

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Image Bearer

November 2018

First Baptist Church

3556 N. Portersville Road

Jasper, In. 47546

www.fbjasper.org

Dr. John Duncan, Pastor

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:



November is here and with it comes the season of Thanksgiving. I find it disconcerting that we have to have a season to remind us to give thanks. Even at that, when you get down to it, is Thanksgiving really centered on giving thanks? What is our focus during Thanksgiving? So often we are focused on the food we are going to prepare, the deserts we are going to devour, and the friends and family that are going to visit. If we are not careful, Thanksgiving becomes like the rest of our life...its centered on us. We plan our festivities to suit ourselves, indulge at the dinner table much more than we normally would, and fret and fume over who visits who during the Thanksgiving weekend. When you get down to it, it's really not much of a time of gratitude.

As I think about Thanksgiving I am reminded of the old gospel hymn, **Count Your Many Blessings**. The writer calls upon us to "count our many blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." We find it so easy to look at the things we do not have, to focus on those things that are not going the way we want, and too often take for granted the blessings that are truly ours. Perhaps this Thanksgiving season we should slow down, pause, and meditate on the many blessings that our Lord has lavished upon us. Remember the words of the apostle Paul who wrote: **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. (Ephesians 1:3-4)**. Even when suffering and sorrow become our life's companions, they are sent to us to shape us into the image of the Son. They come to us to intensify our dependence on God the Father. For it is in these times of difficulty that we learn along with Christ Jesus that without Him (God) we can do nothing. So often, it takes misfortune and heartache, pain and suffering, for us to recognize that we are fully reliant upon God.

May we learn to thank God for everything He brings into our lives...for the good and the bad. For all these things come to us for the glory of His grace. This Thanksgiving I am so thankful that God is my crutch that I lean on for support, I hold on for stability, and I trust in for each and every step. Several years ago, I wrote a poem to minister to a group that had just finished up Grief Share after losing a dear loved one. I would like to share it with you this month:

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN CONTINUED:



My Crutch

*The critics decry my faith in God and say God is a crutch;
It used to make me angry that others saw God as such.
They told me I was weak and sickly and this is why I believed;
I pondered on their words one day and found myself quite relieved.*

*As I consider my walk with Christ I would have to say they're right;
The only way I survive this life is to lean and not to fight.
I cannot escape my sorrow and cannot climb life's hills;
The tests and trials of life I face are indeed some bitter pills.*

*I don't have all the answers and I cannot stand up straight;
But I refuse to fall apart again and chalk it up to fate.
So when I'm crippled by my sorrow and wounded by my grief;
I crawl to God and hold on tight and He brings me my relief.*

*The pain is often sudden and nearly breaks my soul;
So I reach out for My Savior and give Him complete control.
I lean on Him in the valleys and I hobble through the pain;
He guides me through the heartaches and along misery's lane.*

*God is my crutch the critics are right and on Him I will lean;
All my weight He does uphold for He my pain has seen.
I gladly limp through sorrows way; my little has become much;
For I found my joy when I discovered that my God is indeed my Crutch.*



Leadership Team

Greetings from the FBC Leadership Team.

As we have gone through our church study on what it means to be a member of a church we have learned that we all have gifts that help us do the work God has planned for us. Ephesians 2:10 says For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Each person God has called is equipped to do good works, so we can further His kingdom.

To do that, however, we must stay connected. Like the “tree planted by the streams of water...” in Psalms 1, we must “delight in the law of the Lord, and on His law meditate day and night.” When we stay connected to Him through His word and prayer, opportunities and blessings we cannot imagine in our own strength become available to us. Like the tree, we will be able to yield the fruit of good works He has prepared for us to do in Him.

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.

