



The Bell Tower

October 2023



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Jeff Hughes
3 rd	Norm Sullivan
	Trey Shirley
4 th	Bob Templeton
6 th	Josiah Rice
7 th	Karen Kutch
9 th	Rex Kirchoff
11 th	Steve Ham
12 th	Alan Brown
	Noah Lombardi
19 th	Nancy Brinson
20 th	Dennis Kutch
25 th	Wyatt Shirley
29 th	Zachary Hudson
30 th	Daytona Hudson

ANNIVERSARIES

9 th	James & Heather Malone
11 th	Steve & Sandy Clark
18 th	Jeff & Teresa Coffin
20 th	Randy & Brenda Flanagan
27 th	Michael & Lindsey Sullivan

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

Preaching at Parkview Sunday, October 1

Pastor Nathan will be preaching at Parkview in Odon on Sunday, October 1 at 2:00pm. All are encouraged to attend and worship with the residents there.

Pregnancy Choices Baby Bottle Campaign

Please remember to return your baby bottles by Sunday, October 1. Thank you!

Chicken & Noodles at the 2023 Apple Festival

The 2023 Apple Festival is Fri, Oct 6th through Sun, Oct 8th,

Although the Festival runs through Sunday, we will only serve Chicken & Noodles for lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday as we are accustomed to. We will also be in a new location this year due to the installation of exercise equipment in the NE shelter house. We will now use the NW shelter house (across from Subway). We are working through some logistics challenges due to this move (more to come).

Our Noodle Making Party is Thursday evening, Oct 5th, 6pm – 9pm. Sign-up now to help make the noodles, provide food or drink items, and/or work in the kitchen, the booth, or as a runner. The sign-up book will be circulating through the Sunday School classes and will be available at the Sound Booth window. See Eric Moody for questions.

Apple Festival Community Worship Service, Sunday, October 8

You are all invited to a Community Worship Service Sunday, October 8 at 11:00am at the Bloomfield Park Temporary Bandstand (rain location – Shelter House). Pastor Nathan will be preaching, and other local pastors and churches will be participating. Sunday School will be as normal at FBC at 9:30am. Shuttle service will be provided after SS from FBC to the park for those who need it. More details to come. Questions? Ask Nathan.



Mission Trip to Sullivan, Indiana October 11-14 (Registration deadline Oct. 1)

Josh Osborne will be leading an ABC of KY/IN disaster relief mission trip to Sullivan, Indiana October 11-14. The registration deadline is Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 pm. Registration Forms are available upon request from the church office. Contact Josh if you have any questions.

Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, October 15 at 8:30 am

The monthly church breakfast will be held on the third Sunday in October due to the Apple Festival Community Worship Service on the second Sunday.

Fall Party Friday, October 20

Friday, Oct. 20, The Hudsons are inviting the church family to come enjoy Fall fun and fellowship at their home for the evening. Ga Ga ball will be a feature for the youth group! Folks of all ages are invited 4pm-9pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert and lawn chairs. RSVP to Tasha Hudson.

World Mission Offering & Silent Auction

In the month of October, we will be receiving our world mission offering. The scripture is Ecclesiastes 3:11, "He has made everything beautiful in its time". The offering provides an opportunity for individuals and churches to participate in God's life-changing mission around the globe. Just a reminder, we will once again have a "silent auction" at our Love Feast to benefit the World Mission Offering. Let's make this one our best ever! Get your creative juices flowing. Any questions, contact Cheri Campbell Graf 812-384-8980.

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.

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 in late October 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.

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.

Congratulations to Andrew & Shaina Weeks!

They tied the knot the last weekend in September out in Minnesota. They have invited the Church Family to an Open House on October 14 in the CLC from 2:00-5:00 p.m.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT HAPPENINGS

Young Adult Luncheon Sunday, October 29

The deacons will be providing a luncheon for the young adults immediately after church on October 29. More details to come.



ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER

Out in the Fields with God

BY ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING

(MARCH 6, 1806 – JUNE 29, 1861)

The little cares that fretted me,
I lost them yesterday,
Among the fields, above the sea,
Among the winds at play;
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees;
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what may happen,
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay;
Among the rustling of the corn,
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born
Out in the fields with God.



October Scripture Memory Verse
Challenge

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one
another, forgiving each other, just as in
Christ God forgave you. --NIV

Quotable Quotes:

"The seasons change and you change, but the Lord abides evermore the same,
and the streams of his love are as deep, as broad and as full as ever."

--Charles Spurgeon

And now.... for our

FIRST BAPTIST



Be the first person to identify these people from our First Baptist family and get... (drum roll please) --- special recognition in our November Newsletter!



WHITE CHRISTMAS



Congratulations to Tasha Hudson! The winner of our First Baptist Flashback. She was the first to correctly identify the individuals pictured from our June 1996 photo.

They were Matthew Cummings, Teresa Coffin, Barb Stoner, Teresa Ellis, Christina Coffin, and Kathy Ham.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S HEBREWS- MALACHI THEMED CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 4. Loved
- 6. Faith
- 9. Wednesday
- 11. Melchizedek
- 12. Fathers
- 13. Nine
- 14. Jesus
- 15. Priest
- 18. Contempt
- 19. Holiness

DOWN

- 1. Intercede
- 2. Confidence
- 3. Levi
- 5. Fire
- 7. Malachi
- 8. Weary
- 10. City
- 11. Messenger
- 16. Nations
- 17. Board



COOKS IN THE BELFRY

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

This month's recipe comes right out of the official FBC cookbook (thank you Paula Bartlett) from 1994 which would have been the 125th anniversary of our church. The intro at the beginning of the cookbook is so good that I thought you might enjoy reading it here:

BLOOMFIELD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1869-1994

On January 21, 1869, eight people joined together to officially form the congregation known as Bloomfield First Baptist Church. The worship services were not tied to a specific building. In fact, it was five years before the congregation built the first Baptist Church building in Bloomfield. Throughout its history, this congregation has shown that the church building itself was not an essential part of worship. It has been the people worshipping our Lord together that has formed our congregation, regardless of whether the worship service was conducted in a church building or in the courthouse, in a tent or in someone's home. This is still true today. While we like our church building, the building is neither the congregation nor the Church.

Something that has endured better than our building has been our enjoyment of food. Over the past 125 years, we Baptists have shared many meals together, with each person adding their contribution to the food and to the fellowship. Both the food and the fellowship have been the means to share Jesus' love with our neighbors.

Through 125 years we have accepted many people into our congregation from many diverse backgrounds. Sadly, we have also said goodbye to many loved ones, some through earthly death and others who have moved to other places. With each new arrival we have been enriched, but with each departure we have lost part of ourselves. We are not the same congregation we were 125 years ago or even 10 years ago. This change is beneficial to our growth as a congregation, but we need to remember our past, too.

With our emphasis on food and our wealth of good cooks, it seemed appropriate for our congregation to collect our treasured recipes together in a common cookbook as a means of sharing our favorite foods with our friends and family. We hope that this cookbook will remind us of our loved ones at First Baptist Church and that when we prepare a dish from this cookbook, we will remember the love that has gone into that recipe over the years and add our dash of love to the dish.

Food and time are enjoyable items, but they become so much better when they are shared with others.

From the Kitchen of Kathy Ham	
Recipe for:	Apple-Pecan Crisp
Ingredients:	Directions:
4 c. sliced apples (thin) 1 stick margarine 1 c. sugar nuts (if desired) 1 tsp. cinnamon ½ c. water ¾ c. flour	Butter casserole. Add apples. Sprinkle with cinnamon and add water. Blend together sugar, flour, and butter until crumbly. Add nuts. Spread over apple mixture. Bake 35 minutes at 400 degrees.

