



Newsletter

AUGUST - 2021

Greetings!

Time marches on, doesn't it? It seems like we get the Christmas decorations put away, celebrate the 4th of July and then it's time to pull the decorations back out again! Here it is, already August. The thought that time flies is starting to have new meaning for me, and it's not necessarily a pleasant thought anymore. I have children who are two, seven, and twelve. They are growing up so fast and I am continually falling into the trap of "yeah, I hope we get to do that someday" or "we need to make time to go there eventually" and "right now just isn't going to work. Maybe tomorrow." But there are only so many tomorrows.

The Bible says in Matthew 24:36 that no one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return, therefore we need to be ready. But what are we doing to be ready? How can we be prepared?

First, we should always have our hearts right with the Lord. What do you need to confess? Of what do you need to repent? What part of your life are you still holding onto, rather than giving it over to God? Who in your life do you still need to tell about Jesus?

Second, only after we've worked things out with Jesus, we should get our priorities straight. There is truth in the saying "YOLO - You Only Live Once." At least on earth, this is correct. So if we only live once, what are we doing? What's most important to us? How are we using our precious, limited time? Who are we spending it with?

What does our "bucket list" look like? Are we making *God's* priorities for our life *our* priorities? My hope and prayer is that I will make each moment count with my children, my parents, and my church. I want to seize every opportunity that God puts before me to better myself, experience something new, share the love of Jesus with a stranger, take my family someplace none of us has ever been, and much much more.

As we start a new month, don't let time slip away like hourglass sand. Seize the day. Treasure the time you have and spend it wisely. Today only happens once.

With love,

Pastor Eric

NEWS AND EVENTS

Men's Night - TONIGHT! (August 1st)

It's here! Your roll of duct tape is here, waiting for you! So, will you come and get it? Every man coming tonight will receive duct tape. Tonight, yes, tonight, the men are meeting from 4:30 - 6 PM in the Family Life Center for dinner and a time to hang out. Pastor Michael will talk (we promise, not for long) to let us know about the men's group and upcoming meetings and events. We will eat, hang out, and play some games (horseshoes, cornhole, ladder golf and disc golf). So, come on, we promise nobody will be duct taped to the wall . . . we think!



Weekly children and youth activities will resume on Wednesday, August 11th from 6:30-7:30pm. We meet each Wednesday during the school year.

High Point = K-3rd grades
Crew 456 = 4th-6th grades
Impact = 7th-12th grades



BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY

The Mission Team would like to thank everyone for your continued support of the Back to School Rally. It is a wonderful outreach to the community and a great help to the school corporation. We handed out 197 school bags to the students. We served 240 hotdogs,

chips and awesome home-baked cookies plus a drink. There was an amazing

number of volunteers, at least 50 including those from the city and county, filling ALL needed positions. The school cheerleaders were a great help and there were so many happy faces! We think the adults enjoyed the games as much as the students. We were definitely the hands and feet of Jesus! On Tuesday we also delivered 73 more bags of supplies to the Elementary school. Again, THANK YOU!



This great group of young people went to the Alex Care Center, the Police Department and the Fire Department to deliver cookies and cards and to pray with those who serve and protect our community so well. Good job Morgan Prophet, Eli Chastain, Caden Weller, Lilly Thomas, Addison Nichols, and Blake Thomas!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ERNIE!

Ernest Hostetler was the worship leader at First Baptist Church for many, many years. This month, he turns 90 years old! Congratulations, Ernie! We love you and we appreciate all you've done for the Lord and for our congregation over the years.



Camp Tippy 100th Anniversary Celebration September 11, 2021



A variety of activities will take place from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Dan's Fish Fry: 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Cabins for Kids \$100 Challenge - It's more than a cabin... It's building for the future! Please consider giving a gift of \$100 for the construction of new cabins!

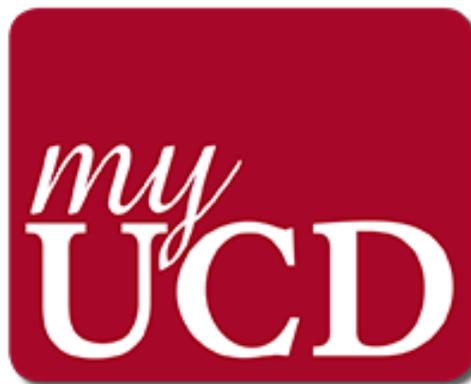
Camp Tippy is located at:
6 EMS Lane T52A North Webster, IN 46555
574-834-4184
Rebecca Scott, Camp Director

Registration for camp is now open! To register your child/children, go to www.camptippy.org and click on "Registration and what to bring"

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Pastor Michael shares daily (generally speaking Monday - Friday) with an online devotion. He shares from the Bible, reads scriptures and shares a message from it. Check out the church Facebook page to catch what he's sharing. Right now he's talking about the words of Jesus from the Gospel of Mark. You can find the devotions on Facebook at Alexandria First Baptist Church.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY



We are excited to announce that the church now has it's own app and online directory! Here, we'll explain how to download the app, what features it has, and how to view the church directory in the app or online.

Step-by-Step instructions to download and access the app:

1. With your smart phone touch the App Store icon for your type of phone (Apple Store or Google Play) then search for: '**Universal Church Directory**'
2. The App is called *myUCD*. Click on the "Get" or "Install" button
3. When the app has finished installing, click "Open"
4. Enter the following Unique Identifier: **fpeCwEXNH** (this is case sensitive)
5. Click on the gray "Download My Church Directory" button (there may be a delay)
6. Begin using the church app features such as:

- Watch Services
- Email the church
- Call the church
- View Announcements and Events
- View the church calendar
- Give Online

- Access YouVersion Bible
- View the church directory
- Visit the church website
- Visit the church's Facebook page

To access the directory on a desktop computer:

1. Go to directory.ucdir.com
2. Enter the following Unique Identifier: **fpeCwEXNH** (this is case sensitive)
3. Hit "Go"
4. Prompts will appear to create your own Username and Password
5. Click on "Create Account"

If you have any problems or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We hope you enjoy using the new app!

