



## Emphasis on Gratitude

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by Wade Allen

Moving into the holiday season, uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Considering this past year, we might have a tendency to focus on difficulties. Let me encourage us, as a congregation, to take a different approach.



We are instructed in the Scriptures to consider the ways God has been faithful to us. We are to offer praise to God, even when life is not what we desire. Therefore, we are going to spend several weeks in a mode of gratitude. On the three Sundays before Thanksgiving, we will hear your stories about God's faithfulness to us in this arduous year. We will also explore the Bible's insistence to pause and consider the good in the midst of the hard. These will be special worship services with a blend of testimony and study.

“ Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. —  
Ephesians 5:19–20 NIV

## Worship Schedule

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- ▷ November 01 - Plank Eye (Matthew 7:1–5)
- ▷ November 08 - A Thankful Heart: Part 1 (Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22)
- ▷ November 15 - A Thankful Heart: Part 2 (Luke 1:39–55)
- ▷ November 22 - A Thankful Heart: Part 3 (Ephesians 5:19–20)
- ▷ November 29 - The Potter (Isaiah 64:1–9)

## Children's Ministry

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We opened up our child care and children's classrooms in September. While attendance in the rooms is still low, things are going well. Below is our list of safety precautions and guidelines for dropping off your little ones.

- ▷ There are sanitizing stations and children's masks outside each classroom.
- ▷ Be sure to have your child's/children's name tag on before dropping him/her off, as this is a requirement.
- ▷ If you are leaving your child/children in the Infant/One's room or with Dave and Joyce, please wait in the hall and maintain physical distance as each family drops off their child/children.
- ▷ There's a slight change for the K-5th graders. All K-5th will meet downstairs in the lower auditorium before the service begins. The mentees will have everything they need to provide the lessons in this space.
- ▷ You can read more at <https://fbcmuncie.org/children>.

## Friendship Sunday School Class Update

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The Friendship class resumed meeting on Sunday, October 11 and will plan to meet at 9:30 AM on the second and fourth Sunday until the end of the year. We are meeting in the Friendship room on the second floor. Louise Head will be teaching the second Sunday and Steve Reid will teach the fourth Sunday. If you are interested in attending or volunteering to lead this class, please contact Louise or Steve.

## Dinner and Show

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Sue Mutter is organizing a group to attend the Beef and Boards Dinner and Show *It's a Wonderful Life* on **Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020**. Cost is \$80.00 for the matinee show, which includes dinner, show ticket and charter bus ride.

Pick-up is in the Meijer parking lot at noon. You can call Suzy at 765-749-3484 to make your reservation or for more information.

## Visitor Articles

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If you would like an announcement in the December Visitor, please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org) by **Sunday, November 15**.

## Care Ministry

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by Cheryl Flaherty

Due to state restrictions on large gatherings, we will not have the Harvest Dinner in November.

However, we will still assemble and deliver fruit baskets to our homebound and nursing home residents. We also include staff. We have 22 residents and 6 staff members.



In order to keep everyone safe, volunteers will sit 1 or 2 at a table in the lower auditorium to assemble baskets. All supplies will be provided. If you want to volunteer, but don't feel safe doing so at church, you can pick up the supplies, assemble the basket at your home, and then deliver it. Every volunteer will deliver the baskets they make. Deliveries will be grouped according to proximity of residents.

The date for this event will be **Saturday, November 7, at 10:00 AM**. Please consider volunteering for this event. Our residents love receiving this gift from the church. You may contact me by calling 765-520-7260 or emailing me at [cl.flaherty@comcast.net](mailto:cl.flaherty@comcast.net). Thank you.

## In-Person Check-Ins

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If you have been at church the last week several weeks, you noticed our greeters getting you checked in on iPads. We are asking everyone, adults and kids alike, to check in. Please begin to make this a habit! This is important for many reasons, but currently it will help us track attendance and be able to do any contact tracing if that's ever necessary. All the info is stored in our database and can be accessed with the click of a button! (You must enter through the main sanctuary doors or the elevator entrance. All other doors will be locked.)

