

THE LINK

March 8, 2017

“Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.” Romans 12:2

If you Google *transformation*, you'll get too many results to count. Many of these feature a successful dieter's before-and-after pictures. Some show the benefits of tattoo removal or permanent makeup procedures. Any room in your home can be transformed, too. Just call a professional interior decorator. Transformation is pretty popular!

The world's idea of transformation is very different from the transformation the Bible describes. Our world concentrates on changing us on the outside-the part of us that others see. Our Lord, though, is interested in transforming what's on the inside-our hearts.

Just how does this transformation happen? “All of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord-who is the Spirit-makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” 2 Cor. 3:18

The glory of Christ's love for us transforms us more and more into the image of Christ. That's a lot to think about! How do we experience the Lord's glory? Whenever we read or hear God's Word, especially the Gospel message of our Savior's forgiveness and his everlasting love for us.

In those moments, the Holy Spirit works through his Word to change us-really and truly transform us from the inside out! God promises: “I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender responsive heart.” Ezekiel 36:26

That's powerful transformation! The more we realize God's love for us in Christ, the more our stubborn, selfish hearts soften. Then, as our hearts change, our outward lives change, too. We reflect Christ's grace toward us as we share his grace and love with those around us.

Adapted from “Living Loved” by Gail Marsh

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 8

5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. – Kids' Club &
Movin' Up Bowling Party
7:00 p.m. - Choir

Sunday, March 12

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School
10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time
10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

Teachers This Sunday

Nursery

Evalyn Fate / Ciera Hiester

Kids' Time

Holly Zoll / Angie Bynum

L.O.L.

Traci Heller

Last week

March 5, 2017

Attendance

Sunday School – 46
Worship Service – 90

Stewardship Report

Giving Toward:

Current Expense	\$6249.00
Missions	\$510.00
Building/Maint. Fund	\$165.00
Deacons Fund	\$85.00

Total: **\$7009.00**



On Sunday, April 2 we would like to have the entire church family in attendance for worship. We challenge everyone associated with FBC and your friends to make every effort to be there that Sunday. We will enjoy communion together during the worship service. Afterwards, there will be a fund raiser potato bar available for lunch. Looking forward to seeing everyone there on April 2 at 10:15 a.m.

Potato Bar for Good News Shoes

Stay right after the worship service on Sunday, April 2 to enjoy a baked potato with all of the fixin's. Donations for the lunch will go toward buying shoes for our Good News Shoe give-away in August. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex so we know how to plan. Please stay tuned for more Good News Shoes events to come, like a soup bar in May.



Spring Flowers

Starting this Sunday, you may purchase spring flowers in honor or memory of someone. The flowers will be displayed in our sanctuary and you may take them home after our Resurrection Sunday service. Order forms will be in the bulletin. Please pay for the flowers at the same time that you submit your order form. The cost is \$8 each and the deadline to purchase them is Sunday, March 26.



Small Groups

Thanks to all who signed up for our small groups. We will have a luncheon on Sunday, March 19 following our worship service. The main dish, table service, and drinks will be provided. Please bring sides such as vegetables, salads, and desserts to share.



Daylight Savings Time

Saturday night, move your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday.



Thank You

First Baptist Church, Thank you so much for your donation of winter clothing. It is greatly appreciated. Thanks, Southern Wells Elementary School Staff

Understanding Tolerance

Jesus taught about tolerance, and His concept is quite different from what many people advocate today. The popular notion is to love those who agree with you and hate those who disagree with you. Christ stated this earthly perspective plainly, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy'" (Mt. 6:43).

But tolerance does not mean agreeing with every viewpoint. Tolerance often calls for putting up graciously with someone you disagree with. Jesus went on to say, "But I tell you: 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'" (Mt. 6:44). Jesus warns His followers that they would receive push back by telling the good news. The gospel stirs up hatred and persecution, even when Christians share it with the utmost gentleness and respect.

Why should believers keep on presenting the truth with relational excellence when we are accused of such things as hate speech or being called bigots? Because every human being is worthy of respect, having been created in God's image. Christians have a moral obligation to treat others with honor and dignity, because every person has value and great worth (Gen. 1:27-31).

Our LORD's church is often being silenced because we have accepted the wrong definition of tolerance. Not everyone will agree with our message of new life and forgiveness in Jesus. There will be some opposition. Regardless, we will keep on loving people, keep on praying for those who demean us, and keep on being full of grace in how we present God's truth.

For further insight on tolerance, listen to a podcast featuring Professor Mary Jo Sharp and Dr. Darrell L. Bock at www.dts.edu/thetable/ - click on podcast for February 14, 2017.

Les



Homebound Members

Christian Care

Joan Sills – Room 222
Ervin Krummen – Room 220
Mildred Huss – Room 219B

River Terrace

Phebe Edington – Room 134
Mary Ellis – Room 107B
LaVera Krummen – Room 101B

Signature Healthcare

Bonnie McAfee – Room 403B

Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Barbara French – Room 216

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

fbclubuffton.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