



The Visitor

NOVEMBER 2017

Thanksgiving

by Wade Allen

As we find ourselves quickly making our way toward Advent and Christmas, we have an important stop to make along the way. Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday that precedes the Christmas season. It is often overlooked as the commercial holiday, Black Friday, has overtaken it. Yet this season of gratitude is crucial for those who follow Jesus.

Gratitude is a key word for Christians. We are instructed to thank God for his provision and acknowledge the grace and mercy we have received. It is also a key part of fighting evil and anxiety. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi,

(Philippians 4:6 NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

He then describes the result of such behavior,

(Philippians 4:7 NIV) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Let's look forward to the season of Thanksgiving. May we face each day with a heart of gratitude for all God has given us, and may we anticipate all that God is going to do in the future.



Worship Schedule

- November 05 - Turning from Sin (1 Peter 4:1–11)
- November 12 - In the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 4:12–19)
- November 19 - Trusting God (1 Peter 5:1–11)
- November 26 - Get Connected (1 Peter 5:12–14)

Harvest Meal

On **Sunday, November 19**, we will gather in a combined service at **10:45 AM**. The annual Harvest meal will be held immediately following the combined service in the lower auditorium. Drinks, meat, and table service will be provided. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Post-sabbatical Survey Is Positive

At the end of the sabbatical the Church Coordination Team (CCT) passed out a survey for people to evaluate the summer of work both inside and outside of First Baptist Church.

The eight-item questionnaire garnered high marks, including that the sabbatical was a much-needed break for Pastor Wade, that having different speakers each week was a good idea, and that the speakers seemed to carry out the theme of our summer. The statement that got the lowest marks related to communication about what was going on. Out of 55 who filled out the survey, 39% said they strongly agreed that communication was good, 46% agreed it was good, 9% were neutral, and 6% said that they disagreed that communication was good.

Many positive comments were a part of the open-ended question about “other comments about the sabbatical.” Among them were:

- I didn't know if I'd enjoy different speakers, but I did. I was still glad when Wade came back.
- I wasn't sure about the idea of guest speakers. Wade is just so good. I am happy to say I was pleasantly surprised and that I thoroughly enjoyed them.
- This was a great opportunity to build new relationships within the church family.
- I hope the church continues to join with other ministries and work going on in our community!
- I feel more aware and connected to what other churches and ministries in our community are doing.
- I wish there were more opportunities scheduled during the week. For those of us that work weekends, it's hard to join in when you have a full-time job.

Prayer Walk Focuses on “What's Next?”

On Sunday, October 22, approximately 30 people met in the church shelter or walked around the First Baptist Church neighborhood and stopped to pray for our neighbors and for how our church should “join God in the neighborhood” as we discern where he is calling us to serve.

The 10 service projects this past summer helped us explore a few of the opportunities for service in our neighborhood. Work at and with people at the YWCA (Pillowcase Project), Grace Episcopal Church (Gathering Grace Sunday dinners), and Blood-N-Fire (food pantry and Saturday night dinners) gave us a real taste of what is going on. In addition, two life groups provided a meal and became more aware of the Second Harvest Food Bank poverty elimination work that happens every Thursday night at FBC.

CCT is committed to helping organize a minimum of four service projects per year and, perhaps, as many as eight. What those service projects are, who is already working on them in the community, and how they should be approached in an ongoing service posture will be determined as we discover what God is calling us to do.

Legacy Campaign Kicks Off

The Legacy Campaign pledge Sunday was October 29. As pledges are collected, the Legacy Team will share how the campaign is progressing.

Our new slogan “Building. Community. Presence.” starts with the word Building. As a noun, it relates to our 88-year-old building, the place where we worship, work together, and fellowship, and the place where several groups provide service to others.

Being able to be part of preserving the building for future generations is a privilege we all can claim.



Youth Ski Trip

The youth will be traveling to Green Lake, Wisconsin, on **January 12–15, 2018**. If you are interested in attending, please sign up at <http://fbcmuncie.org/ski> by **December 1**.

If you would be interesting in providing a scholarship for a teen in need, please see Wade.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Plan ahead to ring bells at the Muncie Mall at Penneys SE entrance or Macy’s south store entrance on **December 12th and 14th from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM**. Schedules will be posted before the Harvest Dinner. Find a friend or bring a class.

Tribute Sundays Coming Up

On **Sundays November 5 and November 12** we will remember those who have passed in the last year and honor those living veterans who are part of our church family. All pictures and names should have been submitted to MaryAnne Bayer in October.

Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the December Visitor or the weekly bulletin, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, November 19**.

Thank-You Notes

YWCA – The YWCA and Sonya are so thankful for your kind donations of clothing and cosmetics. Thank you for cleaning out your closets and drawers. Your gifts make a big difference to someone in need.

November Birthdays

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

11/07 - Sara B. Martin	11/21 - Deena Green
11/08 - Michael Songer	11/23 - Patty Russell
11/11 - Katie Braswell	11/23 - Thelma Jones
11/11 - Teresa M. Funk	11/24 - Kara C. Boye
11/12 - Pam Barnhouse	11/25 - Dick Flaherty
11/13 - Anderson Smith	11/26 - Brady Lemen
11/14 - Betty Clark	11/27 - Dawson Allen
11/14 - Sandy Davis	11/29 - James L. Martin
11/14 - Sofie Pannell	11/29 - Maren French
11/15 - Macy Allen	11/30 - Gerry Minnick
11/17 - Bethany J. Cummins	11/30 - Jamie S. Harris
11/18 - Britney N. Sue	
11/18 - Darlene Hill	