



### Covered in Lamb's Skin

Harry A. Ironside related the following story.

"Years ago I was preaching in the small town of Roosevelt, Washington, on the north bank of the Columbia River. I was the guest of friends who were sheep-raisers. It was lambing time and every morning we went out to see the lambs—hundreds of them—playing about on the green.

One morning I was startled to see an old ewe go loping across the road, followed by the strangest looking lamb I had ever beheld. It apparently had six legs, and the skin seemed to be partially torn from its body in a way that made me feel the poor little creature must be suffering terribly. But when one of the herders caught the lamb and brought it over to me, the mystery was explained. That lamb did not really belong originally to that ewe. She had a lamb which was bitten by a rattlesnake and died. This lamb that I saw was an orphan and needed a mother's care. But at first the bereft ewe refused to have anything to do with it. She sniffed at it when it was brought to her, then pushed it away, saying as plainly as a sheep could say it, "That is not our family odor!" So the herders skinned the lamb that had died and very carefully drew the fleece over the living lamb. This left the hind-leg coverings dragging loose. Thus covered, the lamb was brought again to the ewe. She smelled it once more and this time seemed thoroughly satisfied and adopted it as her own."

That is a beautiful picture of the grace of God to sinners. We are all outcasts and have no claim on the LORD's love. But God's own Son, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," was born in Bethlehem and later died on a cross. Now we who believe are dressed up in the fleece of the Lamb who died. Thus, God has totally accepted us in Christ. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." We are as dear to the heart of the Creator as His own holy, spotless Son. Can there be a better picture of Christmas? I think not.

Make it a great week!

Les

### Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**

5:15 p.m. Movin' Up

**Thursday, Dec. 7**

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

**Sunday, Dec. 10**

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:05 a.m. - Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. - Worship Service

1:00 p.m. - Advent Walk

### Teachers This Sunday

**Nursery**

Davis Family

**Kids' Time**

Holly Zoll / Angie Bynum

**LOL**

Traci Heller

### Last Week

**Dec. 3, 2017**

### Attendance

Worship Service - 100

Sunday School - 45

### Stewardship Report

Giving Toward:

Current Expense	\$3822.00
Missions	\$305.00
Building/ Maint. Fund	\$180.00
Deacons Fund	\$85.00
Poinsettias	\$192.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4584.00</b>



On Sunday, December 17, we will go Christmas caroling to our homebound friends. The plan is to have a quick pizza lunch in the fellowship hall and then carpool to our various places to carol and deliver the goody bags. **This Sunday we will have an RSVP on the Welcome Card**, so we will know how much pizza to order.



Plan to come to our sanctuary on Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. for a Christmas concert. We will celebrate Christmas with music specials from our FBC family and also various guests. "Forgiven Again" - a quartet from Fort Wayne is one of the guests we look forward to hearing.



December 24 is on a Sunday this year. In the morning, we will fellowship and worship together at our regular times. Sunday School is at 9:00 a.m. and the Worship Service is at 10:15 a.m. Plan to come back at 7:00 p.m. in the evening for our Christmas Eve Service. Our evening will include familiar carols, choir pieces, and inspirational readings. We will conclude by singing while holding lit candles. Feel free to dress casual or dress up, however you prefer.



We are collecting mittens, gloves, and hats to donate to local school children. Please leave your donations on or beneath the mitten tree located in The Gathering Place.



We have a display at the Ouabache State Park's Wonderland of Lights. The event will be open December 8, 9, and 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. After that, the Wonderland of Lights will be open nightly beginning Friday, December 15 through Sunday, December 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. A \$5.00 donation is collected at the Main Gate.

# Advent Walk

*All Churches of Wells County Worship and Walk Together*  
**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

## Four Celebration Stops along the Way

**Hope** 1:00 p.m. First United Methodist  
(325 W. Washington St.)  
*Sing a Christmas carol as we walk to the next church*



**Peace** 1:15 p.m. Bluffton Church of God  
(327 W. Cherry St.)  
*Sing a Christmas carol as we walk to the next church*



**Joy** 1:30 p.m. First Reformed Church  
(301 W. Cherry St.)  
*Sing a Christmas carol as we walk to the next church*



**Love** 1:45 p.m. First Baptist Church  
(202 W. Cherry St.)



These churches are all located within three blocks.



202 West Cherry Street  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714



## **Homebound Members**

### **Christian Care**

Mildred Huss – Room 219B

### **River Terrace**

Phebe Edington – Room 134  
LaVera Krummen – Room 116

### **Markle Health and Rehabilitation**

Barbara French – Room 216

As we co-labor with other churches  
in our community,  
this week we pray for:  
Epworth United Methodist  
Pastor Marlene Ellis

### **First Baptist Church**

260-824-1558

[firstbaptist@adamswells.com](mailto:firstbaptist@adamswells.com)

[fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)

 First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell  
Cell phone: 260-273-9073  
Music Director: Sarah Landell  
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