



the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

April 10, 2024

Sky Glory

This past Monday many people waited patiently for a solar eclipse, which had not happened in the United States in 38 years, and will not happen again - with a similar large path - in this country until 2045. Bluffton was fortunate to have the eclipse in totality right over our heads. My cousin Larry and his family drove five hours from Chicagoland to dawn solar glasses with us to see it.

Part of the literary beauty of the Bible is how the inspired writers used natural objects and events, like an eclipse, as metaphors to convey and communicate spiritual truths. For example, Isaiah used an ox with its master to show Israel's lack of knowledge (Isa. 1:3). Jesus used a mustard seed to explain the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 13:31-32).

Puritan writer John Owens communicated a powerful reality about Jesus using a total eclipse (in *The Glory of Christ*). Owens helps us recognize that the skies do indeed declare the glory of God, in more ways than one (Ps. 19:1). When we see all the stunning photos of the eclipse, can we look deeper? The eyes of faith can help us see so much more.

When the sun is under a total eclipse, it loses nothing of its native beauty, light, and glory. It is still the same that it was from the beginning, a "great light to rule the day." To us it appears as a dark, useless meteor; but when it comes by its course to free itself from the lunar interposition, to its proper aspect towards us, it manifests again its native light and glory.

So was it with the divine nature of Christ, as we have before declared. He veiled the glory of it by the interposition of the flesh, or the assumption of our nature to be his own; with this addition, that he took on him the "form of a servant," of a person of mean and low degree. But this temporary eclipse being past and over, it now shines forth in its infinite luster and beauty, which belongs to the present exaltation of his person (*Works of John Owen*, 1:344).

Together with you,

Les

Inspiration and quotes - www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-son-inside-the-solar-eclipse



All men are welcome to join us on Thursdays at 8 a.m. for our Bible study. It lasts about one hour. This Thursday, April 11, we will study John 21 and start a study on Colossians 1.

Wednesday Night Student Schedule

The Adventure Kids (grades K-5) and Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Here is the schedule for the rest of this school year:



April 10 - meet
 April 17 - meet
 April 24 - no meeting
 May 1 - meet
 May 8 - meet, last one - pizza



Encouragement Opportunity

We like to remember our college students and those studying away from home. If you would like to contribute toward a financial gift for the students as they finish their semesters, please give it to Howard or Jan Jones. They will make sure the students receive the gifts from their FBC family.



Christian Care
 Bob Hiester

Ossian Healthcare
 Ted Shady
 Rose McCormick



P R A Y for our
 Homebound

River Terrace
 Karen West
 Carolyn McBride



Kids' Time
 Angie Bynum
 Jessica Bynum

Teachers for Sunday April 14, 2024

LOL
 Traci Heller



Sunday Morning Fun

These children are having fun in the Kid's Time room.
 Clockwise from the top:
 Luke, Wharrens, Hadley, Halens, Piper,
 and Myah

Prayer

Passover begins at sundown on April 22. This annual Jewish festival reminds us to pray for peace in Israel and Gaza. Pray this prayer earnestly.

Lord Jesus, God of peace and compassion -

We mourn for all of those who have lost their lives in Israel and Gaza. We cry out to you for those who have lost homes and loved ones, and for the hostages still living in fear.

We continue to plead with you for an end to the violence and for this war to cease. Be near to all of those who are suffering. May they know your protection and your ever-present help.

We pray for the civilians of Gaza, the vast majority of whom have been displaced and many who are facing starvation. In this hour of trouble, may you open the way for immediate humanitarian aid - food, water and medicine - to reach all in need.

We pray for fellow Christians, who continue to faithfully serve and help those in need. May you surround them with your lovingkindness and help them to draw strength for each day from you.

We pray too for the protection of all being held hostage by Hamas and for their safe return home. And we pray for those in positions of power, influence and leadership; may you guide them in the paths of peace.

In Your name, Amen.

Stewardship



	March 24	March 31	April 7
General Budget	\$6,095.00	\$3,170.00	2,475.00
Building Maintenance	\$265.00	\$65.00	\$365.00
Missions	\$750.00	\$160.00	\$400.00
Easter	0	\$685.00	\$20.00
Total	\$7,110.00	\$4,080.00	\$3,260.00

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.

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