



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 32

WHAT WE ARE DOING? AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO?

IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME

Welcome to Volume 2 of the FBCN Newsletter or the “current new normal” editions.

Pastor Myers continues his sermon series on Sunday, January 10 titled “Wisdom for the way-Family.”

REMINDER:

As we seek to live more wisely under the Lordship of Christ and make the most of every opportunity with the precious time he has granted to us, we will train for godliness and learn of wisdom from God for the journey-the way we are on.

The text of the sermon this week will be from the book of Proverbs, Chapter 1, verses 20-33.

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice;
²¹ at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: ²² “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and

fools hate knowledge? ²³ If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, ²⁵ because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, ²⁷ when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰ would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, ³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. ³² For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; ³³ but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

We invite you to Join us for a virtual prayer meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

Wednesday Bible Study ([Click Here](#))

Meeting ID: 899 2251 1230

Password: 409807

One tap mobile

+13126266799

Meeting ID: 899 2251 1230

Password: 409807

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Church Business Meeting Sunday, January 17, 2021 following the service.

January 13, 2021

Grace and peace from God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord Brothers and sisters in Christ and friends of First Baptist Church of Niles!

Tomorrow evening we have a membership class over zoom where we will do an overview of some of the church's history, Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws. It should be a great time to interact and learn more about the Lord, His Word, our church and one another.

In 1 Corinthians 1:10 God tells us his desire through Paul: *"I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."* (1 Cor. 1:10)

In Corinth there great divisions among this small church (estimated 60 people!) in this ancient pagan city. Due to its excessive idolatry, wealth and sexual promiscuity the ancient city of Corinth has been memorably described as the ancient Amsterdam, Las Vegas and San Francisco of the Roman Empire!

But God's desire for his people in this church remained the same: "we preach Christ crucified...Christ the power of

God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Cor. 1:23-25)

As the world boasts in its riches we boast in the Lord (1 Cor. 1:31) with confidence that all spiritually true things have been revealed to us through the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10) and now by God's grace we have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16b). So friends in 2021 let us remember with renewed focus that the Lord has given us much by his grace through His Son. And he is the God who will bring the growth (1 Cor. 3:5) through the good news of Jesus'

work on the cross-- even if the world judges what we proclaim to be folly—let us remember that if we are Christ's then all things are ours—whether the present or the future—all are Christ's and we are Christ's and Christ is God's (1 Cor. 3:22-23)!

Lord willing we will have our annual January Business meeting after the service on Sunday! We will be discussing and voting on the budget, electing officers, hearing updates, hearing updates on/welcoming in members, spending time in prayer. Hope to see you there in this exciting time in the life of our church!
Romans 1:11-12

In and for Christ,



PRAYER LIST

- ✓ Continuing Prayers for comfort for the families that have lost loved ones this past year. Including the family of Juanita Cariaga. On her recent loss couple weeks ago and of our fellowship in particular—daughter Virginia and her daughters Rebecca and Jackie and Jackie’s son Rauol, and Wilma and Hermie Cariagal and Albert and Imelda Caraiaaga as well as other family.
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for physical needs: Gloria-Lynn Fernandez, Kaiti and Haddon Myers, Brenda Covington
- ✓ Pray for our shut-ins Betty Matson, Rita McManus, Maria Hatfield, Nancy Yatabe, Erwin and Elizabeth Lickmann, George Sargis.
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Ministry Needs: Pastor Brandon Kaiti, Eva, Audrey, Patrick and Haddon Myers, Our Deacons, Continued Financial support
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for our Sister Ministries: BIEM Ministries, Orchard Church, Pastors Davis, Billow, Eddy, Vitel, Ebi and Esther Perinbaraj, Gaetano and Krista Paolino
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for Spiritual Needs: Leonard Hatfield, Carol Pelfrey’s family, Daniel Ruehlman, George Bizadellis
- ✓ Continuing Prayers for: The spread of the Gospel, Our Government, Our Nation, Our Community, Our Neighbors, Our Families, Pray for our members that have lost employment and for those who still have jobs and need to interact with others on a daily basis. Pray for those still working that God will protect. Pray for safety for those who are attending schools during the Pandemic. Lift up all our health professionals and their families who are on the front line of this pandemic. pray for successful adjustment in their recent move to a new Senior Living and memory care facility.

PRAISE

Remember Mylin and her mother and brother as they continue to recover from the effects of COVID 19.

Pray for our upcoming sermon series and consider inviting friends and neighbors as we look into the book of Proverbs in our series: Wisdom for the Way

First Baptist Church of Niles
“The Country Church”
7339 Waukegan Rd.
Niles, IL 60714

<http://firstbaptistchurchniles.org> or
<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchofniles>

firstbaptistchurchniles@gmail.com or
pastor@firstbaptistchurchniles.org

In closing today we would like to share the following that appeared in the Wall Street Journal weekly column titled "Houses of Worship" from January 8, 2021. The contributors are Tony Dungy and Benjamin Watson.