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,

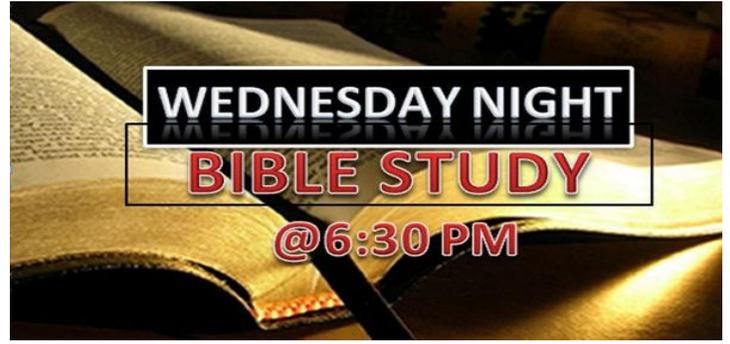
FBC Leadership Team



Men's Ministry

Our Men's Ministry will be starting a new study in November. Beginning on Wednesday, November 7th at 6:30 we will be studying **Act Like a Man** by James MacDonald. The books are \$10.00. All men are encouraged to join us for this time of fellowship and Christian growth. We have been averaging around 20 each Wednesday evening.

We will also have our monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 3rd at 9:00 am. We encourage all men to come and join the time of fellowship and inspiration. If you would like to help cook, please let Pastor John know and show up at 7:45 am.



Women's Ministry

Our Women's Ministry continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. They are presently studying, **Just Open the Door** by Jen Schmidt. All women are invited to come and join them as they share life together and learn how to show Christian hospitality to others.

The women also continue meeting on the second Tuesday of each month for their monthly Card Ministry. Come and join our ladies as they make special cards to minister to families within our church and community. They will meet on Tuesday, November 13th at 6:00 pm.



Just Older Youth with Joyful Hearts

The JOY Group met for their monthly luncheon on Thursday, October 18th. They had a good group present and enjoyed great food and fellowship. After a time of prayer for the many who are sick, and in the hospital, Bill Whittington led the group in the Life Group Study: **I am a Church Member**. The JOY Group meets every third Thursday of the month. If you are 55 or over, they would love for you to join them next month.

Sunday School



We are blessed to have so many types of literature to use in our Sunday School Classes. One of the materials that we use in many of our classes is called the **Gospel Project**. This material works through a three-year cycle to lead the class through the entire Bible. In year one, which just began in 2018 it covers four units: **In the Beginning** which covers creation and the formation of a nation, and the nation grew; **Out of Egypt** which covers God's people in Egypt, Toward the Promised Land, and Worship in the Wilderness; **Into the Promised Land** which covers Wandering in the Wilderness, Conquering the Land, and The Cycle of Judges; and **The Kingdom Provided** which covers Samuel and King Saul, Great King David, and Wise King Solomon.

If you are not currently attending a Sunday School class you are missing a great opportunity to grow in your understanding of God's Word, in your Christian walk, and in your knowledge of Scripture. You are also missing out on building relationships with others within the body of Christ. Determine now to find a Sunday School Class and get plugged in so that you can share your life with others and invest in their Christian walk, while they invest in yours.

Sunday School has a place for the whole family. In one trip to Church your entire family can participate in the important purposes of studying the Gospel, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. You gain the assurance of knowing every member of your family is involved in weekly, small-group Sunday School lessons, which is growing their Bible knowledge and helping them grow spiritually. How can you not get your family plugged into Sunday School?





November Birthday's

2 Brooklyn Thrasher	2 Judy Heller
2 John Dillon	4 Sara Harris
4 Janice Cossler	4 Bart Pfau
9 Eric Jones	12 Phil Malone
13 Tonisha Gruenloh	14 Tom Haworth
18 Anika Montgomery	23 Tina Pfau
23 April Crew	23 Vincent Huckelby
23 Randy Mason	24 Genevieve Harlow
24 Ken McGlothlin	

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





November 2018

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Please join us on Sunday,
November 18th at 4:00 pm for
our Thanksgiving Dinner.
Everyone is welcome!

*Let us come before Him
with Thanksgiving
Psalm 95:2a*

1

Life Group
11:00 am

2

3

Men's
Breakfast
9:00 am
7:45 am for those
helping to cook

4

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:15 a.m.
Life Groups
5:00 p.m.

5

6

7

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

8

Life Group
11:00 am

9

10

11

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

12

13

Ladies Card
Ministry
6:00 pm

14

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

15

J.O.Y. Group
11:00 am

16

17

18

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

19

20

21

No Wednesday
Evening activities

22

*Have a Happy
Thanksgiving*

23

24

25

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

26

27

28

29

30

