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the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

March 3, 2021

IDENTITY THEFT

Once while traveling we stopped along the highway to take a break and fill up with gasoline. Like normal I slid my credit card in to pay at the pump. For some strange reason I felt weirdly suspicious. These feelings were heightened when a stranger smiled oddly at me as we pulled away.

Later that day I received a phone call from the fraud department informing me this card had been stolen. The thief was making various purchases in my name. Fortunately, I was not held responsible for these fraudulent actions or deceitful purchases. But identity theft makes us feel angry and violated.

Throughout history the Creator's identity has been stolen by violent religions, weird cults, and legalistic sects. Awful things have been done or said in God's name. Sadly, people now hold God responsible for these perpetrators' actions. So God communicated repeatedly that we humans do not understand Him or divine love. (Ex. 32:4; Isa. 55:8-9; Jer. 31:3; Heb. 1:1-3).

To clear His good name for all generations, God came to earth as a human being. Through the life and actions of Jesus Christ we learn first-hand who God is and what He stands for (Jn. 10:30; 3:16).

Jesus of Nazareth was loving, just, and graceful to all – no matter the person's age, station in life, gender, ethnicity, or sins. He equally associated with the aristocracy and the outcasts. He actively stood against those who hurt or swindle others. He did not force His views on those who rejected Him. Finally, Jesus suffered and died on the cross so we could be forgiven and reconciled with God.

Now believers are representatives of the LORD; we are flawed but fully forgiven. Our goal is to do our very best to provide an accurate view of who God is and what God values.

Together with you,

Les

Prayer Items

Please lift Don & Gloria Reeves in prayers as they are facing difficult decisions and challenges. Don suffered a "light" stroke and was dismissed from Bluffton Regional to home. He must use a walker due to leg weakness while also caring for Gloria who is very confused with memory issues. This is a very hard time for them and they need our prayer support.

Linda Isch is slowly improving from back surgery. She is having considerable pain during this healing process. Pray for her pain to subside so she can gain renewed strength.

Audio-Visual System

One year ago this month we began cancelling church activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our last public worship service for several months was held last March 8. Immediately we began scrambling to put together some form of online worship service. To livestream online required numerous upgrades to the FBC audio-visual system. Prior to the pandemic we did not anticipate or want these upgrades. So we were faced with two difficult options: 1) Invest around \$10,000 to completely upgrade our sound board, microphones, cords, and so forth to convert the entire operation to high definition. 2) Invest \$3,000 over several months for new parts to make streaming possible with our current system. We settled on option #2. We are pleased to report that finally this week our audio-visual system is working to provide both livestream with song lyrics online, as well as providing the necessary operations for public worship services at our building.

Stewardship: Giving Totals

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.

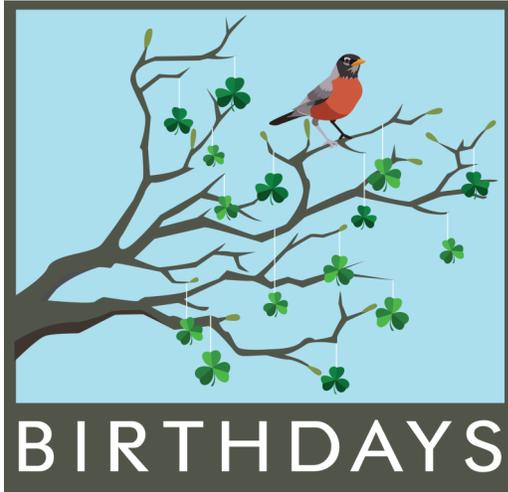
February 28, 2021

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$4,930.00
Missions	\$467.00
Building and Mtn.	\$345.00
Holiday Flowers	\$8.00

Total **\$5,750.00**

MARCH



- 5th Jim Klopfenstein
Loren Wanner
Shawn Nicholson
- 8th Karyn Gilly
- 9th Velmarose McCormick
- 10th Bev Clouser
- 11th Marcia Liddy
- 17th Mary Gaston
- 21st Jackie Chaney
- 22nd Larry Bertsch
Mason Heller
- 26th Cathy Jambora
- 30th Don Reeves
Hunter Zoll
- 31st Blaine Tonner

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Christian Ed Meeting 6:30 p.m.	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15 Trustee Meeting 5:00 p.m.	16	17 Deacon Meeting 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 	29	30	31			

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

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First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

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