

FORT WAYNE BAPTIST
Church



January 2020
Newsletter

Pastor:

Rev. Scott Carter
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(260) 715-8080

Finance Secretary:

Nick Jewell

Admin Assistant:

Janet Arvola

**Fort Wayne
Baptist Church**

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Sunday:

Bible Study—9:00 AM
Worship—10:00 AM

Wednesday Eve:

Dine Lite—6:00
Bell Choir —4:30
Choir Practice—5:30

No More Placebo Christianity

A placebo is, typically, a fake treatment given to patient in clinical trials. It is inert, not supposed to have any effect at all but the patient does not know that. The placebo effect is when something that should be worthless seems to do something, usually just making the patient feel better because of the belief in the treatment.



Placebo Christianity is when we do something in the name of Jesus or the Church that makes us feel like we have followed our calling as Christians but is, in fact, basically worthless. So often in my career I have heard “It can’t hurt.”

Yes, yes it can hurt and yes it does hurt.

How does it hurt? It hurts because we spend time, money, and effort in something that produces little or no results. “But if it reaches just one it will be worth it!” No, not if by rethinking our approach and redirecting our time, money, and effort we could have reached even two, much less ten. It hurts because when we use ineffective means of communication, we communicate that the church is ineffective. It hurts because in the end we have taken resources meant to help people and used them to make ourselves feel better. Placebo Christianity takes the place of the real work of the church and results in dying churches.

If you are the type to make New Year’s Resolutions, then let this be it: No More Placebo Christianity.

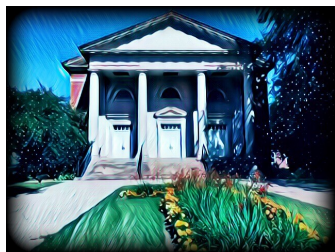
No more writing a check for the poor and not actually working for economic and social justice.

No more praying for peace and not getting involved in making it.

No more handing our flyers rather than engaging in conversations with real people.

No more relying on someone else to say the words you need to say.

No more reading the Bible and failing to engage with it in your life.



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No more moral superiority and saying “all have fallen short of the glory of God.”

No more wasteful ineffective efforts to feel like you are doing something without first doing the very hard work of examining your goals, your means, and your audience. No more relying on what worked in the past but clearly does not work anymore. No more complaining and bemoaning the state of the church and praying for it to change without actually doing something about it.

No more.

No more making ourselves feel better and wasting the resources God has given us.

This is my challenge. Not just for Fort Wayne Baptist Church, but for Christians everywhere.

No More Placebo Christianity.


—Pastor Scott

PRAYER REQUESTS

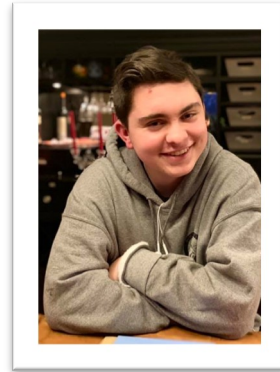
- Mabel Clark—in hospice at Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Rd, Ft. Wayne 46814
- Sasha (Brenda’s grand-daughter) and her family
- Cindy Deutchman (Janet’s friend)—recovering from knee replacement
- Liz Hager (Janet’s friend’s daughter in KY)—recovering from a radical mastoidectomy surgery (on skull behind ear), still has episodes of vertigo, hoping for hearing loss recovery
- Milene Stekly (The Noaks’ daughter-in-law’s aunt)—myelofibrosis leukemia
- Sheila (Marvel’s great-niece)—UPDATE: CANCER FREE!
- Gina (friend & neighbor of the Stoners)—having major medical problems
- Kamden (Vaunetta’s 4-year old grandson)—going to IU for cataracts surgery on January 14th
- Seth (Vaunetta’s grandson)—continued prayers
- John Trammel—continued prayers



ministry



Congratulations to Colin Haines for being selected to the Mayor's Youth Engagement Council. The council is a bipartisan group of 20 high school students chosen from local high schools. One of the main purposes of the group is to give ideas for the future of Fort Wayne. They will be helping with projects and events throughout the city.



Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering 2019

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING



This holiday season as we are busy shopping for Christmas presents for loved ones and preparing our holiday meals, don't forget to also take care of our Retired Ministers and Missionaries through the RMMO offering we participate in every December into January. We will have envelopes in the Sunday bulletins for submission into the offering plate or you are welcome to mail a check with "RMMO" in the memo line. Thank you.

The roots of the RMMO originated in the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. The long-standing tradition of the RMMO established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA. This year's theme, Honoring the Service of God's Servants uplifts the generosity, grace and tireless work of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses and families who have dedicated their lives to serving the body of Christ.

What's Happening

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

January 5th—Board Reports Due—please turn into Janet in the office

January 11th—10 AM—All Board Members Planning Session

January 12th—Annual Business Meeting immediately following the worship service



A Message From Your Financial Secretary:

Thank you for your gift this Christmas. Your 2019 donation statements will be available soon.

—Nick

Giving envelopes for 2020 have been distributed. If you have not received a book of giving envelopes and would like one, please contact the church office or email at

fortwaynebaptistfinance@gmail.com.

NOTE: If you would like the newsletter to be emailed to you each month, please either email Janet at fortwaynebaptist@gmail.com or contact the church office.

I would like to take a moment to thank you all for the Christmas gift. You all are very generous and good to us. Thank you.

—Janet



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 9:00-1:30

Tuesdays 9:00-5:00

Wednesdays 12:00-5:00

Thursdays 9:00-5:00

Fridays 9:00-5:00

Fort Wayne Baptist Church

January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 10:00 AM Prayer Network	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour Helpers— Pathfinders HAPPY BIRTHDAY DICK PLUMB!!	6	7	8	9 1:00 PM G.G.G.	10 10:00 AM Prayer Network	11 10:00 AM All Board Planning Meeting
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. BUSINESS MEETING HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOYCE SCHAAB!!	13	14 HAPPY BIRTHDAY BETH ANN WEINER!!	15 HAPPY BITRHDAY ZAW HTET!!	16	17 10:00 AM Prayer Network HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOYCE BAILEY!!	18
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour Helpers—Council	20	21	22	23	24 10:00 AM Prayer Network HAPPY ANNIVERSARY JEFF & CARLENE BUDD!!	25
26 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour— Choir	27	28	29	30	31 10:00 AM Prayer Network	