

THE VISITOR



Search Team Strives to Be "Prayerful, Peaceful, and Patient"

Pastoral Search Committee chair **Brian Green** is excited about the search process as First Baptist Church (FBC) seeks to find a new permanent senior pastor. It's a daunting task, but the team knows there is qualified help from the denominational office leading the Indiana and Kentucky work and, most of all, there is God's leadership.

"I believe our team has a spirit and drive to get this job done," said Brian. "We have to discern how God is leading and to realize that he already knows who will come here and that he is leading that person to us." The team is meeting frequently and believes it can do the intensive work to find the person God is calling to be pastor.

"In the meantime," said Brian, "we are blessed to have **Dr. David Hinson** as our interim; his focus on the church and our needs helps us move forward in spite of this time of transition."

In a business meeting on July 11, First Baptist members elected people to serve on the committee. Besides Brian there is **Emily Anderson** (who represents the Church Coordination Team), **Ella Mae Lemen**, **Jane Patton**, and **Janis Wright**.

One of their first tasks, after joining with the Indiana and Kentucky office leaders, was to create a survey for collecting feedback from all persons active in the church. That survey was distributed widely, and responses were collected at the end of August.

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One member said, "It was a good but very tough questionnaire. It forced me to think about what qualities we need, not just what I want or enjoy." Survey findings will be used to help screen applicants and also to reach out to anyone who might be a viable candidate.

"Members of the congregation have to be part of what we are doing," said Brian. "We ask that they will listen to the Lord, and pray for us and for our task. We want them to pray that we will be peaceful through a hectic process and clear-minded in what we are doing. Most of all, we pray that all of us and everyone at FBC will be patient as the process continues." 🏛️



BRIAN GREEN



EMILY ANDERSON



ELLA MAE LEMEM



JANE PATTON



JANIS WRIGHT

Get to Know...

Coby Anderson



Coby's grandparents Albert and Jerusha King attended FBC for many years. Coby became a part of the church after he met his wife Emily 11 years ago. They were married six months after they started dating and both feel their lives are much improved because of the relationship.

He admits that he hasn't always had a lot of confidence about some things and that Emily helps make certain he gives himself credit for what he does. Coby brought two daughters into their marriage and there are now two granddaughters and one step-grandson. Off and on for 25 years, Coby has worked at McGuff's Roofing. He is a supervisor involved in commercial repairs. He has to get away when he can or finds himself working every weekend doing something for someone who needs a roof repair or some other "fix it" job.

The Anderson's favorite getaway place is his Mom and Dad's lake cottage on Lake Tippecanoe, not that far from Camp Tippy, the American Baptist church camp FBC children attend.

They try to get to the lake as often as they can in the summertime.

Because of his and Emily's church responsibilities, they don't miss many Sundays. Coby is a member of the security team, and Emily sings in the praise band, serves in the sound coordination rotation—singing along with a microphone while she is at the soundboard—and serves as leader of worship ministry on the CCT. Recently Emily became one of the five members elected to the pastoral search team and represents the CCT on that team. 🏛️

From the "Shepherd's Shop"

BY REV. DR. DAVID K. HINSON, INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

"The road is UP, we must keep climbing, looking ever to Jesus, who is Lord" is our theme moving forward as we emphasize each month moving toward a new priority goal and implementing strategies to meet our community with the story of Jesus and His love.

First, we looked at "The road is UP . . . to children!" and we celebrated "The Blessing of the Children" on August 15. What a remarkable and beautiful sight it was to see the children of First Baptist Church at the front of the sanctuary for an annual photograph that will remind us all of our responsibility "to train them UP in the way they should go." The priority of children also reminds us that our future depends on our ability to reach this generation with the gospel.

Praying for children, listening to children, volunteering with children, talking to children, and welcoming children to First Baptist Church are among the most important things we do.

Years ago, I used to joke with my colleagues that the best way I knew to help a church grow was by winning the hearts and minds of four-year-olds.

Those four-year-olds have much sway with their parents to get them out of bed on Sunday to get ready for church. If a child loves their church, that one child will bring parents to worship.


