

**FORT WAYNE BAPTIST**  
Church



**March 2020**  
**Newsletter**

**Pastor:**

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**Fort Wayne  
Baptist Church**

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**Web:**

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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

## Invisible Churches

Have you ever been driving along and seen a building and wondered “How long has that been there?” Maybe you even asked someone about it. Maybe they said “Years.” There are a lot of things that we pass by all the time without interaction and over time they tend to fade into the background. Businesses we don’t use, entertainments we never see, and churches we do not attend. They become part of the scenery. Maybe they are architecturally interesting and have a flashy sign that we note on occasion, but for the most part they are no different than a tree, rock, or empty lot.

Churches that do not interact with their community become invisible to the people in it. Invisible churches are dying churches.

Visibility, however, is not an end unto itself. I can get your attention by hitting you with a stick or I can walk up and introduce myself. It all depends on what I want out of the interaction. A Canadian philosopher in the 1960s famously said “The Medium is the Message.” How I say it is as important as what I say.

Churches also have a different task than businesses. A business can scatter shot a message and hope for 1 to 3% interest. If people ignore the message or are even offended by it that doesn’t matter, all that matters is the customers gained. Churches are not like that. If to reach 1% we turn 2% away from Christianity then we have harmed the cause of the Gospel and damaged not only ourselves but all churches, not to mention the people we would try to reach.

So how do we achieve good visibility in our community?

First, we follow two guidelines: Do no harm and do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you would not like it or pay attention to it then do not do it just because it sounds like a good idea.

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Second, we go out and get involved in the community. We need to frequent neighborhood businesses. We need to go to neighborhood events. We need to be seen. To this end I am planning on us participating in some neighborhood association events in the coming months, but interactions do not need to be formal, they can be informal as well as you get to know the owners and servers as local restaurants and businesses.

Third, we get the community involved. Let them see that our church is an active part of their life. One of the things I am planning for late spring or early summer is a series of seminars and workshops on the end of life. Things like planning for a funeral, getting a health care directive, and setting up a will. I hope for these to become the beginning of non-worship related events that will interest people in the community and get them used to interacting with us.

If we are going to be more than an invisible church it will take all of us. There are no easy fixes. It is hard work, but it is what we are called to do by God.

—Pastor Scott

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## PRAYER REQUESTS



- Brian Blair—at Coventry Meadows Rehab Facility Room# 105B
- Denise York—recovering from pneumonia
- Tye's grandma
- Julie Russell—cancer
- Kamden (Vaunetta's 4-year old grandson)—cataracts—left eye doing great after surgery, right eye surgery on 3/8
- Milene Stekly (The Noaks' daughter-in-law's aunt)—myelofibrosis leukemia
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson)—continued prayers
- John Trammel—continued prayers



# ministry

## Missions Board Update

This month, we collect offerings for America for Christ (AFC), which helps American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) minister to families who have lost homes to floods, to children living lives of limitation in poverty, to seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News, and many more. This ministry has been answering God's call to heal broken families and communities—as well as cultivating strong Christian leaders and equipping passionate disciples—since 1832.

By contributing to the AFC Offering, you increase our capacity to fulfill the biblical mandate in Matthew 22:39: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

In 2019, ABHMS awarded more than \$300,000 to ministries carried out by American Baptist mission partners, including the following examples:

- \$8,400 was awarded to the Los Angeles-based Innovative Space for Asian American Christianity (ISAAC) to help fund its “Imagining A More Equal Pulpit” initiative, including a Gender Summit that addressed the challenges faced by women of color in ministry.
- \$115,000 included support to Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries, Campbell, Ohio, for the purchase of mattresses above and beyond the 104 already delivered to prevent children and teens from sleeping on the floors, couches and piles of clothing in its three housing developments.
- \$15,300 included support to Iglesia Bautista Betesda, Indianapolis, Ind., and its “Walking with the Immigrant” project, which has helped 60 families, including a family that senior pastor the Rev. Jaime Flores and a church brother accompanied to immigration court in Miami, Fla.

With your help, we can bring God's healing touch to so many more by contributing to ABHMS's goal of raising \$1,000,000 in 2020 to support missions throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. You can give during the congregational offering on Sundays in March, or you can go to [abhms.org/afcnow](http://abhms.org/afcnow).

—Janica Carter

### Save the Date!

We will host dinners at Just Neighbors Sunday–Friday, June 7–12, 5–6:30 p.m. Janica Carter will provide details closer to the event regarding menus and opportunities to sign up for specific nights and food. If you have questions or suggestions, please email Janica at [janicayorkcarter@gmail.com](mailto:janicayorkcarter@gmail.com) or call 260-715-8070.

