Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM

Pastor's Page

God's Generous Gift

God loves you more than you love yourself; and it's not even close. You can't even imagine what God has in store for those who love God. God is so generous, so kind, so loving. God is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. Psalm 103 tells us that God forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, God redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion. It's such a joyful and welcoming message. There is someone who loves us, who wants the best for us, who forgives us when we fail. This is not a contract, but a relationship.

Some folks think of Christianity as a transactional contract, where God loves me only if I'm good, only then God is nice to me. But scripture teaches in 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us." And if God first loved us, and God forgives us of all unrighteousness, then it's not a transaction, it's simply the best relationship we can have. God begins this loving relationship. God calls us to himself. God gives us evidence for His existence and goodness. Then God blesses us in the midst of our responding in love. And God is patient with those who have yet to respond. Finally, God also forgives us when we don't follow his example well, and mess up. It's all God's goodness and mercy. This is the scandal of the Gospel; sinners are forgiven, because of the goodness and generosity of God. This goodness is demonstrated on the cross. It is the righteous symbol of love beyond all imagination. God in Christ laying down his life for our sake. What a gift!

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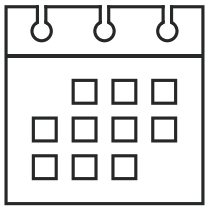
Weekly Meetings (No mid-week services in July)

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

July
(No mid-week services)
30th - Quarterly Business Meeting 7pm

August
3rd-7th Vacation Bible School
9th - Church Picnic @ Blackhawk
10th - Elder Board Meeting

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/

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

- 1 Gary DeBord
- 3 Bunyan & Rachel Cocar
- 5 Carla Pauser
- 8 Bob Mardauss
- 8 Carolina Buhlig
- 11 Missy Scales
- 12 Cindy Beeman
- 16 Joanne Palacio
- 18 Jim Gomes
- 22 Steve Grace
- 25 Renee Gilge
- 26 Elyana Brown
- 30 Vince Harshman

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

Prayer Requests



New Health Issues

- Steve Spera's daughter-in-law has been diagnosed with uterine cancer and is having surgery soon
- Prayers for John Olsen who is struggling

Praise

- July community events went well, even with the weather working against us! Thanks to all our volunteers!!

Other Concerns

- Our nation
- Our service men and women
- 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

Condolences

- Deepest sympathies to the family of Thomas Rockwood

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
- Devin Beard

Sunday Morning Statistics

May Giving

	Current Offering	Missions	Total
1st	$2,753.75	$110.00	$3,718.75
2nd.	$1,908.75	$35.00	$3,439.88
3rd	$1,211.00	$156.00	$1,367.00
4th	$2,518.00	$3.00	$2,521.00
5th	$2,498.00	$600.00	$3,413.00

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

As with most important gifts, it often comes with some sense of responsibility from the recipient to use the gift well. This is not mandatory but is the appropriate response. Let me give you an example. Years ago we were offered a Steinway piano from one of Rachel's good friends, free of charge. We would just have to move it across the country. It would cost a few thousand dollars, but that was manageable, since it was a Steinway. Rachel and I really thought long and hard about this. It would have been fantastic to own a piano of that magnitude. Maybe it would make me want to take piano lessons. We asked ourselves, would our family benefit from this beautiful piano? We were optimistic but realistic as well. Our kids are musicians but not piano players. Could they become piano players, of course. But how likely would that be? It would most likely sit in the living room and get used as a shelf more than a piano. We would not use the piano how it was meant to be used. This gift required the recipient to play, it would be a shame to allow it to collect dust and not get played. So we begrudgingly decided that we could not accept this gift.

The most important gift of salvation also comes with a sense of responsibility from the recipient. Jesus gives us the free gift of salvation, but it is also meant to be shared. I don't mean everyone has to stand up and preach and tell others their testimony. I mean in our lives, we ought to give evidence of God's grace and love; through words, actions, relationships. This free gift is too good to be kept to ourselves. We feel so much gratitude and joy that Jesus loves us and forgives us, that we want everyone to know about this way of life. Once we receive it, we want to share it.

This beautiful gift of God's grace and forgiveness is best transmitted through relationships. It is contained in the Bible, but it is not solely transmitted through the Bible. We are responsible for the message being passed along correctly. If someone just picked up a Bible and read a verse, they may not understand it. Just like the Ethiopian eunuch when he asked Phillip if Isaiah 53 was about the prophet himself or about someone else; and Phillip got to tell him about Jesus. The message of Jesus is transmitted through people.

Jesus gives us the Great Commission to go into the world and tells others. But how can people call on God if they don't know which God to trust in? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? We have been given a responsibility to share the Gospel through our lives. You are responsible for the dissemination of goodness in your circle. You represent Jesus to some people. You are responsible to interpret the Bible well, and to live it out so that others might believe. Your generosity in sharing the Gospel might affect someone's life forever, into eternity. Be generous in your efforts to share the gospel. Represent Jesus well. Offer forgiveness freely. God has been generous with us through His gift of salvation. Let us respond in kind, with the generosity of sharing the Gospel message with those around us. We are responsible.

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.