In my full-time pastorates, whenever we had children's events at church, it was always a guaranteed "high attendance day." Not only did parents come, but grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends received invitations. Several day-care graduation events averaged thirteen adults for every child graduating. There is no doubt Jesus had a reason for encouraging the children to come to him.

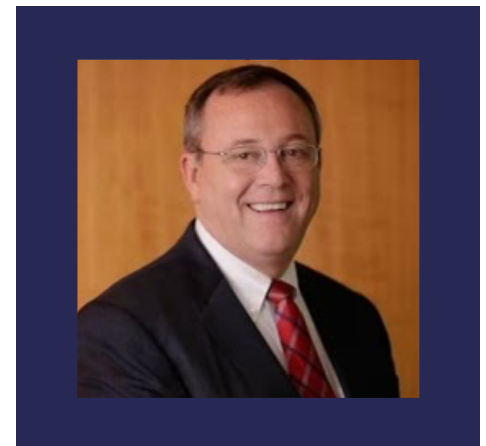
First Baptist Church is blessed to have many senior adults of mature faith. In September, our theme will be "The Road is UP . . . to seniors!" This population of strength is just that—strong in the Lord!

The wisdom, resources, and abilities of senior adults make intergenerational worship possible. They encourage us to give our best efforts in supporting avenues of ministry that reach the youngest and the oldest among us.

There is never a need for competition among age groups in church; I believe our togetherness brings into focus a picture of what heaven is actually like, where NO AGE exists above or below another. How old are you? That is only a "temporary" number, but FOREVER YOUNG is a great answer for the believer in Jesus Christ.

It is my continuing privilege to serve as your Interim. Please know I will always seek to deliver the message God has put on my heart. I appreciate your prayers, even as I pray for you.

With love, David 



BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

PHOTO BY JULIE KIRKLIN

"I believe our togetherness brings into focus a picture of what heaven is actually like, where NO AGE exists above or below another."

What Is Good about Meeting with Other Christians?

BY DR. CLIFTON DAVIS, WORSHIP ARTS PASTOR

In my own life, it's easy to watch TV on demand, use e-banking instead of stopping into my local bank, and shop Amazon instead of visiting a mall. How about you? Life looks different than it used to.

Do you think that meeting with other Christians can be replaced exclusively by Zoom worship or phone texts? What would the writer of Hebrews think of "church in our jammies whenever convenient"? Clearly, the Bible encourages us to gather as Christians:

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.
(Heb. 10:24-25 NLT)

I believe specific responses to this charge changed through history. We don't have to be prisoners of the past to remain faithful today.

For some, Zoom offers a practical solution to health issues, including compromised respiratory ability. I encourage you to keep in step with the Spirit for wisdom in managing COVID's effects on life. But for many, the convenience of online interactions shortchanges how God could act in our lives through face-to-face interactions. Here are three possible ways at FBC-Muncie to gain benefits from meeting with others.

ONE: Meeting together on Sundays.

Conversations before and after services build hope into my life. Seeing people worship God encourages me to be faithful in my praise. What value have you found from face-to-face worship?

TWO: Meeting together in life groups and Sunday school classes.

Being in the room together clarifies the nitty-gritty connection between our faith and real life. What would it take for you to renew your commitment to this kind of gathering in person?

THREE: Meeting together "where two or three come together." Of course, everything can't happen at 309 East Adams Street. Whether you chat about the Bible at mealtime with family or regularly grab a cuppa with a friend who is closer than a brother, invest in regular interaction with people who know you inside and out.



I'd love to hear from you about how you think FBC-Muncie should encourage our community of faith to meet together in ways that build spiritual vitality while maintaining physical health. Chat with me in person, and let's not lose the benefit of meeting together!



Get to Know...

Cora Shonk



Cora has been a member of First Baptist Church since early 2019.

She first attended early service and participated in the Sanctuary Choir.

She hails from the Philippines and was raised Catholic. In her teenage years, she became acquainted with a Baptist girl who shared information and Bible teachings with Cora from a Baptist perspective. Cora gave her life to Jesus and was baptized in the 1970s. When she came to the states from Manilla in 1985, she continued to follow her Baptist faith.

Cora has taught nursing at Ball State University and Ivy Tech Community College. She currently teaches health science at Ivy Tech and also specializes in gerontology and dementia care.