America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020

“You shall  
**LOVE** your  
**NEIGHBOR**  
as **YOURSELF.**”  
MATTHEW 22:39



# What's Happening

Congratulations to Mark and Kaitlin on their new membership with FWBC and to Mark on his recent Baptism!



Mark your calendars!

The next G.G.G. will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm.

## Easter Morning Breakfast

Please come, bring a dish, and join us for good food and fellowship on Easter Morning (April 12<sup>th</sup>) at 9:00 during the Sunday School hour.

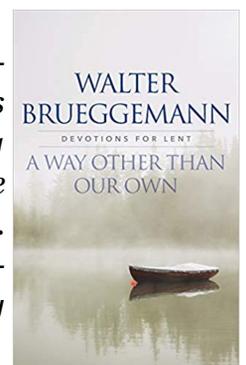


Don't forget to set your clocks forward on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> before you go to bed, unless you rely solely on a cell phone, then it'll do the work for you!



Walter Brueggemann's *A Way Other Than Our Own* is our chosen devotional for the Lenten season.

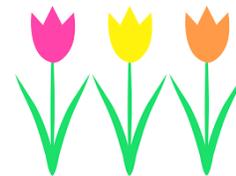
From the back cover: *"Lent recalls times of wilderness and wandering, from newly freed Hebrew slaves in exile to Jesus' temptation in the desert. God has always called people out of their safe, walled cities into uncomfortable places, revealing paths they would never have chosen. Despite our culture of self-indulgence, we too are called to walk an alternative path--one of humility, justice, and peace. Walter Brueggemann's thought-provoking reflections for the season of Lent invite us to consider the challenging, beautiful life that comes with walking the way of grace."*



The church has a few copies available or you can order your own. We will be having discussion groups for it on Sunday morning in Janica's class and on Wednesday night during our Bible Study time.

# Fort Wayne Baptist Church

## March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour Helpers— Pathfinders	2 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOM FRITZ!!</b>	3	4 6:00 PM Dine Lite	5	6 10:00 AM Prayer Network	7
8 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour Helpers—Disciples	9	10 <b>6:00 PM Council Meeting HAPPY BIRTHDAY SANDY JEWELL!!</b>	11 6:00 PM Dine Lite	12 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY GAVIN HAINES!!</b>	13 10:00 AM Prayer Network	14
15 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour Helpers—Council <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLIVIA RUSK!!</b>	16 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY REESE HAINES!!</b>	17	18 6:00 PM Dine Lite	19	20 10:00 AM Prayer Network	21
22 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour Helpers—Choir	23 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY REBEKAH CARTER &amp; MARGIE GASKILL- PURDY!!</b>	24 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANGELA QUINN!!</b>	25 <b>NO Dine Lite</b>	26 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY DE STONER!!</b>	27 10:00 AM Prayer Network <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY RANDY RUSK!!</b>	28
29 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour	30	31				

## **Fort Wayne Baptist Church Care Ministry**

The Care Ministry is designed to coordinate the church's response to two situations: emergency assistance needed for a member and the unexpected death of a member. The need for this program was highlighted by two recent situations. The first involved a church member who became severely ill and unable to respond to emergency responders, the second was a church member who became disoriented while out of state. In either case if we had the information on these forms, we would have been able to respond more effectively and more promptly. The second form is born from my personal experience at churches and knowing how preplanning can save distress on everyone.

Care Ministry Form 1 deals with emergency assistance. This provides information on how to access a person's home in the event of an emergency, who to contact, and data that might be needed by emergency responders. Each form is provided with a number, indicated at the top of the page. Should the member wish to provide a key, it will be kept in a separate place from the form and labeled with that number. Thus, someone would have to be able to access both the form and the locked box of keys to know where the key goes. Only the Pastor and Deacons will have access to these.

Care Ministry Form 2 deals with Funeral Arrangements. It might be that all this information is available elsewhere, either through a funeral home or personal files, in which case the form can simply direct to that. The Form will be linked to the same Care number for ease of cross reference.

All of this is voluntary. It will not change the love and care members receive from the church; it will simply make it easier for us to provide it.

The forms will be available in three places: in the church office, on the church website, and in the March 2020 newsletter.

Thank You,  
Pastor Scott

\*Please see the attached Care Ministry forms. You may fill them out and mail to Fort Wayne Baptist Church 2323 Fairfield Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46807 or drop off to the church office. These forms are available in the office as well.