

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Newsletter

AUGUST - 2024

Pastor Michael's thoughts

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is James 4:8. It starts by telling us "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

That's a great thought. But there's more to the verse. And I wonder if we don't want to hear this second part of the verse from God. That's because there is a call to accountability. There's a call from God to do something that is not always easy.

The second half of the verse tells us this ---- "Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double minded people!" - James 4:8

Ouch! Say it again... OUCH! That hurts. But God wants us to understand something about ourselves and our natures. We can't just draw near to God, expect God to draw near to us, AND not clean house. If we don't make changes in our lives, then obviously, nothing will change. And that's part of the point from James.

In verse 7, he told us "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. That's great. I love it. But there's a caveat to it, I must submit myself to God. That is often times the missing ingredient in our desire to draw closer to God. We want it, but we don't want to be cleansed or purify our hearts. We even struggle with submitting to God.

With all that in mind, we then feel like God is distant from us, when in reality, we're the ones who have moved further from God.

So, this month, if I can encourage you... take inventory of your life! Is there something you need to let go of which is holding you back in your relationship with God? Is there a sin issue going on; maybe a habit or addiction that you need to change?

You can do it! Not on your own, but you can do it through the grace and the power of the risen Christ who is in your life. The God who raised Jesus from the dead is the same God who sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within you. That's great news! So... submit to God, draw near to God, let God purify and cleanse you, let God bring healing and hope to you!

Look at all God will do for you, if you simply ask and submit.

Let me know how it goes for you!!

God bless you and see you Sunday!

Pastor Michael

Did You Ever Wonder?...

When you drive into church and the grass is freshly mowed, or the parking lot is cleared and salted in the winter, the lights are on, the temperature is comfortable - cool in the hot summer, warm in the cold winter - and you leave church later not having thought about how all that took place, you have just experienced the work of the Trustees.

The Trustees are a board comprised of 7 people from the church congregation. This board is responsible for the physical caretaking of our church. Members of the board volunteer to mow the yard each week. This year, a team from the Trustees changed all lights in the church for better lighting and better efficiency. They hire the custodian and contract the snow removal. If there is a plumbing need, you will probably find a Trustee with a wrench fixing it.

The Trustees this year were responsible for the replacement of the worn-out floor in the Family Life Center. Also, the Trustees have created a team from the congregation to help set up and take down the tables and chairs for any event held in the Family Life Center.

The work of the Trustees is unlike the work of those on stage during the worship service; it is usually unseen behind the scenes during the week, but it is a vital role in the church. The building is very large and so is the work needed to maintain it. Thanks to the Trustees for doing the work that is unnoticed but appreciated.

Kevin and Beth Thompson

Back to School Rally

God is good! He put everything in place to make this a very successful event. The estimated results are in:

- 75+ volunteers (the most we've ever had)
- 384 grade-appropriate school supply bags handed out
- 504 meals provided (hot dogs, chips, and cookies)
- County and city agencies set up to offer family services
- First responders had positive contact and interaction with families
- Book Mobile handed out lots of free books
- Fun for the kiddos included face painting, removable tattoos, corn hole, hoops shooting, balloon twister, a bounce house, and many freebies

Most importantly, our community, with many in need, saw a lot of Jesus!

Thank you for your prayers, your donations, and your service, good and faithful followers!

In Christ,

Gerry Cloncs



If you are part of the group going to the Indianapolis Indians game on

August 2nd, we will leave the church
in the church van at 5:15pm.



S.A.L.T. Society
(Seasoned adults learning together)

Tuesday, August 6th at 12:00pm we will leave have a pitch-in lunch at the church.
A watercolor artist named Theresa Lucas will be our special guest.
All are welcome!



Are you coming?!

You should come.



K-12 Invited!

**SPLASH
PARTY**

2024

**Wednesday, Aug 14
6:30-8:00pm**



**I'm probably coming.
We'll see.**

**I will be shocked
if you don't come.**



All kids and youth in grades K-12th are invited to our annual Splash Party!
There will be hot dogs, chips, cookies, snow cones, games, water balloons, a
slip n slide, Star Wars obstacle course / bounce house, and more! Please
click [HERE](#) to register your child to attend or if you would like to volunteer to
help make this event happen.

Check out this [video](#) of last year's Splash Party!

THE THIRD TUESDAY TABLE

The Deaconesses of First Baptist Church are hosting community dinners!
These are held on the Third Tuesday of each month. **EVERYONE IS INVITED.**

This month's dinner will be **August 20th from 5:00pm-6:00pm.**

Menu is choice of Taco Salad or Nachos.

Dine in only - no carry outs.

Attention FBC Kids!

Sunday, August 18th - Pool party at Brian and Jennifer Dickey's home after church until 3:00pm. An adult needs to bring their child and stay with them for the duration of the party. Lunch is provided. Kids need to bring their own swimsuit and towel. Children in preschool through 6th grade are invited.

Friday, August 23rd - Kids movie night from 6:00-9:00pm for kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Impact Retreat

The youth group will head to Upland to the Connexion Retreat Center for a retreat August 23rd-25th. We will eat, play games, swim, learn, and grow together. Please pray for our group that this weekend would be a great stepping stone for our faith!



It's coming! Sign up at
www.betterman.com/register

All material is free and the hope is that we grow in our relationships as men and become a better-man.

B BETTERMAN



Books and CDs

Coming soon, I will have books and CDs (FREE) set out on tables in the Family Life Center. Take one or two and enjoy them!

Pastor Michael

SERVICES



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

Tuesday

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

S.A.L.T. Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month

Wednesday

6:30pm: Bible Study

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



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