Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM

Pastor's Page

God is Good

There is a tension in the Bible that is not easily reconciled. Some parts show a holy God that is no nonsense, stern, tough and who says things like Job 38:3-4, "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand." The passage is filled with rhetorical questions with no answers; they are asked to remind us that we are small and God is the great God, who made all things. Lest you think this is only in the Old Testament (OT), we have some hard sayings from Jesus in the New Testament (NT) as well. Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him (Luke 12:5) Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division (Luke 12:5). These remind us that we serve a holy and powerful God who is not messing around. Faith in God is serious business, and His rules are not to be violated.

Then we have the softer side of God in both the OT and the NT. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. (1 Kings 19:12). God is gentle towards the weary Elijah. "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15). God has not forgotten the people of Israel after the exile. He will forgive them their sins and restore them. But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness (Psalm 86:15). We cannot doubt the compassion of God.

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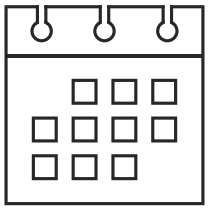
Weekly Meetings

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

September

6th- Elder Board Luncheon following service

19th - Area 1 Meeting at Blackhawk

20th - Pasta Potluck following service - bring you favorite pasta dish!

October

18th - Youth Group Bonfire

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 Working

Our phone system has not been working for months now, but it is up and running now. We should be able to get back to you promptly if you call the office.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Jim & Joyce Miller
- 7 - Ben Vivian
- 7 - James Cocar
- 9 - Jim & Arden Olsen
- 16 - Sheila Carey
- 17 - Sandra Baumgartner
- 18 - Ben Palacio
- 19 - Ray & Rebecca Marschang
- 21 - Ken Angleton
- 22 - Steve & Sandra Baumgartner
- 24 - Stephanie Grace

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

- Mike Duerst severely injured his foot
- Lynda's niece in TN has lung cancer

Praise

- Cindy's grandson Ian is okay after a car accident
- Matt & Mandy Sandrock had a tree fall, but miss their house!

Other Concerns

- People of Nepal, Detroit, and Indiana
- Safety for our athletes
- 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

Condolences

- Deepest sympathies to the family of MicahJo Barnett and the William Jewell community after his passing on the football field

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

July Giving

	Current Offering	Missions	Total
1st	$1,871.00	$12.00	$2,048.00
2nd.	$1,944.00	$138.00	$3,292.00
3rd	$1,847.00	$0.00	$2,057.00
4th	$3,283.25	$70.00	$3,847.25

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

It's hard to read the NT without seeing the overwhelming compassion of Jesus. Jesus was nice to kids and to the hurting. He healed people, even foreigners. He fed multitudes of people and didn't want them to go back home hungry and maybe faint along the way. He is the epitome of love and compassion. One of my favorite passages is Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Followed by the unbelievable statement to the thief on the cross, "Then he [the thief] said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:42).'" This is mercy at it's highest expression, to have mercy on someone about to be justly executed.

The tension is, how we see God, as easy going or tough? If God were a teacher would God be an easy A or would you have to really work to do well in God's class? Some folks definitely think God is tough and their faith reflects a strict set of rules that are meant to be followed without exception. This was the perspective of the Pharisees, and they were not off base. God is holy, and does not condone sin (1 John 1:5). God is also tough on some people like king Saul who is rejected and not forgiven after he sins. Also we have the saying "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated" (Malachi 1:2) which is repeated by Paul in Romans 9:13. This God is tough and sovereign. God will do what God will do.

Yet Jesus most often challenges this strict rule following view of God. Jesus heals on the Sabbath, eats with sinners, drinks wine, and generally challenges the religious leaders interpretations of the Scriptures. This makes some people call Jesus, a radical. He clearly was not influenced by tradition, he did what was right regardless of who he offended or who he praised. If he offended the establishment that was fine, and if his sermon praised a foreigner for his faith, that's ok. Jesus was no respecter of people's position. Jesus was very much like a friend to many people. Yet he also was almighty God in the flesh. How we view Jesus determines a lot of our faith. Where are you on this spectrum?

Is God wrapped in unapproachable light, who is to be revered, and respected, who has a set of responsibilities for you, and who may chastise you if you disobey? Or is God represented as Jesus the friend who understands your problems, who cares about you, and wants a relationship with you, but doesn't put any demands on you? How we answer this probably changes based on the situation. Also, there may not be a good answer, or you may say "both." We must also consider that God is not confined to only behaving one way all the time. We get to have different moods, why would we deny God the same freedom.

There is a passage from Philippians 2 that helps us make some sense of this discussion. "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling." I think about this whenever I might get a bit too familiar with Jesus and think things like, "He'll understand if I don't spend much time in prayer." "He'll be fine if I give in to some temptation." "We're friends, he understands." Working out our salvation means it is not easy, it work. The Greek word is katergazesthe, has the root as work or labor. We should work for the Lord. However, that labor is not back breaking, it's often spiritual work. Sometimes it's the labor of being patient and kind when you'd rather not. And other times it's being inconvenienced for the opportunity to do good for someone. Being a follower of Jesus is not easy. CS Lewis says that Aslan who is Jesus, is kind and good, but he is not safe. Meaning He will call us to things that make us uncomfortable and that we don't want to do. Like loving our neighbors and enemies. But there is work to be done for those who call Jesus Lord, spiritual work and physical work. Let us take this work seriously as Paul reminds us that the work of salvation may include fear and trembling, but our working for God brings both us and God pleasure.

Dear friends, keep working for the Lord. He is our holy, righteous, scary, compassionate, generous, unpredictable, forgiving, tough, wise, creative, Heavenly Father. We cannot control God, nor can we explain God. God is God and we are not. I can't tell you which side of the spectrum to gravitate towards, the easy going friend or the tough authoritarian God. But one thing I know is that God is good, all the time. And all the time...

Pastor Bunyan

First Baptist Youth Bonfire Night

WHEN: OCTOBER 18, 2026
5PM-7PM
WHERE: PASTOR BUNYAN & RACHEL'S HOUSE



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.