



## Preparing for Summer

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As we approach the month of May, we are getting ready for summer. The warmest season of the year is not quite here, but we find ourselves planning for special activities and travel, and marking vacation days on our calendar. At First Baptist, the summer calendar is beginning to fill. As you read this edition of *The Visitor*, I hope you will add the appropriate events to your calendar.



For the next several weeks, we will be moving through the Easter season in worship as we make our way toward Pentecost Sunday (June 9). We will have special emphases on Mother's Day (May 12) and Father's Day (June 16) this year. On other Sundays we will be discussing several post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Hope to see you in worship.

## Worship Schedule

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- ▷ May 05 - New Direction (Acts 10)
- ▷ May 12 - The Original Mother (Genesis 2:18–25)
- ▷ May 19 - Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)
- ▷ May 26 - Peace (Luke 24:36–49)

## Children's Summer Schedule

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We want to let you know of our new summer schedule for the children! With our mentees taking some (much deserved!) time off, we are shuffling things up a bit.

For the next few months (May–July), we will not have Sunday school classes for pre-K through 5th grade during first service. Child care will be provided for ages birth through 3 years with Joyce and Dave as usual. And we will also be providing child care for ages pre-K through 2nd grade, who are just a little too young to sit through the service every week. They can be dropped off downstairs in the Sunday School room. Please note: This is only child care—a place for them to play during the service; there will be no lesson during this time.

We will have ALL children's classes, birth through 5th grade, during the second service. Nothing changes for the babies and toddlers. Children pre-K through 5th grade will start in the sanctuary and will be dismissed by Wade as usual, and a helper will walk them downstairs. They will have a short worship time of their own, then break up into age-appropriate groups. The worship time they have together will take the place of the children's choir time. They will work on a song in class to perform at the end of summer!

With that being said, we need some volunteers! We need two volunteers each week during the first hour (remember, this is just child care, no teaching necessary!) and three volunteers (two teachers and one helper) each week during the second hour. EVERYTHING you need for lessons will be provided! We have a great curriculum lined up. It is super easy to follow and will be really fun for the kids! Ideally, we would love to have people commit to a month (May, June, or July) at a time. Or something consistent like every third Sunday or every other week would be good too! But we will take any help we can get!!! Please contact Britney Sue or Colleen Massoth if you want to help out! Thanks for all your help and support!

Blessings, The Children's Ministry Team

## Lunch Prayer Group Reconvenes

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On the first and third Mondays of the month at 11:30 AM, a few members of the FBC family meet for lunch, prayer, conversation, and support. The group is reconvening on **Monday, May 6**, at **Tuppee Tong Thai restaurant**, 310 W. Main Street. Participants will decide that day where future meetings will be held.

Anyone is welcome to join the group anytime, even if they can't make every session. Call Molly Flodder at 765-760-1134 if you have questions.

## Warm Weather Life Group Kicking Off Next Sessions

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From June through October, a group of people, several of whom are “snowbirds” and only here in the summer, meet as part of FBC’s life groups. The group will be meeting on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of the month for dessert, program, and discussion.

“We do not study a book or section of the Bible as many in this group travel a great deal and cannot make every meeting or keep up with a continuing study,” said Joe Songer, a leader of the group. “We try to bring in Christians from inside and outside our church or community resource people and discuss all kinds of issues. It has been a real learning experience for all of us and a chance to grow closer to each other.”

On **Thursday evening, May 30, at 6:00 PM** the group will meet at the Flodders’ home for a cookout and to plan for the season and decide details about the programming for the sessions. New people are invited to join this planning meeting but need not decide about membership until afterwards. See Joe Songer or Molly Flodder if you have questions or are considering visiting with the group on May 30.

## School Supply Drive

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Since we are just approaching the end of this school year with the summer months ahead, it’s hard to think about another school year starting in the fall. However, to be able to supply the children in our community with what they need, we have to start preparing now!

Hearts and Hands United has been in existence for eleven years. Before the school year begins, they give away filled backpacks, as well as new socks and shoes. Recipients are children across Delaware County, ages pre-K through 12th grade. Last year they provided necessities to over 2000 kids! Please help us collect school supplies to donate! We need pencils, glue sticks, crayons, erasers, highlighters, markers, scissors, notebook paper, pens—any supplies for grades pre-K through 12th grade that will fit in a backpack. Please leave donations in the marked tote in the church office.

Heart and Hands United will have their kickoff fundraising lunch at Amazing Joe’s on **Thursday, May 2**, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The cost is \$10 per person, and ALL proceeds during that time will go toward the Tools for School Drive! (Carryout is available, as well as delivery for five or more orders.) Thank you in advance for donating to this wonderful cause!

## Youth Summer Activities

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Because we believe unity is such an important aspect for our Youth, we have planned some great summer activities. If you have any questions please contact Christy Allen 765-717-5229 or Deena Green 937-271-5968.

**May 19 (Mounds State Park, Anderson, IN 12:00–4:00 PM)** – Youth will bring a sack lunch to church. (If refrigeration is needed, please place lunches in the kitchen refrigerators downstairs; we will provide a cooler for transport to Mounds.) Drinks will be provided. We leave the church at 12:00. Meet in the church office. We will return to the church at 4:00. You can pick up your youth at First Baptist. Parents are welcome to attend. If you are attending and have an extra spot in your vehicle to help transport other youth, please let Christy know. We will picnic, hike, play kickball and Frisbee, etc.

