



# *The Bell Tower*



2025

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Eric Moody
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rob Rollison
11 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Weeks
12 <sup>th</sup>	Maryann Snow
14 <sup>th</sup>	Alecia Henry
24 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Ham
25 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Hudson
26 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Malone
27 <sup>th</sup>	Brady Hughes
28 <sup>th</sup>	Kinley Moody
28 <sup>th</sup>	Keaton Wilson

### ANNIVERSARIES

6 <sup>th</sup>	Mike & Barb Stoner
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### *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).

Online giving can be found here:



You can also [click here](#).

### *Church Office Hours*

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

### *Food Pantry Hours*

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-11:00am  
Wednesday 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 & ACTIVITIES***

## ***No Bible Study Wednesday, July 2 & July 9***

There will be no Wednesday morning Bible Study this week or next. Everyone is encouraged to join us Wednesday, July 16 when we will begin a Bible study on the book of *Esther*.



**Guest pianist Inna Moiseeva**

## ***Sewing Group Wednesday, July 9***

The Sewing Group will meet Wednesday, July 9 at 12:30 p.m. They will be sewing burp cloths and bibs. Everyone is welcome even just to drop in and chat.

## ***Worship at Parkview Sunday, July 13***

Pastor Nathan will be preaching at Parkview Village in Odon at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 13. All are encouraged to come and worship with the residents!



## ***FBC Annual Church Picnic Sunday, August 24***

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual church picnic. There will be lots of great food to eat and games to play. More info to come.

**OGHS Children's  
Mission Moment**

## ***Required Background Checks***

It is time to update our background checks for those who work with children here at FBC. We are now running statewide background checks. If you have not had a check performed in the last 5 years, or you are unsure if it has been run, see Heather in the church office. Please be sure you are up to date in time for VBS. Thank you! ☺



## ***Georgia's Summer Reading Challenge***

***This summer you are invited*** – to read a book or magazine article from our church's library or listen to the same on Libby (or whatever library app you might use). This is not limited to age – anyone can participate. This could be an individual or family project and a way to chat with anyone in our church family. The church's library has so many books that are educational as well as inspirational. This summer I have challenged the Bible Study Sunday School class to read a book out of the church's library and share what they read with the class. The books I focused on have recorded the blessings and challenges missionaries and persecuted Christians have experienced. After presenting this idea to the class, the challenge expanded to any Christian topic book or magazine, etc. I would like to invite each person in the church to challenge yourself to make time over the next few months to read a book about your faith and share what you have learned with another person. If you don't know who to share the book you read with, please share it with me, Georgia. You can call me or chat somewhere and tell me about your book. The experiences people have standing firm in their faith haven't changed – we may encounter them in our lifetime. Knowing about the struggles and successes of others may encourage us. Also, I think it honors those who have endured hardships when we read about their devotion to the one true God. Please take a stroll through the church's library – there are books, etc. there for all ages and let me know what you read this summer.



# YOUTH HAPPENINGS



## *We Need You!*

We are continually seeking sponsors for youth activities. If you would be willing to lead an activity, please sign up in the Narthex and let Aiden Malone know. Thank you!

## *Food Pantry Donation Drive Through Drop Off Friday, July 11*

Youth needed to assist unloading cars during a food pantry donation drive through drop off that is occurring during the joint Preschool/VBS Family Night Event Friday, July 11 from 4-8 p.m. Any youth that can help, please see Aiden Malone.

## *White River Youth Canoe Trip Thursday, July 24 Details Forthcoming*

## *Youth Outing to McCormick's Creek, August 2 Details TBD*

A poster for a 'GOODS DRIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS'. The top left has the title in large blue letters. Below it is a small logo for 'Charis' and a shopping cart icon. The top right has a dark blue box with white text: 'VISIT THE AMAZON LINK BY AUGUST 1ST TO PURCHASE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN NEED'. In the center is a QR code. The bottom left has a blue box with white text: 'VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DISTRIBUTION ON AUGUST 8TH - CONTACT DANIEL'. At the very bottom are three small lines of text: '(361) 237-7075', 'daniel@charismuncie.org', and 'HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/FBZW7'.

