



# ***The Bell Tower***

## **January 2024**



### **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

5 <sup>th</sup>	Avery Malone
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline Auxier
	Teresa Coffin
	Debra Hudson
10 <sup>th</sup>	Tasha Hudson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Brown
13 <sup>th</sup>	Kallie Wilson
16 <sup>th</sup>	Earl White
18 <sup>th</sup>	Tammy Young
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Erin Wilson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Joanna White
	Michelle Foxworthy
26 <sup>th</sup>	Jennifer Moody
31 <sup>st</sup>	Kevin Flinn



#### ***Watch FBC online:***

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

#### ***Tithes and Offerings***

If you would like to support the church online, please visit our website at [www.fbcbloom.org](http://www.fbcbloom.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***

## ***Community Healing Service, Monday January 8***

Everyone is invited to a community healing service at Bloomfield Methodist Church, 60 W Main Street, on Monday, January 8, beginning at 6:15 p.m. Pastor Nathan will be among the pastors participating. All are welcome!

## ***2024 Offering Envelopes***

Offering envelopes for 2024 are now available on the library counter.

## ***Telephone Prayer Chain Updates***

Hello everyone. The Deacons will be updating the telephone prayer chain. If you are currently on the prayer chain and want to remain on there, you don't need to do anything. If you aren't currently on the chain and want to be added, you have updates (e.g., phone number change), or if you would like to be removed from the chain, let me know. If you have any questions, please ask. Please have your update to me by January 7th. Thank you, Kathy Ham.

## ***Birthdays and Anniversaries***

If you would like to add your birthday or wedding anniversary to the list to be included in the bulletin, please let Heather know.



## ***2024 Hoops for Him***

The 2024 Hoops for Him Season begins January 27th and runs each Saturday through March 16th, 2024. Any child aged 4 through the 6th grade may participate in this program that teaches basic basketball skills along with our love of Christ. Online Registrations are available via our Facebook page or scan this QR code. Contact Eric Moody at 812-227-0700 if you are willing to help out during the season. Volunteers are needed to coach and lead devotions each Saturday.

***A New Phone Number for Rex & Lois Kirchoff:*** (812)299-0130



## ***Worship at Parkview Sunday, January 21***

Everyone is encouraged to attend worship at Parkview in Odon at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 21. Pastor Nathan will be preaching, Come and worship with the residents there!

## ***FBC Songfest Sunday, January 28***

On Sunday, January 28 immediately after church, there will be a soup and sandwich luncheon in combination with a Special Congregational Meeting (See *From the Moderator* section below). At around 1:00 p.m. we will go upstairs to the sanctuary and be entertained by our very own FBC Trio! We hope to see everyone there!

## ***Jan-May Children's program***

We are preparing for our spring Children's program. We'll meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, and we're using the Twist & Turns curriculum from Lifeway, which is game themed, and takes us through the life of Peter. We need helpers to lead games, music, and lessons, and also volunteers in the kitchen to cook dinner. We'll meet from 4-6pm. Please let Tasha Hudson know if you can help!

Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 24, April 28, May 26



## ***Looking Back with Donna Miller***

On Sunday, December 31, the FBC Congregation enjoyed listening to Donna Miller speak about her life and testimony. Donna became a member of our church in 2022. Many of us probably did not know that Donna enjoys writing poetry. The following poem was written by Donna:

I thought of you this morning  
And said a little prayer  
That God would bless and strengthen  
And keep you in His care.

I asked that He would be so near  
At the start of each new day  
To those who minister to your needs  
In such a loving way.

So as you feel the presence  
Of our Lord so good and true  
May you always know that others  
Are caring about you too.



# ***YOUTH HAPPENINGS***



## ***ABC-IN/KY FUSE Regional Youth Event Sunday, January 21***

Heather and Aiden Malone will be taking any interested youth to the First Baptist Church in Columbus, IN (3300 Fairlawn Drive) on Sunday, January 21. FUSE is for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Pizza will be provided at the event. It will be a big night of worship and fun! From 3-6 pm. Please let Heather or Aiden know if you are interested.

## ***Winter Jam Saturday, February 3, 2024***

The youth are welcome to attend Winter Jam 2024 located at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Doors open 5pm, show starts at 6. There will be a \$15 cash donation at the door. If interested, see Heather, Aiden, or Tasha.







# ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER

## Quotable Quotes:

"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind"

C.S. Lewis

2024

## A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,  
Whether I leave behind  
A year of joy or trials and difficulties,

I pause to give thanks.  
Thank you for being with me  
every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things new  
and for giving me the grace of  
fresh starts

and new beginnings.  
Remind me of your presence in the days to  
come,  
even when I feel pushed and rushed by  
busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year.  
-Amen-

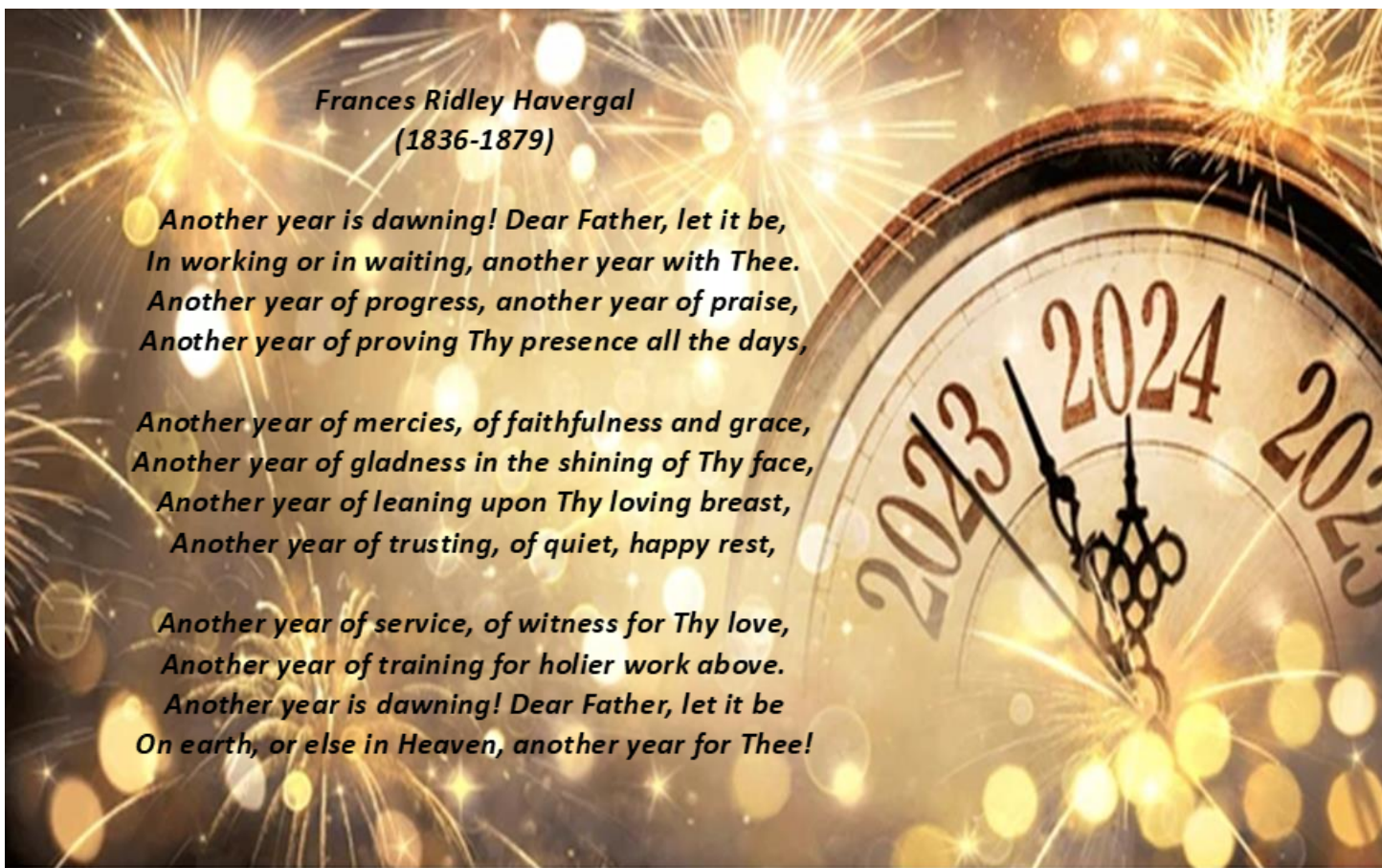
[heathercking.org](http://heathercking.org)

**Frances Ridley Havergal  
(1836-1879)**

**Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,  
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.  
Another year of progress, another year of praise,  
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days,**

**Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face,  
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast,  
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest,**

**Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training for holier work above.  
Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be  
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee!**

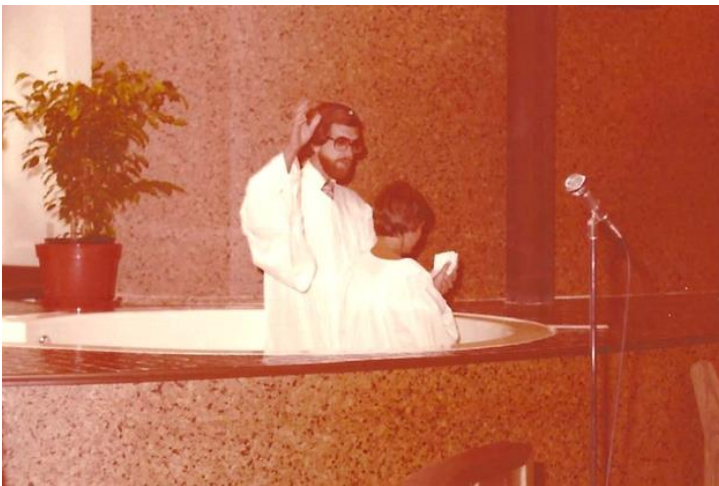


Its time .... for our

## FIRST BAPTIST



Found these two pictures labeled as "1<sup>st</sup> to be baptized Lincoln Drive Church". Who can name the preacher and the young man being baptized? Bonus if you can school me on the year.



### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S ADVENT CROSSWORD PUZZLE

#### ACROSS

3. SOAP
7. CHILD
8. BETHLEHEM
10. END
12. MANGER
13. FIRE
14. LORD
15. VALLEY
16. WILDERNESS
18. AUGUSTUS

#### DOWN

1. JUSTICE
2. GOVERNMENT
4. WONDERFUL
5. GLORY
6. IMMANUEL
7. COMFORT
9. ENDURE
11. DAVID
17. LIGHT



Congratulations to **Alex Malone**! Alex was the winner of our December First Baptist Flashback Guess the Year Edition. He correctly identified the year of our two Cantata pictures as **2004**!

