



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of Fort Wayne, Indiana



January 2023
Newsletter

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Peter Janzen
peterjanzens
@hotmail.com
(260) 414-7434

Finance Secretary:

Nick Jewell

Admin Assistant:

Janet Welch

**First Baptist Church
of Fort Wayne**

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

Web:

firstbaptistfw.com

Email:

firstbaptistfw
@gmail.com

Sunday:

Bible Study—9:00 AM
Worship—10:00 AM

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Peter Janzen

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.—Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

I wish all of us at FBC and BCF a happy new year 2023!!! The above passage of scripture is all about knowing the times and the seasons of life. With the 200th Anniversary, Christmas and New Year celebrations, January might feel like a letdown. The excess spending on gifts, food, entertainment can lead to huge headaches once the bills roll into our mail boxes! My wife Jennifer made a cross stitch years ago that shows a person driving a car away from their house. The caption is: "I owe, I owe! It's off to work I go!"

What's next for us in 2023? Much the same truth as believers in Christ had in 2022. The on-going love and sustaining power of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will be the same in 2023!

The Joint Service with the BCF January 15 when our final act of Bicentennial Celebration occurs will be a benchmark time of worship. FBC is in a strong position to grow in the grace of Jesus Christ. Our two congregations are Brothers and Sisters in Christ. The umbrella of the Kingdom of God makes us one in mission and in purpose. Are we willing to pray for and to encourage each other in 2023?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (as printed above) is a reminder to be centered in the days we live in space and time. If we look further in Ecclesiastes 3:15 it says: "Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past into account." There is Kingdom of God work to accomplish in 2023. Jesus taught clearly that the greatest commandment is to "Love God, love neighbor as we love ourselves." Let's get to work for God in 2023!



Pastor Peter Janzen





SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 10 AM

**WORSHIP WITH THE BURMESE,
HEAR FROM OUR LEGACY RECIPIENTS
LOOK TO OUR FUTURE!**

Following the joint worship service will be a fellowship time with Burmese Christian Fellowship.
This will be our official closure for our 200th Anniversary celebrations!
Thanks to all who have planned these events. Thanks to all who have participated.



Board Reports for the 2021 Annual Report are due into the church office no later than Friday January 13th by noon. The annual board planning meeting will be held on Saturday January 14th at 10:00 am. The annual congregational meeting to distribute and review the 2022 annual report will be Sunday January 22nd immediately following the worship service.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Phyllis Arvola—had minor stroke in November, at Byron for rehabilitation
- Gene & Joe Miller (Janet's friends)—Gene had a major stroke in early December and is in Lutheran Rehab and **not** making great progress & Joe has health problems of his own
- Larry & Joyce Bailey—as they travel to Florida
- Randy Rusk—continued prayers
- Les Roberson—continued prayers
- Diana (Brenda Routhier's sister)—continued prayers
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson)—continued prayers



Shoebboxes

It has been an absolutely marvelous year for collecting items for the shoeboxes. I have quite a team on the hunt for items on sale, in bulk, or just available locally. And the internet also came in handy.

We had numerous work days throughout the year and of course a week long packing session. Lots of helping hands despite medical problems, doctor appointments, medical treatments and broken bones. But we persevered. We're definitely a unique small group but mighty.

What do these three flags have in common? They don't look alike. They aren't the same colors—2 have stripes, 2 have stars.



I'll tell you what they have in common. Our 1,271 shoeboxes went to three countries—three different continents even.

I was so surprised when I found out that our boxes were sent to two countries but to find that they were sent to three countries was phenomenal. This has never happened to us before.

To everyone involved with the shoeboxes I say:

Your dedication helped us reach 1,271 shoeboxes. I deeply appreciate every member of this team for showing relentless effort for this project. It gives me great joy to be the leader of this team. Your hard work continues to inspire me.

Interesting facts:

1. This year at the Charlotte, NC processing center the 200 millionth shoebox (since 1993) was processed and that shoebox is being taken coast to coast and then ending up in Ukraine.
2. If every shoebox gift ever packed was stacked on top of each other they would be tall enough to reach the International Space Station 59 times.
3. Our shoeboxes were processed at the Boone, NC Center this year by 28 active, retired and patrol family members of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol group volunteering at the center. How cool is that?



Someone asked me the other day if I've purchased any items yet for the 2023 shoeboxes. The simple answer to that is.....yes of course.

—Sharon

First Baptist Church

January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Svc. Communion Coffee Hour— Alicia Ellis	2	3	4	5 HAPPY BIRTHDAY DICK PLUMB!!	6	7
8 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Svc. Noisy Offering Coffee Hour— Janet Welch HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVID SOWARDS!!	9	10	11	12 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOYCE SCHAAB!!	13 12:00 PM Board Reports Deadline	14 10:00 AM Board Planning Meeting HAPPY BIRTHDAY BETH ANN WEINER!!
15 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Joint Worship Svc. Coffee Hour Fellowship w/BCF HAPPY BIRTHDAY ZAW HTET!!	16	17 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOYCE BAILEY!!	18	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Svc. Congregational Meeting Coffee Hour— Proctors	23	24 6:00 PM Council Meeting	25	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Svc. Salad Luncheon	30	31	28	29	30	31