

**FORT WAYNE BAPTIST**  
Church



**March 2021**  
**Newsletter**

**Pastor:**

Rev. Scott Carter  
fwbcpastor@gmail.com  
(260) 715-8080

**Finance Secretary:**

Nick Jewell

**Admin Assistant:**

Janet Arvola

**Fort Wayne  
Baptist Church**

2323 Fairfield Ave.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807  
Office: (260) 744-2373  
Fax: (260) 458-0395

**Web:**

fortwaynebaptist.com

**Email:**

fortwaynebaptist  
@gmail.com

**Sunday:**

Bible Study—9:00 AM  
Worship—10:00 AM

**Wednesday Eve:**

Cancelled until further  
notice.

## A Curious Absences of Snakes

March is note worthy for many things. I learned “In like a lion, out like a lamb” in preschool. It is, of course, the start of Spring and after the last few weeks I am desperate for it. I understand that there is a game involving peach baskets and thrown balls that induces some sort of madness this time of year, at least most years.

For some, it would seem, the whole point of March is St. Patrick’s Day. We all know the day. Green everywhere or you get a pinch. An estimated 13 million pints of Guinness consumed worldwide in one day. People fighting over who can and cannot be in parades. The Chicago River, and other waters, turn green.



Now, I like corned beef and cabbage as much as the next guy, but there are some problems here. For one thing, corned beef and cabbage is a Jewish food the Irish immigrants picked up from their neighbors in America. Then we have the simple facts. There have never been any snakes in Ireland, ever. Christianity had already come to Ireland about five years earlier with the work of Palladius. Patrick was Scottish and, technically, is not a Saint having never been canonized.

No, St. Patrick’s Day is a lot more about cultural identity than it is anything religious. It’s far more popular and important among the Irish diaspora than in Ireland itself, and in that respect much like Cinco de Mayo for Mexicans.

I bring this all up because it serves as a good illustration of a common problem: the tendency to equate religious ideas with cultural ones to the point that the culture overwhelms the faith. It happens repeatedly in history. For Christianity it began with the conflict between being Jewish and being Christian without being

(continued on next page)



Jewish. Then Charlemagne made the Church and the State the same thing. European kings exchange stories of mythical ancestors to the God given Divine Right of Kings to justify everything they did. Later there were Crusades, Purges, Pogroms, and endless War. All because people have a flawed logic.

We tend to think that if A is important and B is important then A and B are the same thing. Namely, we think Christianity is important and our culture/nation/traditions/politics are important then they must be the same thing. They are not.

Green beer has nothing to do with the remembrance of an evangelist in Ireland 1500 years ago.

What have you allowed to be added to the Gospel? What have you confused with the observance of God?

—Pastor Scott

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- The country and world during the corona virus pandemic
- Burma
- Texas
- Ed Goetz's family
- Chris Cooper—has throat cancer, had surgery
- Les Roberson—continued prayers
- Don Schaab—continued prayers
- Brenda Edwards—continued prayers
- June Smith (Scott's brother's mother-in-law)—cancer
- Nash (Susan Elser's friend's son)—bad car wreck
- Sandra (Susan Elser's mother-in-law)
- Siegrid Belden (Joyce's friend)—possible neural issues
- Hti Mu—continued prayers
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson)—continued prayers
- John Trammel—continued prayers



# In Loving Memory



The Fort Wayne Baptist Family lost an amazing member on February 19, 2021. If you have ever had a birthday than you very likely, maybe even unknowingly, have received correspondence from Ed Goetz Jr. For many years he has personally volunteered the mailing of birthday cards to all members having a birthday that month. He continued his service to our church and the community all the way up to the age of 100 years. He will be missed dearly. God had a plan for him and I would say he successfully completed his mission. The Goetz family would like to thank everyone on behalf of Ed for all the birthday cards he received for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday just a few days before his passing. He greatly appreciated them and made him happy.

Edward J Goetz, Jr., 100, of Ossian, passed away on Friday, February 19, 2021. Born on February 15, 1921 in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was the son of the late Edward J. and Louise (Pfeiffer) Goetz, Sr. He earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati where he met his wife, Henrietta, of 72 years. He earned an M.B.A. from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He served in the U. S Army Air Corp as a B-29 Fight Engineer, having 37 combat missions over Japan, and received the Purple Heart Medal among other service awards. Ed was a mechanical engineer and sales manager at General Electric in Cincinnati and Valley Forge, P.A., then moved to Indiana to work for Franklin Electric as Service Manager and retired from Essex in 1984. He contributed to his community and churches in many ways. Devoted to scouting for over 30 years, he was a BSA Eagle Scout and Scout Master in Cincinnati, earning the Silver Beaver Award. He was a Life Member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and he served on the boards of the following: the Wells County Foundation, the Friends of the Wells County Public Library as Treasurer, Wells County United Way Board as President, Northern Wells Community Schools Board, Wells County Creative Arts Council, Ossian Development Corporation, Fort Wayne Area Scandia Club, Fort Wayne Sister Cities Committee, Bluffton Kiwanis, Ossian Lion's Club as President and was awarded by the Melvin Foundation, and Fort Wayne Philharmonic Friends; he also sang in the Philharmonic Chorus for over 20 years and managed the young people's music competition. Ed also sang in the church choir at Fort Wayne Baptist Church, often performing solos. He was a life-long lover of opera. After retiring Ed volunteered for 25 years as a tax preparer for the AARP free service through the Wells County Council on Aging. He received the Citizen of the Year Award in 1978 by the NE Indiana Engineers and the Citizen of the Year in 2010 from Wells County Chamber of Commerce. Ed and his wife, Henri, enjoyed travelling throughout the U.S., exploring places abroad with Elderhostel (Road Scholar), and touring Europe with the Fort Wayne Sounds of Hope. Ed found community at the First Baptist Church in Bluffton in the past decade. It can be said of Ed Goetz that he lived life well, valued his family and friendships, and gave generously of his time and resources. Surviving Edward are his daughters, Kathryn L. Goetz of La Jolla, CA, Carol L. (Patrick) Dunn of Middleton, WI, Marti S. Goetz of Tipp City, OH, and Deborah L. (Richard) Kumpf of Moultonborough, N.H.; seven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and five great-great grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Edward was preceded in death by his wife, Henrietta (Rasmus) Goetz, in 2015; and his sister, Elizabeth L. Murray. A private family service and burial will be held. Memorial donations may be made to the Edward and Henrietta Goetz Scholarship Endowment for students of STEM and Nursing at the Wells County Foundation, 222 W. Market Street., Bluffton, IN 46714, or the Friends of the Library at Wells County Public Library, 200 W. Washington Street, Bluffton, IN 46714. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com](http://www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com) for the Goetz family.

