

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

A Word From Pastor...

Dearly Beloved,

In his book, Knowing God, J.I. Packer said, “Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God (pp. 18-19).

Meditation is referred to often in Scripture:

- Let the words of my mouth and meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight (Ps. 19:14)
- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col. 3:16)
- Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5 NKJV)
- The Psalmist pictured those who meditate day and night as consistently fruit bearing trees by rivers of water (Ps. 1:2-3)
- Jesus’ mother Mary, treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19)
- The Lord told Joshua to meditate on the law of God day and night...then you will be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8)
- Paul told us to think about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8)
- Hebrews call us to fix our eyes on Jesus (Heb. 3:1, 12:2)

The Navigator ministry uses the illustration of the hand to help us understand how we can get a grip on the Bible. It requires the four fingers of hearing it (pinky), reading it (ring), studying it (middle), and memorizing it (pointer). But the thumb that strengthens one’s grip on the Bible is meditation! Once we have a grip on the Bible, our feet go into action, applying and putting into practice what we are learning. Robert J. Morgan says, “Biblical meditation is the powerful practice of pondering, personalizing, and practicing Scripture.” (Reclaiming the Lost Art of Biblical Meditation p. X).

In our FBC strategy circles, meditation is one of the New Habits we are to learn and develop as followers of Jesus Christ. Dennis Fuqua says, “meditation is how His Word produces His life and power in our lives. It is how the Spirit of God writes the Word of God on the hearts of the people of God” (Experiencing Life and Power Through Biblical Meditation, p.5). May we grow in spending time dwelling on Bible truths, pondering the Lord and His marvelous ways, treasuring His promises, and seeking Him for wisdom in applying His Word to our lives and relationships!

Happy New Year!

Shepherding you in Christ’s love,

Lance

Three Prayer Priorities for America

Whether you pray daily or weekly for our nation, please join us in praying with the authority of the Scriptures for these three priorities for America:

1. #PRAY4UNITY IN AMERICA

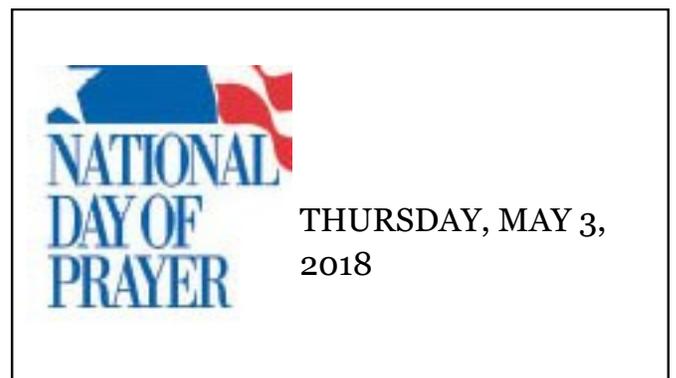
"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3

- Father in Heaven, You are the only One who can bring unity, harmony and oneness in America. We pray and ask You for unity in America.
- Lord, call the churches of America to live in unity within their own church and in unity with churches that are biblically based and Jesus centered.
- Jesus, as Your church walks in unity, harmony and oneness, may Your church personify, lead and call America to unity.
- Lord Jesus Christ, in this crisis moment in America, it is incumbent upon each of us to come together for the sake of the gospel, the testimony of the gospel and the advancement of the gospel globally; so God may we *make EVERY effort*.
- Father, while our nation is filled with so many challenges and division abounds, we will call for and forward the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 3, 2018, and #PRAY4UNITY in America.
- Lord, as UNITY is our theme for the 2018 National Day of Prayer, may You use the thirty- to forty-thousand gatherings across America to call and pray for UNITY. #PRAY4UNITY
- God, use each of us to unify our families, our churches, our workplaces, our communities, our region, our state and our nation.
- Lord, lead each of us to forward this theme both nationally and globally through our speaking and social media. As testimony and challenge, I encourage each of you to tag it in your social media: #PRAY4UNITY
- Father, lead Dr. Ronnie Floyd and the staff team of the National Day of Prayer Task Force as they work toward this pivotal day in our nation, and as they begin to plan for the national observance of the National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C. Lord of all Provision, please meet all the financial needs of the National Day of Prayer.