A Call for Christian Revival in 2021

Last year was one of the weariest we can remember. It brought school conducted behind screens, fewer trips to restaurants, and no escapes to the ballgame. The weekly routine of sitting in a church pew on Sunday morning is gone for many. How can we not be weary?

Having both worked in the National Football League for decades, we are creatures of routine. Our habits and the structure they create provide us with steadiness, but this went out the window in 2020. We would handle this better if we knew when the pandemic will end, but we do not know what tomorrow holds.

Our weariness goes far beyond schedule changes. The challenges drained our collective spirit: violence in American cities; a seemingly never-ending divisive election cycle; apparent helplessness in the face of the virus. Americans' trust in government, media and even the church continued to diminish. This heightened our anger and left us searching for answers.

The racial injustice and division in this country weighs heavily on us too. We acknowledge the progress made, but we are not blind to the long road ahead. We have been buoyed by so many who have become willing to have difficult discussions, learn about this country's past and present, and acknowledge that all of us need to listen more than we talk.

As men of means with strong families, we had it relatively easy. Frontline workers were stretched beyond capacity in 2020. Many friends and family have lost jobs and even lives. The communal grief normally shared at funerals and memorial services is often borne alone.

Churches around the world have been hit hard too. Religious leaders are exhausted. Many in-person services continue to be held online. Giving has diminished, stretching church budgets. Many attendees may never return. Digital services went viral when first introduced, but viewership has declined at some congregations in recent months.

Problems that existed before the pandemic have only grown worse. Too many churches are too reluctant to point to biblical truth out of fear of criticism from secular culture. Others refrain from anything that would offend or challenge attendees. Some pastors, who are doing everything they can to keep their churches thriving, spend more time building Instagram followings than saving souls.

But God has a plan in all that he does, and it's a good plan. There were many blessings in 2020 amid the hardships. Many people spent more time with immediate family. Millions have a greater appreciation for their children's teachers, and this country's love of sports was put in proper perspective. Last year was a helpful reminder that athletics is more about community than what happens between the white lines.

There is no guarantee that 2021 will be better, but Christians must step up. We need to challenge one another in love and support each other when facing strong headwinds. If we live like the world, why should non-Christians listen to us.

If you find your faith is strained by the pandemic, these practices can help.

More importantly, why would they listen to God? With this in our mind, here is our charge to the body of Christ for 2021:

- **Read the entire Bible.** This is a blessing-and doing it in a year takes only about 15 minutes a day. There are plenty of reading plans and even apps to make the process easy. Encourage others to join you. How can we expect to share God's word passionately and accurately if we Christians are not Bible-literate?
- **Pray.** Pray for our pastors, teachers, politicians, family and friends. Many of us tell others that we will pray for them, but do we do it? Don't simply tell someone that you will pray for him. Stop and say, "I am going to pray with you."

- **Repent.** Repentance is a word American culture have lost sight of. It means to turn away from the direction one has been headed. Repentance applies not only to salvation but to everyday life. If 2020 has exposed worry, jealousy, racism, pride, greed or anger in our hearts, we must repent.
- **Return to our home churches.** The relationships built in our local churches are critical for our personal growth-and the church's growth as a whole.
- **Give tithes and offerings.** The Bible requires Christians to give to the church. We can debate whether tithing is Old Covenant or New Covenant, but we all know God calls us to give-and to give generously. We don't know what the future holds, but God called us to follow him. It's long past time for a Christian revival in this country, and following the steps above is a call to action that will change this country in unimaginable ways.

Mr. Dungy, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Mr. Watson, director of NFL Programs for Pro Athletes Outreach, are hosts of "Football Sunday: A Sports Spectrum Production."

This past Sunday Pastor Myers began to include “Sermon Notes” in the bulletin as an aid to follow and remember the key points of his message. Unfortunately, technology does not always cooperate. Consequently, here are the “Sermon Notes” with the blanks filled in.

Proverbs 1:8-19--Sermon Notes

First Baptist Church of Niles

Wisdom for the Way

Week 2: Family

Competing Voices:

The voice of **loving parents/guardians** (Prov. 1:8-10,15-16)

The voice of **enticing sinners** (Prov. 1:11-14)

Opposite Outcomes:

Outcome # 1 **vain death** (Prov. 1:17-19)

Outcome # 2 **life and life eternal** (Prov.4:10,13)

“How industrious wicked people are to seduce others into the paths of the destroyer: they will entice. Sinners love company to sin...they do not threaten or argue, but entice with flattery and fair speech; with a bait they draw the unwary young man to the hook...they are plainly told that this wicked way will certainly end in their own destruction, and yet they persist in it.” –Matthew Henry

Our hope for life: Jesus Christ alone (Titus 3:3-4;Romans 6:23)