



Actively Involved in Worship

As we make our way through the season of Epiphany, we are walking through the Gospel of Matthew together. Each week, we explore Jesus's actions and words. Those around Him respond in various ways. The question for us in 2020 is how we might respond to His teachings.



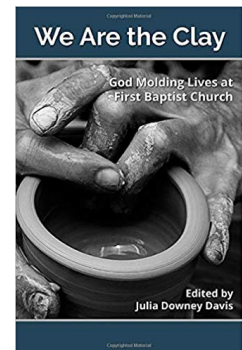
As we make our way toward Easter, we will consider how God might be speaking in our lives. Let me encourage you to consider actively participating each week by reading the Scripture ahead of time and carefully praying for the Holy Spirit to speak His Word to you. As we study the Gospel according to Matthew, we'll find it relevant for our lives today.

Worship Schedule

- ▷ February 02 - Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1–12)
- ▷ February 09 - Well Seasoned (Matthew 5:13–16)
- ▷ February 16 - The Heart (Matthew 5:21–37)
- ▷ February 23 - The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9)

Story Project Book Is Now Available for Purchase

A big thank-you to everyone who had a hand in putting together *We Are the Clay*, the book of stories that resulted from our year of work on the Story Project. If you did not preorder the book at church but wish to buy a copy, you can now purchase it on Amazon (with free shipping if you are an Amazon Prime member) at <http://bit.ly/fbc-story-project>. The cost of the book is \$15, and all proceeds go to First Baptist Church.



Youth Teachers Needed

We are in need of Sunday school teachers for the youth class during the 9:15 AM hour. There is a curriculum available to provide a template for the lesson, or you are welcome to create your own lesson. We are hoping to find someone to teach this class regularly, but in the interim, we are asking for volunteers. All volunteers will need to have a background check to work with minors. We are also needing people to host the youth in their homes on the third Sunday evening of each month for dinner and a group activity. Hosts will not need to provide a lesson, just to open their home and provide food. We have a great group of youth, and it's really important we continue providing this ministry to them.

Please contact Christy Allen or Deena Green if you are interested in being a part of this ministry. Also, for the most current information regarding the youth schedule, please see the youth page on the church website at <https://fbcmuncie.org/youth>.

Opportunity to Serve at Christian Ministries

We have agreed to provide one meal a month for the Men's Sleeping Room for seven months this winter. We have provided four meals so far. Check the dates for the next three months on the *Joining God in the Neighborhood* bulletin board in the main-level hallway. You can also contact Patti Warner at 765-748-3057 if you could provide a meal. The group of men who will be consuming the meal can be as small as 4-5 or as large as 15. This is one way to help people with food insecurities. It is also an outreach from First Baptist Church. The men have been super thankful.

Business Meeting in February

On **Sunday, February 9**, we will have a business meeting at the end of both services. During this meeting, we will reelect several positions for 2020. With all of the constitutional revisions and other business in our December 2019 meeting, we neglected to conduct this necessary business.

Letter From the Treasurer

To my church family: First, let me thank all of you who were praying for me while I was in the hospital and are still praying for healing for my eye. Also, thanks for all the visits, cards, and flowers. What a blessing to have such a loving church family.



Now I would like to speak to you as your treasurer. We recently approved the 2020 budget with projected expenses \$38,000 more than projected income. We recorded 200+ givers in 2019, with 160 being regular repeat givers. If the 160 givers will increase their 2020 giving by \$250 (\$5 a week), we will increase our income by \$40,000. I know some will not be able to do so, but others will be able to do more. I would not ask you to consider doing anything Ella Mae and I would not do ourselves so we have already increased our 2020 giving by \$500. Please prayerfully consider my request.

Thank you.

Dan Lemen, a family member and your treasurer

Children Involved in Service as Northern Seminary President Preaches

On **Sunday, March 8**, we will gather in a special combined service at **10:45 AM** as we welcome the president of Northern Seminary. Dr. William D. Shiell is the eleventh president of Northern Seminary, where he also serves as Professor of Pastoral Theology and Preaching. A native of Pensacola, Florida, Dr. Shiell holds degrees from Samford University (B.A.) and Baylor University (M. Div., Ph.D.). As we continue our Lenten series, Bill will be focusing on Jesus's teaching from Matthew on children. The children's ministry team is working to involve children in this special day of worship. We are planning a Church Friends' Lunch following the service.



