



The Bell Tower

March 2024



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Jessa Ayers
- 4th Michael Sullivan
- 6th Carla Porter
- 8th Jim Foxworthy
- 11th Lyric Copp
- 14th Ava Manuel
- 18th Aiden Malone
- 22nd Ivy Foxworthy
- 23rd Chris Wilson
- 24th Renee Young
- 26th Doug Frye
- 31st Joan Vaughn

ANNIVERSARIES

- 14th Steve & Cheri Graf
- 20th Tony & Lori Resler
- 24th Rex & Lois Kirchoff



Watch FBC online:

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

The 2024 Non-Pictorial Directory & Prayer Guide

The 2024 Non-Pictorial Directory & Prayer Guide is now available. Pick up your copy on the library counter today.

America for Christ Offering

Our America for Christ Offering 2024 will be received during March. The biblical theme is based on Lamentations 3:22-23: "Because of God's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." What a wonderful promise! Offering envelopes will be available in the pews or online giving is available by visiting Abha's.org/afc. Our goal for this offering is \$1200.

March "Pajama Drive" for the Department of Child Services

Our church family has the opportunity to bless children who are being removed from their homes. Many times, these children leave home without any of their possessions. We can help them on that first scary night with some security, comfort, and knowledge that someone cares. While not all of us are in the position to foster children, we can certainly meet this need. Lots of clearance sales are going on now. Please pick up a nightgown or pair of pajamas sized to fit a child 5 to 13 years old. If you would rather pick up a gift card, please leave it with Heather. Thank you in advance for helping show these children God's great love for them. Any questions, please contact Cheri Campbell Graf 812-384-8980.

The Promise Tuesday, March 12 from 7-10 pm

The Promise is a musical drama of the Life of Jesus Christ put on at the Antioch Church in Washington. We are calling this a youth plus event meaning it is open to the youth as well as any adult that would like to attend. We have 13 tickets (the number that will fit on the church bus minus our ticket holders). Tickets are first come first serve. Let Heather know if you would like to reserve a seat.

Palm Sunday, March 24

A friendly reminder to parents to bring your children early to the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, March 24 so that they can participate in the waving of the palms that morning.

Children's Program March 24

Our next monthly children's program will be March 24 from 4-6pm. Please let Tasha Hudson know if you can help!

First Presbyterian Church Blood Drive, 25 March 2024

There will be a Blood Drive at the First Presbyterian Church, 401 Shyla Lane, on Monday, March 25th. During their past Blood Drive held on January 22, they had a great turn out and the Red Cross was able to collect 17 units of blood which could potentially save 51 lives. For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Scholarship Application Deadline 1 April 2024

There are two scholarships available for tuition assistance available to members of the Bloomfield First Baptist Church who are active in the church, the First Baptist Memorial Scholarship and the Brad Pridemore Memorial Scholarship Gift. The applications are available on the library counter or can be emailed to you. Please return the application(s) to the church office by April 1, 2024, with a short essay (150 - 250 words) describing your plans for the future and why you would like this scholarship.

Eclipse Weekend: Ways to help!

Make Noodles	Donate	Drive	Cook	Serve	Coordinate
(now and freeze) Or On March 19 at the Church noodle party	Donate ingredients, pop, or money towards providing the meals	Be a runner, taking food from the church to the park on Sat. April 6	Be in the Kitchen warming up food on Sat. April 6 or Sunday afternoon, April 7 th	Meals in the park, lunch and dinner on Sat. April 6 or AT THE CLC on Sun. April 7 th before the Jason Gray concert.	Someone to oversee the operations and solicit volunteers

On Monday, April 8th we're looking for people to play host at the CLC door. If First Responders need a respite, the CLC will be available for EMTs, Police, Sherriff's officers, and Firefighters to come take a break.

Vacation Bible School 2024

Ashley Terrell has volunteered to direct VBS again this summer. Dates will be July 28-August 1. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ashley at (812) 606-1217. Thank you!

Welcome to our two newest members!

On February 11, we celebrated the baptisms of Tamala Bothell and Lisa Padgett. Welcome to the First Baptist Family!



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

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.

Youth "Hang Out" Saturday, March 9

The youth are invited to come to the CLC to play basketball, cornhole, etc. from 2-5:00 p.m. Snacks will be provided. Youth are welcome to bring other games to play.

"Seconds" at Indian Creek Baptist Camp, Sunday, March 10

Join them from 3:00-5:30 p.m. to see some amazing new updates in the Dining Hall, fellowship with other Camp Family, Worship together, and play some fun games too.

