

# The Bell Tower



## 2026

### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

#### BIRTHDAYS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jessa Ayers
- 4<sup>th</sup> Michael Sullivan
- 6<sup>th</sup> Carla Porter
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jim Foxworthy
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lyric Copp
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ava Manuel
- 18<sup>th</sup> Aiden Malone  
Scarlett Flinn
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Ivy Foxworthy
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Chris Wilson
- 24<sup>th</sup> Lee Young
- 26<sup>th</sup> Doug Frye

#### ANNIVERSARIES

- 14<sup>th</sup> Steve & Cheri Graf
- 24<sup>th</sup> Rex & Lois Kirchoff



#### *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	10:00am-12:00pm & 4:00-5:30pm

#### *CLC Access*

Daily access to the CLC, for those who don't have a key, is now 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



## Backyard Kids Club Sunday, March 1 from 4-6 pm

There will be Olympic Games, Kids Club style! We'll start in the CLC with games, and end in the Fellowship Hall with Dinner. Future Kids Club dates: April 12 and May 3.

## Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8

Please remember to move your clocks forward one hour.

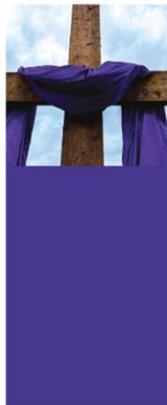


## Easter Morning Baptisms

If you are interested in being baptized on Easter morning April 5, or any other time, please speak with Pastor Nathan. He would love to meet with you! ☺

## FBC Coat Closet Cleanout

The Trustees have decided to clean out the coat closets in the Fellowship Hall, CLC, and the Narthex. Please check to see if you have any items that need to be claimed and taken home. On March 18, any items left in the coat closets will be donated to the Family Life Center. Thank you!



*The Journey  
to the Cross*  
Bloomfield, Indiana Holy Week Services  
Maundy Thursday  
April 2 First Baptist Church 6:30 pm  
Good Friday Service  
April 3 First Presbyterian Church 6:30 pm  
Sunrise Service  
April 5 Methodist Church 7:00 am



Greetings from Pauline Auxier

# 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!

## FBC Middle/High School Youth Trip to Hockey Game



# BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL



He is risen  
from the  
dead.  
**Matthew 28:6**

© the first grade roundup

## ENROLLMENT 26/27 SCHOOL YEAR

Current students must be enrolled by **May 1, 2026** to ensure a spot in one of our classes for next year. Enrollment paperwork, \$35 registration fee, and the first month's tuition must be paid to secure spot.

### March newsletter

**Contact info**  
Camryn Deschamp-  
[camrynhuffman@gmail.com](mailto:camrynhuffman@gmail.com)  
(812) 384-0400 x 28  
or class dojo

**Themes**

- Spring- Rain/Weather
- Spring- Bugs
- Easter

**Bible**

- Easter

**Math**

- AM: Numbers 1-10
- PM: Teen Numbers

**Language Arts**

- AM: Yy, Dd, Gg, Jj
- PM: Ll, Qq, Th, Wh

**Reminders**

- Special Persons Day- March 19 (more info soon)
- Preschool/Pre-k Roundup- March 12 (more info soon)
- Spring Break- Off March 24 and 26
- Spring Program/Graduation- May 7
- Last Day of Preschool- May 14

© THE LITTLE LADYBUG SHOP

Accepting students ages 2-5

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Bright Beginnings  
**PRESCHOOL/PRE-K  
ROUND-UP**

MARCH 12, 2026  
6-7:30 PM

Located at 500 Lincoln Drive,  
Bloomfield, IN 47424

CONTACT  
[CAMRYNHUFFMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CAMRYNHUFFMAN@GMAIL.COM) OR  
CALL (812) 384-8459 FOR QUESTIONS

### Loving One Another through Prayer

Consider where you normally sit in the sanctuary. Use the "pews" below to list names and info for people who sit near you, to help you pray for them.

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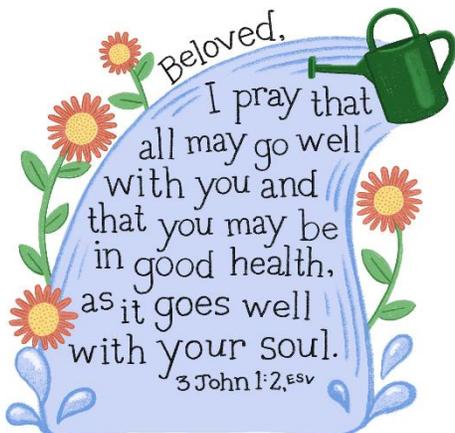
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Consider 1 Cor. 13:4-5 and pray for those in our church who are hard for you to love. Surrender to the Lord any scorecard of wrongs you've been keeping against them.

