

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

JANUARY 7, 2020



First Baptist Church

BLESSED ARE THE MAKERS OF PEACE

Hello Church,

The new year has arrived, the New York ball has dropped, and resolutions are being made. What is your resolution for the new year? Do you even bother? I don't always make a resolution, though sometimes I find them helpful. Goals are usually good tools to help guide us throughout the journey of life. If you're still searching for a resolution, then I would like to suggest the resolution to be a "peacemaker."

Jesus says in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." Our community could use a lot more peace. 2020 is going to bring many great and beautiful things, but it will also bring plenty of personal trials and national division. Remembering our calling to be the makers of peace is a worthy goal.

There are many ways that you can make peace, but I'll suggest a few here:

Pray. Sounds simple, but pausing throughout the day to remember that God loves you and that God loves every person you see will help. It is a way of centering yourself and reminding yourself who you are and what really matters.

Listen. Often times conflict between strangers, or even friends, could be avoided (or at least lessened) by an injection of listening. Patience matters; hearing someone and really seeing them matters. So focus on listening to others and you'll be much more equipped to handle peace making each day.

Sacrifice. The cost of peace requires some sacrifice. It is just part of the Christian walk. Our savior chose to sacrifice for us and leads us in a ministry of sacrifice. Sometimes building bridges is going to require sacrificing in our lives.

Empathize. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes is never easy. But there are few things more Christ-like than really seeing another person's struggles and hurt.

Forgive. If you really want to be a peacemaker in the world, have a little grace and mercy for the people around you. Remember that no person is one thing. They are not solely defined by their votes, social media posts, or worst moments. None of us wants to be defined by our worst moments. If we are going to find pathways toward peace, then there is going to need to be a lot more forgiveness out there.

Let us all work together to bring more peace into the world. That sounds like a wonderful resolution for the new year, one worthy of any Christ-follower. And when you start making peace, that's when you will be called a child of God.

Happy New Year,
Dr. Rob Collins
Senior Pastor

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WORSHIP

10 AM Worship & Children's Sunday School ■ 11 AM Fellowship

Sunday, January 12, 2020

"Come Out of the Shadows"

Matthew 5:14-16 & Mark 4:21-25

Jesus makes a point to say that you are the light of the world. We can try to stay hidden. We can try to hide our pain or sin or doubts. But light breaks through darkness, and in the end all is revealed. This isn't something to fear; it's part of freedom and part of the journey of Christ. Together we will explore the calling to be light in the world and what it means to come out of the shadows.

Music: "Light Shine In"—Chancel Choir

January 19, 2020—February 23

"Liberation, Freedom & Equality"

A Sermon Series

Starting on Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend we will explore the messages of freedom and liberty throughout scripture. These stories of God's concern for the freedom of all peoples are found throughout the Bible. Together we will reflect on the rich theology of liberation and the vibrant, deep spiritual songs that accompany it. This series will take us all the way through February, as we ramp toward Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

In the letter to the Galatians Paul writes that, "You, my brothers and sisters, are called to be free." (Galatians 5:13) And that freedom is for everyone. So come along as we sing the great spirituals of our faith and explore the writings of champions for justice and equality and the biblical stories of liberation that still shine true today.

Music: Congregational singing, as well as anthems and special songs from church musicians, will celebrate freedom through Christ with a variety of offerings from the rich heritage of spiritual and gospel music. Members of our music ministry look forward to this powerful celebration together!

WELCOME CENTER SCHEDULE

Jan. 5 & 12—Delores Swigart

Jan. 19—Gordon Brown

Jan. 26—Carolyn Ihnken

Feb. 2—TBD

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

First Baptist Church will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 26th, following worship.

We will review and vote on the 2020 budget. Lunch will be provided. Copies of the 2019 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 19th, on the table outside the church office. If you would like a copy of the report and are unable to pick one up, please contact the church office by phone—(309) 682-5491—or e-mail—office@fbcpeoria.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Tom Maulding	Char Austin	Helen Nicol
Sharon Stanard	Rose Kimpling	Mark Stanard
Jim Ashton	Rosemary Walk	Mary Hinch
Jerry Edwards	Alyssa Russell	John Hart
Jacquelyn Kellogg	Deb Houser	Traci Nielsen
Leon Vickerman	Karen Vickerman	

Don Middleton (Rev. Middleton's son)

BLUE DONATION ENVELOPES

Members wishing to use the blue envelopes for donations may pick them up in the church office during office hours—Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.—or on Sunday morning before worship. If possible, please call the office in advance so we can have the envelopes ready for you.

Anyone who is unable to pick up the envelopes may contact the church office to have them sent by mail. Just let us know—309-682-5491 or office@fbcpeoria.org—how many you need and where you would like them sent.



