

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A CHURCH UNITED TO ENJOY GOD'S GRACE AND EXTEND HIS GLORY



Image Bearer

December 2019

First Baptist Church

3556 N. Portersville Road

Jasper, In. 47546

www.fbjasper.org

Dr. John Duncan, Pastor

pastorjohn61@outlook.com

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Morning Worship

Wednesday Evenings

6:30 p.m. Men's & Women's Bible Studies

Children's Ministries



From the Pastor's Pen...



The Christmas season is upon us and with it comes the sharing of gifts, spending time with family, and reflecting on the blessings of the past year. As we think about the sharing of gifts this season may we focus our attention more on the gifts we have been given rather than on the gifts we gave. We all know that our greatest gift that we have received is the gift of Jesus Christ. Through the giving of His Son, God has given us life eternal. From the cradle to the cross we see the gift that transformed our lives. The little baby that adorns the manger on Christmas morn is the same Savior that adorns the cross on Good Friday. The gift of unlimited love and abounding grace has so touched our lives that it changes everything. We have joy and hope today because of this precious gift that we have unwrapped through faith in the finished work of Christ at Calvary.

However, today I wonder about the gifts God has given me that have remained unwrapped. At the end of this year I am challenged to look back on the year and reflect on the gifts that were never opened. I remember that time I encountered a waitress who was tired and visibly troubled, but I never reached out to her to pray with her – a gift unwrapped – God had given me that moment to be Jesus to her and I missed it! I also remember that church member who was going through a tough time and I meant to call or stop by and got “too busy” and never got there – a gift unwrapped – God had given me that moment to demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ and I missed it! I remember the time my wife needed a listening ear and I was too preoccupied to be there for her – a gift unwrapped – God had given me that moment to love her as Christ loves the church and to support her and give her strength and I missed it!

Moment after moment comes flooding through my mind of unwrapped gifts – moments of ministry that I missed. There were so many opportunities to be Jesus to so many people that I let slip by. I am sure that some of you are in those moments...if so, I apologize for missing the moment to be Jesus to you. God is working on me and shaping me into His vessel. I am determined in 2020 to remain focused in the moment and to unwrap the gifts that God places before me. It is my prayer that we all will slow down and take the time to unwrap the gifts that God gives us...for those moments are opportunities to be Jesus to those He places around us. I ask for your prayers as we begin 2020 that I might not miss the moments that God gives me to show you Jesus. God bless and Merry Christmas!

Dr. John Duncan



Committed Leadership Team

To His purpose...For His Glory

Greetings from the FBC Leadership Team.

"It's that time of year again." Sometimes that's what we think when November comes to an end and December begins, but our hope is that we don't take this time of year for granted. This is a time when we should reflect on the many blessings God has given us and thank Him for those things: our family, friends, church, health, material possessions, the list goes on. Many times, what gets left off this list is what God has done and continues to do for us each and every day.

Over the past few weeks, even months, in our Sunday school lessons I have been continually struck by just how much God loves us no matter what we do. (By the way, if you aren't attending Sunday school, give it a try. You will be blessed.) Just recently we talked about the fact that the God of the universe, the One who created all things, KNOWS us. Nahum 1:7 **"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."** (italics added) But not only that, we see that no matter what we do, He continues that relationship. He continues to know us!

The situation was this: the Israelites continued to walk away from the God of their fathers, the God who brought them out of bondage to the promise land. (Sound familiar?) They turned away so much and so often that they had to be punished, exiled from the promise land. But as we see in Ezekiel God had other plans for them. A plan to bring them back! Ezekiel 36:26-27 **"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."** and 37:12-14 **"...Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."** (italics added)

Notice who does the work. He does! The God of the universe that knows us as His own! No matter what has been done by the Israelites or by us, God has a plan to keep us and replace that heart of stone that we have when we are born. He brings us out of the grave and bondage to sin and keeps us by His work done on the cross of Jesus. This holiday season let's not forget to be thankful for that.

Our team members are: Pastor – Dr. John Duncan; Elders – John Dillon, Tom Gruenloh, Todd Jasper, Bruce Reinhart, Bill Whittington; Deacons – Rod Haskins, Phil Malone, Tim Harris, Eric Herndon, and Phil Hostetler.

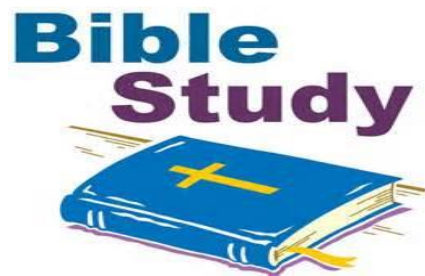
Thank you for your prayers for us and our church.

In Him,

FBC Leadership Team

Men's Ministry

Our men continue meeting every Wednesday evening at 6:30 to study the Gospel of John. All men are invited to join us. We are also meeting the first Saturday of each month for our Men's Breakfast. Our next breakfast is on Saturday, December 7th @ 9:00 am. Come and join us for great food, fellowship, and inspiration.



Women's Ministry

Our women continue meeting every Wednesday evening at 6:30. They are presently studying the book, **The Best Yes**, by Lysa TerKeurst. Come and join us for a great time of growing in our faith, living life together, and enjoying fellowship.

Christmas Eve Service

We will be having a special Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24th at 11:00 pm. We invite you to bring your family and friends to join us for a time of music, reading the Christmas story, and celebrating communion.



(Just Older Youth)

Just Older Youth with Joyful Hearts

The JOY Group did not meet in November but will be meeting for their monthly luncheon on Thursday, December 19th at 11:30 am. Come and join us for a great time of food, fellowship, and inspiration.



Calling All Seniors!

**Dr. John & Sandy Duncan,
the First Baptist Church
Leadership Team, & Staff
would like to wish you & yours
a Merry Christmas & a
Happy New Year!**





December Birthday's

1 Janna Boger	3 Kayla Jones
3 Todd Jasper	4 Gail Napier
9 Lewis Bradshaw	10 Rosemary Kreilein
12 Nicholas Gagnon	15 Brad Tanner
15 Brad Kippenbrock	16 Gina Bradshaw
17 Chris Duncan	18 Rodney Heern
21 Jonathon Gagnon	22 Katie Kuhn
23 Julie Weldon	24 Josh Duncan
26 Tyler Gagnon	27 Diana Tanner
27 Linda Tanner	30 April Lawton

*Your First Baptist Church Family
would like to wish each of you a
Happy Birthday!*





December 2019



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.	2	3	4 Adult Bible Studies Youth & Children's Ministries 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7 Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
8 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m. Hosparus Health Celebration of Remembrance Service 1:00 p.m.	9	10	11 Adult Bible Studies Youth & Children's Ministries 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.	16	17	18 Adult Bible Studies Youth & Children's Ministries 6:30 p.m.	19 J.O.Y. Group 11:30 a.m.	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.	30	31 Youth Talent Show 8:00 p.m. Games, Deserts, & Communion				