

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

A Word From Pastor...



“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (I Peter 3:15).

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

“God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus is, Who went before us, has entered on our behalf, He has become a High Priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 6:18-20).

Dearly Beloved,

We live in a day when people are searching for hope amidst hopelessness; when people yearn for security amidst great insecurity; when people pursue certainty amidst all the uncertainties of life. Heb. 6:18 says hope has been offered to us. That same verse declares that we have fled to take hold of that hope. We saw it at a distance. It was offered to us. We wanted it for ourselves, so we sought to take hold of it, to grasp it, and make it our own. Heb. 6:19 states that “we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” We are no longer seeking that secure hope; it is now ours. We possess it! How? When we trusted in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior! This hope enters the inner sanctuary...where Jesus, Who went before us, has entered on our behalf” (Heb. 6:19-20). Our hope is in the Person of Jesus! Our hope resides where Jesus dwells!

It is good for us to remember and rehearse our own spiritual journey, where we went from hopelessness to hope, from insecure to secure, from unstable to stable in Christ! Those outside of Christ are still searching for that hope. There are aspects of our story that will resonate with friends and family who are seeking for answers. We need to be prepared to show them how Jesus Christ brought us hope that is transforming our lives.

Part of being “prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have” (I Peter 3:15) is knowing and sharing your own conversion story. Part of being prepared is by reading and studying God’s Word on a daily basis, learning more about the Lord and how He works! It is good to read the gospel stories and to take note of the questions and concerns people had, and then to watch how Jesus responded to their questions. What did He say? How did He say it? Observe how He spoke truth in love, how He was full of grace and truth. Not everyone believed in Jesus, but it wasn’t because He was unprepared or because He did not give the right answers or because He did not respond in the right attitude or manner. They remained in unbelief, because of their own hard-heartedness and spiritual blindness and deafness! God calls us to daily spend time with Him in His Word, and gradually we learn more and more about Him and how to serve and respond like He did.

Shepherding you in His Love,

Lance

VALENTINE'S FRIENDSHIP BANQUET

When: February 17, 2018

Where: FBC Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:00 pm

Please R.S.V.P. by February 12th
Make checks payable to FBC

Catering by The Kitchen Eatery

Choice #1: Beef Brisket
Baked Potato
Salad
Dessert choice: Chocolate Cake OR Carrot Cake

Choice #2: Chicken Quarter
Baked Potato
Salad
Dessert choice: Chocolate Cake OR Carrot Cake

Singles Welcome!

Childcare Available (pizza will be served)!



"A new command I give you:
Love one another. As I have loved you,
so you must love one another." -
John 13:34 NIV



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GO TO CAMP.....

When: February 17-19, 2018

Where: [Shiloh Bible Camp](#)

Who is invited: 6th-12th Grade Youth

Price: \$65 if Registered by 2/10; \$80 if Registered by 2/15

Speaker: To be announced

Activities: Swimming at Zims Hot Springs, Activity Barn, Tubing Hill



To Register go to <http://shilohbibleconference.com/camp-info/dates-prices/>

Brian Merz Ordination Council

Wayne Rexford and Gideon Gragg attended Brian Merz' Ordination Council with Lance. They prepared for his council by reading his 18 page Ordination Paper, which included his Christian Experience and Call to Ministry, his theological beliefs supported by Scripture, and his practice in doing ministry with other churches. Brian did a great job fielding questions for two hours and supporting his answers from God's Word. 50 people were present, not including a few participating through ZOOM. Ten churches were represented. Brian was unanimously recommended by the voting delegates to proceed with his ordination! This was a great learning experience. Wayne and Gideon said some aspects of the exam flew over their heads, but they benefitted from attending. It was good to interact with others in our area and to work together to confirm God's calling in Brian's life and ministry!



THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

Seek God for the City 2018 Prayer Guides Now Available...

Seek God for the City is designed to mobilize many to pray with united, sustained vision for people of your community. The daily prayers are all new and different from last year's prayer guide. The scriptures and topics help God's people pray with passionate, full-hearted hope. This timely guide will help God's people in your congregation to pray beyond themselves with confidence and clarity.

We will Seek God in two simple ways: First we will seek God's face and then we will seek His kingdom. And as we come to God, seeking His face, then He comes to us bringing His kingdom. These are prayers you don't want to pray alone. Invite your whole congregation to pray along with you. Even better, think about joining your prayers with a few other churches in your community.

The forty days to Palm Sunday makes an ideal time to venture into a season of sustained, hope-filled prayer. Dated February 14 – March 25, 2018.

