



The Visitor

JULY 2019

Revelation

Each year in the summer and fall, we step away from the lectionary. Over the years, we have used the *ordinary time* of the year for book studies or character studies. We have surveyed the book of Genesis or Ruth or Joel. Our studies have examined the lives of David and Solomon or the disciples of Jesus. This year, we will move to the very end of the Bible. We will be spending almost all of the remaining year in the book of Revelation.



I must admit a bit of anxiety around this study. While I have preached on portions of this apocalyptic letter, my preaching has never involved a thorough treatment of this somewhat challenging book. While we accept Revelation as part of Scripture, we often avoid it. It is hard to read and involves strange characters and dynamics. What does it all mean?

This is the question that we will answer over the next several months. I look forward to working through this crucial part of the Bible with you. I hope you will join us as we begin this series on the first Sunday in July.

Worship Schedule

- ▷ July 07 - Introducing Revelation (Revelation 1:1–8)
- ▷ July 14 - Jesus Revealed (Revelation 1:9–20)
- ▷ July 21 - Into the Neighborhood (Various Passages)
- ▷ July 28 - Letters: Part 1 (Revelation 2)

Joining God in the Neighborhood

As mentioned in last month's *Visitor*, FBC will continue the Joining God in the Neighborhood program. The purpose is to allow a time of discovery and discernment of our current and future neighborhood needs. We will learn how God is still at work meeting needs in our neighborhood. We will have a two-week focus on Digging Deeper from **July 14–27, 2019** that will provide opportunities to learn about our neighborhood, the various ministries and services that are already being provided, and also opportunities to serve our neighbors. This time will be different from the work sessions we did in the summer of 2017. The Joining God in the Neighborhood Team feels it is important not just to pray for or help out an organization, but really work to learn how it came about and what its mission, clients, and services are all about. At the end of the two weeks of experiences, there will be an opportunity for feedback and for people to express whether FBC can do anything more to join God in the neighborhood. It is our hope that we as a church congregation will choose to collectively become a stakeholder in our neighborhood and individually become involved and invested in our neighborhood.

Events will then officially begin on **Sunday, July 14**, after church. This first event will begin with a bring-your-own-lunch picnic in our church parking lot. After we eat there will be an optional walking tour, led by one of our own historians, James Heimlich, around the downtown historic districts. During the tour, James will teach us how First Baptist Church was historically placed in the downtown area. We will see how the downtown has been revitalized and

repurposed from its historical use to become the community that is our neighborhood today. After the optional walking tour, there will be a presentation at the church to further discuss the history of our church's neighborhood, what it is today, and what the future holds for the neighborhood and our church.

The rest of the two weeks will be filled with near-daily opportunities to visit and learn about some aspect of our neighborhood and something that is going on there. For example, we will go to Price Hall on Madison Street to hear from the Muncie Housing Authority and to learn about public housing in our community. Following our learning about the housing developments and how people qualify for Section 8 housing, we will tour a housing unit in Millennium Place, formerly Munsyanna Homes.

Please join us in prayer for the weeks ahead as we prepare to Dig Deeper into what God is doing in our neighborhood. It is our hope and desire that everyone will participate in at least two or three opportunities over the course of the event. More details are coming soon.

WHO: Everyone is invited. Individuals and families, members, attenders, and anyone you wish to invite.

WHAT: A two-week event of opportunities to learn and serve.

WHERE: First Baptist Church and our surrounding neighborhood.

WHEN: July 14-27, 2019

Combined Service on July 7

We will be meeting in one combined service at **10:45 AM** on **Sunday, July 7**, due to the holiday weekend. Adult classes will meet at **9:15 AM**.

Keeping Up

As we study the book of Revelation (beginning in July), it will be important to stay up to date with the study. If you miss a week or two, you might find it hard to make sense of how it all fits together. Let me encourage you to take the time to listen to the podcast or watch the sermon videos online. Summer is a season of travel and vacation. This makes this particular study a challenge. However, with the technology that we have available, you can keep up each week and get the most out of this study.

You can subscribe to the podcast or watch the sermon videos at <https://fbcmuncie.org/keepup>.

Prairie Creek Reservoir Picnic

The FBC Children's Team invites all children birth–5th grade to join us at Prairie Creek Reservoir (approximately five miles southeast of Muncie, south of the White River) at **11:30 AM** on **Saturday, July 20**. We will meet in the grassy area by the playground, closest to the beach. The children's team will provide a picnic lunch, drinks, and dessert, as well as cover the cost for those who want to swim! (Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, etc. for the picnic; we won't have a shelter house.) Let's hope for a nice, sunny day. ;) Registration link coming in July! **We do ask that you please accompany your children during this event.**

Ark Trip

Sue Mutter is leading an Ark trip on **July 10**. We will be leaving the Meijer parking lot at 7:00 AM. Cost is \$80/person, which includes ticket and coach. Food is on your own at the buffet located next to Ark. Prices for the buffet are seniors (\$10.99), adults (\$14.99), and kids 5–12 (\$6.99). Wear good walking shoes. There are electric scooters available to rent if you have problems walking (\$35.00/day). We will arrive back in Muncie by 7:00 PM. If you are planning to go, please make your check out to Sue Lawson Mutter, put on the memo for the Ark trip, and mail it to Sue Lawson-Mutter, 5600 S. Edgewood Dr., Muncie, IN 47302 you can Contact Suzy at 765-749-3484 with questions.

Volunteers Needed

The children's team is in need of volunteers to help with Sunday School this summer. We have teachers lined up, but still need "helpers" during first service during the month of July. Helpers will provide child care for ages pre-K through 2nd grade (there will be no lesson during this time!). Please see Britney Sue at 765-215-6586 or Colleen Massoth at 765-744-1350 if you're interested in helping out this summer! Thank you!

Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the August Visitor, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, July 21**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

July Birthdays

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

07/01 - Shirley Pittenger	07/15 - Luke Thurston
07/04 - Connor French	07/21 - Emily Goul
07/05 - Ian Davis	07/25 - Bryan Bouton
07/06 - David Rodriguez	07/29 - Chad Massoth
07/06 - Ward Head	07/29 - Doug Gregg
07/09 - Betty Brown	07/31 - Coby Anderson
07/09 - Kaes Petroviak	07/31 - Finn Massoth
07/11 - Barb Eidson	07/31 - Larry Fouch
07/13 - Joanne Sewell	