



the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

April 18 2023

Whitewashing Sheep

People today are extremely concerned about offending others. As a result, tact has been replaced with dishonesty. Even careful diplomacy is now viewed as rudeness. Courageous frankness is considered disrespectful. Those who voice their honest perceptions are often labelled as thoughtless and stupid.

I smiled at this incident demonstrating how our society behaves.

The children of a prominent family decided to give their father a book of the family's history for a birthday present. They commissioned a professional biographer to do the work, carefully warning him of the family's 'black sheep' problem: Uncle George had been executed in the electric chair for murder. The biographer assured the children, "I can handle that situation so there is no embarrassment. I'll merely say that Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties and his death came as a real shock.

In contrast, Jesus was unwilling to whitewash the sheep. If I had been one of the religious leaders back in the first century, I doubt I would have smiled at this rebuke from the Lord.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness" (Mt. 23:27).

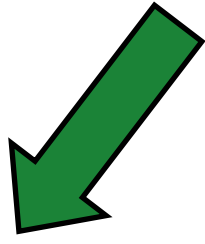
Yes, Jesus was "full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14). Seek to always respond like Him. Strive to be winsome and diplomatic. But keep on standing up for the truth. Refuse to be silenced by our increasingly dishonest "whitewash culture."

Together with you,

Les



Hey Kids!



Your children's bulletin unlocks ONLINE FUN at home.

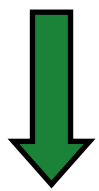
We're excited to announce a **NEW feature** of *Children's Worship Bulletins* that will have children lining up to get their bulletin this Sunday! They'll be looking forward to the secret code on the front of the bulletin that unlocks hours of fun learning at home.

This secret code is unique to our church and allows **SAFE** and secure access to online games that reinforce the message for the week.



Children's Worship Bulletins@HOME!

Would you like to try out some games? They are fun, whether you are a kid or a kid at heart. Below is the code from our April 16 bulletin. Go to the website listed, type in the code and you are ready to play.



Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE!
SPCEC5

Teachers - Sunday, April 23

Kids' Time

Deb Klopfenstein
Logan & Hunter Zoll

LOL

Loren Wanner



"Seek and you will find."
- Matthew 7:7, NIV



Support our College Students

We like to encourage our college students as they are nearing finals week. If you would like to contribute toward a gift for the students, please give it to Howard or Jan Jones. They will make sure the students receive the gifts from their FBC family.

Directory Update

Please note that now Carolyn's phone at her new place is the same number she had at her house. Here is her complete info for your directory:

Carolyn McBride
400 Caylor Blvd., Room 106
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone: 260-824-0653

Blessing Box

We could use more non-perishables for our Blessing Box. You may bring items this Sunday and put them under the tables in the foyer. The items will be stored and then placed in the box as needed. Please make sure they have a good expiration date. Also, you are welcome anytime to put your donations directly into the box itself.



"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice."

Philippians 4: 4



Stewardship - Giving to:

April 9, 2023

April 16, 2023

General Budget	\$3,361.00
Building Maintenance	\$90.00
Missions	\$150.00
Easter	\$280.00
Total	\$3,881.00

General Budget	\$1,720.00
Building Maintenance	\$140.00
Missions	\$200.00
Easter	\$20.00
Deacons	\$52.00
Total	\$2,132.00

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