<https://waymakers.org/pray/seek-god/>



Congratulations to Jolene Zagaris for being named Nyssa Educator of the Year!

MOMS' CORNER

Another Monday arrives, I feel the weight of yet another week coming: how will I keep the children entertained this week, will my activities measure up and am I doing enough as a mom? Will I be seen in the right ways this week, am I obeying the call of motherhood as I so desperately long to? I can feel the oppression weighing heavy on my chest. I just don't believe I am good enough; I don't think I am doing this mothering thing right.

But then as I sink to my knees, pray to the Lord to give me strength; to breathe life into these dry bones within my weakened frame, it happens: he reminds me of all the little things; the seemingly mundane that he calls treasured, and considers beautiful and worthy and to be honored. The four loads of laundry done yesterday so that the children have clothes to wear, and the meals provided three times a day, seven days a week so that my children are fed and nourished. The countless hours spent reading and doing floor play throughout the week so they feel as though they matter and have value and attention in my eyes. I can feel a new confidence building, not one of perfection, but rather one of gratefulness for the decisions I have made to be present with my children within the day.

But then he digs deeper; bringing me to my core, to the root of who I am; bringing weight to the little things each day. The way Shiloh's hair sweeps across her face, the way Thomas clinches his nose when he cries; the look of adoration and love from each of my precious children. The look that they know they are loved and treasured and adored, which reminds me once more that I too am treasured and loved and adored.

I ponder my son's small feet that one day will grow to be larger than mine. The tenderness of my daughter's hugs; the beauty of their joy day in and day out. Their creativity and curiosity of a stick outside or the birds flying in the air, the squirrels roaming the ground. And then I am reminded of the beauty of simplicity. I don't have to have a perfectly planned out week with daily activities and a perfect meal plan for my children; they simply need me – my love, care, affection and attention. And almost always *simple* is best.

For it is within the unplanned, simple days that we have time to sit and soak in the beauty of everything around us. It is in the beauty of the mundane that our eyes are opened to the beauty that sits within the ordinary, all around us each and every day. We do not need to be good enough. We need to simply rest in the goodness of who Jesus is and give more weight to the little things happening all around us. The leaf gently blowing into the wind, the soft rain falling on the grass, the bird softly chirping in the tree; my daughter running through the fields in freedom and my son smiling with joy. This is where freedom is and where my soul feels alive. I will rest here in the beauty of simplicity, for there is truly power here. Power of love, joy and peace. Yes, I choose to rest here in the beauty of simplicity.

Laura is a photographer who loves to breathe new life into moments and see beauty in the mundane. She is mom to two beautiful children: Shiloh (2) and Thomas (1). They currently live in Wheatfield, Indiana with her husband, Josh.

<http://blog.mops.org/beauty-in-simplicity/>

WHAT'S COOKING?

FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE BROWNIES

INGREDIENTS

Makes: 16 squares

- 8 ounces bittersweet chocolate (minimum 70% cocoa solids)
- 2 sticks butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup superfine sugar
- 3 large eggs (beaten)
- 1½ cups almond meal
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Melt the chocolate and butter gently over a low heat in a heavy-based saucepan.
2. Take the pan off the heat, mix in the vanilla and sugar, and let it cool a little.
3. Beat the eggs into the pan along with the almond meal and chopped walnuts. Turn into a 9 inch square baking tin or, most sensibly, use a foil one.

Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, by which time the top will have set but the mixture will still be gooey. Once cooled, cut carefully, four down, four across, into 16 squidgy-bellied squares. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Source: <https://www.nigella.com/recipes/flourless-chocolate-brownies-with-hot-chocolate-sauce>

Five Surprises of the First Prayer– by Steve Hawthorne

We have much to learn from the first time that someone prayed for other people. As the Bible tells the story, the first person to intercede on behalf of others, was Abraham. Certainly, other people had talked to God in worship, such as Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Noah, but Abraham was the first to ask on behalf of another. **In that prayer we can find five surprises.**

Surprise ONE

Abraham prayed for an entire city. We would expect him to pray for his relatives, his nephew Lot and immediate family. But instead, Abraham prayed for the whole city.

Lesson: We can dare to pray for entire communities beyond the issues and urgencies of our family and friends.

Surprise TWO

God revealed both the problem and His purpose. Recall the situation: Angelic messengers had visited Abraham, disclosing to him that they were on the way to Sodom to carry out God's judgment on the city. God chose this moment to restate His global purpose, that Abraham and his family would become God's blessing to all peoples:

"Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him" (Genesis 18:17-19 NASB).

