

Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

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Pastor's Page

Nearer My God To Thee

Happy New Year! If you are reading this, it means we are still standing, still living, still kicking. Think of all the preachers and prognosticators, both recently and in the past who predicted the end of the world before 2026. How shocked would they be to see us now. Of course, the number 2026 is without real significance in creation or world history. Our current way of numbering each year began in 525AD by the monk Dionysius Exiguus who had the idea of marking a consistent way to date Easter, and he chose the birth of Jesus as the starting point. However, he ignored or failed to account for Herod's death. Dionysius didn't align his calculations with the biblical fact that Jesus was born during the reign of King Herod the Great, who died around 4 BC. So Jesus couldn't have been born in year one as he hoped to establish. Therefore, Jesus was born in the BC (Before Christ) era. So our yearly calendar is not tied to any one significant event but is rather arbitrary. And there are several other calendars being used around the world; like the Hebrew Calendar which states the year to be around 5786 AM (Anno Mundi). The Chinese Calendar is on year 4722, the Year of the Dragon. And our Buddhist friends are on year 2564 BE (Buddhist Era).

So when we say the world is going to end in the year XXXX, we should probably ask, which calendar does God use? For some reason many folks have tied the end of the world to a number year, like 2000 or 2012. A better indicator of the end is what we read in Scripture, that we should use evil as the measuring stick. Matthew 24: 7-14, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

(Continued on PG 4)

Weekly Meetings

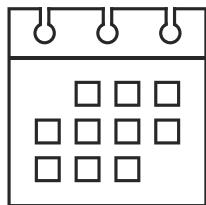
Sunday Morning
Sunday School
9:15am
Worship
10:30am

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:00am

Wednesday Night Meeting
6:00pm

2nd & 4th Tuesday
G.L.A.D. Group
6:00pm
(PAUSED FOR WINTER)

3rd Wednesday
Dorcas Meeting
1:00pm



Coming Events

Jan.

16th - 18th SKWIM Trip to Green
Lake
25th - Youth Group

Feb.

18th - Ash Wed. Service 6pm

March

(Community Services TBA)
29th - Palm Sunday

April

5th - Easter Service 10:30am



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- January 3rd - Cassie Buhlig
- January 10th - Oliver Gomes
- January 17th - Charlotte Taylor
- January 17th - Gary Steder
- January 18th - Ken & LeAnn
Angleton
- January 20th - Lex Taft
- January 21st - Joe Buhlig
- January 24th - Bunnie &
Darrel Heath
- January 26th - Marcy Cibu
- January 26th - Jacob
Vondersmith
- January 27th - Lois Appleman
- January 29th - Caroline
Costello
- January 29th - Sean Glenn
- January 30th - Rachael
Rumph
- January 31st - Cathy Taylor
- January 31st - Rebecca
Marschang



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

- Bunnie arm surgery
- Rachel's Aunt Bev
- Lots loved ones with Viruses/Flu right now

Other Concerns

- 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

- Good news with test results for Gary, Lynda, Andy, and Katrina
- People are starting to take advantage of our developing program for personal hygiene items and baby supplies!

Those with Cancer

Darrel
Gary
Andy
Rick & Ken
Allie
Angie & Robin
Sandra
Harry
Maci
Gracie



Continue to Remember

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

Sunday Morning Statistics

November Giving

	<u>Current Offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 st	\$2,343.00	\$240.00	\$2,653.00
2 nd	\$2,519.01	\$50.00	\$2,619.01
3 rd	\$1,088.00	\$50.00	\$1,188.00
4 th	\$1,547.40	\$125.00	\$1,722.40
5 th	\$654.50.	\$0.00	\$654.50

November Attendance

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
1 st	N/A	N/A
2 nd	N/A	52
3 rd	6	48
4 th	8	36
5 th	N/A	21

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

Pastor's Page (continued)

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Jesus tells us that wickedness will increase, that love will grow cold, and people will hate each other. I don't mean to be an alarmist, but that sounds relevant and accurate to what we see in the world. Corruption has increased, greed has increased, love for neighbors has grown cold, and people hate each other without remorse or shame. We can safely say that We are living in the last days. I don't pretend to know what or when things will happen, but what I read in Scripture and what I see in the world are becoming increasingly aligned. Don't be alarmed, but the words of Jesus are happening.

Surely this has happened before, and many preachers have predicted the end of the world, and the second coming of Christ. I am not doing that. This is simply an observation like Paul said in Romans 13: 11, "Understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

We obviously don't make predictions, but we try to interpret the times. Paul writing to Timothy about the end times said this, "There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 2 Tim. 3: 1-5

I don't know what 2026 will bring, but whatever comes our way we will stand firm. We will celebrate the Lord's supper. We will celebrate Easter and the joy of resurrection. We will continue being a faithful community together. We will remain resilient and steadfast. Even if our world is becoming increasingly antagonistic to the faith of Christ, yet we will persevere. We will read Scripture and apply it to our lives. We will sing songs to Jesus, and encourage each other. We will pray for our leaders, civil and spiritual. We will pray of our friends and neighbors, and enemies. We will give of ourselves, our time, our talents, our resources and our love. We will strive to make the world "on earth as it is in heaven." We will run the race as one who wants to win the prize.

Let us resolve to be exemplary Christians. To be examples to the rest of the community. An example of faithfulness to our kids and parents, to our neighbors and friends. This is how we stand firm to the end, this is what Jesus tells us to do. This is putting our faith into action, listening to the words of Jesus. This is our calling in life, and the excuse of, "I didn't know," will not work. So resolve this year to be faithful to the end. Put the words of Jesus to action. Love your neighbors. Do good to those who persecute you. And your Father in heaven will reward you. Our deeds in life will follow us into eternity, may everything we do and say, and think be pleasing to God this year. Amen and Amen.



WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

2 TIM. 3:16

The understanding that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and the written authority on Christian living.

1 PETER 2:9

The responsibility of an individual's private interpretation of the Bible and the right to directly approach to God

ACTS 6:1-16, 1 COR. 6:1-6

The complete independence of the local Church and its interdependence in associated fellowship with other Baptist Churches

JOHN 3:16

The acknowledgement of Christ as our divine Lord and Savior.

MARK 12:17

The absolute separation of Church and State

MICAH 6:8

Church membership which displays humility and grace and seeks justice

JOHN 17:20-21

An ecumenical effort toward a spiritual unity of all believers.

ACTS 15:22

The practice of congregational consensus, ensuring equal right to all and special privileges to none

MATT. 28:19, 1 COR. 11:23-26

The symbolic ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper in obedience to Christ.

MATT. 28:18-20

The commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ both locally and abroad in support of missionary efforts

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON, ILLINOIS