



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
of Fort Wayne, Indiana



March 2023  
Newsletter

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**Sunday:**

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

# Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Peter Janzen

## Spring is nearly here!

*“Ask the Lord for rain in springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people and plants of the field to everyone.” Zechariah 10:1.*

The Minor Prophet Zechariah reminds us that God is in control of the seasons. In Israel, Spring rains meant the success of the grain crop. Planting happened in the Fall and harvest in the Spring.

We are leaving the Winter season on March 21. Thankfully, our Indiana Winter has not seen the recent blizzards of the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Indiana has not had the harsh weather of Michigan and New York and other Northeastern states. And yet, all of us long for longer days and a better life outdoors! A number of our church members are Snowbirds and are enjoying or have enjoyed Florida and Arizona. Spring reminds us of the return of those members.

So why all this talk about Spring? Like Lent, the Winter months prepare us for the coming of more sunshine and a greener world. The Spring reminds us that Easter, this year April 9, is just around the corner. In my family's life there is no day as anticipated as March 31. Our daughter Katharina and her fiancé John will be married! All of us have days that we anticipate with joy. Whatever this month, this season or this life brings, Zechariah 10:1 reminds us that God is in control. Shalom.



Pastor Peter



Don't forget to bring your Easter flowers into the church no later than Palm Sunday April 2<sup>th</sup> or Easter Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>. You may take them home after the Easter worship service.



Easter Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> we will gather together after the worship service for a pot-luck Easter brunch. The Diaconate board will provide the ham. All you need to do is bring a dish to share and an appetite.

**\*\*\*Pastor Peter will be on vacation March 27<sup>th</sup> thru April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brian Blair—Majestic Care room #501, expected to go back home March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Randy Rusk—continued prayers, recovering from surgery on February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Gene & Joe Miller (Janet's friends)—Gene passed away 2/8
- Family of Don & Joyce Schaab—as they grieve the death of 5 mo old granddaughter Allison on 1/26 and nephew Matthew Habeggar passed away suddenly 2/9
- Pat (Don Schaab's sister) —cancer
- C. Alan Lehman (Cec Plumbs' brother)—in hospital with pneumonia
- Sandra (Susan Elser's friend)—breast cancer
- Stacy Thomapson (wife of ABC Executive Minister Mark Thompson)—thyroid cancer
- Julie Robinson—back pain
- Brenda Edwards—continued prayers, getting less chemo because it has been hard on her
- Les Roberson—continued prayers
- Diana (Brenda Routhier's sister)—continued prayers, in hospital
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson) and Vaunetta—continued prayers



# Shoeboxes

Here it is almost March and we have heard from three recipients of our shoeboxes that we packed in November 2022. All three of the recipients are from Panama. Hopefully we will hear from someone from Ghana or Ukraine. I will keep you posted if we do.

In 2020 our shoeboxes went to South Africa. Maybe this story below is about one of our shoeboxes.

When 9-year-old Duke popped open the cardboard lid of his shoebox, he immediately saw a pair of bright red flip flops resting on top. He had been hoping and praying for shoes for many years.

“And today, it happened!” he said as he picked up his red flip flops one-by-one and smiled. Lacking his own shoes, he had been wearing borrowed pairs day after day. Now he couldn’t believe these were actually his—that they were a gift freely given and packed especially for him!



A pair of flip flops. Think of that. A simple pair of flip flops.

Here in America we take so many things for granted. When was the last time you would have gotten excited about a simple pair of flip flops?

While the season of Lent usually includes giving something up, we can also use it as a time to connect more closely with God through prayer. Boost your prayer life this Lent with prayers for the children who receive a shoebox.

Sharon Rusk



# First Baptist Church

## March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOM FRITZ!!	3	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. <b>Communion</b> Coffee Hour— TBA	6	7	8	9	10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY SANDY JEWELL!!	11
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. <b>Noisy Offering</b> Coffee Hour— Janet Welch HAPPY BIRTHDAY GAVIN HAINES!!	13	14	15 HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLIVIA RUSK!!	16 HAPPY BIRTHDAY REESE HAINES!!	17 	18
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour— The Stoners/Haines	20	21	22	23 HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARJORIE GASKILL-PURDY!!	24 HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANGELA QUINN!!	25
26 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Srvc. Coffee Hour— The Noaks HAPPY BIRTHDAY DE STONER!!	27 HAPPY BIRTHDAY RANDY RUSK!!	28 6:00 PM Council Meeting	29	30	31	