2. TRUST GOD TO LEAD THE LEADERS OF AMERICA THROUGH THESE CRITICAL TIMES OF DECISION MAKING.

"For I know the plans I have for you"—this is the Lord's declaration—"plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

- Lord, we trust You to convict our nation's leaders of Your desire for them to work together in unity for the well-being of our nation.
- Sovereign Lord, we appeal to You alone to give our nation a future and a hope.
- Spirit of God, move upon the leaders of our nation to work together toward resolving the following issues for the welfare of our nation:
 - Tax reform
 - Healthcare reform
 - Immigration reform
 - National security
 - Religious liberty
 - Sanctity and dignity of human life
 - Terrorism nationally and globally
- Lord and Defender, we appeal to You to protect the leaders of our nation and their families, as well as the members of our military nationally and globally, and all the first responders in our nation.



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3. BELIEVE GOD FOR HIS SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION IN OUR NATION ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – MAY 3, 2018.

"You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13

- Lord, on this day when millions of people gather in thousands of settings, please listen to our prayers as we seek You with all of our hearts.
- Father, in these most critical moments in our generation, please call leaders of denominations, churches, government, education, business, cities and all communities in America to create numerous gatherings that will saturate their regions in prayer for unity in America.
- Spirit of God, give Dr. Ronnie Floyd and the staff team of the National Day of Prayer Task Force God's wisdom, power and leadership to serve these thousands of gatherings.
- Lord of all Provision, we appeal to You to meet the continual financial needs of the national organization of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.

Taken from: https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/314374-three-prayer-priorities-america-december-2017-ronnie-floyd.html?utm_source=outreach-cl-daily-nl&utm_medium=email&utm_content=text-link&utm_campaign=cl-daily-nl&maropost_id=742222688&mpweb=256-5256859-742222688

<h2>MOMS' CORNER</h2>  <p>If technology is the new addiction, then multi-tasking is the new marching order. We check our email while cooking dinner, send a text while bathing the kids, and spend more time looking into electronic screens than into the eyes of our loved ones. With our never-ending to-do lists and jam-packed schedules, it's no wonder we're distracted.</p> <p>But this isn't the way it has to be.</p> <p>In July 2010, special education teacher and mother Rachel Macy Stafford decided enough was enough. Tired of losing track of what matters most in life, Rachel began practicing simple strategies that enabled her to momentarily let go of largely meaningless distractions and engage in meaningful soul-to-soul connections. She started a blog to chronicle her endeavors and soon saw how both external and internal distractions had been sabotaging her happiness and preventing her from bonding with the people she loves most.</p> <p>Hands Free Mama is the digital society's answer to finding balance in a media-saturated, perfection-obsessed world. It doesn't mean giving up all technology forever. It doesn't mean forgoing our jobs and responsibilities. What it does mean is seizing the little moments that life offers us to engage in real and meaningful interaction. It means looking our loved ones in the eye and giving them the gift of our undivided attention, leaving the laundry till later to dance with our kids in the rain, and living a present, authentic, and intentional life despite a world full of distractions.</p> <p>Taken from: https://www.handsfreemama.com/books/</p>	<h2>WHAT'S COOKING?</h2> <p>Jambalaya for the Crockpot</p> <p>Ingredients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">12 ounces boneless skinless chicken breasts1 ½ cups green peppers, chopped1 medium onion, chopped2 celery ribs, sliced4 garlic cloves, minced1 (14 ounce) can whole tomatoes½ cup tomato paste1 (10 1/2 ounce) can beef broth1 tablespoon parsley1 ½ teaspoons basil½ teaspoon oregano1 teaspoon Tabasco sauce½ teaspoon cayenne pepper½ teaspoon salt1 lb shrimp, shelled3 cups cooked rice <p>DIRECTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cut chicken into 1 inch pieces.2. Put all ingredients (EXCEPT shrimp and rice) in crock pot.3. Cover; cook on low for 8 hours.4. Add shrimp the last 20 minutes of cooking.5. Stir in rice before serving. <p>Source: http://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/jambalaya-for-the-crock-pot-41705</p>
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Jessica Humphries Testimony (Christmas Eve Service)