Names/Initials:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



### Loving Our Neighbors through Prayer

Consider your neighborhood (or office or classroom). Use the map below to list names and info for your neighbors (the people next to you) to help you pray for them.


Read Matthew 22:37-40. For further ideas on how to bless your neighbors, you might want to read, "The Art of Neighboring," by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon (Baker Books, 2012), or visit [www.artofneighboring.com](http://www.artofneighboring.com).

### *Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 8*

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting held in conjunction with our Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, March 8. The purpose of the meeting is to seek approval from the congregation for the newly drafted and Council-revised Child and Youth Protection Policy. Once approved, the policy will take effect immediately and be incorporated into our Personnel, Policies, and Procedures Handbook. Please review the document that was emailed to you on Friday, February 20 in preparation for the meeting.

### *Red Cross Disaster Shelter Training Wednesday, March 11*

There will be Red Cross Disaster Shelter training on Wednesday, March 11 from 10:30-11:30 am in the CLC. There are currently nine volunteers, but we welcome anyone else who is interested to come out and join us. Contact John Bailey with any questions you may have.

### *2025 FBC Annual Report*

The 2025 FBC Annual Report is now available. Pick up your copy from the library counter or see Heather to have a copy emailed to you.

# *THE SWEET SOUND OF MUSIC*

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:1*



### *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 below to sign up. Thank you!



## **ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PROVERBS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

### *ACROSS*

- 5. WISE
- 9. UNDERSTANDING
- 12. COMPLACENCY
- 15. LORD
- 16. ENTICE
- 17. HEART
- 18. SAVE

### *DOWN*

- 1. DISCIPLINE
- 2. SON
- 3. FEAR
- 4. DEATH
- 6. NECK
- 7. WISDOM
- 8. SOLOMON
- 10. SIMPLE
- 11. GOOD
- 13. STREET
- 14. PATHS

*Please pray for  
First Baptist Church in 2026.  
May the Light of Christ...*

Shine through Us  
Mt. 5:14-16

Inspire Wonder and Gratitude in Us  
Isa. 9:2  
2 Cor. 4:6

Define Our Way of Life  
1 Jn. 1:5-10  
Eph. 5:8-10

Guide and Empower Us  
Ps. 18:28  
Ps. 119:105

Shine in Our Love for One Another  
Jn. 13:34-35  
Gal. 6:9-10

Be Our Confidence  
Ps. 27:1-3

Produce Peace Among Us  
Ps. 122:6-9  
Eph. 4:1-7  
1 Cor. 1:10

# A NOTE FROM NATHAN

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV1984)

Liz and I have been reading with Tiffany two children's versions of Homer's *Odyssey*.<sup>1</sup> An ancient Greek hero takes an extraordinarily circuitous and tragic route home from battle, while his wife, son, and dog await his return.

I am struck by the theology and prayer life of the ancient Greeks. They believed in a great many gods, who weren't always on the same page. One or more of the gods could be angry with you, and life would be rough. One or more of the gods could show you favor, and circumstances might go well. A person had to navigate life trying to please (and avoid upsetting) the gods. With so many gods and goddesses out there, this was no easy task! *What do I need to do to get the gods to intervene in my favor? Something has gone wrong – which god have I angered? I need favorable winds, or calm waters, or spring rains, or abundant sunshine – which specific god(s) do I need to appease?*

The maze of polytheistic paganism is dizzying. And heartbreaking! There is never any certainty that the gods have our best interests in mind. The gods can be very capricious and vindictive, sometimes without any recourse for mercy. Even the council of gods is powerless to overrule the will of certain gods within their midst. The best we can do is hope that one or more of the gods will intervene for us, and that their intervention will be sufficient to overcome any other gods who oppose us. There is no enduring confidence or genuine hope in this. Any god could turn against us at any time.

Many Christians, it seems, are living out a practical paganism. It is as if God cannot be trusted and must be bribed or manipulated to bring about what we want. God becomes a genie – perhaps, a very reluctant genie – whose lamp we rub to deliver our wishes. And that's really what it's all about: getting God to fulfill our wishes, to back our agenda, to ensure our desired outcomes. In such a relationship, we can never be finally confident that God will intervene in our favor.

