

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Newsletter

JUNE - 2023

Greetings!

Pastor Michael's Thoughts

As I was reading in Matthew, I was struck by these words from Jesus of praise and condemnation.

33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Our words carry an amazing amount of power. Our words build up and encourage; or our words can bring someone down and bring discouragement. As you consider your words, how do you speak them?

Notice how Jesus even points out the careless words will be subject to judgement. "OUCH! Jesus you're stepping on our toes!" How often do careless or idle words fly out of our mouths which can cause others to experience pain? Can we do better in the midst of our daily lives? When we have nothing good to say, can we just practice the discipline of silence?

Ultimately, as Jesus said in verse 34, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." I love that! What is abundant in your heart right now? Is it joy, blessedness, peace, contentment? How about the fruits of the Spirit – you know, love, patience, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Or . . . is your heart filled with anger, bitterness, despair, hopelessness or more?

This week, this month, can you demonstrate Christ's love and grace? Let's demonstrate the power and love and joy, our blessedness in Christ to the world and help the world to see Jesus' love.

Pastor Michael

NEWS AND EVENTS

The Branch Class Invites You To An...

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*June 11 after morning worship
in the Family Life Center*

Come out and enjoy a meal provided by the Branch Class!
No need to bring anything, just come and enjoy fellowship and great food.

Attention All Children!

June 9-10 - Lock-In from 6:00pm-8:00am. Come enjoy food, games, and a movie!

June 19-22 - Vacation Bible School. (see below)

June 25 - Kids will sing VBS songs during morning worship and have lunch afterwards.



Vacation Bible School

June 19-22, 2023

Join Daniel—torn from his home and forced into the king’s service. Explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar! Kids and adults will find that they’re not much different from Daniel and his friends, who kept their faith in a faithless culture.

Keep an eye on your weekly bulletin to register or speak with Jill Thomas about how you can get involved!



S.A.L.T. Society Road Trip

The S.A.L.T. (Seasoned Adults Learning Together) Society will take a road trip to the Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana on **June 22 at 8:00am**. Cost is \$7.00 per person (\$5.00 for a group of 10 or more).

In 1995, Eva Mozes Kor opened the Candles Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Terre Haute, with a mission to prevent prejudice and hatred through education about the Holocaust. Thousands of people, including many school groups, have visited CANDLES since it opened.

In 2003, the museum was destroyed by a hate-filled arsonist. Eva vowed to rebuild, and with the help of a generous public outpouring of support, the museum was rebuilt and reopened in 2005.



Community
**POOL
PARTY**



First Baptist Church is sponsoring a free pool party at the Alex City Pool for you and yours on **Tuesday, July 25th from 7:00-9:00pm!**

SERVICES



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study with Debbie Deutsch
S.A.L.T. Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month

Wednesday

6:30pm: Prayer Meeting (first Wed. of month), Bible Study (remaining Wednesdays)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A Balanced Prayer

Modern-day Christians can learn a lot from prayers recorded in the Old Testament. Many women and men who prayed in the Bible witnessed firsthand God's wonder-working power—and that power is still available to us today.

Let's take a look at Jehoshaphat. His prayer for help not only asked the Lord to meet his needs but also proclaimed God's greatness. By praying, "Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You" (2 Chron. 20:6), Jehoshaphat was praising God and at the same time reminding himself of the Lord's greatness.

Likewise, our requests should be made with recognition of who God is. While crying out to God about his terrible predicament, Jehoshaphat also exalted the Lord for His attributes and acknowledged the great things He had done previously. That's why knowing the Word of God is so important. Reading about how He has worked in the lives of others helps us grasp the immensity of His might.

Do you want to revolutionize your prayer life? When you talk to God, recall His mercy, grace, and awesome power. Focus as much attention on Him as you do on your requests, and your relationship with the Father will be transformed.

(From In Touch Ministries)



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