Youth Blanket Making with Karen

On Saturday, February 10, some of the youth, Kathy Ham and Karen Kutch gathered in Fellowship Hall to make blankets. Those that attended were Taylor, Dixie and Ozaiah Hudson, Kathy and myself. Wesley Porter was there also and ended up helping us. We made fleece blankets by cutting and tying. There was a multitude of colors and designs of fabric. We made some that would be for smaller children and some sized for older children. Ended up we made 8 blankets. They were delivered to Open Arms on Tuesday, February 20, and they seemed very glad to have them. These youth are very good workers and we were finished lickety split in getting the blankets completed.



Youth Blanket Making with Karen February 10



ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER

Worship Christ, the Risen King

Rise, O Church, and lift your voices;
Christ has conquered death and hell.
Sing as all the earth rejoices;
Resurrection anthems swell.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Doubt may lift its head to murmur,
Scoffers mock and sinners jeer;
But the truth proclaims a wonder
Thoughtful hearts receive with
cheer.
He is risen, He is risen;
Now receive the Risen King!



See the tomb where death had laid Him;
Empty now, its mouth declares:
"Death and I could not contain Him,
For the throne of life He shares."
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the Risen King!

We acclaim Your life, O Jesus;
Now we sing Your victory.
Sin or hell may seek to seize us,
But Your conquest keeps us free.
Stand in triumph, stand in triumph;
Worship Christ, the Risen King!

Hear the earth protest and tremble;
See the stone removed with pow'r.
All hell's minions may assemble,
But cannot withstand His hour.
He has conquered, He has conquered;
Christ the Lord, the Risen King!

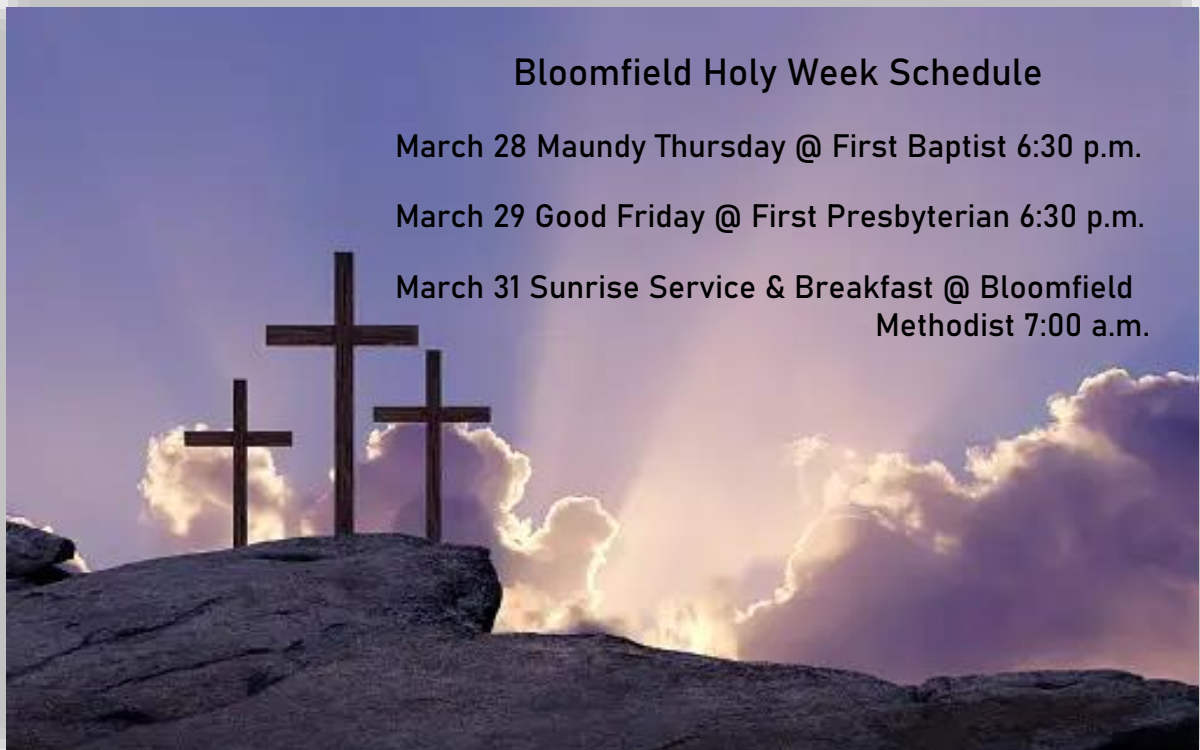
Worship Christ, the Risen King: text by Jack W. Hayford; music by Henry T. Smart; Copyright 1986; CCLI Lisc. #108619

Bloomfield Holy Week Schedule

March 28 Maundy Thursday @ First Baptist 6:30 p.m.