But this is not the faith to which the Bible calls us! God has provided the only intervention necessary – the Son of God offers Himself as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 Jn. 4:10). The Son has been raised and seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father, where He *always* lives to intercede for us (Heb. 7:25; 9:24). The Father and the Son have sent the Holy Spirit, who takes our burdens and intercedes for us with groans that go beyond words (Rom. 8:26). The Triune God is always having a conversation about you and me, *in our favor*. God is decidedly for us, not against us (Rom. 8:31-39)! *(Now, because God is for us, that means He is not always in favor of everything we want or do, because sometimes our desires and actions are self-destructive, or harmful to others. But that's for another article.)* God does not need to be appeased, or bribed, or convinced to listen up or intervene on our behalf. Someone once said, "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is tapping into God's great willingness."<sup>2</sup>

This simplifies our prayer lives. *Lord, I thank you that you love me. I thank you that you are for me and not against me. I surrender my current situation into your hands. I repent of my sins. I get honest with you about what I really want. I seek your will, what is best for me to do right now, and I ask you to help me obey. I need mercy! Give me strength! I don't know what the outcomes will be, but I trust you for them. Thank you for your promises and your presence.*

Of course, the exact words of all of our prayers may vary, but that's the spirit of it. We humbly, eagerly, and confidently come before the God who has already intervened on our behalf, who promises to ultimately wipe all of our tears away, and who assures us He is with us always, even to the end of the age. *He invites us to come boldly before His throne to receive grace and mercy in our time of need.* He is already listening. All we need to do is come. So, let us pray!

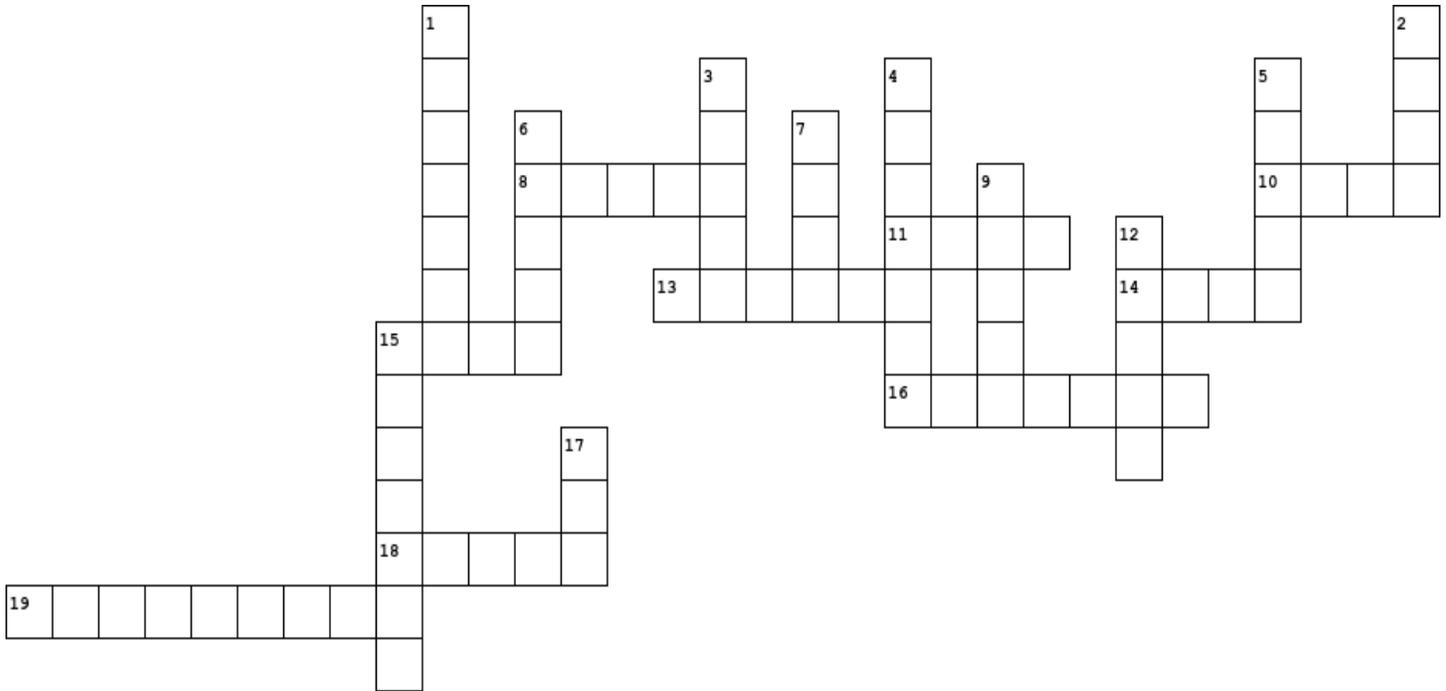
Grace and peace,  
Nathan

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<sup>1</sup> Hardy, Ralph. *Argos: The Story of Odysseus as Told by His Loyal Dog* (HarperCollins, 2016); and Osborne, Mary Pope. *Tales from the Odyssey, Parts One and Two* (Disney/Hyperion, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> This saying has been attributed to several authors. It is difficult to determine with certainty who said it first.

