



This Week

Wednesday, Dec. 19

6:30 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 23

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:50 a.m. – Coffee

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

Monday, Dec. 24

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service

Teachers This Sunday

Nursery

Ciera Hiester/ Helen Steffen

Kids' Time

Deb Klopfenstein/ Darcy Isch

LOL

Remain in service

Stewardship Report

Dec. 16, 2018

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$2114.00
Missions	\$230.00
Building/ Maint. Fund	\$85.00
Deacons Fund	\$10.00
Mykayla Missions	\$160.00

Total: \$2,599.00



CONGRATULATIONS!

Jack and Erin (Tuttle) Pezo have a 6 lb. 13 oz. baby boy. His name is Isaac Jay. We have a basket for cards and gifts in The Gathering Place. Erin is registered at Wal-Mart.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20 and 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Monday, Dec. 24. Then, it will be closed until January 2 when regular hours will resume.



PASTOR AWAY

Les will be on vacation from Dec. 25 – Jan 1. Should you need pastoral care during this time, please call one of our deacons. FBC is pleased to welcome Dan Steffen to fill our pulpit on Sunday, Dec. 30. Dan is currently a professor of New Testament with Liberty University. He plans to teach a course at at seminary in Mexico City from December 7-17. Dr. Steffen has also been a pastor, missionary, author, and conference speaker. Don't Miss this amazing opportunity to hear Dan.

UNHANGING OF THE GREENS

On December 30, right after the worship service, we need help taking down the Christmas decorations. With lots of hands, it won't take long!



GIVING ENVELOPES

The 2019 giving envelopes were distributed on Sunday. The remaining envelopes are located in The Gathering Place, on the ledge. Pick up yours if you didn't already get it.

THANK YOU

- Thank you so much to all of the carolers for the beautiful Christmas songs. I also want to thank the church for the thoughtful bag of goodies. Rose McCormick
- Thanks to the First Baptist Church Carolers – adults and children – who came to sing Christmas songs to me and who brought me a Goody Bag full of useful things (which I have used), and edibles (which I have eaten). It was a pleasant surprise and set a lovely tone for the Christmas Season. To top it off, the picture of the carolers in The Link was taken in my living room! Thank you, again, to the carolers and all members of First Baptist Church! Wishes for a Merry Christmas. Ed Goetz

One Thing

In our day and age, fear can be an all-consuming perspective. Why? We have continuous access to reports about the bad stuff mean people do. These reports should definitely motivate us to exercise wisdom in what we do and where we go.

In Psalm 27:1-3 David chose to shift his focus from potential threats to the power of God. In the midst of hostile circumstances, David declared the LORD's strength, guidance, and protection.

Then in verse 4, we get insight into David's prayer life. "One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple."

We could speculate about all the things David needed in the midst of hardship. Yet amazingly he only asked Yahweh for one thing. This king was filled with a very specific desire. His singular passion was not vague or flimsy; he had a very clear direction.

David asked God for God. Seeking to know the LORD more deeply was the axis around which his numerous duties and busy schedule rotated. Every individual has the equal opportunity to ask for and pursue a relationship with the God of the universe.

What is the focus of our lives? The word "gaze" in verse 3 means to look steadily and intently, as with great curiosity, interest, pleasure, or wonder.

We might gaze at a field of wildflowers dancing happily above a dusting of glistening snow. We could certainly gaze at a magnificent Rembrandt painting. We might gaze at delicious peppermint mocha - before we dive in. Have we ever spent any length of time feasting our eyes on the splendor and majesty of God? David saw the Creator as stunning, lovely, and right.

True worship is simply beholding the beauty of God. We are moved by a profound sense of the LORD as awesome and desirable. In response, we express adoration and praise.

- The axis of the entire Christmas drama rotates around the baby in a manger.

Envision quietly entering that stable... Walk up... Gaze at that little boy. Drink in the vision. The One who spoke the galaxies into existence has taken on human flesh. Gaze at that little boy. The One who welcomed the very first dawn of earth has arrived to bring humanity back home to God.

"O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him. Christ the LORD!"

Les





202 West Cherry Street
Bluffton, Indiana 46714



Homebound Members

Christian Care

Mildred Huss – Room 219B

Clyde Shady – Room 228B

River Terrace

Eulis West – Room 220

Home

Ed Goetz

Rose McCormick

K Casper Life Center

Judy Bierie – Room 268

Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Larry Gilly – Room 210

As we co-labor with other churches
in our community,
this week we pray for:
Bethel Church
Pastor Ron Garner

First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

firstbaptist@adamswells.com

fbcbluffton.com

 First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073

Music Director: Julie Cantrell

Secretary: Debbie Cantrell

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:50 a.m. – Coffee/Tea Time

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service