## *Campus Goods Drive for International Students*

Charis is the ABC-Indiana/Kentucky student ministry on the campus of Ball State.



## *Welcome Our Guest Gideon Speaker to Morning Worship on July 13*

### **Norman Librea Zara**

He and his wife Gerlina live in Sun Valley Estates, Antipolo, Philippines. They have two daughters, Nadine and Debbie, who both work in the marketplace, and have for at least 5 years.

Norman is a born-again Christian. He became a deacon and an elder in his first local church in Manila. His family are now members of Christ Commission Fellowship where Norman is a teacher in the Global Leadership Center and a small group leader.

Norman became a member of The Gideons International in 2016 and was appointed as the National Executive Director in the Philippines in February of 2017.

He has attended 4 different State Conventions in Brazil and in the USA. He has also attended 5 International Conventions in the United States including the last two in Texas and Kentucky.

He is a sinner saved by grace, and a saint by the mercies and grace of God.







# ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER

*Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds. Psalm 107:8*



American Baptist Churches of  
Indiana and Kentucky

## Generations

Together on God's Abundant Journey

### Independence Day

With Independence Day quickly approaching, we want to take time to pause and give thanks for the freedoms we are blessed to enjoy in this country. The freedoms to worship our Savior, gather together, and speak freely are things I do not think of without gratitude.

I am grateful to the many men and women who are currently serving, retired from service, or who have paid the ultimate price for this freedom. I am grateful for your sacrifice.

While I remain grateful for these civic freedoms, I can't help but consider the freedom I find in Christ, someone else who paid the ultimate price. Romans 6 tells us that we have been set free from sin and now have the blessing to serve our Risen King.

This sacrifice demands that we live our lives with grace and intentionality. This month, let's aim to take greater pride in the freedom Christ offers us. May we bear the fruit of the Spirit, love our neighbor as ourselves, and walk in freedom without being weighed down by sin.

As we remember the freedoms this country allows and remember the sacrifice of many, may we remember the freedom from sin Christ offers us through His death and resurrection. May we remember that our hope is not in this country, but in Christ. For who the Son sets free is free indeed.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

**John 8:36**

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 6:22-23**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

**Galatians 5:13**

He remembered us in our low estate  
**His love endures forever.**  
and freed us from our enemies.

**His love endures forever.**  
He gives food to every creature.

**His love endures forever.**  
**Psalm 136:23-25**



## PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4<sup>th</sup> craft.

### What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



### What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!



Its time ..... for our  
**FIRST BAPTIST**



Who will be the first to name the year and theme of this  
FBC VBS?



**ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S  
CHURCH CAMP  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

- 4. CANOE
- 8. FLASHLIGHT
- 9. IBA
- 10. TIPPECANOE
- 11. SUNSCREEN
- 12. AVOCAEUREKA
- 13. BIBLE

**DOWN**

- 1. BUGSPRAY
- 2. CAMPFIRE
- 5. SMORES
- 6. INDIANCREEK
- 7. CHAPEL



Congratulations, **Kimberly Porter**, for correctly identifying the  
year of our **2005 ICBC** camp pictures!





## *Summer Church League Softball*

The church softball season is in full swing. You are encouraged to come out and cheer on your team! Games are at the ball diamonds in Linton. If you have questions, contact Braden at 812-381-1937.

## Church Summer Softball League July Schedule

**Tuesday, July 1 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Monday, July 7 @ 7:40 p.m.**  
**Monday, July 14 @ 7:40 p.m.**  
**Thursday, July 17 @ 7:40 p.m.**  
**Monday, July 21 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**& 7:40 p.m.**

**All games are played in Linton.**



## *Special Music Sign-up*

You are encouraged to share your talents with music that adds to meaningful worship on Sunday mornings. You can scan the QR code to sign up. Thank you!