A year and a half ago God revealed himself to me in a way that forever changed my life.

I was raised in a church going family and I always considered myself a Christian because I was convinced I was doing all the right things to show that I believed in Jesus. Despite all that I thought I knew and all that I was doing for the 24 years I was a baptized church member, I still felt shame and guilt for seeming to always fall short.

There came a time that I began to question certain things that I had been taught and I found myself being very confused. It was during this time that I prayed to God and told him that I was surrendering myself to him and that I wanted him to guide me to know Him. I told him that I would read The New Testament with an open and willing heart so that he could use his word to guide me to a place that I no longer needed to feel confused.

I thought that doing this would strengthen my previous faith, but God had bigger and better plans than I did. It did not take long while reading the New Testament with this genuine desire I had for divine guidance, that I felt my eyes open for the first time! I was in love with reading the Bible and I learned so much, yet it was all so simple and clear. Confusion was quickly replaced with feelings of clarity. For the first time in my life, I was realizing how wonderful and powerful Gods grace really is. I was humbled to learn that nothing I could do would save me, that it is through Christ alone that I can find peace.

He reveals himself to us in so many ways and for years and years he used many people including this church congregation to plant the seed of curiosity within me. For example, when Lance visited us in the hospital almost 6 years ago with a sick baby to share comfort from the scriptures, and It wasn't until later that I found out that Wayne had prayed out loud specifically for us to have curiosity for the Lord. His and so many other prayers on our behalf were answered!

My first day at this church after leaving my old faith behind, I began to feel overwhelmed with all that I gave up and I had the thought "do I even belong here?" And Just then the song "In Christ alone" was being sung, and a note was passed up to me from Jennifer that said "We are happy you are here". Forever now every time I hear the words to that song I am reminded that God is aware, and that it is with Him that we belong.

Through prayer and reading the New Testament, God revealed to me who He really is and I am so grateful for that! Although life is still not perfect and I am still a sinner, still falling short...it is okay because I know now that I can find rest in the Lord and that his grace is sufficient.

In an online devotional I was reading, a woman by the name of Lisa said this "In Jeremiah 29:13, the Lord says, "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." Maybe you have never "talked" to God before, but you honestly want to know if He is the real deal. Perhaps you have an issue for which you need some answers, but you have never really asked God what He has to say about it. In Jeremiah 33:3, He says, "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and wondrous things you do not know." Perhaps this Christmas you are wondering about the whole baby Jesus story. Is it true? Did God actually come to earth as a baby? Did He grow up and was He nailed to a cross? Was He raised from the dead? Does He have the power to forgive sins and offer a peace that the world cannot? If you really want to know, ask Him. God will reveal Himself to a heart that is sincerely seeking Him."

I just love how God reveals himself to us in every way imaginable. If we would just open our hearts to accepting Jesus we can open our eyes to see God at work all around us, especially during this time as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