HEALTH TIPS:

Resolutions for the New Year

As the New Year begins we often make resolutions to better ourselves. It may be to stop smoking, lose weight or exercise more. What about things that make us better mentally? Many times we forget our mental health is as important as our physical health.

This New Year make a resolution to be a blessing to others. Merriam-Webster defines beatitude as "a state of utmost bliss" with synonyms of "blessedness," "happiness," "joy" and "warm fuzzies." In essence, be a "beatitude" to yourself or someone else. We often forget to take care of ourselves.

Taking care of yourself can be as simple as saying "no" to that extra volunteer opportunity, sleeping in late on the weekend, watching a sunset with your favorite someone or enjoying a funny movie. Be a blessing to others by becoming a secret pal throughout the year. Send notes anonymously or little gifts with notes of encouragement. Who wouldn't like a pat on the back during a stressful time? Sit back and watch their reaction.

I have been on the receiving end of a friend's generosity and felt uncomfortable receiving such a gift. She told me something I will never forget: "Don't deny me this blessing (of helping you)." Now it is your turn to be the blessing...to yourself or someone else.

Vicki Weatherington
Parish Nurse

February 2020



First Baptist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Please bring your non-perishable food items on January 5th. Donations will continue to go to Friendship House.</p>		<p>SUPER BOWL SUB'S Orders taken in Fellowship Hall, Sunday, January 26th. Delivery in Fellowship Hall, Sunday, February 2nd. Cost \$5 each — turkey or ham</p>			<p>1 8AM Men's Breakfast (Fell. Hall)</p>	
<p>2 COMMUNION SUN. 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time SUPER BOWL SUBS DELIVERED</p>	<p>3 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's</p>	<p>4 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 7:30PM FBC Dartball (Fell. Hall)</p>	<p>5 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:30PM Choir</p>	<p>6 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10AM ABW Brunch (Fell. Hall)</p>
<p>9 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time</p>	<p>10 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's 11AM Heart-warming Hats (Conn. Rm.)</p>	<p>11 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 5:30PM Diac. Mtg. 6:30PM Board Meetings 7:30PM FBC Dartball (Bartonville)</p>	<p>12 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:30PM Choir</p>	<p>13 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time 11:15AM: Contemporary Issues (Sanctuary) and Kids' Connection Executive Comm. Mtg. (Parlor)</p>	<p>17 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's</p>	<p>18 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 12:30PM Circle of Friends (Fell. Hall) 7:30PM FBC Dartball (Fell. Hall)</p>	<p>19 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:30PM Choir</p>	<p>20 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time</p>	<p>24 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's</p>	<p>25 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 5PM Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Talent Show 7:30PM FBC Dartball (Bethany)</p>	<p>26 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:30PM Ash Wed. Svc. (Sanctuary) 7:45PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)</p>	<p>28 6:30PM Dining Out Group</p>	<p>29</p>



First Baptist Church

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THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Our next class will be on Sunday, February 16th. The topic will be "Preventing Gun Violence." Our guest speaker will be Kathleen Jones, who co-chairs Moms Demand Action. The class will meet at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

KID'S CONNECTION

February 16th during the Contemporary Issues class children from birth-5th grade will meet for Kid's Connection! During Kid's Connection, we will dive into a Bible study followed by a snack and fun activity. This time also serves as child care for adult Sunday School time. We look forward to this time together!

DINING OUT

The group will be dining at the Golden Corral, 3525 N. University Street, Peoria, on Friday, January 24th, at 6:30 p.m. Please let Jen Dusek know if you plan to attend: Phone (309) 231-6389 or e-mail: the_j_family@yahoo.com.

ABW JANUARY DATES

The **ABW Brunch** will be on Saturday, January 11th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Daryl Carlson on Alzheimer's and Dementia. Joan Trotter will lead Devotions. Offering: Love Gift and the Niles, missionaries to the Congo. Cost will be \$4 at the door. Feel free to invite friends; just make reservations so we have a seat for them. Call Carolyn at 309-685-1388 or e-mail her at csimk@comcast.net for reservations.

The **Circle of Friends** will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21st, in Fellowship Hall.

The **Evening Literature Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 21st, at 1:00 p.m., at the home of Delores Swigart, 2613 N. Linn, Peoria. The book to be reviewed is Elizabeth Street by Laurie Fabiano.

CONDOLENCES

To Sonya Baldauf and family on the death of Sonya's aunt, Carol Standifer December 24, 2019.

Janet Johnson Whitcomb, former First Baptist member, daughter of the late Fred and Opal Johnson, and the sister of Sally Johnson Tiessen and Kathy Hindert, passed away on January 4, 2020.