



the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

May 10, 2023

Listening

Sometimes we wonder if God cares about us. And if the Lord is concerned, why is He not speaking? Often the question is not whether God is speaking, but whether we are being still enough, and quiet enough, to hear. An author illustrated this truth beautifully.

Before refrigerators, people used ice houses to preserve their food. Ice houses had thick walls, no windows, and a tightly fitted door. In winter, when streams and lakes were frozen, large blocks of ice were cut, hauled to ice houses, and covered with sawdust. Often the ice would last well into the summer.

One man lost a valuable watch while working in an ice house. He searched diligently for it, carefully raking through the sawdust, but didn't find it. His fellow workers also looked, but their efforts, too, provided futile. A small boy who heard about the fruitless search slipped into the ice house during the noon hour and soon emerged with the watch.

Amazed, the men asked how he found it.

"I closed the door," the boy replied, "lay down in the sawdust, and kept very still. Soon I heard the watch ticking."

This reminds us of how Eli the priest instructed young Samuel to respond to Yahweh's voice. *So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening'"* (1 Samuel 3:9).

Together with you,

Les

SIGN-UP ON SUNDAY!

What: All-Church Meal

When: Sunday, June 4 right after the worship service

Provided: EVERYTHING! Barbara of Corner Depot Catering will bring in the food.

Menu:

Baked Steak
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans with Carrots
House Salad
Rolls
Assorted Pies

To Do: Sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer. We need an accurate count of those attending because FBC will pay for each person on this list. The sign-up will be available May 14 through May 21.

Sponsored by: Your Deacons



Divine dance

Using the fancy word *perichoresis* (from Greek for “around” and “contain”) may win you admiring — or strange — looks. But since the 7th century, people have used it as a beautiful image of the Persons of the Holy Trinity containing and permeating one another. A more familiar word, *choreography*, has led to recent understandings of perichoresis as the divine and eternal dance of love.

Picture three dancers’ synchronized yet independent movements. Weaving gracefully in and out, each seems to know what the others will do next. They may touch lightly but don’t constrain or impede one another. Though distinct individuals, they move so fluidly together that they are, in a sense, one entity.

Even more profound: Jesus invites us into the dance! “If you love me,” he says, “you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth. ... I will come to you. ... I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you” (John 14:15-20, ESV). As the actions of Jesus, the Father and the Spirit interweave in Scripture and in the world, may our lives too be drawn into the loving divine dance.



Dear Church Family,
 Thank you so much for your prayers of support, encouragement, and spiritual strength. I can feel them working in my life and I am grateful for each and every one of you who wrote me a note. I feel God has listened and answered my prayers as I see the positive signs of His healing in my body. God bless you all for your caring and kindness. God Bless, Stephanie Gerber



A Place For You

Envision many of these chairs filled on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. with people laughing and talking. When class begins, everyone has the opportunity to participate, but no one is required to speak or read. We finish our study on Dealing with Temptation on May 28. On June 4 we will begin a study on Mentoring: Investing In Others using Bible characters. All are welcome!



Teachers - Sunday, May 14

Kids' Time
 Angie Bynum
 Jessica Bynum

LOL
 Traci Heller



Stewardship - Giving to:

May 7, 2023

General Budget	\$2,190.00
Building Maintenance	\$210.00
Missions	\$335.00
Total	\$2,735.00



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

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First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana

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