Food Insufficiency in Our Community

By MaryAnne Bayer, Outreach Ministry

As we focus on how we can “Join God in the Neighborhood” to meet the needs of those around us, our church is highlighting food insufficiency during 2020. Food insufficiency is distinguished by restricted household food stores and too little food intake among adults or children in the household.



In spite of a country full of wealth and privilege, food insufficiency is an issue. On the topic of food insufficiency in children, according to the Brookings Institute, Despite improvements across a number of economic indicators, rates of child experience of and exposure to food insecurity have failed to see reductions. In 2017, 17.0 percent of children in the United States—totaling 12.5 million children—experienced food insecurity. This means that they lived in a household that at some point during the year did not have consistent access to adequate food due to a lack of money or other resources.

In Indiana, that percentage is 16.3—a little lower than the national number—but in Muncie, with one in five children living in poverty, that number is higher.

Several services in our community attempt to address food insufficiency, and we are working to help some of them. There are two opportunities for this first quarter:

1. **HELP NEEDED:** We have been asked to furnish meals for the Men’s Sleeping Room several more times before warm weather comes. Two snowbirds handled the first few dinners—meals for 12–15 men. We need to have others take on this opportunity for the next couple of months. You can simply provide the food, or you can stay to serve it. The sign-up sheet, which includes the dates help is needed, is on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Please let Patti Warner know that you have signed up. She can answer any questions about this work.
2. **INSTITUTIONAL CANS NEEDED:** We are currently collecting institutional-size cans of vegetables for the Grace Episcopal Church dinners that occur on Sunday afternoons. There are several cans already in the office, and we could use more. Team up with a family member or friend and bring four of the same kind of food, because it usually takes 3–4 cans to serve the 100+ men, women, and children who attend these dinners. The large cans are available at Walmart, MidStates Concessions (on Burlington), and Gordon Food Service in Anderson.

Stay tuned to *The Visitor* for more opportunities for giving and serving in the coming months.

DVDs Delivered to Shut-Ins

We are grateful for the DVD ministry that is primarily organized by Duane Davis. In 2019, 149 DVDs were delivered or mailed. Thirty-four extra DVDs were published. Fifty DVDs were placed in the archives, and ninety-four visits were made to shut-ins who did not wish to receive a DVD. This important ministry helps those who are unable to attend church take part in the service. If you'd be interested in helping with this ministry, contact Duane Davis.

Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the March Visitor, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, February 16**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

Thank-You Notes

Bruce and Paula – Dear First Baptist Family, Thank you SO, SO much for the very generous love gifts for Christmas! They blessed us in more ways than one. We are so very grateful. We love y'all, we love getting to know you, and we are happy to serve. Happy New Year!

Wade and Christy – Thank you all so much for the Christmas love gift. We are grateful to serve a loving and supportive church family. We used the gift to be able to spend time away as a family over the holidays.

Pittenger Family – To our church family, we'd say thank you for your faithfulness in prayer, caring, and loving us the past year. Our journey was long but we are at peace knowing Jay is home with the Lord. The flowers are so pretty and we are grateful for the gift. We are blessed beyond measure. The meal was special, too. You all are loved so much. Jay, Shirley, Kim, Kelli, Kristen, Kendra, and their families

Nancy (custodian) – Thank you for the Christmas gift. I am going to buy a new Fitbit so I can keep track of all my steps. Thanks again.

Clifton and Julie Davis and family – We were so glad to receive the Christmas gift from FBC this year! Thanks for sharing with us.

February Birthdays

We would like to say Happy Birthday to the following people in the month of February. Please let them know that you are thinking of them on their special day.

02/04 - Jeff Jones	02/16 - Melanie Graham
02/05 - Brandy Say	02/17 - Elora Heimlich
02/05 - Pam Williams	02/18 - Micah Braswell
02/07 - Ernestine Shields	02/20 - Jo Boyce
02/07 - Linzi Rodgers	02/21 - Haylee Mathis
02/07 - Marge Manor	02/23 - Daniel Morency
02/09 - Bracken Petroviak	02/23 - Joe Johnson
02/11 - Gary Henderson	02/23 - Penny Morris
02/14 - Brenda Cox	02/24 - Wes Russell
02/14 - Nancy Borton	02/27 - Christy Allen
02/15 - Elizabeth Shreves	
02/16 - Chris Wright	