-Jessica Humphries

December Services



"Little Drummer Boy" sung by The Humphries kids, drums by Jim Humphries



Jim Foster



Ryan & Jessica Humphries & Family lighting the Advent candles



Solo by Alexis Humphries

2017 Children's' Christmas Performance A Lamb's Tale

This years Christmas production "A Lamb's Tale" was outstanding. In fact I think it was the best one yet! It was obvious that Jennifer and Gideon Gragg had put hours of work into making it a success! I feel I qualify in making this assessment having done a few productions over the years myself. It also dawned on me that so many of the parents, grandparents, church family and friends have no idea what all goes into producing a program like this. First you have to find the right program that isn't too hard, nor too easy, one with great music that is easy for kids to learn. One that will have to be re-written so parts are broke down to include each child participating. That mean's you will be reworking the parts, typing them up, making copies for each child and copies to use at church, not an easy job and many hours required. We are blessed to have Kris Waller who makes copies of the C.D.'s each year so each family will have a C.D. to work with at home. Then the practice begins. During practice time you are trying to corral 15-25 kids who are hungry, thirsty, and are complaining about having too many lines or not enough lines. Did I mention the solo parts? There are always some who complain about having to do a solo or those who are mad because they didn't get a solo part. On top of that you are working around schedules that include sport activities, school activities, dance recitals, parental visitation and all the colds, flu, or any of the other myriad of disease the season brings. It is the directors who try to keep the kids motivated, help them learn their lines, songs, bring snacks, drinks, drive kids to church and home. None of this is easy and there are times you wonder why you said you would do this! Then the final practice.....Continued on pg. 6



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH FUNDRAISER
126 S. Hayes Ave. Emmett, ID 83617 (208) 365-4457



SUPER BOWL LII PIZZAS

WE MAKE-YOU BAKE



Please pick up your order from the church between 11:00am – 12:00pm Saturday, February 3, 2018

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Amount Due _____ Amount Paid _____

12 Inch Size Pizzas Only

Type	Quantity	Price	Total
Cheese	_____	\$9.00	_____
Pepperoni	_____	\$9.00	_____
Canadian Bacon & Pineapple	_____	\$9.00	_____
Combo (Saus., CB, Pep.) Olives, Mushrooms)	_____	\$10.00	_____

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

NAME _____
PHONE _____
ORDER TAKEN BY _____
AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

*******ORDERS DUE BY FEBRUARY 1ST*******

THANK YOU & GOD BLESS!



January 2018 **EVENT**

Biomimetics Means - God Invented It First by Dr. Thomas Kindell



Biomimetics (biomimicry) is a field of scientific investigation wherein scientists are increasingly looking to the world of biology to find designs and engineering solutions that can be copied to improve our own technology. They have often found that designs we assumed had been thought up and invented by man actually already existed in biological creatures. Our Creator had invented them first. Ironically, even though scientists acknowledge that ingenious designs exist in the biological world and they actively seek to copy them, they all too rarely give credit to the original designer and "copyright" holder - Jesus Christ.
Admission is free ~ an offering will be taken

EMMETT Wednesday January 24 7:00 PM

Heritage Christian Church 1648 North Washington Avenue, Suite 104 Emmett

BOISE Thursday January 25 7:00 PM

Heritage Bible Church 7071 West Emerald Boise
From 1-84, take the Franklin Exit, turn right on W. Franklin, left on N. Cole, right on W. Emerald, watch for the small church sign at ground level on the right, and then turn into parking lot. The church is at the back of the large parking lot.

Homeschool Group Friday January 26 1:00 PM

West Ada Community Library 10664 West Victory Road Boise

NAMPA Friday January 26 7:00

New Hope Baptist Church 1829 West Iowa Nampa

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:
Dr. Thomas Kindell has received advanced training in scientific creationism and studied under several of the world's most prominent creationist scientists. He also has studied at California Graduate School of Theology where he received his M.A. in Biblical Studies. He holds a Doctorate in Philosophy of Theology (major in philosophy of Biblical apologetics) and is the founder and president of Reasons for Faith Ministries, Inc., dedicated to equipping Christian believers to "give every man an answer" for their Biblical faith. For over 30 years he has engaged in a traveling teaching ministry lecturing on Biblical apologetics and the scientific case for creation. He is a frequent guest on the radio series "Science, Scripture & Salvation" produced by the Institute for Creation Research and the author of the acclaimed book, "Evolution on Trial."

