Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM

Pastor's Page

Agency

The other day I was at Chipotle for lunch. I was waiting in line for a bit while everyone ordered ahead of me. I made a mental note to order online next time, and to pick up my food through the drive thru. But I'm not good at using apps. While I was waiting I noticed the reason the line was moving slowly. A dad was there with his son, and the dad was asking the young boy what he wanted to eat. The boy must have been four or five, just learning to order for himself, probably. Every question the employee asked about the food choices, the dad would repeat to the son. "We have kids tacos or quesadillas." To the son, "Do you want tacos or a quesadilla?" "Chicken or just cheese?" "Do you want chicken or just cheese?" The dad was the intermediary for the kid. It was a sweet exchange, but it was making me annoyed. I had places to be. At one point, the whole line in the restaurant was at a stand still; no one moved or talked, as the young kid was silently contemplating what he wanted for lunch. As annoying as it was at the moment, I'm glad the dad took the time to make his kid feel listened to. The kid was important, his choices were important to the dad. That kid has a dad who values him, lets him make decisions about his food. This is the good process of giving kids the freedom of choice. Whether it's their clothes for school, getting their hair cut how they want it, what to eat, it is their life, their choice, it is called agency.

This agency, this decision making process is necessary as we grow up and talk about faith, and soul issues. We make the decisions for our lives, which affects our soul. We are responsible for ourselves. We cannot blame someone else if we fall away, and we can't take credit for someone else's faith.

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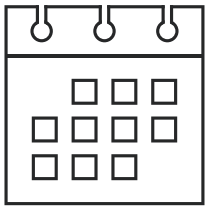
Weekly Meetings

Sunday
Morning
Sunday School
9:15am
Worship
10:30am

Tuesday
Morning Bible
Study
9:00am

Wednesday
Night Meeting
6:00pm

3rd Wednesday
Dorcas
Meeting
1:00pm



Coming Events

August

3rd-7th Vacation Bible School

9th - Church Picnic @ Blackhawk

10th - Elder Board Meeting

Phone Out of Order

Our phone system has not been working for months now, if you're trying to call the office we're not ignoring you. We're just not getting the call. Pastor Bunyan is working on it.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 5 Carolyn Krebs
- 5 Garry Ortgiesen
- 7 Deaglan Taylor
- 10 Jack Smith
- 10 Dana Grace
- 11 Dennis Hayden
- 15 Tom & Pam Harrison
- 17 Bill & Joyce Cruse
- 19 LouAnn McMillion
- 23 Carlene Augustine
- 23 Joyce Flynn
- 27 John Cocar
- 27 Finley Gomes
- 31 Becky Shoemaker

We are working to update birthdays and anniversaries, please let us know if we missed you or a family member!

international ministries

Meet Your Missionaries

Follow this link for a complete list of our International Ministries global partners: https://internationalministries.org/international-ministries-global-servants/

Prayer Requests



New Health Issues

- Sherrie Mosser's father Paul has been having health complications and is in the ICU

Other Concerns

- Travel mercies for the Shirley family as they transition to new spaces
- Our service men and women and our nation
- Unspoken requests
- Food Insecurity
- Friends & family members of our church
- Peace around the world and in our country
- Those with depression
- That leaders would rise up in the church
- Those with financial concerns

Praise

- Treasure Bock's friends Megan and Jeff are healing well after their UTV accident
- Steve's daughter-in-law does NOT have cancer!

Condolences

- Deepest sympathies to the family of Thomas Gower

Continue to Remember

- Bunnie & Darrel Heath
- Bill & Joyce Cruse
- Lance Lopez
- Kaitlyn Marschang
- Pat Soulon
- Jim & Arden Olsen
- Katrina Shirley
- Dale Beeman
- Angie Gomes
- Nina Mardauss
- Pam Vivian
- John Olsen

Sunday Morning Statistics

June Giving

	Current Offering	Missions	Total
1st	$1,910.00	$76.00	$2,086.00
2nd.	$1,780.00	$0.00	$2,460.00
3rd	$1,588.00	$56.00	$3,094.00
4th	$2,046.00	$11.00	$2,148.00

*For reference, we need approximately $3,000 a week to stay on track with our annual budget

We can't say, "My parents were faithful people." We have to become faithful. It's about our lives. We have soul freedom, it's up to us, our choices, our decisions. We must imagine Jesus is asking us as if we're at a restaurant, "**How do you want to live? Do you want peace or do you want war? Are you for justice or oppression? Will you forgive or hold a grudge? Will you follow my path, or go your own way?**" These are faith questions.

It is with our actions that we answer the questions of Jesus. We can't say that we want peace, but we get angry at the slightest offense. We can't say that we want to spend eternity with God in heaven, but never set foot in a worship service. Our actions must match our desires. If we want peace, we must pursue it, work for it, sacrifice for it. Jesus did not call us to an easy life, but to a faithful one. So we must make a daily choice to follow the way of Jesus. That is using our agency for righteousness. Paul says, **"Do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself.** This is the point of freedom, to live a life of gracious service towards others.

God gives us agency over our lives. This freedom is used to choose God, or choose NOT God. It's a big responsibility. Choosing God doesn't mean we are in church every week, but it does mean we are in church sometimes. I believe strongly that God's love and salvation is bigger than the church. Meaning, there are people who don't have a church community who are within the community of God's Kingdom. However, the kingdom of God absolutely includes the church. The church and the people of the church are the vehicle through which faith is delivered. The church compiled the Bible. The church teaches us about Jesus and hopefully embodies the character and principles of Jesus. My hope is that we use our agency well. To choose God every day. Because if we don't we will fall away. Either we're making progress in the spiritual life, or we are regressing. There is no plateau. Either we're making decisions for Jesus,or we use our agency to act selfishly. Imagine Jesus is your waiter in life. What do you want for your life? Do you want eternity with God or not? Jesus has the words of eternal life. We must follow Jesus no matter what the world says about us. Jesus is everything. You have the power, the agency to choose to follow Jesus today. Jesus is calling each of us, let us respond to the love of God revealed in the sacrifice of Jesus. He is calling you to come home. Come to get refreshed. Choose Jesus, you'll never regret it. Amen.

Pastor Bunyan



Where? First Baptist Church of Dixon

When? August 3rd-7th, 2026

What time? 5:30-7:00pm

For information, call or contact

Pastor Cassie

816-813-4925

fbcdixon@gmail.com

DO YOU NEED PERSONAL HYGIENE OR INFANT SUPPLIES?

DIGNITY DRIVE OF DIXON HAS:

-TAMPONS
-PADS
-LINERS
-DIAPERS (FOR ALL AGES)
-BABY FORMULA
-WIPES

Thanks to a collective effort made by the community and local churches, all of these items are available right now on an emergency need basis for free, no qualifying forms to fill out. There is a limit of one visit per month and in order to keep track of our donation supplies we'll ask for some very basic information, but that information will be kept confidential and not used for any other purpose.

The Dignity Drive is a ministry operated out of the First Baptist Church of Dixon in collaboration with the Church of the Brethren and The Worship Center.

For questions or more info, or to schedule a time to pick up supplies, check out our Facebook page **Dignity Drive of Dixon** and send us a message or call Pastor Cassie from First Baptist at **816-813-4925** (yes, 816, not a typo)

If you wish to donate any of the above supplies they can be dropped off in the blue tote outside the front doors of First Baptist Church (111 E. Second St. in Dixon) any time of the day.