



**FORT WAYNE BAPTIST**  
Church



**January 2022**  
**Newsletter**

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**Sunday:**

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

## Resolutions

Here it is another new year and some of us are thinking about New Year's Resolutions. These are typically informed by the past, by what has come before that we would like to change. Before we all commit to losing weight and spending more time outdoors, let's consider a larger perspective. According to the Gallop Poll people, between 1940 and 2000 attendance at weekly religious services was steady at about 70% of the population, within a margin of error. In 2010 it was 60%. In 2020 it was less than 50%. Two things are at play. First, there is a general decline in people in the US who identify strongly with any religion, although 70% of Americans still claim to identify with some religious tradition. Second, there is a decline in those who do identify with a religion who feel the need to attend regularly. This decline is seen across the board in all categories regardless of age, race, education, or income, although the numbers do vary in each.

We are losing 10% of the US population as regular church attendees every decade of the 21st century.

Immediately this sends people scramble mode. What to do? What programs should we have? Who should we hire? Where do we throw our money? Should we sing different songs? Should we buy a bus?

If any of that was going to work, it would have by now. It has all been done and the best that happens is a little bit of rearranging of the numbers; but for every church's growth there are ten more that die all the quicker.

(continued on next page)



Programs, budgets, and personnel are not the answer.  
The answer is the same as it has always been.  
Pray until God shows you what you are doing wrong.  
Repent of that.  
Pray that God will show you what to do next.  
Resolve to do that.  
Do it.

This is the answer in the age of the prophets, the answer in Jesus' day, and the answer now. Until we are ready to humble ourselves and honestly and fervently seek God's will, nothing will change. Of course, the biggest obstacle there is the acceptance that we might be wrong. My response is this: If we were not doing something wrong then why do people not come? Maybe what we thought was right was insufficient to meet the challenge.

We must resolve to change who we are, what we do can come second.

—Pastor Scott

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brenda Edwards
- Les Roberson—liver cancer
- Todd Quinn
- Don Schaab
- Diana (Brenda Routhier's sister)
- Andrea Lowe (Randy & Sharon Rusk's daughter)—has MS
- Marilyn Elliott (Sharon Rusk's sister)—bladder cancer
- Aryln Fulk (Barb's son-in-law)
- Wayne (Barb's son-in-law)—cancer
- Grayson Barnhart (Dick & Cec's grandson)—3 yr old with juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Jerry Brown—recovering from back surgery
- Vaunetta's Family
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson)—continued prayers



**Board Reports for the 2021 Annual Report are due into the church office no later than Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>. The annual Board Meeting will be held on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.**

# Shoebboxes

## WHY DO WE PACK SHOEBBOXES?

We can't change the circumstances for everyone, we can't, shoeboxes don't do that. But when we have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them, the knowledge that they are loved and not alone, that's the why.

An 8 year old boy in Chile liked the car and bouncy ball packed in his box but he was most grateful for a toothbrush he didn't have to share with anyone anymore. He got choked up about four pairs of socks because now he didn't have to wash his one pair every night for school the next day.

One woman who goes on distribution trips for OCC always asks one question of children before they open their box. She asks if you could have anything in your shoebox what would you want it to be? Then she marvels as every single time, there's something in that shoebox that fits the description of what they wanted.

During one event in Senegal the woman sat down beside a little girl that could have been mistaken for a boy with her haircut and clothes. She was the youngest and only girl in her family. She wore her brothers' hand-me-downs. She said she didn't care about what was in her shoebox but just wanted one thing that was pink. When the box was opened there was not a single thing in it that WASN'T pink. Wow!

Okay now that you've read about where other shoeboxes have gone in the past here's the reveal for where our 1,202 shoeboxes went. Drum roll please.....

### BENIN, AFRICA

Our shoeboxes went to Benin in 2019 and I think I wrote a little something about that country. Now I will tell you a little more that I have found out.

Benin is a small country in Africa of 12.6 million people.

The official language is French but there are a total of 55 languages spoken in this small country.

It would take 17 hours to fly there.

The national animal is a leopard.

The national dish is kuli-kuli. This simple meal consists of ground, smashed peanuts that are shaped into balls or biscuits which are deep-fried in their own oils.

Nearly 1/2 of the population is Christian, 30% Muslim and 10% practice voodoo.

And, one last thing.....

It is reported that many children when receiving a shoebox quickly look inside their box and suddenly close it up, like a clam shuts its shell. Why? It's because the children are so overwhelmed by what they see inside and afraid if they open their box again they will lose what's inside. When they realize that everything in the box is for them, they are overjoyed.

Where is Benin located?



Please be in prayer for the recipients of the shoeboxes. More than 26.5 million shoebox recipients have participated in the Greatest Journey since 2009! The Greatest Journey is a 12 lesson discipleship program that teaches children more about what it means to follow Jesus and share Him with others. At the end of the course, children receive their own Bible in their language at a fun graduation event!

One last reminder of where our shoeboxes have gone over the last eight years:

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 2021 Benin        | 2017 Mexico   |
| 2020 South Africa | 2016 Colombia |
| 2019 Benin        | 2015 Ukraine  |
| 2018 Malawi       | 2014 Ukraine  |

Save those empty shoeboxes please. We had to use a lot of our stock this year. Just drop them off in the office or leave them outside the shoebox work room.

You are all a treasure to me.

Sharon and the shoebox crew (you know who you are).

# Fort Wayne Baptist Church

## January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>
2 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	3	4	5 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY DICK PLUMB!!</b>	6 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARK BUECKER!!</b>	7	8 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVID SOWARDS!!</b>
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. <b>Noisy Offering Communion</b>	10	11	12 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOYCE SCHAAB!!</b>	13	14 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY BETH ANN WEINER!!</b>	15 <b>10 AM Board Meeting HAPPY BIRTHDAY ZAW HTET OO!!</b>
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	17 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOYCE BAILEY!!</b>	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	24 <b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY JEFF &amp; CARLENE BUDD!!</b>	25 <b>6 PM Council Meeting</b>	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. <b>Salad Luncheon</b>	31					