Boise Contact: e-mail azianlid@gmail.com or call Rob or Linda Hambleton at 208-697-4424

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This is one of the most important practices as it is the first time the kids are on the stage and you have to make sure everything works out as far as where the kids stand, move, mic placement, oh, did I mention costumes. You must go through the costumes we have on hand and try to fit the various sizes and needs for the play. Once again you are competing for stage time, Santa's appearance in town, Christmas shopping, and all the aforementioned activities. Once that Saturday practice is over the directors then decorate the stage, set up the fellowship hall for the gathering after the play, this pretty well takes up their Saturday. They then have to go home and call all the missing kids for the Saturday practice and did I mention snacks for the kids during this practice? Plus, you have to pick up kids and take them home because the parents are busy getting ready for Christmas. If things go as usual the Saturday practice is a disaster! It's true, the kids act like they have never heard the songs before and few if any seem to know their parts. Most of the 'female' directors cry that day because they are overwhelmed by it all...just the way it is! The male directors are a nervous wreck, while those of us who have retired from directing the plays assure all, that the kids will do great! Because we know that somehow with the Lord's assistance they pull it off every year. After the play and the gathering in the fellowship hall the directors are left to clean up the stage, the fellowship hall and the dishes, hang up the costumes. Everyone else heads home because they have things to get ready for on Monday! No one seems to realize that the weary directors are the ones doing all the work behind the scenes. So, now, I am hoping each of us will read this and ask, "how can I help?" You see you don't have to work with the kids, you can bring snacks, drinks, help get the costumes ready, help set up the stage, help clean up afterwards, and most important of all pray for all involved in the play. This year the first comment our directors heard was a complaint. After all the time, money, effort, prayers and work the directors have given your child you complain? There is also the challenge of getting everyone to settle down on stage and do what they are supposed to. It is difficult for the directors to keep the play going and for everyone to hear the children's lines when someone is acting up on stage. This is where parents, grandparents and everyone else needs to lend a helping hand. Let's all make a commitment to help in some way the directors and leaders who work with our kids. The kids had a powerful message to share this year about Jesus coming for the lost. Were you there? Did you hear? Did you bother to say thank you to Jennifer and Gideon or did you complain because you didn't like a costume or the fact your child didn't have more lines or a solo! Did you make an effort to tell all the kids how much you enjoyed the play and how well they did? I love the Christmas and Easter programs but I know how much work and effort go into making these programs a success. I have dealt with the complaints, the kids who don't learn their parts, those who don't show up for practices, etc. I also know the joy of working with these kids, taking pride in seeing them do their very best on stage and the joy in knowing they touched someone's life with the story we were telling. If you haven't done so yet take time to write a note and let Jennifer and Gideon how much you appreciate them and then HELP in anyway you can to make their load lighter.

Last of all ATTEND THE PRODUCTION, if you don't want to drive at night let Lance know and rides can be arranged for you. If we **ALL** do our part we will enjoy these production for many years to come!

My thanks again to Jennifer and Gideon Gragg for your hours of hard work, and to all the kids who participated you were outstanding and blessed me with your performance! Patty Chapman

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First Baptist Church

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Happy Birthday & Anniversaries to the above listed. We pray your day is blessed!

JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Small Group Bible Study 9:30a	4 All Boards Meeting 6:30pm	5	6
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a Hassemers visit/ breakfast during SS	7	8	9	10 Small Group Bible Study 9:30a	11	12
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a Annual Meeting/Potluck	14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 Gideon's lunch for Pastors @ FBC 12:30p	17 Small Group Bible Study 9:30a	18	19
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a	21	22	23	24 Small Group Bible Study 9:30a FIGI @ Heritage Christian, 7p, Dr. Thomas Kindall	25	26
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a	28	29	30	31 Small Group Bible Study 9:30a		