

the *LINK*

December 23, 2020

Visit us online at fbcbluffton.com



Display God's Glory

Glory works best when it's displayed, released, or given. God wants His presence and goodness demonstrated or made known. Glory is not meant to be hidden or stockpiled. Jesus points out that observers will glorify the heavenly Father when they see the helpful deeds of Christ followers (Mt. 5:14-16).

When I was a child some of my brothers and I enjoyed playing with a ball in our dark bedroom. It was no ordinary ball. We tossed around a glow in the dark ball. That ball was like a sponge. But instead of absorbing water it somehow absorbed light. We held it real close to a light bulb for a while to get it shining brightly. Then for the next several minutes, we had a lot of fun throwing it around in the dark. Soon our ball lost its glow. We had to hold it close to the light again.

The applications for us are clear.

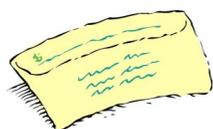
- 1). We connect with and draw close to Jesus, the Source of divine light or glory.
- 2). Christ saturates us with His light and love by filling us with God the Holy Spirit.
- 3). We shine God's brilliance and beauty into a dark world in a multitude of ways.
- 4). When the glory in us grows dim we again draw close to Jesus, the light of the world.
- 5). The LORD marinates us afresh in God the Holy Spirit.
- 6). With joy and laughter we once again carry and display God's glory to others.

Grateful for you, Les

Holiday Schedule

This will be the last newsletter for 2020. The next newsletter will be January 6, 2021. The church office will be closed December 25 through the end of the year. During that time, Pastor Les will be on vacation. In his absence, it will be the church's honor to have Daniel Steffen preach on December 27. If you need pastoral care while Les is away, please contact Loren, Chas, Mike, Jenny, or Joyce. They will serve you in any way they can.

Offering Envelopes



Envelopes for 2021 are on the table in the foyer. Please pick yours up. Also, if you connect with others that are not getting out yet, please help by taking them their envelopes.



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24
7:00 p.m.*

We will continue our usual social distancing precautions for this service and wear masks. For those who do not feel comfortable being in attendance, we plan to livestream the service. Go to fbcbluffton.com, click the media tab, and then "Click for Worship Service" just as you would for a Sunday morning service. Have a candle ready so you can join in singing by candlelight at the conclusion of the service.

We collect a Christmas Eve offering to support a local ministry. This year the deacons have decided to send it to Helping Hands. Feel free to mail your offering and designate it as Christmas Eve.



Thank You!

The staff would like to thank the church for our Christmas gifts. We enjoy serving the Lord together with you. Blessings to all of you for a Christmas and New Year filled with the glory of Jesus!

To Our First Baptist Family:

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your many prayers before my surgery and post-op. After waiting ten months for my total shoulder replacement, God provided Dec. 2 to arrive without delay. Your prayers have sustained me during this road to recovery and I feel so blessed to be a small part of Bluffton's First Baptist caring family.

We also truly appreciate your cards of encouragement, phone calls, and food. It humbles me to receive these gifts while so many others are facing much bigger issues. I am so thankful to have Jesus in my life.

Blessings,
Melanie Shady

We would like to thank the First Baptist Church for the support we received during my recent heart angina. We both felt we were safe in God's strong hands during my time at the hospital. We also felt blessed and surrounded by the loving hands of our church family. We appreciate the prayers, cards, transportation, and completion of tasks that needed done. We are deeply touched by your kindness.

Howard and Janis Jones

Undeck the Halls

We will take down the Christmas Decorations in the church after the service on Dec. 27. With a lot of hands, it shouldn't take long! Please stick around and help if you can.



JANUARY



- 3rd Michelle Tonner
- 13th Charles Isch
- 17th Joyce Evans
- 18th Trevor Davis
- 27th Emilee Davis
- 26th Sydney Collins
- 29th Ashleigh Houtz

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7 Christian Ed Meeting 6:30 p.m.	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m.	19	20 Deacon Meeting 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<p>“There is surely a future and a hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.” Proverbs 23:18</p>					



Sunday

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.

fbcbluffton.com

First Baptist Church

202 W. Cherry Street

260-824-1558

✉ firstbaptist@adamswells.com

 [First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana](#)

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073