MANNING THE ROPES

(Committee & Council Updates)



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The food pantry served 98 families in the month of August and 57 so far in September. Monetary donations were received from John and Mary Bailey, Frances Cady, Mineral Methodist Church and Charles Guinnup. Other donations of food items and produce were received from Bloomfield CVS, Bloomfield General Dollar Store, Linton Walmart, Holy Name Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church, Earl and Joann White, Charlotte and Tooger Smith, Brenda and Randy Flanagin, Jeff and Teresa Coffin, Rebuilt Ministries, Kathy Ham, First Christian Church, Mansions In Heaven Church, Ginger and Paul Stewart, Master Gardeners, Bloomfield Methodist Church, and Sally Markham. The shelves are getting quite low at this time and any donation is appreciated! God takes care of the food pantry through generous people who give to others.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

After an uncertain summer, wondering whether there would be enough students to have preschool, sixteen children enrolled, and Bright Beginnings opened for another year. We've been in session now for six weeks. The children have been learning letter sounds, how apples grow, about their five senses, and why bees are important, culminating with a fascinating presentation by a beekeeper. We will be taking a field trip to a farm in Ellettsville on September 29. If you have an area of special interest you would like to share with the children please contact Michelle Foxworthy or Tasha Hudson.



FROM THE BRIGHT BEGINNINGS BOARD

We are so glad that Preschool is up and running! We were unsure of how enrollment would turn out without the daycare but chose to move forward in faith that God is still blessing the community with this ministry. Once class started, we were a few children shorter than originally enrolled. We know we need to raise rates for next year. We are \$30 short of tuition to cover the Preschool Director and Assistant's salaries each month. Additionally, there are payroll fees and taxes that bring each month's payroll deficit to about \$110, and any supplies purchased this year will be on top of that as well. We have a checkbook balance that is able to cover our expenses this year, we just wanted to bring it to the church's attention in case anyone felt called to donate specifically to this ministry.

FROM THE MODERATOR

2024 Budget

The Church Council is gearing up to tackle the 2024 Budget. Committees have submitted their proposals to the moderator. A draft budget is being prepared to be reviewed and revised at the October 12 Church Council Meeting. The 2024 final draft budget will be presented to the congregation for a final vote at the Congregational Meeting on November 9.

Damage in the CLC

There have been a couple of instances of minor damage done in and to the CLC. Please be mindful and keep a watchful eye on children when using the facilities. When finished, perform a thorough check, and report any damage to the church office at 812-384-8459. Thank you.

Upcoming meetings

12 October:

Next Council meeting to finalize the 2024 budget to be presented to the Congregation for approval in November.

9 November

Congregational Meeting

- Committees present their reports
- Vote on Officers filling vacancies
- Vote on 2024 FBC Budget

UPDATES AROUND THE CHURCH

Avery Malone's Eagle Scout Project



Platforms were built to elevate the second row in the choir loft.



Tammy Kirkman's Memorial Plaque

A special thanks to the trustees who built, mounted, and installed the plaque stand beside the shelter house.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:16-21 (NIV)



In this month's newsletter I felt led to revisit our sermon text from two weeks ago. This is an invitation to pray. We often pray too little because we think too little of God. We underestimate His power and we underestimate His love. Paul calls us to our knees and to a magnificent understanding of the power and love of God, through Christ, by means of the Spirit.

What has the Spirit prompted you to pray about? Is there something that, for whatever reason, you've been hesitant to pray for? Is there something on your heart, related to our church or our community (or both), that God is nudging you to lift before the throne? Is there some circumstance that just seems too big, too heavy, too outlandish, to pray for? Is there some situation in your family that's too painful to think about? We are invited to our knees before our Father.

If you're looking for some items to pray for, let me suggest a few...

