



NOVEMBER - 2020

Greetings!

November is a special month for many reasons. This month, anticipation builds for the Christmas season, the air gets just a little more crisp, and we get to gather together with friends and family to enjoy a large meal (or two or three!). But the thing that makes November *really* special is that we have the opportunity to focus on thankfulness. Thanksgiving is a holiday when we can slow down and take time to reflect on and enjoy God's blessings. We don't deserve grace, but God gives it us anyway. We don't deserve mercy, but God gives it to us anyway. Let us take time this month to worship the Lord, consider His greatness and generosity, and thank Him for how wonderful He truly is to us!

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

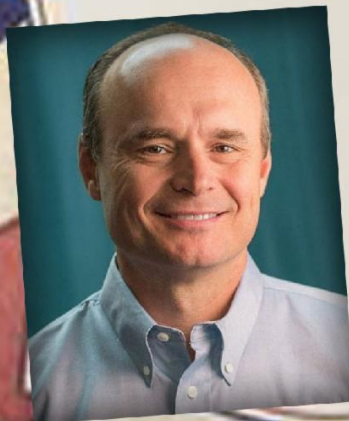
Veteran's Day Sunday

November 8, 2020

A special worship service to honor our God, our country and those men and women who served.

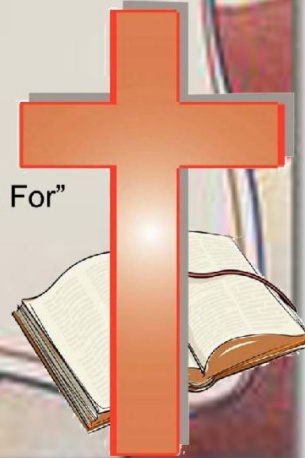
Veterans of our church and our community are invited to attend with their families. Please RSVP with your name and the number attending to the church office at 724-2457

- 10:15 - 10:30am Reserved Seating in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 Special Worship Service featuring First Baptist Worship Arts Dept. Indiana Patriot Guard



Guest Speaker:
Ray Hilbert

Message:
"It's Worth Fighting For"



Pastor Michael's birthday is November 13th.
Be sure to wish him a good one!

Decorating for Christmas

If you would like to help us decorate the church for the Christmas season, please come at 10:00am on Saturday,

November 28th. We'd love to have you!



Sunday

10:30am: Morning Worship

Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study
with Debbie Deutsch

Wednesday

9:00am - 3:00pm: Ladies Sewing
6:30pm - 7:30pm: K-12 Groups

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Each year, First Baptist Church collects shoeboxes to send to Operation Christmas Child. The last day to bring in shoeboxes is Sunday, November 22nd. Please feel free to donate money if you would like someone from the church to do your shopping for you. You may also include money for postage if you wish. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Operation Christmas Child.



You are welcome to make your own shoeboxes and bring them to the church, but if you would like to donate items to put in shoeboxes the church is already making, please consider the following:

Hats
Bar soap
Brushes
Chalk
Chapstick
Combs
Small containers
Flip Flops
Girls' hair accessories
Glue sticks

Jump Rope
Play-Dough
Scotch Tape
Small toys
Socks
Stickers
Sunglasses
Wash cloths
Watercolor set

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

My 2 Week Journey

As I was talking to someone the other day, it struck me that I've been in the work force for over 40 years! WOW! That's a long time. And this was the first time in those 40 + years that I've actually taken 2 weeks off in a row. It was different, it was good, it was a taste of retirement, too!

So, what did I do? I don't really know! LOL!! Debbie and I spent more time together than normal. We actually went to church together to worship. As a pastor, we never go together. I always go before she does. So, it was nice to walk in with her and worship with her. It was great to be able to attend 2 very different worship experiences. Going to different churches is an unusual luxury for a pastor since I'm always at our church. To be able to witness the different ways other churches meet, greet and worship was good for me.

I did a lot of reading. I thought I would read books, but spent more time reading the Bible. I basically read the New Testament over the 2 weeks. It was fun, and I encourage you to read the Word. Know what you believe, be excited and surprised by what you're reading! It's God's Word, living and active!

I played disc golf about 5 times. I've come to enjoy (sometimes) this new game. It's great exercise and if I may add, a very humbling game for those new to it. The nice part was that on some nice days, Debbie went with me and it was nice to walk and play together. We also went to an apple orchard which had the best apple cinnamon donuts! I wish I had one for everyone!

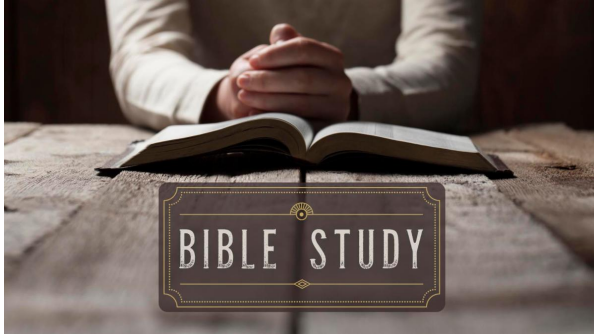
I have had a dream for many years, which I've told to some folks -- I want to write a Good Friday Funeral for Jesus. Then have part 2 on Easter. I began the writing process and got pretty far along on the Good Friday funeral. I need to finish that up and then work on part 2 which is the Easter celebration. I believe it has the potential to be very moving and attract people to the church.

Overall, it was great to have time away. The 2 weeks went by super fast, which is good in the sense that I was doing stuff, and bad in that it went so fast!