There is a choice of two ways to check in:

- ▷ enter the last four digits of your phone number
- ▷ enter your last name

Don't worry, though, there will be someone to help you until we all get acclimated!

If you are serving somewhere on Sunday morning (nursery, worship, sound, etc.), please stop by the check-in station before heading to your scheduled post. We want to be as accurate as possible with our attendance.

## Don't Be Too Early

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On **Sunday, November 1**, we will turn back our clocks because of daylight savings time change. Get an extra hour's sleep and join us for in-person or virtual Sunday morning service at 10:45 AM.

## Thank-You Notes

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**Joe and Shirley Johnson** – I have been enjoying each service on my iPhone. Please keep it going! Thanks again.

**Bob and Vicki Hartley** – Thank you, Wade, and all of the family at First Baptist Church. Your kind words, thoughts, and prayers enlightened us during this stressful time with the health and healing of our daughter Shannon. It hasn't been an easy road for her, but her faith is stronger than I realized and we are grateful for that, too. She is cancer-free and feels God's presence in bringing her this far. Continued prayers and support will get her through recovery.

**Troy and Cindy Hershman** – Thank you for the Fazoli's gift card. Thank you for the thoughts and prayers during my surgery and recovery. Also the many cards of goodwill too. I am feeling better every day. God Bless.

## Holiday Service Plans

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Because of Covid 19 and difficulties in social distancing in a crowded sanctuary, First Baptist Church will not host its traditional live Christmas Eve service this year. After lengthy discussion this was a nearly-unanimous decision made by the CCT in their November meeting. Instead, there will be a special virtual service involving all the elements with which we normally worship.

“This annual event has the largest attendance of the year,” said Pastor Wade. “We don't want to limit attendance and turn people away, and we feel that a full sanctuary creates too many possibilities for spreading the virus.”

Worship arts pastor, Clif Davis, is already working on involving numerous people and creating a meaningful virtual worship experience.

Stay tuned for more detail about the Christmas Eve service.

## Christmas Gifts for Staff

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While we will not be able to do a live presentation of gifts, we are planning to present Christmas gifts to our church staff. We will provide gifts to our senior pastor Dr. Wade Allen and our worship arts pastor, Dr. Clif Davis. In addition, we will provide an appreciation gift to Dr. Bruce McFarland who served as first service leader and choir director through September and then stepped away because of temporarily moving to one service and the choir's ongoing break during the pandemic.

If you would like to donate, please put your monetary gift into an envelope marked "Staff Christmas Gift" and place it in the offering receptacle.

## Facebook Live Prayer Time

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During this season of social distancing, we continue a weekly Facebook Live prayer time! Look for one of our smiling faces **every Wednesday at 7:00 PM**. Make sure to like our church Facebook page, First Baptist Church Muncie Indiana, to be able to watch and share any prayer requests or praises.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmuncie>

## YouTube Channel

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If you are not able to make it in person to church, you can join us online each Sunday.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/fbcmuncieorg>

## November Birthdays

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We would like to say Happy Birthday to the following people in the month of November. Please let them know that you are thinking of them on their special day.

11/04 - Jaden Johnson  
11/08 - Michael Songer  
11/08 - Teaira Kerrigan  
11/13 - Jackson Cope  
11/14 - Betty Clark  
11/14 - Sandy Davis  
11/14 - Sofie Pannell  
11/17 - Bethany Resler  
11/18 - Britney Sue  
11/18 - Darlene Hill

11/21 - Deena Green  
11/21 - Faith Hendrickson  
11/24 - Kara Boye  
11/25 - Dick Flaherty  
11/26 - Brady Lemen  
11/27 - Dawson Allen  
11/29 - James Heimlich  
11/29 - Maren French