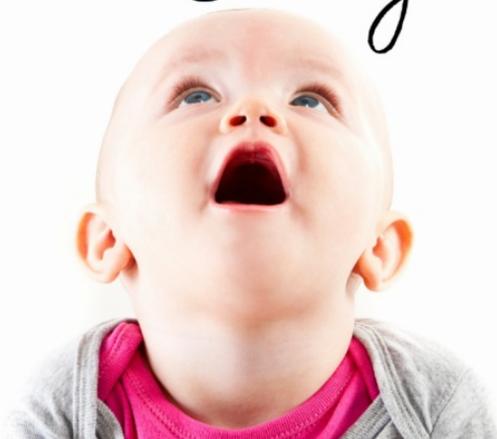
SERMON SERIES

Pastor Michael is almost done talking about Spiritual Disciplines. These messages will end at the end of August. A new series will be starting on September 12. If you have missed some messages along with the worship, you can always go to the FB page and watch them, or go to the church website at www.alexabc.com and watch the worships there.

HELP WANTED!

THE NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL ARE OPEN!

Please sign up to help take care of our little ones on Sunday mornings!



If you would like to help in the nursery or pre-school rooms on Sunday mornings please let Krystal Hill or Pastor Michael know. We greatly appreciate your help.
Thank you!!

OPPORTUNITIES

If you are wanting to serve in the church, now is a great time to say a hearty "YES" to the call of Jesus. Maybe it's learning and helping with the audio-visual / technology aspects of worship, maybe it's serving in the nursery or pre-school room, or helping Jill in Children's Church, maybe it's being an usher and helping people feel welcomed as they come into the church and helping in other ways. There are opportunities available beyond these as well. But you need to ask. We don't know what your skills, gifts and passions are, so please see Pastor Michael and we will help find a way to get you connected.



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

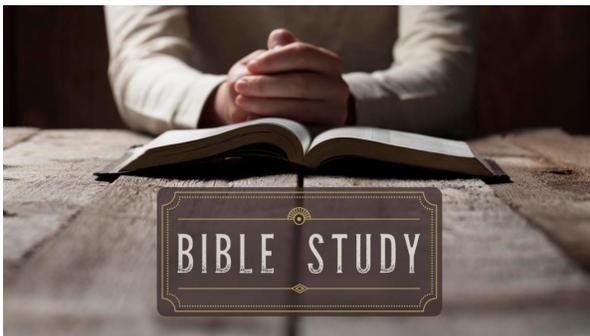
Tuesday

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

Wednesday

6:30pm: High Point (grades K-3)
Crew 456 (grades 4-6)
Impact (grades 7-12)

RESOURCES



Click [HERE](#) to access the 2021 Bible reading plan!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From Pastor and Author Alistair Begg:

Is there humor in the Bible? I suppose it depends on what we mean. It is safe to say that the Scriptures do not contain funny stories. However, certain occurrences are recorded in such a way that they strike us as funny, or at least ironic.

One such incident is in Acts 12. Peter is imprisoned, and Luke tells us that “earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.” When he is miraculously released, he goes to the house “where many were gathered together and were praying.”

Instead of reacting to the news with praise for answered prayer, their response is disbelief. They were concerned enough to pray, but funnily enough, they didn't expect an answer.

If we're honest, we can see ourselves in that picture. We are aware of our need and faithful in prayer and yet, deep down, doubtful about an answer.

The prayers of the apostle Paul have both challenged and helped me. Having exhorted his readers to pray, Paul then asks for prayer for himself. His specific request is "Pray for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel." That is not an expression of false humility but a cry from his heart. Paul has been praying for his fellow believers in Ephesus, and now he wants them to pray for him! I wonder if you pray for your pastor. Do you ask God to "keep him kept"? Do you pray for him on Saturday evening and as he enters the pulpit on Sunday morning? Do you pray as he preaches, that he might do so with clarity and conviction and compassion; that he might be himself and forget himself? Charles Spurgeon was convinced that he could preach the same sermons to greater effect if only his people might pray for him. On one occasion when asked why his preaching was apparently so effective, Spurgeon replied, "My people pray for me."

We find ourselves at a moment in history when nothing other than an outpouring of the Spirit of God in revival can remedy our situation. I hear people saying, "We have never seen this kind of thing before." It reminds me of another incident in Mark's Gospel. The disciples who rejoiced in their power over demonic forces were unable to handle the request of a father to cast a demon out of his son. When they asked Jesus why they were unable, he replied, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer" (Mark 9:29).

The disciples are a picture of a powerless church that finds that all its methodology and strategic thinking cannot deal with this kind of demonic activity. Shall we not then take seriously the word of Christ and the pattern of the early church and ask God in believing prayer to shower us with divine enabling so that we can take our stand against "Our Ancient Foe"?

From time to time, I turn to the Book of Common Prayer. This is the collect for the fourth Sunday after Easter:

O Almighty God,
who alone can order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men;
grant to your people that they may love what you command,
and desire what you promise;
that so, among the many changes of the world,
our hearts may be surely fixed,
where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With my love in the Lord Jesus,

Alistair Begg

CONTACT
US

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Find us on Facebook!