Tiffany & Liz Brooks  
*Holy, Holy, Holy*



Katlyn & Kelsey  
*Jesus Does*



# MANNING THE ROPES

## Mission Moment

Bangladesh is designated as Hostile. 87% of Bangladeshis are Sunni Muslims and 2 percent are Shia Muslims. Only one-half of 1 percent are Christians. Local Muslim authorities, Islamic Extremist groups, families, and communities persecute Christians. Hindu believers in the northwestern part of the country and Buddhist extremists persecute believers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. While many Christian groups meet publicly, others worship in unregistered churches. Believers are sometimes forced to leave their homes and community.

The Bangladesh Bible Society and the missions community have made Bibles available in several languages. Those living in rural communities have difficulty getting and finding a Bible.

VOM serves those expelled from their communities and provides for medical needs of those who have been injured in persecution attacks.

Each day as you begin your Bible study and devotional time, please take time to remember those in persecuted countries who are taking a risk when they want to learn more about God.



## Blessing Box Update

Our Blessing Box ministry has experienced an increase in usage as has our Food Pantry. With the heat of summer already upon us, we could use some sunscreen and sunburn medicine. The hygiene, cleaning products, and paper goods are always needed. We appreciate everyone who supports our ministry. Picking up one item for the box when you are out shopping, will make a difference. Thank you so much! Any questions? Cheri Campbell Graf 812-384-8980



## Fuel the Mission – Feed the Need

The mission of the Bloomfield First Baptist Food Pantry is to assist food-insecure families in and around Greene County, Indiana by providing access to healthy and nutritious food.

The pantry serves between 80 and 100 families in Greene County each and every month. Households may visit the pantry once per month to receive a variety of healthy items including meat, milk, eggs, bread and other pantry staples. The quantity of food distributed is based on the number of individuals in the household.

The Food Pantry is open weekly on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., and Wednesday evenings from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. It is operated entirely by volunteers who are passionate about serving those experiencing food insecurity in our community.

Donations- whether monetary or in the form of food items- from individuals, churches, businesses, or organizations, are vital to our mission. Unfortunately, donations have recently declined.

We are currently seeking local businesses, groups, or individuals willing to partner with us- either through a one-time contribution or a sustaining commitment- to help us continue meeting the needs of our neighbors.



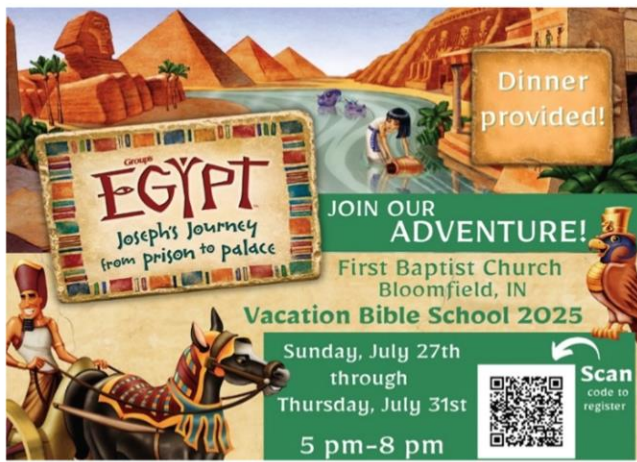
Donations can be dropped off during FBC church office hours (Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 1-3 p.m.) or pick-up can be arranged by calling the church at 812-384-8459.

Every can counts. Every dollar makes a difference. Every act of kindness feeds a neighbor. Thank you for your generosity!



# 2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will begin Sunday, July 27 and run through Thursday, July 31. Visit the display in the Narthex and sign up today to volunteer. A pool party will be held at the Bloomfield pool on Friday, August 1. See VBS coordinator, Ashley Terrell, if you have any questions. Thank you!



## JULY 11 FAMILY NIGHT AT FBC

**BLOOMFIELD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

# FAMILY NIGHT

FREE ENTRY

**JULY 11**

**4PM-8PM**

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR UPCOMING VBS & OUR PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

OUR FOOD PANTRY WILL BE ALSO BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS

**WATER SLIDE**

**FOAM MACHINE**

**FACE PAINTING**

**FOOD**



Help Us Stock the Shelves Without Leaving Your Car!

**Location:** Bloomfield First Baptist Church  
500 Lincoln Drive, Bloomfield, IN  
**Date:** July 11  
**Time:** 4-8 pm

Just pull up, pop your trunk, and we'll unload your donation!

**Most needed items:**  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce  
Peanut Butter  
Ramen Noodles

Other non-perishable food items are also appreciated!

♥ The Bloomfield First Baptist Food Pantry assists 80-100 food-insecure families every month in and around Greene County, Indiana by providing access to healthy and nutritious food.

**Come Swim With Jesus!**

**Worship Night/Pool Party**

**Saturday, July 5**  
**6-10 p.m.**

**Bloomfield Public Pool &**  
**(401 Lincoln Drive, Bloomfield, IN)**

**Bloomfield Community Building**

This event is open to the public,  
so please come worship and fellowship with us!

Food provided and will be served in the  
Community Building (across from the pool).



## COMMUNITY EVENT

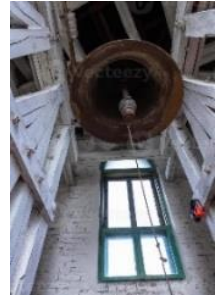
FBC and surrounding communities have been invited to attend a worship night / pool party.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, cookies, and drinks will be provided and served in the Bloomfield Community Building located across from the Bloomfield pool.



# NOTE FROM NATHAN

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*  
1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)



I had the privilege of spending four days at Indian Creek Baptist Camp in June. Tiffany and four other girls from our church were there for Girls' Camp. I had no official responsibilities – I wasn't the camp pastor or a cabin leader; I didn't lead any devotional time or worship service. I just told Jordan I was willing to help wherever needed.

Most of my time was spent renovating a cabin to get it ready for the following week, but I got to help the staff with a few other odds and ends as well. Jordan, Mindy, and their staff are doing a great job (that includes Kinley, Taylor, and Aiden!). When you send a child or grandchild to camp, you can rest assured it will be a safe and well-run experience.

What's fun about camp is, there are so many people involved in making it happen, carrying a variety of responsibilities, some of which the campers see, and many of which the campers never see. I spent a few days doing a little work on one cabin, which is easily much older than I am. Most of the girls who would stay in that cabin the following week have no idea who I am. How many others have worked on camp buildings over the years, from construction to cleaning to maintenance? Any given camper on any given week has not met most of those volunteers. But they have made an impact. They are still making an impact.

Most of the campers get to interact with most of the camp staff on any given week. Many campers will remember some of those staff members for years to come. But the campers only see a small part of what the staff do. The staff are preparing s'more fixings, lighting campfires, cooking meals, cleaning cabins, rehearsing worship songs, opening the pool, and doing all sorts of activities behind the scenes while the campers are busy doing something else. That's the way it's supposed to be. The kids just arrive at their next item on the schedule, and it's ready to go.

Most of those staff members, like me, went to church camp many years as a camper before serving on staff. Each of those camp experiences was supported by volunteers and staff and sending churches. They each benefited from contributions seen and unseen. There are some people who have not ever been able to go to camp, but they have prayed for camp, donated supplies to camp, given money to camp, or sent food to camp.

Camp is the body of Christ in action. There are a great many roles to fill, and it has taken so many people over a period of many years to set the stage for any given week of camp. Fruit is happening now from seeds sown years ago. Each person does what God has called him or her to do, and trusts that that role is but a small part of what the Holy Spirit will accomplish through the efforts of other brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is VBS month. VBS starts on Sunday evening, July 27. One of my favorite parts of that week annually is to see so many people from our church participate in so many ways. Some are hands-on with the kids; others have behind-the-scenes roles. The body of Christ comes together, and children are blessed in Jesus' name.

What is your role in VBS? If you are able to read this newsletter, you are able to have a role! There are surprisingly more ways to get involved than you might think, and the first and most important thing we need is prayer. Reach out to Ashley Terrell (our VBS leads director), if the Lord is nudging your heart, and ask how you can get involved. You might have the privilege of leading a group of little ones all over the church building every night! Or, you might do something that none of the kids ever see. But they will be impacted. VBS is an opportunity for the church to be the church, as always, for the glory of God.