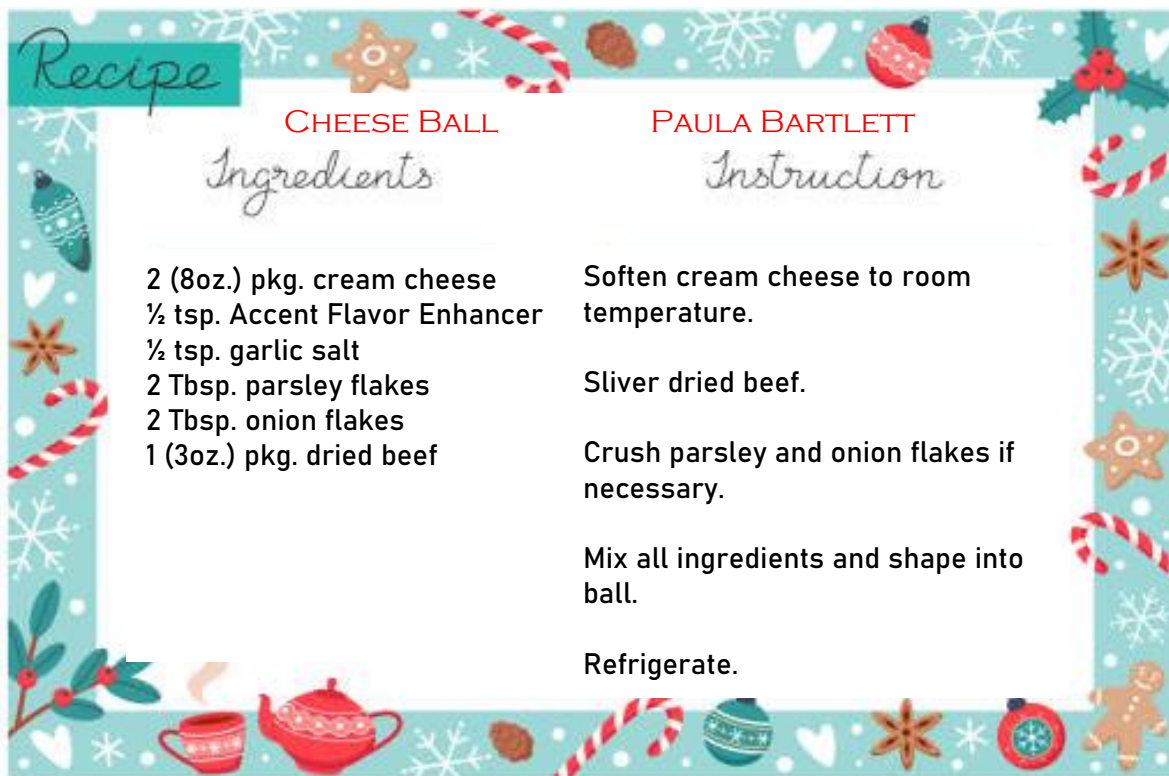




# COOKS IN THE BELFRY

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

The following recipes are courtesy of our 125th anniversary cookbook. They would be great for your New Year's get togethers!



**Recipe**

**CHEESE BALL**

**PAULA BARTLETT**

*Ingredients*

- 2 (8oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- ½ tsp. Accent Flavor Enhancer
- ½ tsp. garlic salt
- 2 Tbsp. parsley flakes
- 2 Tbsp. onion flakes
- 1 (3oz.) pkg. dried beef

*Instruction*

Soften cream cheese to room temperature.

Sliver dried beef.

Crush parsley and onion flakes if necessary.

Mix all ingredients and shape into ball.

Refrigerate.



**Recipe**

**SAUSAGE/CHEESE DIP**

**KATHY HAM**

*Ingredients*

- 1 lb. Jimmy Dean regular sausage
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 lb. block regular Velveeta
- 1 lb. ground chuck
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can of chopped green chilies
- 1 lb. block mild Mexican Velveeta

*Instruction*

Mix browned and drained meats in crock-pot with cubed cheese, onion, chilies, and soups.

Stir occasionally until cheese is melted and all ingredients are mixed.

Serve with tortilla chips or party rye bread.

# MANNING THE ROPES

*(Committee & Council Updates)*



## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The pantry served 94 families total in the month of November even with the pantry being closed the week of Thanksgiving. So far, in the month of December, 63 families were served with the pantry being closed the week of Christmas. Many thanks to those individuals who donated items or money to the pantry during December. The Bloomfield Preschool and Kindergarten donated canned goods and the Linton Elks Lodge donated a substantial monetary donation. Other private donations were given, and the families helped appreciated all donations!!!

The night of December 14th found the youth class helping to set up the tables and put food on the tables for the White Christmas boxes. Their help was very much appreciated, and the next morning members of the First Baptist Church assembled 79 boxes to be picked up by the families the next morning. That help was very much appreciated also. Then the Boy Scout Troop #464 helped to get the boxes to the cars. 72 families who picked up their box were blessed by you who gave of your time, money, and donations. You were Jesus's hands and feet!!! Thank you!!!



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Social Committee served around 120 people at the annual Cantata. The music and Fellowship were awesome! See you next year. ~Betty Miller, chairperson

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

The Bright Beginnings Preschool Nativity Program was held on December 15.



### ***A NOTE FROM THE BLESSING BOX***

Thank you to everyone who has prayed, donated supplies, or monetary gifts to our Blessing Box Ministry in the past year. Our community has relied on the love gifts you have provided. In addition to what we normally stock, gently used or new gloves, hats, and small throws are needed. May God bless you as we carry on this ministry in 2024.

Steve and Cheri Graf

### ***FROM THE MODERATOR***

#### ***Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28***

There will be a special congregational meeting held Sunday, January 28 in conjunction with the soup and sandwich luncheon and the Trio Songfest immediately following the morning Worship Services.

We will seek approval of Church Officers not approved at the November Congregational Meeting and hold a secret ballot vote on the proposed changes to each of the following documents:

- 1) The FBC Constitution
- 2) The Personnel, Policy, and Procedures Handbook.

The proposed changes will be made available to the congregation two weeks prior to the meeting.

### **Sundays in January Dates to Remember**

Sunday, January 7	Day of Prayer for our church & community
Sunday, January 14	Fellowship Breakfast
Sunday, January 21	Worship at Parkview
Sunday, January 28	Congregational Meeting, Trio Songfest, & Kids Program





# A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.  
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*  
Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)



We spent much of 2023 on a journey through Paul's letter to the Ephesians. One of the dominant themes of the letter is prayer. I asked our deacons to each identify a scripture passage to pray over our congregation in 2024. On Sunday, January 7, we will have a special service of prayer for our church. Below are themes and scriptures we will highlight.

