



The Visitor

JANUARY 2020

A New Decade

As we celebrate the coming of a new year, a new decade, we should be deeply grateful as a congregation. As many churches are struggling to exist in our world today, First Baptist is a congregation full of hope. With a bustling nursery and more children on the way, we are grateful for a new generation of Jesus followers. Certainly the world will be a much different place for these youngsters. I often wonder what church will mean for them. It may look very different from the church of today.



As we venture together into the 2020s, we have revised church documents, an eager and Spirit-directed leadership team, servant-oriented deacons, and new faces coming into our midst. Please join me in prayer for our church as we continue to adjust to a rapidly changing culture. May God give us the grace to discern his leading in this new decade.

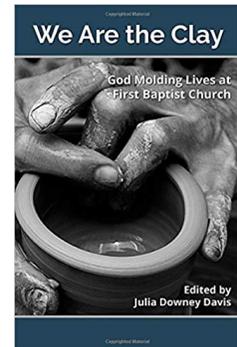
Worship Schedule

- ▷ January 05 - Way of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12)
- ▷ January 12 - A Lesson in Humility (Matthew 3:13-17)
- ▷ January 19 - The Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)
- ▷ January 26 - Leave Your Nets (Matthew 4:12-23)

Story Project Book Is Now Available for Purchase

A big thank-you to everyone who had a hand in putting together *We Are the Clay*, the book of stories that resulted from our year of work on the Story Project. If you did not preorder the book at church but wish to buy a copy, you can now purchase it on Amazon (with free shipping if you are an Amazon Prime member) at <http://bit.ly/fbc-story-project>. The cost of the book is \$15, and all proceeds go to First Baptist Church.

If you have any questions, see Julie Davis or any member of the Story Project Team.



Focusing on Food-Related Needs in 2020

By MaryAnne Bayer, Outreach Ministries

In July, around fifty people in our church participated in Joining God in the Neighborhood: Digging Deeper. It was a chance for everyone to look at most of the services available within a half mile radius of our church to see what services are out there, how the need was identified, and how programs were established. We also saw the efforts that operate to maintain these activities in our community.

In moving forward to see where God is calling First Baptist to serve, it may be important to start at the bottom of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. The lowest platform is physiological needs: air, water, food, rest, and health. We cannot simply encourage struggling people to invite Christ into their lives or move up the ladder of needs to help them to find more affordable housing, get a job, or build a budget. It is our responsibility as Christians also to be concerned whether their basic needs are being met and discover how we can help.



Last summer, we examined several organizations whose work relates to providing food:

- ▷ Christian Ministries provides colder season suppers to the men in the sleeping room as well as a food pantry.
- ▷ Grace Episcopal Church serves a Sunday afternoon meal.
- ▷ Muncie Soup Kitchen serves a hot lunch and a sack supper Monday through Friday each week.
- ▷ Main Street Methodist Church, a ministry of Gethsemane at the Garden Church, serves a Sunday lunch meal.
- ▷ Friends Church runs a food pantry.
- ▷ Blood 'n Fire has a food pantry and a Saturday evening meal.
- ▷ Forward STEPS (formerly TEAMwork for Quality Living) serves a weekly meal on Thursday nights in our Lower Auditorium.

In 2020, the Outreach Team will divide the year into thirds and concentrate each four-

month period on particular ministries, all the while learning and sharing about food insecurity, free and reduced lunch rates in our schools, grocery deserts, and who actually comes to receive food and why.

First January–April Opportunity – We have already started by volunteering to bring dinner to the men in the Christian Ministries Sleeping Room once a month. There is a sign-up sheet where several have already committed to help, and we can use more. Please check the bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

Second January–April Opportunity – Also from January through April, we want to provide food to Grace Episcopal Church for their Sunday afternoon dinners. They serve a hot meal to 85–120 people each week. Ann Heilman, a member of our church, is one of their regular volunteers. Situated in a small church kitchen, the group finds they can most easily open, cook, and serve institutional-sized cans for their side dishes. It takes about four large cans to feed the group any particular food, such as green beans, corn, mixed vegetables, etc. We will put up a box in the church office, and we need you to fill it with cans. Bring four, if you'd like, or team up with a family member or friend to get four of the same kind of food. These are available at Walmart stores, Midstates Concessions on South Burlington, and Gordon Food Service in Anderson, to name a few locations.

Other work that is already going on will not change—the pillowcase project, Christmas Shoebox project, Hearts and Hands Back-to-School initiative, etc. Again, the bulletin board is the place to see these and other opportunities.

For more information, contact me or someone from our Outreach Team: Jared Bishop, Molly Flodder, Colleen Massoth, Mary VanDeventer, and Patti Warner. James Heimlich our church moderator, is also well aware of the operations of this team.

Remember Your Legacy Pledge

We are grateful to all in our church family whose service, funds, and commitment to First Baptist Church sustains us and ensures us a promising future.

As we learned in our Legacy celebration on November 24, we are coming to the end of the third year for which many of you made donations to the restoration, repair, and remodeling of our church. According to Dan Lemen, treasurer, the amount received toward the \$300,000 pledge currently is \$262,355 as of December 15. A few people extended their pledges into 2020, but many expected to complete the final payments of their pledge by the end of 2019. When you give your gifts, be sure to mark “Legacy” in the “For” line of your check.