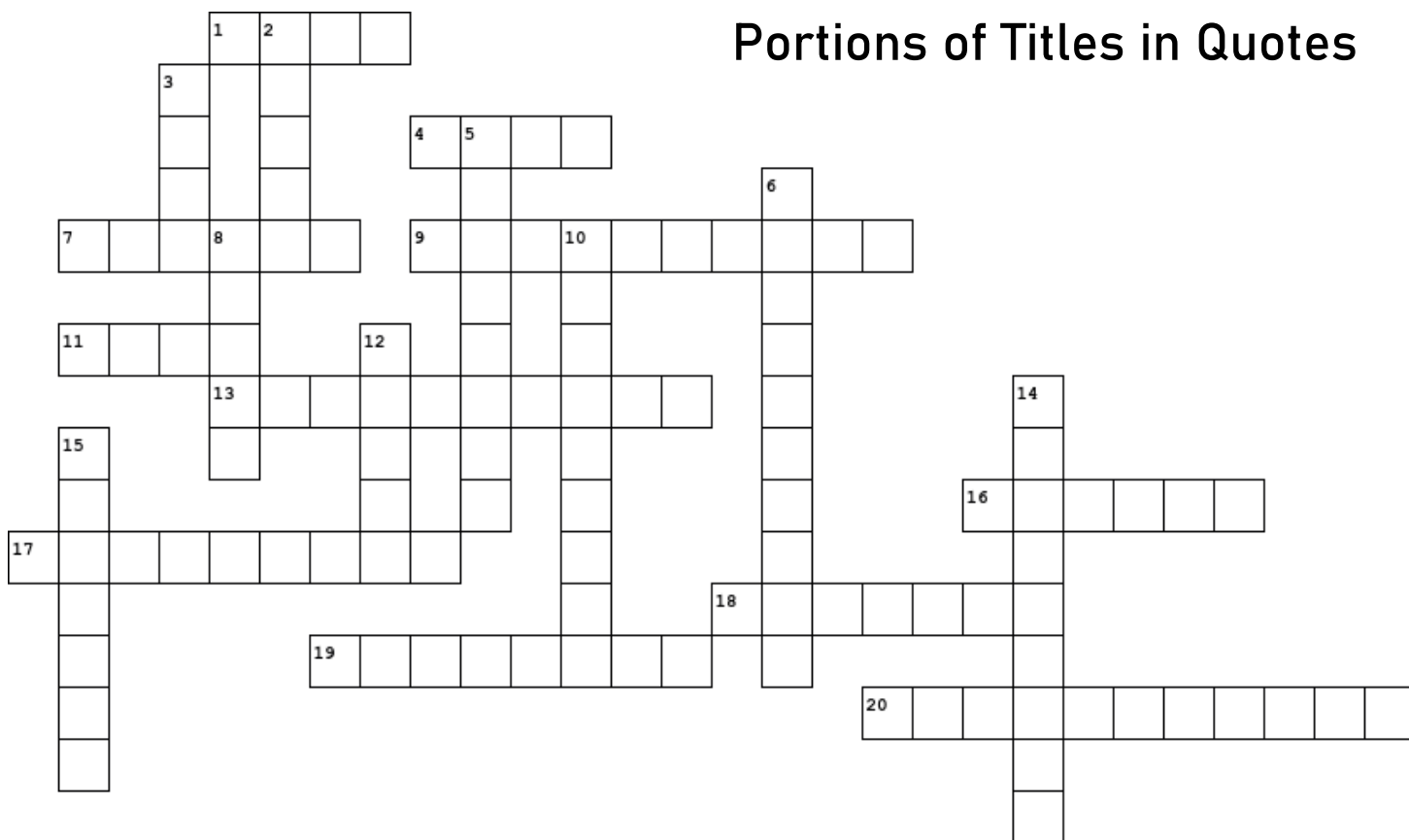
Thank you for being the body of Christ.

