

# Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM



## Pastor's Page

### The Greatest Commandment

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. Mark 12:30*

Jesus was the smartest person to every live. When one of the teachers of the law asked him to rank which of the laws was most important he replied with the above text. The original passage that Jesus refers to is Deuteronomy 6:5, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength." But Jesus in Mark's gospel, adds the phrase, "with all your mind." It is an intentional choice. Jesus wanted and cultivated followers that were thinkers. He wanted them to be able to reason and come to the right conclusions. In Luke 24:12, after Peter ran to the empty tomb and saw the linen strips lying by themselves, "he went away, wondering to himself what had happened." The disciples were slow to believe (Luke 24:25) but Jesus wanted to help them. So he appeared to them, to Peter, to Thomas, and the rest so that they all understood what happened. Blind faith is okay, it might work for a while when we are young. But faith that is built on reason, and logic and evidence is much stronger and not easily refuted or discarded.

There seems to be a resurgence of anti-intellectualism especially among Christians. There was a time when going to school, and specifically seminary was seen as detrimental to your faith. There was a joke that you were going to "Cemetery" where your faith dies. Around that time there was an idea that people valued "gut feelings" or impulse or feelings above reason and evidence. There was a time when the anti-intellectualism was so severe that people with glasses were killed because they were seen as having an education. We continue to see it even today when the brightest minds are let go, fired to save money at a company, or not listened to because it would be inconvenient. Anti-intellectualism is a lie and a tool from the evil one. Using the mind God gave us, is loving God. Being curious and asking questions of the world, is not dishonoring to God, nor does it challenge God in any way.

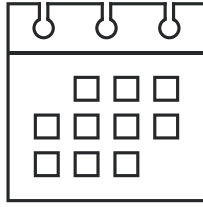
#### Weekly Meetings

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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
**9:00am**

Wednesday Night Meeting  
**6:00pm**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Dorcas Meeting  
**1:00pm**



## Coming Events

### May

2nd - Men's Breakfast -  
9am

4th - Elder Board - 6pm

7th - Women & Girls'  
Banquet 20th - DHS  
Bacclaireate Service  
7:30pm

21st - Pentecost Prayer  
Vigil @ St. Patrick's -  
6pm

31st - Friendship Sunday

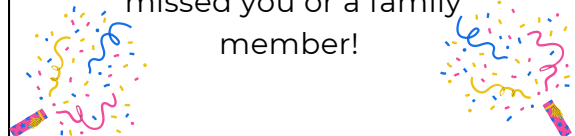
## Phone Out of Order

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.



- 1 - Maureen (Nikki) Voss
- 5 - Ayden Willstead
- 7 - Steve Baumgartner
- 9 - Grace DeBord
- 11 - Dan & Marcy Cibul
- 11 - Gus Costello
- 13 - Brian Gomes
- 14- Brian & Tiffany Willstead
- 19 - Jim & Angie Gomes
- 21 - Rachel Cocar
- 25 - Brody Potter
- 26 - Steve & Dana Grace
- 27 - Sandra Burrows
- 31 - Nathan Reinhold

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

- Bunnie has an upcoming surgery
- Jim's friend Tyler's mother who had a heart attack
- Sherrie's nephew Zach who was in a car accident
- Mental health struggles

## 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

- Congratulations to our 3 high school graduates, James, Blake and Keegan! We are proud of you!



## Continue to Remember

## Condolences

- Deepest sympathies to Carla and Jerry Pauser for the loss of Jerry's father, Don.
- Deepest sympathies to the Taylor family for the loss of Duke.

- 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

### March Giving

	<u>Current Offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$2,692.00	\$94.00	\$2,786.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> .	\$1,751.00	\$659.00	\$2,610.00
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$1,311.01	\$108.00	\$1,649.01
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,523.00	\$470.00	\$4,588.50
5 <sup>th</sup>	\$1,463.00	\$127.00	\$1,965.00

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

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## Pastor's Page (continued)

We are after truth, and God can handle our quest, because God made truth. God made science, and everything in the world. The more we investigate the world, the closer we get to God.

Jesus is on the side of knowledge and truth, and Jesus can handle our questions about the universe. Jesus can handle doubt, and skepticism. Jesus can handle people reading the Bible in their own languages. Jesus can handle any ideas or experiments that pull on the thread of truth. What Jesus does not approve of, is people who never think for themselves. Jesus disapproves of hypocrites, who claim to know God, but dishonor God with their actions. Jesus disapproves of mindlessness. Everyone has a mind that ought to be used to think deeply about the world. We ought to be curious about the world. We should read or at least watch things that enlighten us, that inform us. We should care about people enough to consider their viewpoints as well as our own (Phil. 2:3). Everyone who calls Jesus Lord, should be on the side of knowledge and wisdom and truth. Anti-intellectualism might be rearing its ugly head again, but followers of Jesus should reject this outright.

The phrase, **"I think therefore I am"** was made popular by French philosopher Rene Descartes. Descartes lived from 1596 to 1650 and was a Roman Catholic. He considered himself a devout Christian and attended mass often. While he wrote about the philosophy of doubt and reason, he viewed his philosophical work as compatible with, and even supportive of, his faith. He wrote, "I think therefore I am," as a way to support the existential crisis of his time, which was how to see the world. It was during this time that Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) was coming up with his view of the universe and especially our solar system with the sun at the center. Descartes defended the idea that we can doubt certain things, and this challenged the authority of the church. We remember that it was also in this century that William Tyndale translated the Bible into English, but was killed for it. The church did not like or appreciate critical independent thought. Eventually the world came around and realized Galileo was right about the solar system, and Tyndale was right about the Bible being in a language that can be read by anyone. Critical thinking is good and right, and necessary.

Years later Dallas Willard wrote, **"the prospering of God's cause on earth depends on his people thinking well."** To serve God we must think well, Our first act of love towards God is to think about God. To think about a loving being who created this world. To think about God is to think about our greatest treasure. A sinner crowds God out of his thoughts, he never thinks of God except in horror, as the prisoner thinks of the judge. But worshipers of God, lovers of God marvel at God's uncreated loveliness. We do not want to think of God as too small, too weak, too embarrassed to handle all our problems and questions. God is able to handle the questions of the universe, and of our personal lives. Jesus told us how to love God, and it involves our mind. CS Lewis quipped that, a young atheist can't be too careful about what he reads. Ignorance is cultivated by avoiding questions, dialogue or evidence. However, when we engage our mind, when we ask our questions, when we pull on the tread of truth, God comes into view. The simple reason is, God wants to be found.

*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.