Members of the Legacy Implementation Team who are beginning to finalize some projects and begin others are Christy Allen, MaryAnne Bayer, Larry Bradburn, Mark Flodder, James Heimlich, Dan Lemen, Chad Massoth, Joe Songer, and Larry VanDeventer.

Life Groups Starting Up and Reorganizing

By Molly Flodder, Adult Ministries

FBC has three small groups as well as a women's prayer group that are moving into their 2020 initiatives.

The first group has hit their limit on members if they are to remain a "small group" but will let the church know if any openings occur. They typically study a serial program such as a book of the Bible or a book.



The second group is reorganizing and will be recruiting people and making decisions about their area of focus. The group has been in place for a few years, but a few members of the group have recently moved away. See James or Michelle Heimlich, or Mark or Britney Sue, if you have an interest in joining this group. In addition, if you wish to put together a small group that has not been meeting, that is an option, too.

Each of the previous groups are starting up early in the year and meet in a "spring semester" / "fall semester" time frame, taking the summers off.

The third Life Group is our "Warm Weather" group. This group, which includes several snowbird members, meets from May through October. The Warm Weather group—because most of the members are retired and travel frequently—has stand-alone programs or short series focusing on community services, Christian discipleship, or current topics, ranging from grief to disaster relief.

All three of these groups meet twice monthly. Either refreshments or a meal is typically served. Currently the first group meets two Sunday evenings a month and the Warm Weather group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays. The group now recruiting has not set their final meeting times.

Although there is not childcare provided in these groups, this is something that will be addressed as we move forward.

Finally, the women's prayer group, which is currently sharing prayer, favorite Bible verses, and discussion, is made up of two women from the first service and three from the second. They meet for lunch at 11:30 AM on the first and third Mondays of each month (except holidays). Place is determined on a session-by-session basis. Contact Julie Kirklin if you have questions or an interest in joining the group.

If you have additional questions, please contact me at 765-760-1134 or Julie Davis at 203-306-7118.

Sock Project

Through the generosity of the members of First Baptist Church, we collected 178 pairs of socks for Christian Ministries. These socks will benefit many women, men, and children who visit their sleeping rooms. If you feel compelled to donate further, feel free to leave socks for men, women, or children in the church office (marked Sock Project) or donate directly to Christian Ministries located at 401 East Main Street, Muncie, Indiana.

Remember this:

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
– 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

Thank you for all of your support and efforts.

Outreach for 2019

We had a busy year and added opportunities for outreach, mainly in the neighborhood. We also did two special offerings: America for Christ and World Mission. We scheduled and visited seven organizations in the neighborhood. We had special drives.

- ▷ America for Christ
- ▷ World Mission: \$291
- ▷ Collection of school supplies (Colleen Massoth)
- ▷ Christmas Boxes for children (Colleen Massoth & Jane Patton): 98 boxes
- ▷ Collection of toiletries for YWCA women
- ▷ Socks for Christian Ministries (Brian Green): 178 pair
- ▷ Pillowcase project with A Better Way, YWCA women, and some of our middle school youth sewing the cases
- ▷ Kids Peace: 25 pillowcases and pillows
- ▷ Men’s Sleeping Room at Christian Ministries: 20 pillowcases and pillows
- ▷ YWCA cupboard: 20 pillowcases and pillows
- ▷ Meals for Men’s Sleeping Room once a month October through April (Mary Van De-Venter and Patti Warner): 8 different meals

Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the February Visitor, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, January 19**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

Thank You Notes

Don Jennings and Family – Dear church friends, a few months ago while Phyllis and I were homebound, you ladies made several meals for us for over a month. What a blessing! And more recently, a girl from the church brought a large fruit basket! A big thanks to all of you who made this happen! Your kindness will always be remembered. Blessings to all of you.

Bruce and Paula McFarland – Dear First Baptist Church family, we were so blessed to get the lovely fall fruit basket! Thank you. You all are becoming such good friends and you are very dear to us. Much love in Christ.

Dan and Ella Mae Lemen – To our wonderful church family, Thank you for the acknowledgement on Legacy Sunday and gift cards. It is our pleasure to serve you. You all have been a part of our lives since we came to FBC in 1970. God has blessed us with you as family, as we serve our Lord. With Love.

January Birthdays

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

01/02 - Jillian Barr	01/21 - Katie Shutters
01/03 - Dale Stone	01/21 - Sharon Jackson
01/08 - Bob Oisten	01/22 - Meghan Frey
01/08 - Debra Bradburn	01/24 - Maggie Sims
01/11 - Natalie Green	01/24 - Wyl Atkinson
01/12 - Larry Bradburn	01/25 - Gene Carr
01/12 - Mike Grafton	01/26 - Ann Siverly
01/14 - Grace Hahn	01/26 - Veda Massoth
01/17 - Andrew Heimlich	01/27 - Kelly Rodriguez
01/17 - Jay Pittenger	01/28 - Pam Kistler
01/18 - Lester Bryars	01/30 - Heidi Davis
01/18 - Marjorie Wright	
01/21 - Annie Wright	