I thought it would be good to give you a quick recap of what your pastor did over the past 2 weeks! I am proud to be your pastor and am looking for new ways we can do ministry and make a difference in our community. I don't have to tell you about the strangeness of 2020, yet, we have a God who has promised us He will be with us where we go. That's a great promise for us to always hold onto. Love and Blessings to all!!!

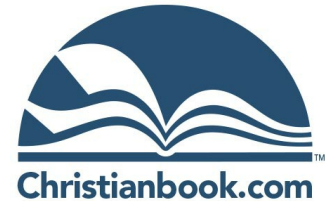
RESOURCES

Bible Reading Plan



Pastor Michael has created a Bible reading plan that will allow you to read the entire New Testament in 90 days. Please click [HERE](#) to access November's readings, or find them at the bottom of this newsletter.

Christianbook.com is a fantastic resource for Bibles, books of all kinds, children's materials, music, movies, and much, much more. The church has ordered multiple items from them and their prices are usually very reasonable. We highly recommend! Click [HERE](#) to check them out!



It is so important for followers of Christ to know their spiritual gifts. Please feel free to carefully complete this assessment and turn in the answer sheet to Pastor Michael. He will be happy to go over it with you! Click [HERE](#) to access the assessment.

Pastor Michael's Blog

Pastor Michael does a video blog Monday through Friday in which he takes a passage of scripture and talks about it. The video blogs are relevant and only last 3-5 minutes on average.

To watch Pastor Michael's Blog, click [HERE](#).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“If you are living outside of God's purpose, you are living outside of God's power.”

- Tony Evans

Nurturing Passionate Commitment

A story from Duffy Robbins

I once attended a funeral in my home state of North Carolina. It had been a wonderful celebration of a life well lived. But now we were back at the church at a reception of sorts - an opportunity to meet family members and express our condolences. It was the first time I'd had an opportunity to speak privately that day with the elderly gentleman standing in the reception line, so I walked over and asked how he was doing. That's when, without ever making eye contact with me, he pulled a picture from his suit pocket. As we looked at it together, he began telling me a remarkable story.

The history of the old, wrinkled photograph went all the way back to World War II when the elderly gentleman was just a young Air Force lieutenant stationed near Tallahassee, Florida. One day on leave, he was walking around downtown when he saw two cute girls. Wanting to find a way to meet them, he came up with an elegantly simple plan. He had his camera, so he strolled over and politely asked the girls if they'd mind posing with him for a picture. They blushing consented to the picture, and a passerby snapped the shot, a black-and-white photograph with him in uniform surrounded by two lovely ladies. And then, in a move I thought was kind of ingenious, he made this proposal: "Now, if you'll give me your name, address, and phone number, when I get this picture developed, I'll see that each of you gets a copy."



To make a long, wonderful, romantic story short, that's exactly what happened. But, to make the story even more intriguing, it turns out the two girls were sisters. And when the young lieutenant sent them a letter, along with two copies of the developed picture, only the younger sister wrote him back. But that was enough to spark a three-year courtship that led to a marriage that lasted more than 50 years. In fact, the funeral that day was for this woman he'd loved faithfully and passionately for more than half a century.

On their wedding day, neither of them could know, of course, what their life together might hold. Surely they never suspected that the last 10 years would be lived in the growing shadows of Alzheimer's disease - an illness that slowly and relentlessly led this pretty young woman into a dark tunnel of physical, mental, and emotional decay. But a vow is a vow. So in the later years of their union, as the mind and body of his bride faded into the shadows, this man continued to care for her, day in and day out, refusing to surrender their relationship to even the worst of a truly awful disease.

As I listened to this old guy tell his story, and as I watched him look at the faded photograph with such genuine appreciation, I was moved by his absolute devotion - even after years of almost constant and complete care. Then it dawned on me: *This is what it's like to live a life of profound, authentic passion.* I was so struck by this that I risked asking what might have been an inappropriate question - especially under the circumstances.

I said, "Look, if this is too painful - you don't have to answer this question, but I really want to know. I'm a husband, and I want to love my wife like that, faithfully to the very end. How did you do it? How could you love so faithfully and so selflessly all those years?"

I'll never forget his answer. Still looking down at the picture with obvious affection, I could see his eyes start to tear up, and then he said, "She gave me so much joy and so much love, it was never anything but a privilege to love her back."

As we consider what it means to be a disciple of Christ and as we reflect on His profound love for us, let us look to this story to see what the vow of lifelong, wholehearted passion really looks like. Yes, this is a love that invites and enables and involves and enacts, but most of all, at the heart of discipleship is a love that *endures.*

Bible Reading Plan - Month 2

November 1 - John 16-18

November 2 - John 19-21

November 3 - Acts 1-4

November 4 - Acts 5-7

November 5 - Acts 8-10

November 6 - Acts 11-13

November 7 - Acts 14-16

November 8 - Acts 17-19

November 9 - Acts 20-22

November 10 - Acts 23-25

November 11 - Acts 26-28

November 12 - Romans 1-3

November 13 - Romans 4-6

November 14 - Romans 7-9

November 15 - Romans 10-12

November 16 - Romans 13-16

November 17 - 1 Corinthians 1-3

November 18 - 1 Corinthians 4-6

November 19 - 1 Corinthians 7-9

November 20 - 1 Corinthians 10-12

November 21 - 1 Corinthians 13-16

November 22 - 2 Corinthians 1-4

November 23 - 2 Corinthians 5-7

November 24 - 2 Corinthians 8-10

November 25 - 2 Corinthians 11-13

November 26 - Galatians 1-3

November 27 - Galatians 4-6

November 28 - Ephesians 1-3

November 29 - Ephesians 4-6

November 30 - Philippians 1-4

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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