



the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

June 28, 2023

BALANCING LOVE FOR GOD AND GRATITUDE FOR COUNTRY

This next week we celebrate our country. Prior to July 4th back in 2021 a blogger named Kevin Carson challenged Christians to refuse to get distracted by those who say followers of Christ cannot love the Lord and also be grateful for their country.

The United States of America is a wonderful gift from God. Through this nation, the Gospel has benefitted. Under it, millions of ministers and missionaries have been sent out. In it, the Good News has been proclaimed. As followers of Christ, we should be exceedingly grateful for this country with the balance provided by the Holy Spirit.

As Christians, we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, strength, and in every other way. All our loyalty resides in God. Our Creator saved us through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Believers seek to be like Christ as we strive to live worthy of God's kingdom every day.

Our loyalty to anything other than God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) should pale in comparison. We are citizens of a heavenly kingdom. Our love for God and His kingdom reign should dwarf our love and allegiance to all else.

Yet, God's kindness and providence also allowed us to be Americans. Why do countless people from elsewhere earnestly want to come here? Americans enjoy unprecedented religious freedom, prosperity, and opportunity. So, do not fall prey to those who want to guilt you over all the benefits and privileges each American enjoys. God has filled this place with goodness, opportunities, and many freedoms.

Is America perfect? No. Could our country do better? Yes. Until Jesus comes back every country on earth, including America, must work hard to promote truth, justice, and moral decency. Past and present faults or injustices need not distract us from a heart of gratitude. We work diligently inside the freedom we have and with the provisions God supplies to love, care for, and help our neighbors sincerely.

I for one still believe that statement about America from a patriotic song: "Land that I love..." I hope you can still sing that line sincerely also.

Together with you,

Les



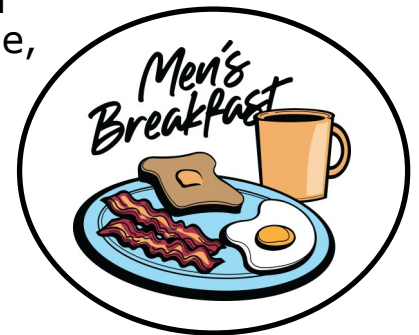
The church family is invited to help Carolyn McBride celebrate her 95th birthday. The Open House will be in the Fellowship Hall of the church on Saturday, July 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. No gifts, please.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast

Let's gather and celebrate the many weeks that we studied the Lord's Word together in fellowship. All men are welcome, even if you were unable to attend the Bible Study.

Thursday, July 6
8:00 a.m.

Hoosier House Restaurant - meeting room
1529 Harrison Road



The church office will be closed Tuesday, July 4, and there will not be a newsletter next week. Have a safe and happy holiday!

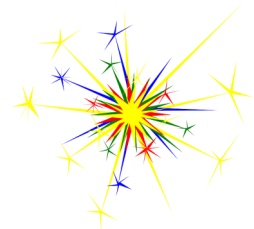
Kids' Time Teachers

Sunday, July 2

Ruth Ann Monroe
Chris McFarren

Sunday, July 9

Angie Bynum
Jessica Bynum



Stewardship

June 18, 2023

General Budget	\$1,73.00
Building Maintenance	\$85.00
Missions	\$100.00
McFarren Scholarship	\$52.00
Total	\$1,967.00

June 25, 2023

General Budget	\$1,165.00
Building Maintenance	\$90.00
Missions	\$95.00
Total	\$1,350.00



JULY

Birthdays

4th Ted Ellis
 Carolyn McBride
 8th Debbie Cantrell
 12th Paul Waddles
 15th Earl Brickley

16th Ted Shady
 17th Larry Tschannen
 19th Judy Grove
 21st Janet Heyerly
 28th Mike Chaney

July 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3		5	6 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Christian Ed. Meeting 6:30 p.m.	7	8 Carolyn McBride Birthday Open House 1 - 3 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 McFarren Scholarship Deadline	17 Trustee Meeting 5:00 p.m.	18	19 Deacon Meeting 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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

Pastor: Les Cantrell

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