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May 21  
2020

# the LINK

First Baptist Church Newsletter

## Puzzle or Gift?

Is life a puzzle to be unraveled or a gift from God to be enjoyed responsibly? From a completely human vantage point life is a disappointing, meaningless, and fleeting journey.

The *Teacher* in the book of Ecclesiastes recorded his own experience with disappointment as he tried to find peace apart from God. Solomon uses a series of examples – wealth, wisdom, popularity, pleasure – and shows how each of them ultimately ends in disappointment if it becomes the sole reason for one's existence.

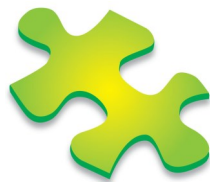
Why would such a pessimistic book be included in the Bible? Because there are few experiences in life more universal than disappointment. Most people have experienced a broken promise, an unfulfilled expectation, or a shattered dream. Disillusionment is guaranteed to any person who attempts to discover ultimate purpose in this life apart from the LORD.

Life is meaningless without God. But the Creator has both a viewpoint and a plan that is beautiful and perfect. We can enjoy life by keeping the LORD at the center.

Tune in to our online service this weekend as we continue our study of Ecclesiastes. We will walk this trek with Solomon toward his final conclusion on life.

Together with You,

Les



## Worship to Resume at Building

First Baptist Church will resume in-person Sunday morning worship services at our building on **May 31** at 10:15 a.m. No other activities will happen that morning like Sunday school, nursery, kid's time, or LOL.

Your deacons met to discuss helpful considerations from our American Baptist leaders. FBC will work hard to keep our facility clean, honor social distancing, and follow hygiene recommendations.

Please help each other stay safe. These rules apply to all of us.

- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Stay home if you have recently had a fever, cough, sore throat, or been exposed to someone who has been confirmed to have Covid-19.
- Stay home if you consider yourself vulnerable due to age, health, or disability.

## Memorial Day



This person was spot on. "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." On Monday, May 25th Americans across the country will remember the brave military men and women who gave their lives for our country. Many people also take time to honor loved-ones who passed away this last year.

### Stewardship

Thank you to those who have remembered the church with your tithes and offerings. Please continue mailing your gifts to Jesus in support of our church to 202 W. Cherry Street in Bluffton.

May 14, 2020  
Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$4,075.00
Missions	\$335.00
Building and Mtn.	\$170.00
Pool rental refund	\$220.00
Deacons	\$100.00
Phyllis Shady Memorials	\$250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,150.00</b>



### Remember Our Homebound Friends

#### Christian Care

Mildred Huss—Room 219B  
Barb Smekens—Room 217B  
Clyde Shady—Room 228B

#### River Terrace

Eulis West—Room 114

#### Home

Ed Goetz  
Rose McCormick

#### Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Larry Gilly—Room 210

# Harry A. McFarren



Students connected with First Baptist Church who are pursuing post-high school education are invited to apply for a monetary scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. Please review the following criteria.

- Applicants must have consistently attended FBC for at least one year. (Such FBC connected students who have been unable to attend FBC while away at college may still apply).
- Sunday, June 28, 2020 is the deadline to submit a scholarship application.
- Stop by or contact the church office to receive a scholarship application.
- The scholarship amount is \$1,500.00 per academic year.
- This scholarship is renewable. However, a new application must be submitted each year, and there is a \$6,000.00 cap per student.
- Checks will be made out directly to the student's school to help offset educational expenses.
- Scholarships will be handed out to students in July.

## Graduate Card Shower

The Christian Education Board usually honors our graduates each spring with a cake reception. This year, however, will have to be a bit different. The CE Board invites everyone to send cards or notes to the graduates directly to their homes. Let's all let them know how proud we are of them!

Here are the current addresses for our graduates:

Ashleigh Houtz  
7525 Saddleback Court Apt. 2B  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Spencer Tonner  
11012 S 300 W-90  
Montpelier, IN 47359



# Watch our service online!

[fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)

First Baptist Church

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260-824-1558



[firstbaptist@adamswells.com](mailto:firstbaptist@adamswells.com)



First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana

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