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First Baptist Church Newsletter

March 17, 2021

The Priority of Worship

First Baptist Church resumed in-person worship services on May 31 with close adherence to wearing masks, social distancing, and careful sanitation. Everyone was eager to meet again for worship in the sanctuary. All attendees have demonstrated the love of Christ by following our FBC health protocols. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we moved forward with extreme caution to protect everyone and especially the most vulnerable among us.

We have been monitoring the Wells County data on COVID-19 and the current trends are encouraging. For in-person worship services we plan to keep wearing masks, social distancing, and practicing careful sanitation for the foreseeable future. Those who have returned to other public activities like work, ball games, eating out, and shopping - please consider resuming your in-person worship. I personally feel especially grateful for the development and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

For those not ready to return to in-person services, we have been glad to provide a meaningful online worship experience. God has used our online services to reach many, not only in our backyard, but across the nation and around the world. The FBC service will continue to be streamed live on Sunday mornings, and then each service is archived on our website to view later.

Make it a strong week!

Les

*“Come, let us bow down in worship,
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker”
Psalm 95:6*

PATRICK MISSIONARY TO IRELAND

The holiday on our calendars this week goes way beyond green beer and shamrocks. Saint Patrick's Day commemorates how one man tenaciously influenced an entire nation with good news of Jesus Christ.

Patrick's father was a local British government official and his grandfather was an ordained priest. But Patrick was not interested in learning God's commands. He loved spending time at the small farm owned by his family along the western seacoast of Britain. When Patrick was sixteen years old a fierce band of Barbarian raiders attacked the farm and carried Patrick and many other servants and field hands to Ireland. He was sold as a slave to an Irish chief and put to work tending sheep, cattle, and pigs on a mountainside.

After six lonely years as a slave, Patrick escaped and finally made his way back home. But he had placed his faith in Jesus for salvation and was a changed young man. His hardship taught him to trust God, and he felt no bitterness toward the Irish people. In fact, he later decided to return to Ireland as a missionary. He began training to be a priest and in A.D. 432 sailed for Ireland to share the Gospel.

Patrick focused his missionary efforts on Ireland's "lesser kings" (about two hundred of them). He believed if these tribal chieftains could be won to Christ, the people would follow. Whenever Patrick destroyed a pagan idol, he would set up a Christian church on that same spot. His goal was to replace worldly rituals with Christian teaching, worship, and prayers.

The druids, pagan advisors to the king on matters of government and "religion," were against this Christian leader. Yet, Patrick's strategy seemed to work. By the time he died, about thirty years later, Christianity had spread and was accepted all over Ireland.

Oral history and storytelling are very old and common traditions in Irish culture. Many legends and stories have grown up around Patrick's life, which may or may not be true. We do know with certainty that Patrick refused to allow bitterness to take root in his heart. Instead, he returned to the same country where he had been enslaved to share Jesus. His forgiveness, courage, and persistence provide an inspirational example for all Christians to imitate.

Keep going!

Les





NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

Edna Martin (EM) is a community center in a low income neighborhood of Indianapolis. The center stocks a food pantry for ongoing assistance. EM also feeds around 60 young people every evening, provides recreational opportunities, and tutoring. In addition, EM offers helpful programs and services to senior adults. Boxes are available in our church foyer to collect non-perishable food items like canned tomato sauce, vegetables, or fruit. Bob and Judy Grove will deliver the food we collect to EM in early April.

Wedding Shower

FBC is excited to have a wedding shower for Spencer Tonner and Meghan Stuckey. Unfortunately, due to covid, we will not have our usual gathering for the shower. Instead, stay tuned for the specific dates (in April) when you can bring your gift to the church. Below is information about their registries.

Target—in store or online at tgt.gifts/spencer-meghan

Amazon.com/wedding/share/spencer-meghan

Gift card ideas: Lowe's, Applebee's, IHOP



Teachers for Sunday, March 21

Kids' Time—Joyce Evans and Sydney Collins

LOL—Debbie Cantrell

Stewardship

Thank you to those who have remembered the church with your tithes and offerings. Our offering plates are on the table in the foyer on Sunday mornings or you can mail your gifts to Jesus in support of our church to 202 W. Cherry Street.

March 14, 2021

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	2,050.00
Missions	75.00
Building and Mtn.	65.00

Total **\$2,190.00**

First Baptist Church
202 W. Cherry Street
Bluffton, Indiana 46714



Sunday

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

Kids' Time 10:10 a.m.

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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