

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Newsletter

### A Word From Your Pastor

Greetings Everyone,

I pray that this newsletter finds you well and walking with the Lord Jesus Christ. As I am writing this, I am two days returned from the Ligonier National Conference in Orlando. I want to say that I had a marvelous time just worshipping and being preached to for three straight days! I was also able to visit a church on the Sunday morning and worship with believers there—which is always an enjoyable experience. I am reminded every time I go to a conference or to a church on vacation that the Lord Jesus has people who worship Him everywhere every Sunday! As you know Easter is right around the corner and I do pray that you will join us for our Good Friday service, our Sun Rise service and our worship service (all of the times are in the calendar). We desperately need to be reminded of our living hope through a living Savior, with all of the chaos of these past couple of years!

With that in mind I want to remind you of some of the glorious truths that were proven to be fact when Jesus victoriously, by the power of God, walked out of that tomb. It means that our labor is not in vain, it means that we are not in our sins, it means that our suffering is not in vain, it means that we will see our loved ones again, it means that we can hope in Christ for our future, it means that everything the Bible says is true, it means that everything Jesus said is true, it means that He is Lord of all, it means that He conquered sin and death, it means that He is the Son of God, it means that God has accepted the sacrifice on our behalf, it means that He truly is the long-awaited Messiah, it means that there truly is life after death, it means that there truly is another reality that we cannot see with our physical eyes, and it means that for those who repent and believe in Him for salvation we too will be raised bodily from the grave!

When I think about all of these realities (of course this list is not exhaustive) I am reminded of two passages of Scripture immediately. The first is “For I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom 8:18 ESV). Paul says this in connection with the (full and final) setting free of the entire creation from the curse of the fall of Adam, which he says will be at “the redemption of our bodies” (Rom 8:23). The second is “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin” (Rom. 6:5-6). Not only will we be raised bodily from the dead just as Christ was, but because of our union with a resurrected Christ *now* we are empowered to live as those “alive to God” (6:11) and “set free from slavery to sin (6:12-14, 17). In other words, because of the resurrection of Christ we have a living hope now in Christ *and* we have a living hope for the future in Christ! What a glorious thing it is to be in God’s grace!

Blessings in Christ,

Bro. Cole

## POWER OF PRAYER BY BR. DUSTIN WHITE

I recently read a report saying how the practice of prayer for a daily time of an undisturbed 12 minutes has positive effects on the brain that produces development of the brain. This study just reminds me of Romans 12 when we read about the renewing of our minds. Therefore, we cannot underestimate the power of prayer in multiple fashions. One, prayer is a direct line of communication with the God almighty that is capable of answering every prayer requests however He sees fit. Two, seeing how prayer is a direct line to the Heavenly Father that longs to have a relationship with us, it should not be hard to believe that through communicating to him our minds are opened to more of His will and glory that allows our minds to be transformed in line with how God wants our minds to be transformed. Three, through prayer we can see God more at work in our daily lives that will aid in anchoring our faith in the LORD, thus bringing our relationship with God closer. All faithful pray warriors have testimonies of seeing how prayer works. When we look at our world today may we not forget the power of prayer. May we not forget to be in prayer in the times we are in today. May we not forget that our God has the power in prayer and is in control sitting on throne. May we trust Him with our cares and concerns in the days of 2021.

### Things to pray for

2020-2021 School Year

Wednesday Night Services

Sunday Services

Hot Hearts 2021

### Preaching to the Choir

Several weeks ago I told Brother Cole that it's a well-known reality that, the longer one stays in the ministry, the more chances there are for funny or embarrassing situations. I've had **my** share . . . here's one of them.

A dear college friend of mine asked me to sing at his wedding which was to be held --outdoors-- in the beautiful rose garden of Springfield, Missouri's Fasnicht Park. The wedding day arrived and the garden was resplendent with roses in every possible hue. The bride was radiant in her pure white gown and veil; the groomsmen smart, in their black tuxedos. Everyone was ready, but... **where was the groom?** Ushers and attendants searched throughout the garden. Alas! No groom!

The decision was made to wait five minutes... then ten... then fifteen as the flustered bride became increasingly distraught with the absence of her groom. She finally caught my attention and dramatically mouthed the words, **"Sing something!" "Okay!"**

I quickly found a hymnal, opened the book to a familiar song, and handed it to the pianist. She began to play; I began to sing; the wedding party and guests exploded in hysterical laughter! It was only then I realized I had been singing:

**"I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses..."**

The laughter subsided with the arrival of the embarrassed groom, his tuxedo filthy and wrinkled; his crisp white shirt sweaty and stained with dust and grease. Poor guy! Blew a tire on his way to the wedding, and had to change it himself.

Somehow I wonder if we don't take our contributions to our personal ministries too seriously. After all... we're only human. I wonder, don't you, if God takes pleasure in showing us our frailties and shortcomings!

Take a glad heart and a smile with you into May!

*John D. Olsen*

### **... oh, by the way!**

We are still trying to rebuild and maintain the presence of a "choir" in our Sunday morning worship, and for special occasions.

The sacrifice of your singing talent for 20 minutes each Sunday morning should not be difficult or inconvenient . There's no rehearsal involved... all you gotta do is show up in the choir loft before the service begins; sing whatever part you want to sing. This has worked really well the past few Sundays. The strength of a "choir" encourages the congregation to sing-out. The "choir", in turn, feeds off the congregation's confidence.

There are at least 9 singers --as many as 12-- who could add their talent to the mix. We look forward to your participation in the coming weeks.

# CHURCH services

## Sundays

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.

Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

## Wednesdays

Bible Study 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Nursery (Birth - 3 years) 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Mission Friends (3 years - Kindergarten) 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Bible Drills (1st - 6th grade) 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Rock (7th-12th grade) 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

## Thursdays

Senior Social 9:00-11:00 a.m.

# CHURCH events

- \* Deacon Meeting - Thursday, April 01, 6:00 p.m.
- \* Good Friday Service - Friday, April 02, 6:00 p.m.
- \* Sunrise Service - Sunday, April 04, 6:30 a.m. Camper's Cove
- \* Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer - April 04 - 11
- \* Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Ingathering - Sunday, April 11
- \* Mission Team Meeting - Sunday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.
- \* Youth Leadership Team Meeting - Sunday, April 11, 4:30 p.m.
- \* No Wednesday Night Ministries - Wednesday, April 14
- \* Finance Team Meeting - Sunday, April 18, 4:30 p.m.
- \* Business Meeting - Sunday, April 18, 5:00 p.m.
- \* Youth Fundraiser Silent Auction - April 18-25
- \* Hot Hearts :
  - April 23 - 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
  - April 24 - 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
  - April 25 - Youth Led Service