8 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Council Mtg	9	10 9:00 Hoops for Him 2:00 Youth Event 6:00 CLC res
11 8:30 Fellowship Bfst 9:00 Kingdom Kids 1:00 CLC res	12 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	13 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	14 Ash Wednesday Valentines Day 9:00 Bible Study CLC res	15 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Gideons	16	17 9:00 Hoops for Him 6:00 CLC res
18	19 Presidents Day 7:00 Choir	20 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	21 9:00 Bible Study	22 6:30 Boy Scouts	23	24 9:00 Hoops for Him 1:00 Gideons CLC 2:00 FH res
25 9:00 Kingdom Kids 12:00 CLC res 4:00 Children's Prog	26 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	27 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	28 9:00 Bible Study	29 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts		

Deacon of the Month
Jeff Coffin

Trustee of the Month

Usher of the Month
Tony Resler

Prayers

4th Randy F.
11th Paula B.
18th
25th

Snacks in the Narthex

4th Tammy Young
11th Fellowship Brkfst
18th A. & W. Terrell
25th B. & T. Hudson

Greeter

Norm & Nancy Sullivan

Nursery Care

4th Cheri Campbell Graf
& _____

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