God did not command Abraham to pray. Praying was Abraham's idea, somehow provoked by being reminded of God's purpose of blessing all peoples.

Lesson: Pray for our cities with God's great purpose in mind: to bring forth Christ's transforming blessing amidst every people.

Surprise THREE

Abraham looked over the city as he prayed for it. Abraham could see the city of Sodom from the place where he stood praying. The next morning Abraham stood again at the same spot.

"Early the next Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. He looked down toward Sodom..., toward all the land of the plain, and he saw..." (Genesis 19:27-28).

Lesson: We can pray while gazing upon or walking through our communities. Doing so can focus our faith and heighten our hope for God's purpose.

Surprise FOUR

Abraham approached God with courtroom protocol. Abraham appealed to God as "the Judge of all the earth (Genesis 18:25), using language and logic appropriate for a courtroom of his day. He dared to raise the possibility that righteous people might be judged wrongly along with the wicked: "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" (18:23). It's obvious that Abraham hoped to see his close relatives rescued from disastrous judgment, but it is remarkable that Abraham asked God to spare the entire city. Consider the language of humility: "Behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes" (18:27). And again, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak" (18:30). Abraham was bold, but did not make demands of God. Instead, Abraham appealed to God's righteous character and His declared purpose to bring blessing on many because of a few.

Lesson: Let's offer our appeals before God humbly with fearful confidence in His mighty mercy and marvelous wisdom.

Surprise FIVE

Today we continue and extend Abraham's prayer. Consider Abraham's first prayer as a precedent for some of the best prayers that we can pray today. The first session of intercession may have seemed to be a failure. The city was not spared. But God revealed His ways and His heart for His mercy to fall upon many.

In our day, within many of the cities on the face of the earth, there are many thousands of people who are living and growing in the gifted, empowered righteousness of Christ– far more than the 10 or 50 of Abraham's prayer. Today we can approach the same "Judge of all the earth," praying Habakkuk's prayer: "In wrath remember mercy" (Habakkuk 3:2).

Lesson: Let's pray for many more to become sons and daughters of Abraham by faith in Christ (Galatians 3:29). And let's pray that these Christ followers will live in righteousness and justice to become God's long-promised blessing.



FOUNDATIONS IN GENESIS IDAHO IS COMING TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

When: February 21, 2018

Where: First Baptist Church

Time: 7:00pm

Speaker: Mike Riddle

Topic: Aliens, UFOs, and the Bible

"So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good." - Gen 1:21 NKJV

Serving Arctic Barnabas Ministries in Alaska Mike & Ranada Hassemer

I was privileged to visit with Ranada when she and Mike were here during the holidays. I was surprised and encouraged when she told me how much they enjoyed coming to Emmett First Baptist. She said they had been asked by another church how they could make the best use of time when missionaries came to visit. I was both surprised and encouraged when she said they used our church as an example. She said that we had the gift of hospitality.

I told Ranada that I had been thanking the Lord for their gifts of organization and encouragement. They are already making preparations for summer work teams. Ranada does the entire menu planning, including buying, preparing & shipping. Sometimes she goes with the team and cooks for them. Mike organizes teams, including rounding up all the equipment needed for the job & shipping it to the work site. He also trains and supervises teams.

They built their home with the idea of using it for ministry. Work teams often stay overnight in their home before flying out to the work site. Their ministry goes beyond Arctic Barnabas. This winter they are both leading small group Bible studies in their home. This is a new adventure for Ranada and she is leading 2 a week. The way they planned their home is perfect. Mike leads a small group upstairs & Ranada has her group downstairs.

Vi Rexford

Volume2 Issue2

First Baptist Church

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4	Lance Zagaris	26	Dylan Humphries
8	Pam Goff	27	Suzi Morgan
12	John & Gloria Hill	27	Wayne Rexford
15	Doug & Glenda Strunk		

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



FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Small Group Bible Study 9:30a	1	2	3 Pizza Fundraiser Pickup Your order between 11a- 12p
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a 4	5	6	Small Group Bible Study 9:30a 7	8 All Boards Meeting 6:30pm	9	10
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a 11	12	13	Small Group Bible Study 9:30a 14 Seek God For the City begins	15	16	17 Friendship Banquet 6pm @ FBC
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a 18	19 Presidents' Day	20	Small Group Bible Study 21 9:30a F.I.G.I. @ FBC 7p	22	23	24
Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45a 25	26	27	Small Group Bible Study 28			