



Church Newsletter

First Baptist Church of
Niles

Volume 2/Issue 35

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 is starting a new series this week from the Book of Philippians. The title of this weeks sermon is, “Christian Confidence and Clarity.”

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and

in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

FBC February 3, 2021 Newsletter

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

In what has been called by some pastors and commentators the “let us” patch of the New Testament we read these words in Holy Scripture:

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, ²² *let us* draw near with a ^[a]sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ *Let us* hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and *let us* consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one*

another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:19-25 NASB)

Well due to the snow God providentially ordained for us to be pounded by Sunday here in Chicago, we did not have our fellowship lunch this Sunday. Rather we are hoping to have our fellowship lunch this Sunday after the service (God willing!). All are welcome and we would encourage you to both bring some food but there will some to share as you are comfortable. Again we understand if some of you are not ready to do this but hope you know you will be missed!

Here me on this friends as your pastor and your brother in Christ who loves you: it is absolutely vital for us to gather, grow together and fellowship as Christians. 2020 took a massive toll on many in many ways but one area all faithful Christians I have spoken to suffered was in regards to less fellowship. Church is essential. Gathering is essential. Encouraging each other and getting to know and honor one another is essential. Being able to grieve with each other and rejoice with each other is essential. Carrying out Christ's command to bear one another's burdens is essential. Praying and serving together on mission to be and make disciples of the Lord Jesus is essential. Do you believe it? Are you living that way?

Relationships suffered greatly this past year as did spiritual/mental/physical health of many. One way we take God's seriously but will be considered radical, counter-cultural, unloving, foolish, etc. is by gathering together. We of course do this prayerfully and wisely and at times it may look

different than what we are used to. But we are under the Lordship of Christ as his servants. We are children of the God the Father. And we are filled with God the Spirit who guides us into understanding and living in light of the good new of Jesus Christ. We must humbly embrace and recognize that our creator God made us and knows what we most need. Here are a few key texts that highlight the importance of the church both for the advancement of the gospel, our spiritual well being fellowship and unity and God's purposes and glory through us:

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment (Proverbs 18:1)

But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called "today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor (Romans 12:9)

A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. (John 13:34)

...you have a genuine love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from a pure heart. (1 Peter 1:22)

through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:10)

We could easily add other verses from God's Word to these ones. The apostle Paul constantly talked about his desire to be in person with other Christians. There are many who may

try to shame you or will even tell you that you are doing what is loving and right and good. But dear friends, let us pay the most attention to our Lord's commands and not be distracted. Let us stay focused on God's revealed promises and His guarantees to help us grow and increase our faith. Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). Have you heard the Word of Christ recently? What happens when you have not? What affect will this have on your faith?

Let us not dear friends be swayed by the world, our sinful flesh and old self or the devil. For these are God-rejecting, Christ-diminishing, Bible-twisting, sin-loving, eternity-condemning things that lead many astray even today right now. Let us gather under the Lordship of Christ to hear the Word of Christ preached, read, sung, prayed, and remembered.

Join us Sunday we begin a new sermon series through the book of Philippians. This sermon series will lead us up to Easter God willing. My pray is it will ground us more deeply in who Christ is, who we are, what it means to live for and suffer for Christ. The Lord will show us much through His Word especially how we can faithfully and wisely partner in the gospel using our gifts for the glory of God and advancement of what counts eternally.

Soli Deo Gloria!

In and for Christ,

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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 in particular—daughter Virginia and her daughters Rebecca and Jackie and Jackie's son Raul, and Wilma and Hermie Cariagal and Albert and Imelda Caraiaga 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 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. Remember Mylin and her mother and brother as they continue to recover from the effects of COVID 19. , Nel and Brendas Daughter Nina having surgery the first week in February and for the Nels safety in travelling.

Maria Hatfield update. Pray for Maria's physical healing and she has some injections coming up and pray for her son Joey who had a teenage son who was killed a couple years ago and with COVID and his grief it has been a really hard last year and he is struggling. And Leonard-Maria's husband's salvation!

Pastor mentioned three specific areas of prayer for First Baptist Church of Niles for 2021. Remember these in prayer.

1. Continue to fortify the congregation by increased community prayer, provide opportunities for growth as disciples of Christ and introduce times of fellowship with respect to current health concerns.
2. Fortify the church membership by strengthening the leadership and solidifying the foundational beliefs, i.e. Statement of Faith. Pastor Myers conveyed Pastor McManus' heart for the congregation citing I Corinthians 1:10, *"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."*
3. Nurture a heart for evangelism by reaching the local community and our neighbors

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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 Audio only: +13126266799 Meeting ID: 899 2251 1230 Password: 409807