

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A CHURCH UNITED TO ENJOY GOD'S GRACE AND EXTEND HIS GLORY



Image Bearer

December 2018

First Baptist Church

3556 N. Portersville Road

Jasper, In. 47546

[www.fbjasper.org](http://www.fbjasper.org)

Dr. John Duncan, Pastor

[pastorjohn61@outlook.com](mailto:pastorjohn61@outlook.com)

## Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Morning Worship

5:00 p.m. Life Groups

## Wednesday Evenings

6:30 p.m. Men's & Women's Bible Studies

Children's Ministries



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN:



December has arrived and with it, thoughts and feelings of Christmas. As Christmas nears everyone becomes a little more cheerful, a little more generous, and a little more friendly. Christmas tends to bring out the best in people. I don't know whether it's the magical excitement of children as they dream and hope of Christmas morning or the anticipation of families getting together and enjoying the holidays. Regardless, Christmas is an exciting time of year.

As you prepare for Christmas this year how is your shopping list going? Have you got all your presents purchased? We tend to stretch our budget and make sacrifices in order to buy those much-anticipated gifts for our loved ones. According to the Gallop Poll, in 2017 the average American family spent \$906.00 on Christmas gifts. Wow! That is a lot of money! The irony of it all is that one year later most people cannot even recall what they received for Christmas. As Christmas comes and goes, we go through another year of wondering why it didn't live up to the hype. You see, in America, we have so much that the newest and greatest gadget is only exciting until the next

one comes out. So often our "ideal" gift fails to measure up to the anticipation and excitement we attached to it. When all is said and done, the gift, really didn't make much of a difference. Parents, you know what I mean. That gift that you were sure would change little Johnny's life ended up in the back of the closet three weeks later.

Our gift giving is so inadequate in comparison to the real gift of Christmas. You see, God didn't give us a gift that would wow us for a moment and then blend into obscurity. He didn't hand us a trinket that would captivate us for a moment only to get lost in the shuffle days later. No, God gave us the gift that we could not live without. The gift that God gave us had an eternal quality to it. For you see, God knew that we were broken and maimed by our sin. He knew that there was no way possible for us to deal with our sin problem. So, God gave us the very best He had to give – His Son – to be our Savior. God gave us Jesus. He came as a baby, lived a perfect sinless life, offered Himself upon a cross as payment for our sins, died and rose again to give us life everlasting. The Gift that God gave changed

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN, CONTINUED:



everything. We were transferred out of the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son. His Gift gave us life...and when we received Him and believed on His Name, He gave us the right to be called His children. His gift altered our destiny and secured our salvation. Now, that's a gift!

So church, how can we give a gift this Christmas that really makes a difference? How can we give a gift that changes everything? How can our gift most emulate the gift of Jesus? There is one very simple way that we can give a gift that alters eternity for thousands: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. You see, we can commit to give sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering that supports our International Missionaries as they share the Gospel with people all across the world. Even now, many of our over 3,500 International Missionaries are sharing the Gospel with people who have never heard of Jesus. When you support this Missions Offering, your dollars are used to make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your gift of love truly makes an eternal difference. Because of your sacrificial giving many will come to know Jesus Christ as Lord. Many whose lives have

been broken and lived in despair will discover the hope and peace that only comes in Jesus.

Our church goal this year is \$2,500.00. But friends, this goal is way too low. We are simply basing it on what we gave last year. We need to ask God to move in the hearts of our families to give like never before so that men and women and boys and girls can hear the good news of Jesus Christ! We have about 75 families in our church. I already shared that the average American family spends \$906.00 on Christmas presents. What would happen if each of our families would commit to spend half of their Christmas budget on our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? Just for fun, let me share with you what the results would be: 75 families giving \$450 to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering would equal \$33,750.00!! Yes, that's a lot of money for a family to give, but consider the impact made in the lives of people. You really want to change someone's life this Christmas? Pray that God would move you to give like never before to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. What an awesome Christmas it will be when multitudes of people are transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of God's beloved Son!!



## Leadership Team

Greetings from the FBC Leadership Team.

What do you worship? We all worship something. The need to worship has been in man from creation. God created man to worship. Worship is unavoidable; therefore, the only question is: What do you worship?

Throughout the Bible we see mankind struggling with the fundamental problem of idolatry, worshipping created things. Both Zephaniah 1:5-6 “those who bow down on the roofs to worship the starry host, those who bow down and swear by the Lord and who also swear by Molek, those who turn back from following the Lord and neither seek the Lord nor inquire of him.” as well as Romans 1:25 “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator” show this. Point is we worship everything else, including ourselves, instead of worshipping the One we need to worship.

1 Chronicles 16:29 tells us “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.” Let this be how we approach our Lord during our time of worship, by ascribing to Him the glory due His Name because of His Holiness!

Our Elder and Deacon teams continue to meet every month with Pastor John to pray together for our church, families, and to look over any business we need to discuss.

Again, our team members are: Pastor – Dr. John Duncan; Elders – John Dillon, Tom Gruenloh, Todd Jasper, Bruce Reinhart, Bill Whittington; Deacons – Rod Haskins, Eric Jones, Phil Malone, Tim Harris, Eric Herndon, and Phil Hostetler.