- *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

We ultimately landed on a list of seven scriptures, which conveniently fit with the days of the week. You are invited to take the above list (which will also appear in the first bulletin of the year) and post it in some prominent place – the refrigerator door, the bathroom mirror, as a bookmark in your Bible, or somewhere else you'll see it daily – and pray for our church family in a different specific way each day of the week. On Sunday, we can pray for love and discernment. On Monday, for the renewal of our minds. And so on. I'm excited to see what the Holy Spirit will do in response to our intentional, specific, and unified prayer for our church body.

As a bonus, consider this an opportunity for scripture memory! You might not look up the scripture passage for each theme every single time that you pray, but as often as you are able, I encourage you to do so. Repetition leads to familiarity which leads to memorization. "Letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly" is so beneficial for our pursuit of Jesus. Give it a try!

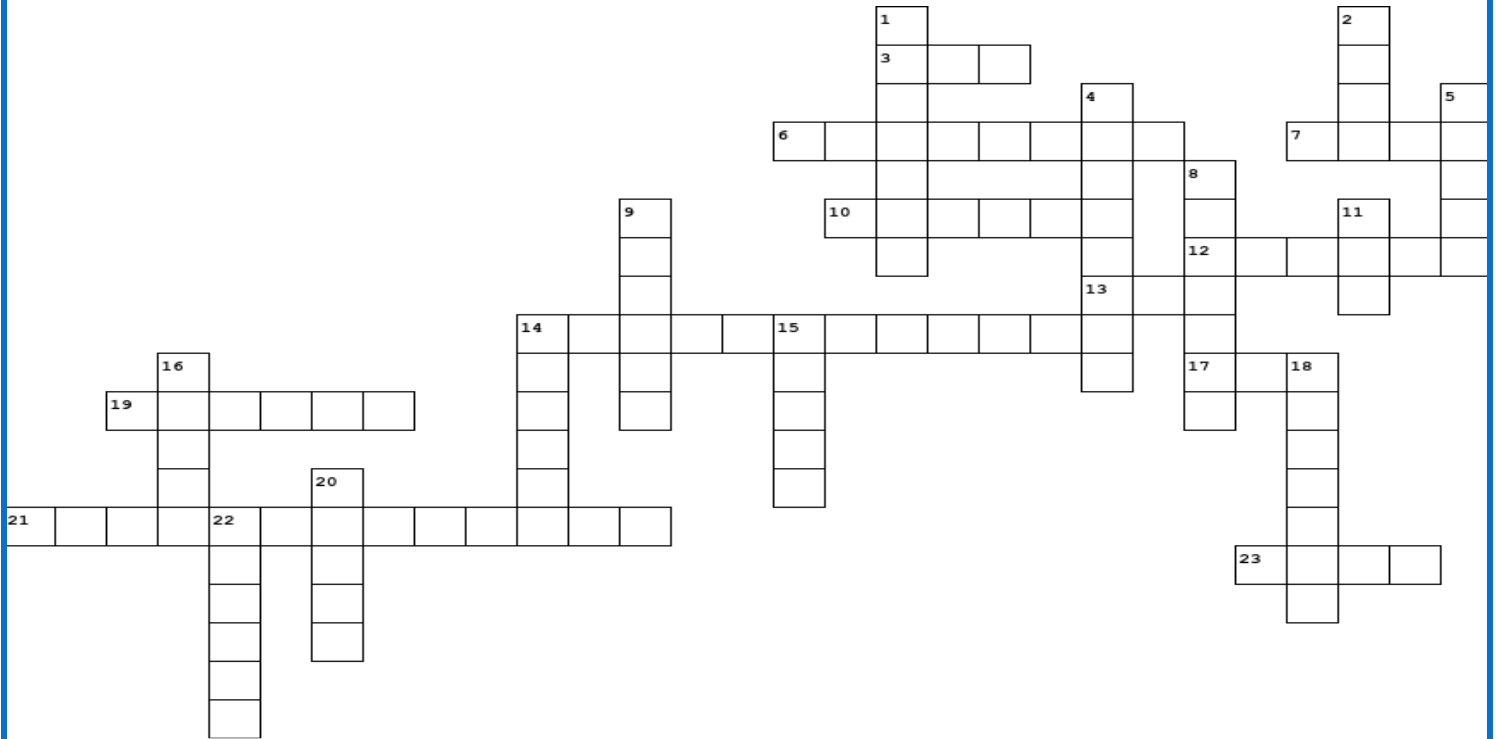
Prayer, scripture reading, and memorization aren't just "things to do." We deliberately engage these practices because they are formative. The Holy Spirit shapes us to look more like Jesus as we pursue these things together. Please join with me in pursuing the Lord through the word and in prayer in 2024.

Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,

Nathan

# ALL THINGS NEW



## Across

3. The \_\_\_\_ order of things has passed away (Rev. 21:4).
6. This waits for the children of God to be revealed (Rom. 8:19)
7. He will wipe every \_\_\_\_ from their eyes (Rev. 21:4).
10. I will be their God and they will be my \_\_\_\_ (Jer. 31:33).
12. If \_\_\_\_ is in Christ, new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)!
13. I am making \_\_\_\_ things new (Rev. 21:5).
14. What matters? Not \_\_\_\_ but new creation (Gal. 6:15).
17. I will give you a \_\_\_\_ heart and put a \_\_\_\_ spirit in you (Ezek. 36:26).
19. ... and write it upon their \_\_\_\_ (Jer. 31:33).
21. New heavens and new earth, the home of \_\_\_\_ (2 Pet. 3:13).
23. They will all \_\_\_\_ me (Jer. 31:34).

## Down

1. Rejoice \_\_\_\_ in what I create (Isa 65:18).
2. The creation will be set \_\_\_\_ from bondage to decay (Rom. 8:21).
4. I will make a new \_\_\_\_ with the houses of Israel and Judah (Jer. 31:31).
5. I saw the New Jerusalem prepared as a \_\_\_\_ for her husband (Rev. 21:2).
8. The leaves of the tree are for the \_\_\_\_ of the nations (Rev. 22:2).
9. I will put my \_\_\_\_ in you (Ezek. 36:27).
11. I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a \_\_\_\_ (Isa 65:18).
14. I am about to \_\_\_\_ new heavens and a new earth (Isa 65:17).
15. I will put my law in their \_\_\_\_ (Jer. 31:33)...
16. There will be no more \_\_\_\_, mourning, crying, or pain (Rev. 21:4).
18. The sounds of \_\_\_\_ and crying will be heard there no more (Isa 65:19).
20. The tree of life yields fruit every \_\_\_\_ (Rev. 22:2).
22. At the renewal of all things, Jesus sits on his glorious \_\_\_\_ (Mt. 19:28).

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

**First Baptist Church**  
**500 Lincoln Drive**  
**Bloomfield, IN 47424**

**January**  
**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 New Years Day	2 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Trustee Mtg	3 NO BIBLE STUDY	4 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Deacon Mtg	5	6 2:00 GGWM CLC 6:00 CLC res
7 Communion Day of Prayer for Our Church  5:00 Young Adults	8 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	9 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Trustee Mtg	10 9:00 Bible Study	11 6:30 Boy Scouts	12	13 6:00 CLC res
14  8:30 Fellowship Bfst 9:00 Kingdom Kids 1:00 CLC res 4:00 CLC res 5:00 Young Adults	15 MLK Day  7:00 Choir	16 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	17 9:00 Bible Study	18 9:00 CLC res. 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Gideons	19	20 6:00 CLC res
21 2:00 Nathan at Parkview 3:00 Youth FUSE 5:00 Young Adults	22 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	23 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	24 9:00 Bible Study	25 4:45 Girl Scouts	26	27 8:00 Hoops for Him 6:00 CLC res
28 9:00 Kingdom Kids 12:00 Luncheon, Cong. Mtg & Trio 4:00 Kid's Program 5:00 Young Adults	29 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	30 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 CLC res	31 9:00 Bible Study			

**Deacon of the Month**  
 Bob Templeton

**Trustee of the Month**  
 John Bailey

**Usher of the Month**  
 Charles Porter

**Prayers**

7<sup>th</sup> Randy Flanagin  
 14<sup>th</sup> Cheri Campbell-Graf  
  
 21<sup>st</sup>  
 28<sup>th</sup>

**Snacks in the Narthex**

7<sup>th</sup> Flanagins  
 14<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Brkfst  
 21<sup>st</sup> Kimberly Porter  
 28<sup>th</sup> Debra Hudson

**Greeter**

The Porter Family

**Nursery Care**

7<sup>th</sup> Cheri Campbell-Graf  
 & \_\_\_\_\_



First Baptist Church  
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