Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM

Pastor's Page

Contentment is Great

Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Proverbs 30:8

Comparison is the thief of joy. When we judge someone or compare ourselves to someone else we lose contentment. We have an opportunity every day to make ourselves more peaceful, more kind, more gracious. Yet when we yearn for what someone else has, we lose the wisdom discovered only through contentment. Every person might outshine us in some way. "The rich have nothing to worry about." But we don't know their private life. The rich person might have lost a loved one recently. Or maybe they have serious health problems themselves. When life isn't going so well and we feel bad or consider ourselves poor, we look at others and compare. We think we should have it better. We all yearn for something else, something that others have. Maybe a better job, a spouse, a family, a nicer car, or house. We often compare ourselves with others. We lack contentment in our own situation and fail to realize how good we have it.

Dale Carnegie wrote, "It isn't what you have or who you are or where you are or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about it." I think he's right. If we think we are lucky or blessed to get up every morning, to have food in our fridge, to have a family near us, to have friends and a job, our mood would be generally much improved. If we realize that we are unique without trying to dye our hair or customize our cars or anything that makes us feel unique; we would feel much better, knowing that our normal self is unique already.

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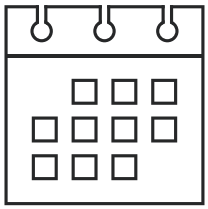
Weekly Meetings

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

November

Nov. 16th - Elder Board Meeting

Nov. 18th - Dorcas Meeting

Nov. 25th - Community Thanksgiving Service at First United Methodist

Nov. 28th - Hanging of the Greens

THANK YOU

We would like to extend our gratitude to those who have recently provided very generous donations to the church. You and your generousity are greatly appreciated!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 - Treasure Bock
- 5 - Bob Augustine
- 5 - Arden Olsen
- 12 - Andy & Marion Younger
- 17 - Pam Vivian
- 25 - Amy Wilcox

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

- Rachel's cousin Kevin has had some heart complications after surgery
- Sam Logan is having some difficulty with her recovery after surgery
- 3 year old Andersen fell into a fire and has significant burns on his arms
- 5 year old Lukas broke his tibia and had to have corrective surgery
- Marion's friend Dee has cancer

Other Concerns

- Tonja's mother-in-law is on hospice
- 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

- Thankful for our church family
- Praise for the breath in our lungs
- Congratulations and good luck to Johnny in his upcoming music competitions
- Thankful for our little ones who keep us on our toes, but also keep our church alive!



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
- Charlotte Taylor

Sunday Morning Statistics

September Giving

	Current Offering	Missions	Total
1st	$2,526.50	$90.00	$2,843.50
2nd.	$1,126.00	$180.00	$1,411.00
3rd	$1,176.80	$140.00	$1,441.80
4th	$2,885.00	$200.00	$4,150.00

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

Pastor's Page (continued)

But if we fail to realize just how special we are we can become discouraged at our lack of impact in the world. If we are always comparing our lives to other people we will never be content. If we are yearning for the next season of life we will never be content. If we are pining for just one more thing, we will never be content. If we think that money or power will make us happy, we will never be content. Our contentment comes from God, not from our bank account nor the number of likes on our posts. We want to say, like the author of Proverbs 30:8, "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread."

St. Paul writes, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. Are you content? Do you realize that what you now have is what you had only dreamed of years ago? Be thankful for what you have, and where you are in life. Be thankful for your health as it is. Give thanks to God for His mercy and grace in your life. Acknowledge the blessings you enjoy every day. Thank God for plumbing so you don't have to carry buckets of water from the well. Thank God for a fridge and food that lasts so that you don't have to go hunt your own food every day. Thank God for medicine that makes us feel better when we are in pain. We have an abundance of things to be grateful for. Count your many blessings, name them one by one...

As we approach the holiday season, contentment becomes even more important. The whole world will tell you that you are lacking something, and then try to sell you something. We don't need perfection to be content. Indeed, if you look for perfection, you'll never be content. My hope is that we can learn to be content with ourselves. Can we say, "I am content."? It is a blessing greater than riches. When we can say that, we need nothing else. God has blessed us with this feeling of contentment. And when we are content we can share our lives with those around us. We are no longer looking out just for our own self interest, we can be concerned with our neighbor's interest, with someone else's well being.

We get to decide if we are content or discontent. We get to decide if what we have is enough. We get to decide if we are at peace or not. We are the masters of our soul. We get to decide if we are grateful to God. We get to decide if we think that God has treated us well or not. This is a choice. Life is a choice. Let us make the right choice, and be content this holiday season.

Peace,

Pastor Bunyan

Join Us for a Special

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Bring non-parishable items to help us keep the little free pantry at the library stocked!



November 25th

6:00 PM

First United Methodist Church

202 Peoria Ave, Dixon, IL

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

2026 HOLIDAY EVENTS

schedule

NOV 28TH
5:00PM

HANGING OF THE GREENS
Pizza first, then decorating the church for Christmas!

DEC 11TH
6:00PM

HOLIDAY DINNER
Dish-to-pass sign up in the foyer

DEC 13TH
2:00PM

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Sign ups to sing AND to be visited will be in the foyer

DEC 19TH
1:00PM

KIDS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
Please have children eat lunch before they join us!

DEC 20TH
10:30AM

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DEC 23RD
6:00PM

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

DEC 24TH
6:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE