

Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM



Pastor's Page

Christian Adulthood

Can you remember how you viewed adults when you were a kid? For me, growing up I revered adults as strong, wise and spiritual. My parents were my examples. They prayed and read all the time. It was not uncommon for my mom to have a friend over to the house and spend an entire evening praying together. My mom also convened prayer meetings for just us kids when my dad was at church. I routinely saw my dad on his knees praying and he always had a Bible nearby. He would sometimes read the New Testament in a week. These were my examples of what adults were like, serious people. Maybe it was because my parents were immigrants or just devout Christians, but it was impressed upon me that adults were serious-minded, no-nonsense type of people.

After 46 years on this earth, I have observed that serious people are rare, and unserious people are everywhere. The portion of adults that are unserious should not include Christians. Followers of Jesus must be serious about life and faith. There are "Christians" who lie, who steal, who abuse others, and they have the audacity to continue to call themselves Christians. We have an epidemic of unserious people and unserious Christians.

Paul had this problem in Corinth. "Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?" (1 Cor. 3:1-3) God is not pleased with us "playing at faith." God will not be mocked, nor will God be merely tolerated. You cannot say, "Christ is King", or "I love God", or "Jesus is Lord" and hate people. You can't call yourself a Christian and do things that are contrary to the teachings of Jesus. We can't have worldly Christians.

If you discover that you are doing something contrary to Scripture, or you realize you hurt someone, the next step is repentance and penance. We apologize and then make it right. (Cont. on pg. 4)

Weekly Meetings

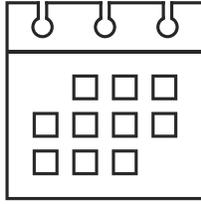
Sunday Morning
Sunday School
9:15am
Worship
10:30am

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

March

Community Lenten Services

1st - Grace UMC (921 E Chamberlin St)

8th - First Baptist (111 E Second St)

15th - SV Community Church (489 IL-2)

22nd - Immanuel Lutheran (1013 Franklin Grove Rd)

29th - Community Hymn Sign at Brethren(215 N Court St)

April

2nd - Joint Maundy Thursday Service at First Presbyterian

3rd - Joint Good Friday Service at First Baptist

5th - Easter Service 10:30am
Breakfast at 9:30am

Easter Flowers

Flower order forms will be in the bulletins 3/8, 3/15, and 3/22. Forms and money are due 3/23.

Flower Options:

Tulips: \$16.00 (Pink, Yellow, Lavender, Red)

Kalanchoes: \$19.50 (Red, Pink, Yellow)

Azeleas: \$32.50 (Pink, Red, White)



- 1 - Lance Larson
- 2 - Charity Reinhold
- 2 - Jordan DeBord
- 8 - Jarrett Ludwig
- 8 - Pam Harrison
- 9 - Alissa Marschang
- 19 - Jim Miller
- 13 - Stephanie Glenn
- 19 - Bunyan Cocar
- 26 - Sarah Meredith
- 28 - Kaitlyn Marschang

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



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

- Little Carmen (great-niece of Becky Shoemaker) was unresponsive after having a seizure and has been admitted to the hospital at Lurie's
- Braxton (Renee's great grandson) fell and broke his ankle
- David Ide's mother, Eileen, with lymphoma diagnosis

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

Praise

- Glad to have Steve back from North Dakota!
- Congratulations to Keegan and James on being IL State Scholars!
- Congratulations to Steve and Sandy on becoming great grandparents!
- Happy 39th anniversary to Mark & Marilyn Buhlig!



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 Mardaus
- Pam Vivian
- Devin Beard

Sunday Morning Statistics

January Giving

January Attendance

	<u>Current Offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 st	\$2,068.00	\$50.00	\$2,168.00
2 nd	\$1,197.38	\$75.00	\$1,312.38
3 rd	\$1,565.00	\$50.00	\$2,365.00
4 th	\$1,233.00	\$50.00	\$1,333.00

	<u>Sunday Morning Worship</u>
1 st	48
2 nd	32
3 rd	40
4 th	43

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

Pastor's Page (continued)

In Luke 19:8 we read, "Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Repentance and penance are linked. We don't just say, "oops, sorry." We fix what we broke. Followers of Jesus are accountable and are honest in their desire to follow the teachings of Jesus. We are serious about our faith.

As serious Christians I want us to grow in faith. It's important to have a robust faith that can weather storms. A robust faith that does not wither with emotions, or lack of funds, or even when our health fails. A robust faith that does not decline if we find out some things in the Bible are metaphors and not literal. A robust faith that deals with suffering and with abundance. A robust faith that is useful to the Kingdom of Jesus, through good works.

If Christianity is true and what Jesus said real, then it is the most important thing in our lives. How we understand Jesus, and how we live our faith is the most important thing in the world. As such, it is critically serious. C.S. Lewis stated, **"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."**

Being serious Christians does not mean we can't laugh, or we must fast all the time or sing songs in a minor key. But it does mean that we must be a good example for our kids and grandkids. When they ask us what we have done with our lives, what will we have to tell them? What did you do with your life? Is the world better because you were in it? Maybe they won't ask us, but God certainly will. We are powerful people. We have an opportunity to make the world better. Let us not get distracted by the unserious nature of the world. There is a beautiful line in the song, "My Jesus I Love Thee," it says, **"for Thee all the follies of sin I resign."** Sin is folly, it is serious, therefore we must take faith seriously as well. Refrain from unserious sinful behavior that wastes time or violates the commands of Jesus. Instead, invest time in relationships. Pray with each other. Go to lunch, have long conversations, be generous towards someone. It is never a bad idea to edify one another.

The next generation is watching us. What are they learning about being adults? What are they learning about being followers of Jesus? Will they take their faith seriously? If we want the church to continue, we must make a serious commitment to spend our time well and support the church community. Nothing lasts forever, and there have been plenty of churches that have not survived. But we are serious Christians who crave solid spiritual food, and we trust in the Lord. Therefore, as we approach Holy Week and Easter let us resolve to get rid of things that waste our time, and replace them with an increased seriousness in observing our faith. One way to do this is to attend the Lenten Service, the Holy Week services, and invite friends to Easter Sunday. May the Lord be glorified in all we do.

Peace,

Pastor Bunyan

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.