



# The Visitor

APRIL 2020

## He Is Risen

As we make our way toward Easter, we are certainly living in uncharted waters. To say that our world has changed over the past few weeks is an understatement. For many of us, it seems unthinkable to not be able to gather with our church family each week in worship. And the possibility of celebrating Resurrection Sunday from our homes seems impossible.



Yet the reality of Jesus's resurrection is what makes such difficult times possible. The Messiah has conquered death once and for all. And because of this, we can rest in His provision in these most trying times.

If we are struggling with fear of sickness or job loss, God is with us. Perhaps it is the shift in schedules or even missing important in-person relationships that is weighing on us. In all of this, Jesus's resurrection reminds us that He will see us through.

## Sermon Topics in April

- ▷ April 05 - Surrender: Death (Matthew 26–27)
- ▷ April 12 - Risen (Mark 16:1–8 and Matthew 28)
- ▷ April 19 - The Teaching of Jesus (Matthew 5:1–2, 7:28–29)
- ▷ April 26 - Blessed by God (Matthew 5:3–12)

## Facebook Live Prayer Time

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During this season of social distancing, we will be having a weekly Facebook Live prayer time! Look for one of our smiling faces every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Make sure to like our church Facebook page, First Baptist Church Muncie Indiana, to be able to watch and share any prayer requests or praises.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmuncie>

## Sermon on the Mount Series

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Throughout the season of Epiphany, we moved quickly through parts of Matthew's Gospel. In February, we spent a few weeks in what we call *The Sermon on the Mount*. Following one of these sermons, a college student came up and asked why I did not preach longer. I rarely get this sort of feedback. Most are glad to not linger in church. But she wanted more explanation around this difficult passage. Her comment prompted me to consider a longer study in Matthew 5–7. Following Resurrection Sunday, we will begin an extended series on *The Sermon on the Mount*. I think you will find the topics pertinent to life in 2020. We will cover topics like anger, lust, divorce, making promises, revenge, loving our enemies, prayer, fasting, money, worry, and judging others. I look forward to delving into these passages with you. — Wade

## YouTube Channel

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We have a new YouTube channel. Please go to the channel and SUBSCRIBE! This is where all church videos will go, including sermons, music, announcements, children and youth lessons, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/fbcmuncieorg>

## Gatherings Canceled in April

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With the support of the CCT, Pastor Wade and chairman of the diaconate, Brian Green, made the decision to cancel in-person worship services through April 26. We will make sure that shut-ins and those without access to online services receive a mailed copy of each sermon.

We have also decided to close the church office until April 8, as ordered by the latest state mandate. We will update our church voice mail to provide other ways to contact the church if necessary. We will decide how to proceed after this time as information becomes available.

All building usage by any group will be discontinued through the month of April. This includes weddings, funerals, music rehearsals, outreach programs, etc.

## Communications Team

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A team of FBC members is working on a plan to streamline the communication process, make the Sunday bulletin more user-friendly, and create a feature format for the monthly *Visitor*.

Julie Davis and Molly Flodder, both members of the editing team for church publications; Colleen Massoth, church clerk; and Pastor Wade Allen attended a communication workshop hosted by the Center for Congregations earlier this year. The speaker, a pastor from New York City, offered many ideas for maximizing social media and providing ways to enhance communications in regular church vehicles. “One of the things we are working to do is to make the *Visitor* more of a feature format, running more lengthy stories about our members and the people of our church and their joys, struggles, and participation in the life of the church,” said Wade Allen. “Another change is that our bulletin will be easier to access with a calendar of upcoming events.”

These are only a few of the communications alterations that people will see as the year progresses. If anyone has ideas as the group moves forward, please contact a member of the team.

## Visitor or Bulletin Information

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If you would like an announcement in the May *Visitor*, please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org) by **Sunday, April 19**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

## Thank-You Notes

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**Cathy Henderson** – Dear church family, Thank you for the beautiful peace lily and the wonderful dinner after Gary’s funeral. All our special friends were there and enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship.

**Sandi Brzak** – Dear First Baptist family, Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers following my surgery. All the support, prayers, and love make every day of my journey a little easier. Also, an extra thank you to Wade for driving down to McCordsville to pray with us before surgery! Much love.

**Brenda Cox and the family of Bill Himelick** – Thank you so much for the meal that was provided to our family. We take comfort in our God.

## April Birthdays

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

04/03 - Hunter Petroviak  
04/06 - Cami Shutters  
04/06 - Colleen Massoth  
04/06 - Megan Morency  
04/09 - Anna Allen  
04/10 - Sam Hershman  
04/11 - Ken Nicola  
04/15 - Susan Londt  
04/16 - April Lemen  
04/16 - Robert Burton  
04/17 - Victoria Bouton  
04/22 - Ariel Heimlich

04/23 - Landon Johnson  
04/24 - Andi Dawson  
04/25 - Addison Thurston  
04/25 - Billie Frogge  
04/25 - Jane Patton  
04/25 - Logan Sue  
04/25 - Maddy Crawford  
04/27 - Sondra Heimlich  
04/27 - William Wright  
04/30 - Freida Roberts  
04/30 - Ray Conley