March 29 Good Friday @ First Presbyterian 6:30 p.m.

March 31 Sunrise Service & Breakfast @ Bloomfield
Methodist 7:00 a.m.



Its time for our

FIRST BAPTIST



This month, we'll have to do a guess the year. These two pictures were taken one year apart on Easter.



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S FBC PRAYER VERSES 2024 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 2. GOOD
- 4. LOVE
- 6. REFUGE
- 7. TRANSFORMED
- 9. THANKSGIVING
- 12. ORPHANS
- 14. SEE
- 15. HEARTS

DOWN

- 1. ENCOURAGE
- 2. GRACE
- 3. BLAMELESS
- 5. RESTORE
- 8. ANXIOUS
- 10. GLORY
- 11. PEACE
- 13. REJOICE



Congratulations to **Brenda Flanagin**! Brenda was able to recognize everyone in the picture including young Sarah Flinn seated at the piano. The trench coat wearing lady is Kathy Ham, and the young gentleman is Paul Schmidt.



COOKS IN THE BELFRY

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

Resurrection Rolls

Using visual aids is a wonderful way to teach children, especially an object lesson that can be eaten after. Consider making these Resurrection Rolls WITH your family and explaining how the different steps represent the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. For example:



- Rolling the marshmallow in the cinnamon and sugar is like when Jesus' friends prepared his body for burial with fragrant spices.
- Wrapping the dough around the marshmallow is like wrapping Jesus' body in linens.
- Since Jesus was inside the tomb for 3 days let the children sit in front of the oven and watch them bake. You can talk about how His friends and family must have felt and share your feelings as well.
- As the rolls are cooling, read the account given in Matthew 28:1-6. You can also find the account written in John chapter 20.
- Allow the children to eat the Resurrection Rolls and see that the center is empty just like the tomb.

Ingredients:

Refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
Large (jumbo) marshmallows
Unsalted butter
Cinnamon – you can also add nutmeg
Granulated sugar



Directions:

PREP. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment or silicone liner. Open the crescent roll package and separate the rolls into eight triangles.

1. **COAT.** In a small bowl, whisk together the cinnamon and sugar. Dip each of the marshmallows in the melted butter, then roll in the cinnamon sugar mixture.
2. **FILL.** Place a marshmallow in the middle of each dough triangle, then roll the dough tightly around the marshmallow, pinching to close all of the seams. Be very careful to seal the edges of the rolls, as the marshmallows will ooze out while they bake.
3. **BAKE.** Place the rolls on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 10-14 minutes, or until golden brown.



MANNING THE ROPES

(Committee & Council Updates)



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS UPDATE

The Bright Beginnings Board is seeking individuals who are passionate about keeping our Preschool a reality. Please talk to Pastor Nathan, Adrienne Hughes, Jeff Coffin, Bob Templeton or Tasha Hudson if you could lend council to the Bright Beginnings Board.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The food pantry served 106 families in the month of January and 71 so far in February and there is still another week to go. Each week more and more families are coming to receive help. Food insecurity is becoming more prevalent in Greene County. On Friday, February 23rd, a trip will be made to Catholic Charities in Terre Haute to get around 968 pounds or more of USDA food items. These are free of charge but boughten items like eggs, hamburger, egg noodles, peanut butter and corn muffin mix will be picked up at that time also. Weekly food items from CVS, Dollar General, Rulers help greatly and the monthly donation from Walmart helps tremendously. The local churches have continued to donate food items or monetarily: First Baptist, First Christian, Bloomfield Methodist, Mineral Methodist, Presbyterian, Holy Name Catholic Church and Mansions In Heaven. Donations from several individuals have helped to keep the shelves stocked. The Bloomfield 4th grade class and the LightHouse Custom meats donated several canned goods, ham slices, hams, frozen fruit, hot dog buns and some small frozen turkeys. Two trips have been made to the Crane Commissary where all types of food items were donated. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!!

BLESSING BOX UPDATE

This ministry continues to serve many in our community with items that are not available in our Food Pantry. Cleaning supplies, paper goods, deodorant, shampoo, combs, brushes, bandaids, and feminine products are needed. Donations from outside are occasionally left in the box, but our church family is our biggest supporter. Thank you for your prayers and dedication to this ministry.

