



## Unchanging Story in a Changing World

*by Wade Allen*

It has been a joy to begin a journey with you through the gospel of Mark. We are moving rather fast through this early gospel account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. As I think about this series, I am reminded of the first readers of Mark's gospel. They are living in Rome somewhere between 60 and 70 A.D. Christians are under intense persecution due to a fire that destroyed much of the city. The Roman Emperor Nero blames Christians for the disaster and is making sport of torturing and executing Christians. They are living at odds with the world around them.

As Mark relates the story of Jesus, we discover that Jesus too is living at odds with the authorities of his day. As he heals, preaches, and proclaims the coming Kingdom, he is making the religious leaders furious. By chapter 3, they are ready to kill Jesus. But Jesus was not simply out to rebel against those in charge. He was setting up an entirely new Kingdom in which God's rule and reign was and continues to be established. Through his life, death, and resurrection, we are invited to be a part of this Kingdom. The first readers must have been encouraged to read how Jesus works, moves, and interacts with people. The story of Jesus reached into their world and gave them reason to trust him in the midst of a hostile environment.

As we read the story in 2018, my hope is that the Holy Spirit would apply his Word in new ways. In a changing world, the unchanging story of God speaks anew to us. I hope you will join us each week as we turn the pages of Mark together.



## Worship Schedule

- February 04 - Fear or Faith (Mark 4:35–6:6)
- February 11 - Revealing Jesus (Mark 6:7–8:26)
- February 18 - The Jesus Way (Mark 8:27–9:50)
- February 25 - Seeing and Following Jesus (Mark 10:1–52)

## Children's Ministry Update

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I want to thank everyone at FBC for supporting me the last three years as the Children's Ministry Coordinator. It was a wonderful learning experience and I feel extremely blessed to have had the opportunity. We have lots of children at First Baptist, with more on the way! Even as I step down as coordinator, this area will continue to be a passion of mine, and I still plan to be a part of the children's team moving forward. I will also continue to do the nursery schedules and work with the current mentees. I pray we continue to see our kids eager to learn about Christ and that we can continue to build a great children's ministry program.

With that said, I would like to ask everyone to welcome Britney Sue as the new Children's Ministry Coordinator! Like you did with me, please extend patience and grace as she learns the ropes in this new role (it's a big one!). I just know Britney will do a great job with our help and encouragement!



Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that we are ALWAYS in need of new volunteers for our kids' rooms! You do not need to be a member at FBC, the only requirement is a background check—and that you show up ;). We especially need people to volunteer to be backup teachers for our Preschool, K–2 Sunday School, 3–5 Sunday School, and Children's Church. Please know that without the mentees who currently teach, we would not have ANY of these classes. Providing a list of people who are available when the mentees can't be is a real need, but it also shows that we support them and are thankful for all their time spent and hard work. Being a backup teacher means that when a mentee needs a Sunday off or is sick, etc., he/she can call you to fill in. (In most cases, a lesson will even be provided.)

Maybe this seems out of your comfort zone. Trust me, I understand that feeling. But knowing that these are our children they are teaching, I feel we need to help fill the gaps! And if I have learned anything these last three years, it's that you are fed spiritually and experience more growth in those uncomfortable times than when you play it "safe." If you feel led to help in any way, PLEASE let Britney or myself know!

Thank you you again for being a wonderful church family to work with!

Blessings,

Colleen Massoth

## Second Harvest Food Drive

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During the month of February, First Baptist Church will be conducting a food drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. Second Harvest provides food, educational opportunities, and financial advice for people in need for eight counties in East Central Indiana. We will be collecting food on February 11, 18, and 25. Financial donations may also be made.

For more information about Second Harvest programs go to <http://www.curehunger.org/>.

## DVD Ministry

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Thank you to everyone who has helped with filming, producing and delivering DVDs to shut-ins during the past year, especially Duane Davis. There were 251 DVDs delivered and an additional 44 visits made during 2017.

## Legacy Campaign Update

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You are a wonderful congregation who have pledged \$304,155.00 (as of December 15) to the Capital Campaign over the next 2 1/2 years. Thank you so much for your kind support for this legacy project. Because we would like to see more of our active members making this pledge, we are still accepting pledge cards. Please give them to Dan Lemen or Larry Fouch if you would like to participate in this major project. Thank you so very much.

## Life Line Screening

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Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at First Baptist Church on **Friday, February 2**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to the following: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone-density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60–90 minutes to complete. To register for this event and receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or text the word *circle* to 797979.

## Visitor or Bulletin Information

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If you would like an announcement in the March Visitor or the weekly bulletin, please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org) by **Sunday, February 18**.

## Life Groups

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Our life groups have been on break during December and January. Our next session for life groups begins in February and runs through May. Some of our life groups study the Bible or a Christian book together; in others, the members spend time encouraging one another through conversation and prayer. Most of our groups share a meal together.

We would love to help you connect to others at First Baptist through a life group. You aren't required to be a church member; all you need is an interest in getting to know others and building relationships. If you'd like to get connected to a life group, please let Julie Davis or Pastor Wade know.

## YWCA Clothing and Coats

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You have been very helpful to our neighbors at the YWCA. Please continue to clean out closets and drawers and bring items for the YWCA women. Julie Morency will be your contact person, or you may leave them in the basket in the church office marked "YWCA." Thank you in advance for your donations.

## Thank-You Notes

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**Arlie Weber** – Dear Pastor Wade, This is a note of thanks and appreciation for *The Visitor* which has been sent to me recently. I love reading about the ministry of the church and how you are serving the Lord in Muncie. Harm and I and our 3 children loved our time at First Baptist Church. I will have to admit when I read *The Visitor*, there are very few familiar names! It has been a long time since I've been there. However, it is so heartening to know that God's people are still active and serving him in so many creative ways. I pray you will continue to be a witness for good and that the church will continue to bless your community. Thanks so much. Blessings.

## February Birthdays

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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 - Chris Wright
02/05 - Brandy Say	02/16 - Melanie Graham
02/05 - Pam Williams	02/17 - Elora Heimlich
02/06 - Ryan J. Swayer	02/20 - Jo Boyce
02/07 - Ernestine Shields	02/21 - Haylee Mathis
02/07 - Linzi M. Rodgers	02/23 - Daniel Morency
02/07 - Marge Manor	02/23 - Joe Johnson
02/09 - Bracken Petroviak	02/23 - Penny Morris
02/11 - Gary Henderson	02/24 - Wes Russell
02/14 - Brenda L. Cox	02/27 - Christy Allen
02/15 - Elizabeth Shreves	