**June 9 (Lunch at Barking Cow & Scavenger Hunt Downtown 12:00–3:00 PM)** – Meet in the church office at 12:00. We will walk to the Barking Cow and have lunch. Youth will need to bring enough money to cover their lunch. We will then walk around downtown Muncie, staying within certain bounds and with an adult for each group, to follow clues in a Scavenger Hunt. The last clue will lead us to a special place where we will remain for a while. We will then walk back to the church. Please pick up your youth at First Baptist at 3:00 PM. We will need several adults, so please let Christy know if you are able to join.

**July 14 (Hold this date)** – More information to come.

**August 4 (Swimming at the Massoth Home 12:00–4:00 PM)** – We will meet in the Church office at 12:00 PM. Any parents who are able to attend please let Christy know if you are able to help transport youth. We will proceed to the Massoths' home. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Root Beer Floats and/or Ice Cream Sundaes will be available for dessert. Drinks will be provided. Please pick up your youth at the Massoths' at 4:00 PM.

**September (Cookout at Clif and Julie Davis's home)** – More information to come.

## Church Friends Lunch

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On **Sunday, May 5**, following second service, people will gather in the patio room at By Hand and Fork for special fellowship at the fourth "Church Friends Lunch." The restaurant is at 1617 N. Wheeling and will accommodate up to 80 of our church family. You can register at <http://bit.ly/friends-lunch>. If you do not use a computer, you may call the church office to be added to the list for lunch. This time to eat and fellowship also comes with a couple of brief exercises to help people get to know each other better.

## Pastoral Evaluation Provides Positive Feedback

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*By James Heimlich, Moderator*

In an effort to affirm the work that our pastor, Dr. Wade Allen, does in leadership of our congregation, the Church Coordination Team (CCT) determined late last year to conduct an evaluation.



After developing instruments for Wade to do self-evaluation and for a random sample of the congregation to evaluate similar characteristics, the exercise was rolled out in early March. A total of 34 people, 40% from the first service and 60% from the second, completed questionnaires focusing on the following work areas: - Spiritual Formation and Self-Care\* - Preaching and Worship Leadership\* - Administration\* - Discipleship - Mission and Evangelism Issues - Pastoral Care - Leadership\* - Team Building and Equipping\*

\*Most outstanding work areas

All of the responses were strongly positive, and only a small portion (15% or less) on only a few questions marked anything besides Strongly Agree and Agree to statements ranging from “Honors confidentiality” to “Models a spirit of love and a servant attitude.”

The open-ended questions provided the most positive and outstanding feedback of all. Typical comments were: “Wade and his family are wonderful assets to FBC and the community.” “We are blessed to have Pastor Wade and pray that God will see fit for him to be with us another 10 years.” “I’m very impressed with Pastor Wade’s leadership and pastoral capabilities in our church. I look forward to his continued guidance.”

The CCT also asked Wade to create a short list of goals on which he would focus during the next year. He was able to strengthen and polish those goals based on information from the survey. One goal on which Wade will focus along with the CCT’s leadership is “Create a strategy for involving and equipping new people in church leadership.”

While the CCT hopes to conduct an evaluation every two to three years, we will continue to provide support to our pastor as he undertakes his goals each year.

“I appreciate the chance to be part of this process,” said Pastor Wade. “It was encouraging to be affirmed and helpful to have some constructive criticism as well. I had not had such a thorough evaluation in my ministry and found it very helpful. Christy and I appreciate those who worked on this project and all those who participated in providing feedback.”

As Moderator, my thanks go out to the team who helped create the survey and administer it. Molly Flodder helped to develop the survey instruments and to lead the process, and Roger Morency and Dan Lemen worked on formatting the survey, creating the list from which to draw the random sample, and distributing the survey instrument. The other members of the work team included Jared Bishop, Ray Conley, Bob Hartley, Penny Morris, Wilma Neal, and Gayle Songer.

## Visitor or Bulletin Information

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If you would like an announcement in the June Visitor, please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org) by **Sunday, May 19**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

## Thank You Notes

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**Tim and Barbara Turner** – Dear Church Family, We want to thank you all for your prayers these past several years for our sweet Valerie during her battle with brain cancer. We are so blessed to have our heavenly Father helping us through all of this. Thank you so much for the beautiful plant and cards. All of you are a blessing to us.

## May Birthdays

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

05/04 - Troy Hershman	05/19 - Rachel Russell
05/05 - Duane Davis	05/20 - Jennifer Durke
05/06 - Lincoln Harris	05/21 - Carolyn Hershman
05/06 - Terry Harke	05/21 - Jennifer Conley
05/07 - Daniel Bouton	05/22 - Jacob Hershman
05/07 - Mitchell R. Fountain	05/22 - Kim Lee
05/07 - Olivia Green	05/23 - Alyvia Smith
05/08 - Clifton Davis	05/23 - Emmalyn Shelton
05/09 - Roger Morency	05/25 - Darlene Shulze
05/13 - Gretchen Reid	05/25 - Jackson Crawford
05/13 - Phyllis Jennings	05/26 - Makenna Ingram
05/16 - Allen Shelton	05/29 - Patti Warner
05/16 - Andrew Bouton	05/31 - Janis Wright
05/16 - Mekayla L. Cooper	
05/16 - Molly Flodder	