4TH-6TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The 4th through 6th grade Sunday School Class spent the last six weeks identifying and studying some "Star Words". The lessons in this series helped us understand the concepts of Sin, Love, Grace, Forgiveness, Belief, and Faithfulness, six of the most important words in any galaxy. The lessons we studied give us A True Hope. The memory verse was from John 1:4-5: "In Him was life and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Each lesson began with a skit that was performed by the Youth Sunday School Class. The skit, the Galactic Republic's favorite drama, "As the Lightsaber Burns", involved five characters: Only One Cannoli, Dirk Skyrunner, Dave Solo, Rando Corinthians, and Dork Vader. Those playing the skit characters were: Oliver Foxworthy, Brady Hughes, Avery Malone, Casey Porter and Jeffrie Porter. (Thank you to the Youth and Pastor Nathan for their assistance!)

From the skits, the 4th-6th grade class was tasked with identifying the Star Word. We studied the word based on a lesson designed around a scripture reading. Here's what we learned from each Star Word:

- Sin: Sin is disobeying God and not doing what he says is right.
- Love: Nothing is more powerful than love.
- Grace: Grace means being forgiven when we don't deserve it.
- Forgiveness: When God forgives, He takes our sins away forever.
- Belief: Belief means trusting what the Bible says is true.
- Faithfulness: Faithfulness means following God's way every day.

If you haven't guessed it, the lesson series used the Star Wars story as its basis for the lessons. You may think it is a little "far-fetched", but we all know that the core of Star Wars is a battle between good and evil. People have always known that there is good and evil in the world, and they know one is much more desirable than the other. SIN entered the world and has been part of the human struggle ever since. We needed God's LOVE to save us from our sins, so He sent His Son Jesus. The giving of His Son provided us with much needed GRACE. Jesus offers us FORGIVENESS for our sins through that grace. The Bible tells us God raised Jesus to life again. If we believe that, Jesus promises to save us from sin and give us eternal life. BELIEF means we trust that what the Bible says is true. In the end, each of us must choose: will we follow the dark path of sin and shame, or will we choose FAITHFULNESS to Jesus and follow the Light? May the force of God's powerful love be with you. Choose the Light!

FROM THE MODERATOR

The Church Council met on February 8, 2024. John Bailey gave a brief demonstration on the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). An AED is a medical device designed to analyze the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to victims of ventricular fibrillation to restore the heart rhythm to normal. There are two AEDs located at FBC.

Bob Weeks gave an update from the Discovery Group and presented a list of suggested uses for the CLC.

Committee reports followed.

Church Scholarships were discussed, the deadline for submitting applications being 1 April.

The following items were discussed and approved concerning the eclipse weekend:

- To provide and serve chicken & noodles: Saturday lunch and dinner in the Bloomfield Park at the North Shelter House and Sunday dinner in the CLC. The money raised from the sale of the chicken & noodles will go to cover the cost of the Saturday evening concert, and the leftover money will be designated to the General Fund.
- To host a Sunday evening concert at 7 pm in the church sanctuary featuring Jason Gray
- To allow the Boy Scouts the use of the shelter house on Monday to sell food
- To designate doormen at the CLC and Church Narthex to allow people to access restroom facilities and in the case of inclement weather
- To provide a respite station for First Responders on Monday, 8 April
- To have someone directing traffic and to assist in parking



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

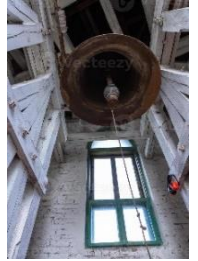
For confident, faithful perseverance,
1 Peter 5:10

Thank you for keeping our church and community in prayer!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

*"Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing,
because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."*

1 Peter 3:9 (NIV)



Sometimes, people do things that anger, disappoint, or hurt me. Naturally, I begin to think negative thoughts. Maybe you do this, too.

Negative thoughts run the spectrum. Some are legitimate – what a person or people did or said was actually wrong. It is appropriate for me to name this. I might be genuinely hurting or grieving because of what happened. That, too, is valid. But some of my thoughts are sinful, bitter, resentful, or vindictive. These are the dangerous ones.