Our community. There are many people in our community who do not know Jesus, or who maybe have heard of Jesus but aren't really actively following Him. There are people battling addiction or stuck in messy relationships. There are people bearing tremendous burdens without a sense of hope. These are not just some random people "out there;" these are people you and I encounter on a daily or weekly basis. Let's lift them in prayer.

Our church family. There are many people in our church who are dealing with very hard things, at work, home, or school. There are medical issues, financial issues, relationship issues. Some of these concerns make it on the prayer chain, so we know about them. Many do not. Look around the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Look at the faces. We might not know what's going on. But we can lift one another in prayer.

Our church leaders. I know many of you pray for me and my family and we are tremendously grateful for this. Please do not forget to pray for our Sunday school teachers, our deacons, our trustees, our church council, our secretary, our treasurer, our food pantry volunteers, our preschool board and staff, our musicians, and volunteers who have embraced so many behind-the-scenes. I've not thought of everything in this list, but you get the idea. Let's pray for our leaders.

Our CLC discovery group and the process of discerning future uses of our facility. There are possibilities for the use of our building we probably haven't even imagined yet. What builds the kingdom of God and shares the love of Christ with all people? What can the building do? What does our community need? What has the Lord equipped us as a church to do? Let's pray for discernment about these questions. The Holy Spirit is up to something. Lord, give us eyes to see.

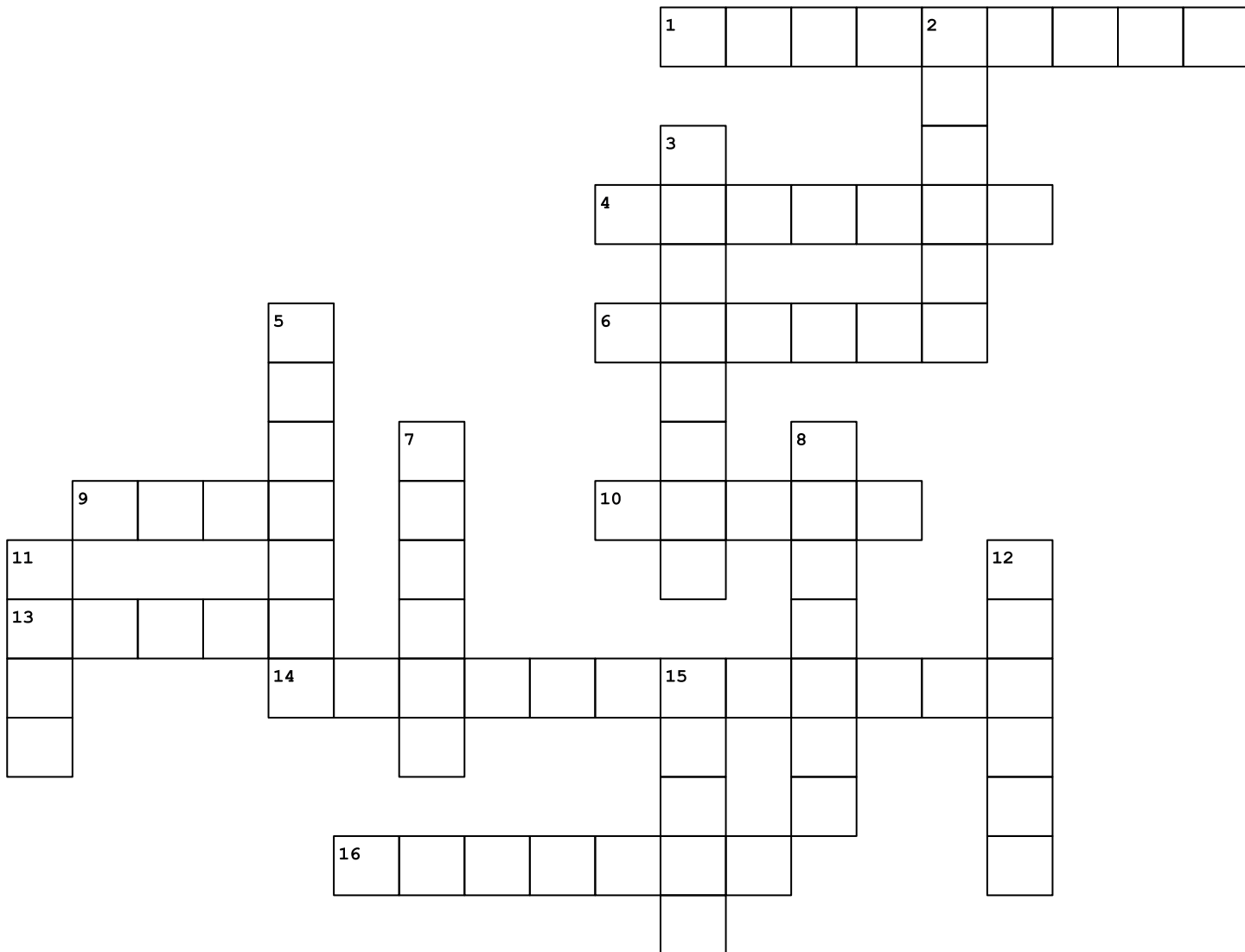
Our young adult ministry. The deacons have been talking and praying about this. We had one meeting with young adults after breakfast this summer; another gathering is scheduled for October 29 following church. All age groups are important to our church family, and we have the potential to connect more meaningfully with this generation. Please pray especially for willing leadership. If the Lord is nudging us to embark on any ministry, He is stirring in the hearts of those whom He is calling to lead it, whatever it may look like. Please pray for our young adults.

