



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' 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 find relevancy 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)

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>.

Letter From the Treasurer

by Dan Lemen

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 and the 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



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.

Opportunity to Serve at Christian Ministries

We have agreed to provide one meal a month for the men's Sleeping Room for 7 months this winter. We have now provided 4 meals so far. Check the dates for the next 3 months on the *Joining God in the Neighborhood* bulletin board on the main level hallway. You can also contact Patti Warner at 765-748-3057 if you could provide a meal. The group can be as small as 4-5 or as large as 12. 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.

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 focusing on 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 are to furnish meals to the men's sleeping room several more times before warm weather comes. Two snowbirds handled the first few dinners—meals for 15-20 men. We need to have others take on this opportunity for the next couple of months. The sign-up sheet including dates 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 sized cans of vegetables for the Grace Episcopal Church dinners on Sunday afternoons. There are several cans 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 of giving and service in the coming months. After all, knowing that our neighbors are struggling to meet needs is something that should be of concern to all of us.

DVDs Delivered to Shut Ins

We are grateful for the DVD ministry which is primarily organized by Duane Davis. In 2019, 149 DVDs were delivered or mailed. 34 extra DVDs were published. 50 DVDs were placed in the archives and 94 visits were made to shut ends 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 are so glad to your 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	