There are healthy ways to deal with negative thoughts and feelings, both the “good” ones and the “bad” ones. I might have a quiet time in the presence of the Lord. I might seek out someone who cares, who will listen empathetically, help me process the situation, and pray with me. In the context of a safe and loving relationship, I could even talk directly to the person who hurt me, so that we can together pursue understanding, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

But there are also destructive ways to deal with my negative thoughts and feelings. Instead of seeking out a listening ear to share about what has happened, I might move into the realm of gossip, slander, or malice, trying to get my listener to join with me in my condemnation of the one(s) who hurt me. Or, rather than speaking to the person who wronged me in love, I might angrily lash out, making mean, sarcastic, or demeaning comments, severing the relationship even further.

When we do these things, we misrepresent the cross of Christ. *"Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing."* Jesus responded to the ultimate evil, the ultimate insult – the cross – with blessing. He was and is the Holy One, murdered by the very people He loves and came to save. There has never been a greater wrong in all of history.

His response? Blessing. *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

This is not my instinctive response when I am wronged, wounded, or angered! My flesh cries for condemnation, but Christ calls out for forgiveness. The Holy Spirit convicts me, challenges me, and invites me to a better way. If the Spirit of the forgiving King is alive in me, then even when I am wronged, I have calling and the power to forgive. So do you.

Not all forgiveness situations are created equal. A person who has built up all kinds of benefit of the doubt in our eyes may have wronged us once in a comparatively small matter. In such cases, it may seem relatively easy for us to forgive.

On the other hand, we are sometimes wronged deeply and repeatedly, even by the very people in our lives whom we were supposed to be able to trust fully. Forgiveness in these cases, and in many cases, can prove to be a lengthy journey.

Forgiveness is a decision – often a series of decisions – to join with Jesus on a journey. I find that life and my own heart automatically provide a series of diversions and hurdles along the way. But there stands Jesus, hand outstretched, eyes beckoning, inviting me to get back on the path to forgiveness again. This may be hard, but it's the only way to healing.

The thing is, having walked the path of bitterness, I find no satisfaction at the end. Never. The path of forgiveness offers peace and a surprising lightness, even joy. It is harder won, to be sure; not without tears, but abundantly worthwhile.

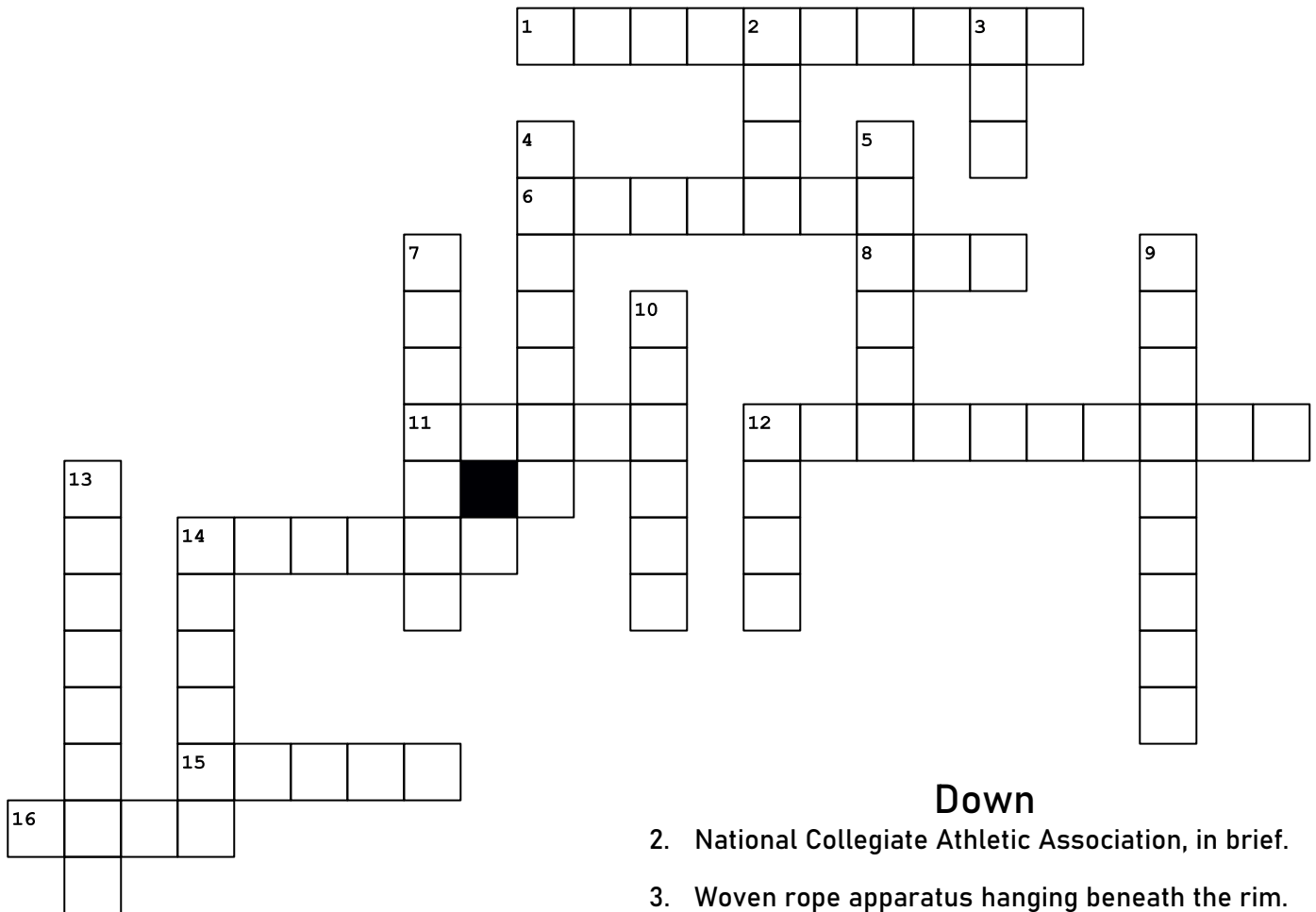
The next time we are angered, may our eyes turn to the cross, which proclaims the undeserved forgiveness that God has offered to you and to me. Jesus himself has received our wounds on our behalf and in advance. May His cross compel us and release us to rise up, join Him, and rely on Him for the sometimes painful but always worthwhile journey of grace.