This is of course not an exhaustive list! Our God loves us with a love that runs beyond understanding and He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. Let's pray for a bigger view of God, and let's invite Him to move in all of the ways above, or in anything else that comes to mind. Thank you for joining me in prayer.

Grace and peace,

Nathan

Apple Festival



Across

1. Free measuring implement at certain booths.
4. The cows say, "Eat more ____."
6. No school on ____.
9. Goes well with #15 Down.
10. Served in a bag here.
13. Festival namesake, often rare or absent.
14. Traditional FBC booth location.
16. Bible-givers who have a booth.

Down

2. Goal of amusement ride staff.
3. Night on which noodles are made.
5. "Pasta" served with # 4 across.
7. Out of green beans? Call the ____.
8. Politicians give out ____.
11. Booth shifts start on the ____ hour.
12. Community worship on Sunday at ____.
15. Common meteorological condition.

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

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

October
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 Communion 2:00 Preaching @ Parkview	2 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	3 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Trustee Mtg	4 9:00 Bible Study	5 6:00 Noodle Making 6:30 Boy Scouts	6 Apple Festival Noodles	7 Apple Festival Noodles
8 9:00 Kingdom Kids 11:00 Community Worship Service	9 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	10 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res	11 9:00 Bible Study	12 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Church Council	13	14 2:00-5:00 Weeks' Open House
15 8:30 Fellowship Bfst	16 7:00 Choir	17 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res	18 9:00 Bible Study	19 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Gideon Mtg	20 Hudson Fall Party	21
22 9:00 Kingdom Kids	23 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	24 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res	25 9:00 Bible Study	26 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts	27	28
29 Young Adult Luncheon	30 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	31 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res				

Deacon of the Month
 Bob Templeton

Trustee of the Month
 Jim Foxworthy

Usher of the Month
 Aiden Malone

Prayers

1st Junior Barker
 8th Tasha Hudson
 15th Kylee Moody
 22nd
 29th

Snacks in the Narthex

1st The Flanagins
 8th None
 15th Fellowship Brkfst
 22nd Joann & Ginger
 29th Sharon & Bert T.

Greeter

Norm & Nancy Sullivan

Nursery Care

3rd Avery & Oliver &

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