# PARABLES OF JESUS



## Across

8. You are the \_\_\_ of the world. Opposite of darkness (Mt. 5:14).
10. Some seed fell on rocky soil, sprang up quickly, but withered because it had no \_\_\_ (Mt. 13:6).
11. Other seed fell on \_\_\_ soil, which yielded 100, 60, or 30 times that which was sown (Mt. 13:8).
13. Other seed fell among thorns/thistles, which grew up and \_\_\_ the good plants (Mt. 13:7).
14. Blessed are your \_\_\_ because they see... (Mt. 13:16).
15. Blessed are your ears because they \_\_\_ (Mt. 13:16).
16. Tiny seed becoming large garden plant in which birds can perch (Mt. 13:31).
18. Where did the weeds come from? An \_\_\_ has done this (Mt. 13:28).
19. Neither do people put new wine into old \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 9:17).

## Down

1. The inedible fish, like the weeds, are thrown into the fiery \_\_\_ (13:42, 50).
2. You are the \_\_\_ of the earth. This also helps food taste better and last longer (Mt. 5:13).
3. No one sews a new, unshrunk \_\_\_ on an old garment (Mt. 9:16).
4. The seed is the word of the \_\_\_ (Mt. 13:19).
5. Some seed fell on the path, and the \_\_\_ ate it up (Mt. 13:4).
6. A woman "hides" yeast/leaven in the \_\_\_ until it works through all the dough (Mt. 13:33).
7. The wise man built his house upon the \_\_\_ (Mt. 7:24).
9. The wise person hears Jesus' \_\_\_ and puts them into practice (Mt. 7:24).
12. When the merchant found a \_\_\_ of extraordinary value, he sold all he had to get it (Mt. 13:46).
15. Let both the wheat and the weeds grow together until the \_\_\_ (Mt. 13:30).
17. The man was filled with such \_\_\_ that he sold everything to buy the treasure's field (Mt. 13:44).

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

First Baptist Church  
500 Lincoln Drive  
Bloomfield, IN 47424

March  
2026

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 4:00 Backyard Kids Club	2 6:30 Choir Practice	3 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball	4 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	5 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Deacon Mtg.	6 6:00 GGW (CLC Kitchen)	7 7:00 Gideons 8:00 Hoops for Him
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:30 Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 Congregational Meeting	9 7:00 Choir Practice	10 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball 6:00 Girl Scouts	11 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship 10:30 Dis. Sh. Mtg. 12:30 Sewing Grp.	12 6:00 Preschool Roundup 6:30 Boy Scouts	13	14 7:00 Gideons 8:00 Hoops for Him 11:00 Soup on Sat.
15	16 6:30 Choir Practice	17 St Patrick's Day 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball 	18 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	19 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Gideons 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Cub Scouts	20 1st Day of Spring 4:00 CLC res. 	21 7:00 Gideons CLC res.
22	23 6:30 Choir Practice	24 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Trustee Mtg.	25 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	26 6:30 Boy Scouts	27	28 7:00 Gideons
29 Palm Sunday 	30 6:30 Choir Practice	31 10:00 Cottage Prayer Group 6:00 Pickleball				

**Deacon of the Month**  
Alex Malone

**Trustee of the Month**  
John Bailey

**Usher of the Month**

**Prayers**

1<sup>st</sup> Tammy Young  
8<sup>th</sup>  
15<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
29<sup>th</sup>

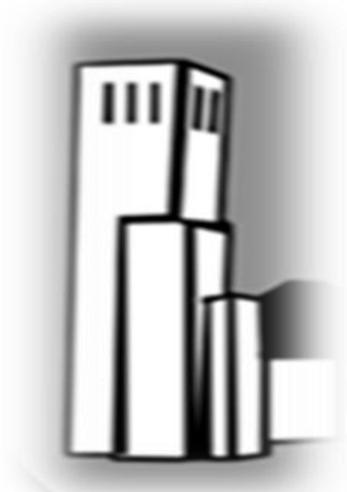
**Snacks in the Narthex**

1<sup>st</sup> Mary Bailey  
8<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Breakfast  
15<sup>th</sup>  
22<sup>nd</sup> Ginger Stewart  
29<sup>th</sup> Kimberly Porter

**Greeters**

**Nursery Care March 1<sup>st</sup>**

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March 2026