Let us not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing. To this we are called. *Holy Spirit, help us!*

Grace and peace,

Nathan

MARCH MADNESS



Across

1. A multi-team event with enough games to eliminate all but one final winner.
6. The last undefeated men's NCAA tournament champion came from this school.
8. This network gained exclusive television rights to the NCAA tournament in 1991.
11. Group of students with pom-poms and megaphones are leading this.
12. Round, orange sphere useful for passing, dribbling, or shooting.
14. A successful last-second shot is a beater of this.
15. This number of surviving teams is elite.
16. The Road to the Final _____.

Down

2. National Collegiate Athletic Association, in brief.
3. Woven rope apparatus hanging beneath the rim.
4. This number of remaining teams is sweet.
5. Television analyst Clark Kellogg played professional basketball for this team.
7. In March, you might fill out one of these with your predicted winners.
9. Larry Bird led these "trees" from Terre Haute to the NCAA title game in 1979.
10. 10-time NCAA Champion Coach Wooden played for and graduated from this school.
12. Group of students with musical instruments to help provide pep.
13. Ultimate winner of the arrangement described in 1 Across.
14. At home in Indianapolis, this school nearly beat Duke in the 2010 championship.

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

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

March
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	2 9:00 Hoops for Him 6:00 CLC res
3 Communion	4 6:00 GS Com. Mtg 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	5 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 10:00 FH res 6:00 CLC res	6 9:00 Bible Study	7 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Deacon Mtg	8	9 9:00 Hoops for Him 2:00 Youth Event 6:00 CLC res
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:30 Fellowship Bfst 9:00 Kingdom Kids 1:00 CLC res	11 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	12 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 5:00 The Promise 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Trustee Mtg	13 9:00 Bible Study	14 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	15	16 9:00 Hoops for Him 9:00 FH Hoops Aw. 6:00 CLC res 7:00 FH Cub Scouts
17	18 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	19 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	20 9:00 Bible Study	21 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Gideons	22 4:00 FH res 4:00 CLC kitchen	23 FH res CLC kitchen res 6:00 CLC res
24 9:00 Kingdom Kids 4:00 Children's Prog	25 7:00 Choir	26 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	27 9:00 Bible Study	28 6:30 Boy Scouts	29	30 6:00 CLC res
31						

← FH Noodle Making →

Deacon of the Month
Dennis Kutch

Trustee of the Month
John Bailey

Usher of the Month
Randy Flanagin

Prayers

3rd Bob Weeks
10th
17th
24th
31st

Snacks in the Narthex

3rd The Flanagins
10th Fellowship Brkfst
17th
24th
31st

Greeter

Paul Stewart

Nursery Care

3rd Cheri Campbell Graf
& _____

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Bloomfield, IN 47424



March 2024