## **Update on the Haines kids!**

What an interesting year and it's not over yet!

Therefore, I thought you might like to know what's going on with some of our younger attendees.

You get to see Colin quite frequently and he loves his weekly job at the church. Thank you so much as he works on his musical journey when he performs for you on Sunday mornings. He takes weekly guitar and vocal lessons at Sweetwater and we have seen wonderful results (thanks Sweetwater teachers!). He has taught himself how to play the autoharp and banjo and received a violin for Christmas. Conquering the violin has been a challenge, but I'm sure you'll see the results at some point! Colin is taking some Advanced Placement classes at Snider and doing well with his grades. Lots of Saturdays he helps me at the store organizing racks of costumes.

Reese is a freshman at Snider and making all A+'s. She is very conscience about her studies as she hopes to enter the medical field in the future. Her friends, Elizabeth and Maddie, have the same goals and love to get together and listen to the latest Taylor Swift music. She loves animals, so spends a lot of time with their dogs Teddy, Pluto, and Murphy. Teddy and Murphy don't get along so she gets experience in refereeing. Like Colin, she is a great little artist.

Dick and I are so proud of Gavin. He made the principal's honor roll at Blackhawk Middle School. He credits his mom, Ginger, with helping him get such great grades. She sits with him through each Zoom lesson and further explains what he doesn't understand. Having had some challenges in earlier grades, this is a major accomplishment. He is so helpful and helps us so much, like cleaning bath tubs, etc. When weather permits he likes to go on bike rides with his friends.

Just thought you would like to know they are doing great and taking advantage of the extra time to explore new and different things. Would they like to be in "regular" school? You bet, but like the rest of us, we are all making the best of the situation.

When this crazy thing first started, Reese asked "Does this happen very often?" Well let's hope and pray not! Thanks to everyone for being supportive of our wonderful grandchildren.

Dick and De Stoner

# What's Happening

The Annual Report is ready for distribution. In a normal year, we would hand them out during the annual congregational meeting. Since we are not having an annual meeting at this time, we will mail them to interested parties. They will also be available for pick up at the church if you attend worship service. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please email us at [fortwaynebaptist@gmail.com](mailto:fortwaynebaptist@gmail.com) or call at (260) 744-2373.

2020 Annual Report



Fort Wayne Baptist Church  
A Congregation of American Baptist Churches USA  
Est. August 3, 1822  
2823 Fairfield Avenue • Fort Wayne, IN 46807  
(260) 744-2373 • Fax (260) 458-0395  
E-mail: [fortwaynebaptist@gmail.com](mailto:fortwaynebaptist@gmail.com)  
[www.fortwaynebaptist.com](http://www.fortwaynebaptist.com)

## Free Farm Fresh “Homemade” Eggs

Let Janet in the church office know if you would be interested.



## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 12:00-5:00

Tuesdays 9:00-5:00

Wednesdays 12:00-5:00

Thursdays 9:00-5:00

Fridays 9:00-5:00

**Continue to join us for church activities  
from the comfort and safety of your home!**

Wednesday—Bible Study

Thursday—Written Blog

Friday—Zoom prayer meeting for church members  
(contact Pastor Scott or the church office for more information)

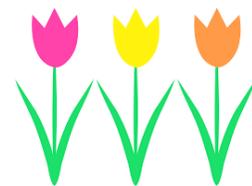
Saturday—Bonus Sermon.

These are all available through our website:

**<https://fortwaynebaptist.com/blog/>**

# Fort Wayne Baptist Church

## March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOM FRITZ!!	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. <b>COMMUNION</b>	8	9	10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY SANDY JEWELL!!	11	12 HAPPY BIRTHDAY GAVIN HAINES!!	13
14 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	15 HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLIVIA RUSK!!	16 HAPPY BIRTHDAY REESE HAINES!!	17 	18	19	20
21 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	22	23 HAPPY BIRTHDAY REBEKAH CARTER & MARGE GASKILL!!	24 HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANGIE QUINN!!	25	26 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DE STONER!!	27 HAPPY BIRTHDAY RANDY RUSK!!
28 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	29	30	31			