Grace and peace,

Nathan

# HISTORIC VBS THEMES AT FBC

## Portions of Titles in Quotes



### Across

1. 2010: This ocean "expedition" took us sailing on the "high \_\_\_\_."
4. 2016: This "quest" occurred in a subterranean region with stalagmites.
7. 2006: Spanish word for party.
9. 2019: This "mission" was amazing and makes for an alliteration.
11. 2004: An "island" named for this substance, which emerges from a volcano.
13. 2013: Two OT books share this name, a synonym for stories: "Kingdom \_\_\_\_."
16. 2017: This "operation" occurred in the polar region of the Northern Hemisphere.
17. 2015: In this "camp" we encountered new things. Name of one space shuttle.
18. 2023: "Daniel" displayed "courage in captivity" in this ancient city.
19. 2024: For most of his growing up years, this was Jesus' "hometown."
20. 2009: When the "church" in "Rome" couldn't operate openly, it went \_\_\_\_.

### Down

2. 2025: We "journey" with "Joseph," "from prison to palace," in this country.
3. 2018: When the competition begins, you might say, "\_\_\_\_ on!"
5. 2012: This "amazing wonder" was named for the art of flying aircraft.
6. 2022: Adjectival title inspired by big rock formations near the Utah-Arizona line.
8. 2011: This "operation" occurred in the realm of astronauts, planets, and stars.
10. 2007: A "ranch" named for a rhyming term that refers to falling rocks or snow.
12. 2008: This "lab" was named for a synonym of strength, slang for electricity.
14. 2005: "Trek" named for a National Park in Tanzania, known for its wildlife.
15. 2021: Pastor Nathan and John Cummings played with trains. "Rocky \_\_\_\_."



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



First Baptist Church  
500 Lincoln Drive  
Bloomfield, IN 47424

July  
2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball 6:30 Security Mtg. 6:30 Softball Game	2 10:30 Community Fellowship	3 6:30 Deacon Mtg. 6:30 Boy Scouts	4 	5 7:00 Gideons 6:00 GGW
6 Communion	7 6:00 GS Com. Mtg 7:40 Softball Game	8 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball	9 10:30 Community Fellowship 12:30 Sewing Group	10 6:30 Boy Scouts	11 Preschool/VBS Event	12 7:00 Gideons 6:00 GGW
13 8:30 Fellowship Bkfst 12:00 CLC res. 2:00 Worship at Parkview	14 7:40 Softball Game	15 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball	16 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	17 6:30 Gideons 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:40 Softball Game	18	19 7:00 Gideons 6:00 GGW
20	21 6:30 Softball Game 7:40 Softball Game	22 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball 6:30 Trustee Mtg.	23 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	24 6:30 Boy Scouts Youth Canoe Trip	25	26 7:00 Gideons 6:00 GGW
27	28	29	30 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	31		

**Deacon of the Month**  
Kathy Ham

**Trustee of the Month**  
Steve Ham

**Usher of the Month**  
Braden Hudson

**Prayers**

6<sup>th</sup> Bob Weeks  
13<sup>th</sup>  
20<sup>th</sup>  
27<sup>th</sup>

**Snacks in the Narthex**

6<sup>th</sup> The Malones  
13<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Breakfast  
20<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
2<sup>th</sup>

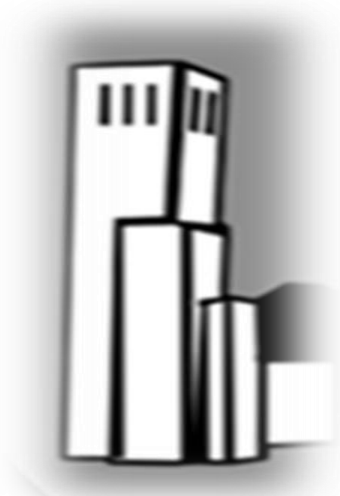
**Greeters**

Braden Hudson

**Nursery Care**

6<sup>th</sup>

First Baptist Church  
500 Lincoln Drive  
Bloomfield, IN 47424



July 2025