Thank you for your prayers for us and our church.

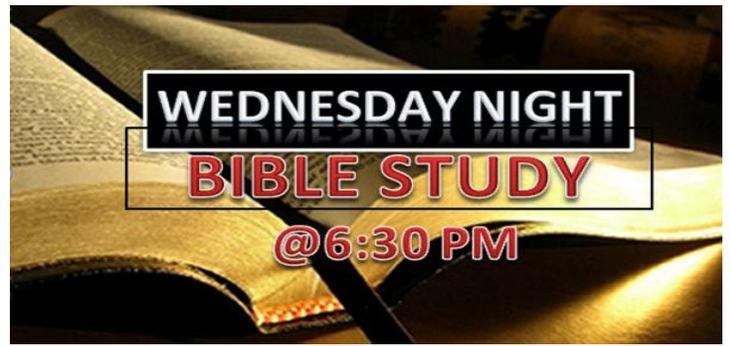
In Him,

FBC Leadership Team



## Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry continues their study of **Act Like A Men**, by James MacDonald on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. All men are encouraged to attend. We are averaging about 23 men each night.



The Men's Ministry will also have a special Men's Breakfast this month on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM. Dr. Rick Hillard from the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana will be our guest speaker and will be sharing about Disaster Relief Ministry in Indiana as well as our state's mission partnership with Ecuador. All men are invited to come and share in the food, fellowship, and encouragement as we learn how we can be a part of Disaster Relief Ministries and Mission through our State Convention.

## Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry continues their study of **Just Open the Door** by Jen Schmidt on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. All ladies are invited to join them for a time of fellowship, sharing, and inspiration as they learn about Christian hospitality.

## Children's Ministry

Our Children's Ministry meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm to study missions. We currently offer Mission Friends for Preschoolers, Children in Action for Grades 1-5, and Youth on Mission for Grades 6-12. Parents make the commitment now to train up your children in the way of the Lord by bringing them on Wednesday evenings to grow in the Lord.

# Sunday School



Our Sr. High Sunday School Class is beginning a new set of curriculum entitled: **The Disciple's Path**. This material is a year-long curriculum that walks the student through the Christian walk from the beginning of their journey to growth in Christ. Sara Harris is teaching our Sr. High class and they will be meeting in the basement. All students presently in High School are invited to come and join them as they journey down the path of discipleship together.

The Ladies Card Ministry will not be meeting over the Winter months. The Ladies will resume card making in the spring. For information on the Card Ministry or if you have questions, please see Tina Hostetler or Barb Malone.

*Dr. John & Sandy Duncan,  
the First Baptist Church  
Leadership Team, & Staff  
would like to wish you a  
Merry Christmas & a  
Happy New Year!*



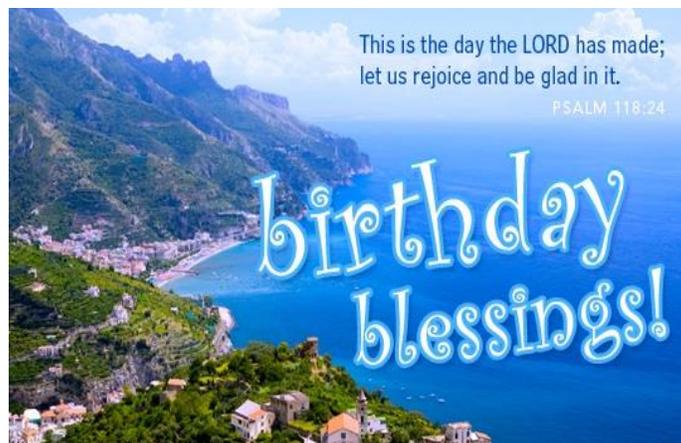
# Happy Birthday



## December Birthday's

1 Janna Boger	3 Kayla Taylor
3 Todd Jasper	4 Gail Napier
9 Lewis Bradshaw	10 Rosemary Kreilein
15 Brad Tanner	15 Brad Kippenbrock
16 Gina Bradshaw	17 Chris Duncan
22 Katie Kuhn	23 Julie Weldon
24 Josh Duncan	27 Diana Tanner
27 Linda Tanner	30 April Lawton

*Your First Baptist Church Family  
would like to wish each of you a  
Happy Birthday!*





# December 2018



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

*Have a blessed  
New Year!*

The Magic of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the presents  
but in *His*   
presence

1  
Men's  
Breakfast  
9:00 am

2  
Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
10:15 a.m.

3

4

5  
Bible Studies  
Children's  
Ministries  
6:30 p.m.

6

7

8

9  
Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
10:15 a.m.

10

11

12  
Bible Studies  
Children's  
Ministries  
6:30 p.m.

13

14

15

16  
Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
10:15 a.m.

17

18

19

20  
J.O.Y. Group  
Lunch  
11:00 a.m.

21

22

23/30  
Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship  
10:15 a.m.

24/31

25  
*Merry Christmas*

26

27

28

29