Cora and her husband, Kent, live in a wooded area near Hartford City. Her daughter, a Marine captain in Quantico, Virginia, has two children, a girl, and a boy aged seven and four and a half, respectively. The children are in Lafayette, and Cora and Kent see them often and help their father with their care. Cora has two other grandchildren, a boy, thirteen, and a girl, ten, who live in the Philippines with their father. Their mother, the Shonks' other daughter, died of cancer in 2017.

Cora has a green thumb and spends her extra time growing both vegetable gardens and flowers outside and inside her home.



FBC Family Sees Visible Projects of Legacy Campaign

BY MOLLY FLODDER

In 2017, the Church Coordination Team (CCT) launched the Legacy Campaign, a \$300,000 capital campaign that has created more and more noticeable outcomes in the past few months. The idea of the campaign was led by the vision and “possibility thinking” of **Joe Songer**, who has held the property position on CCT for two of the last three terms.

The purpose of the campaign was to make an investment in our church building in order to assure its viability into the future.

“We are blessed that the Legacy Campaign became an important goal for our church family,” said Joe. “It was oversubscribed by total pledges of \$310,000, and to date, we have received an amazing total of \$375,000 in pledges with some of the dollars from those pledges still coming in.”



Projects underwritten by the campaign have included repair and cleaning of the stained-glass windows, church-wide camera and security system installation, exterior electronic sign and churchwide signage, stone tuckpointing of the entire church building, creation of a Visitor’s Center, and, most recently, installation of vinyl planking between pews and new carpeting throughout the rest of the sanctuary. (Note: Balcony carpeting will be installed this fall.)

FBC member **Mark Thurston** of TK Construction subcontracted with a furniture mover to shuttle the pews back and forth while the installation was going on.

“FBC Member **Scott Boyce** of S.A. Boyce and teams of employees provided the most time-consuming work at a greatly reduced cost. The stained-glass window maintenance was one piece of Scott’s contribution, but the stone tuckpointing that took hundreds of man-hours was by far the biggest piece,” said Joe.

According to **MaryAnne Bayer**, who chaired the committee that planned and rolled out the Legacy initiative, the campaign’s beginning in 2017 and official ending in 2019 tied in very well with important FBC anniversaries: the FBC building was turning ninety years old, and the church’s founding was 160 years prior.

“We are so fortunate that Dr. Joe Songer had the vision to help make all this a reality,” said MaryAnne. “His vision, the financial gifts of many, and the work of so many people in our church have been such a blessing to all of us, and our church building is the long-term beneficiary.”



SCOTT BOYCE



The team that created the campaign, marketed it and rolled it out to the church body included **MaryAnne Bayer**, chair; **Molly Flodder**; **Larry Fouch**; **James Heimlich**; **Joe Songer**; and the late **Gene Warner**.

The first part of the actual work done on our church came after FBC received a matching grant from the Center for Congregations with Lilly Endowment. ArcDesign from Indianapolis was hired to create a master plan for the installation of security system, cameras, exterior sign, and the churchwide signage system.

Another team stepped in after the money was pledged to actually bring the plan to fruition. That team was led by **James Heimlich** and consisted of **Christy Allen**, **MaryAnne Bayer**, **Dan Lemen**, **Mark Flodder**, **Joe Songer**, **Larry VanDeventer**, and **Chris Wright**. Throughout the work process **Larry Bradburn**, **Terry Harke**, **Dan Lemen**, and **Jeff Lemen** have also worked countless hours.

James Heimlich, the church moderator, said, “We are in a time of transition in our church and are reminded of our blessings when we experience something of lasting importance. Seeing our beautiful building improved and preserved for the future reminds us of the faithfulness of our God and the legacy we leave to others who use our building after us.”



THANK YOU

First Baptist wants to extend our appreciation to **Colleen Massoth** for her work in creating and editing the Wednesday Weekly. **Katie Braswell** will now be editing this publication, so if you have any information to add, please contact Katie at info@fbcmuncie.org. We've appreciated Colleen's work as Church Clerk and Chad's work with the security team and wish them well on their continuing journey.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

EPHESIANS 2:10 NIV

Speaking of Technology...

How to Tune in to Weekly Prayer Session

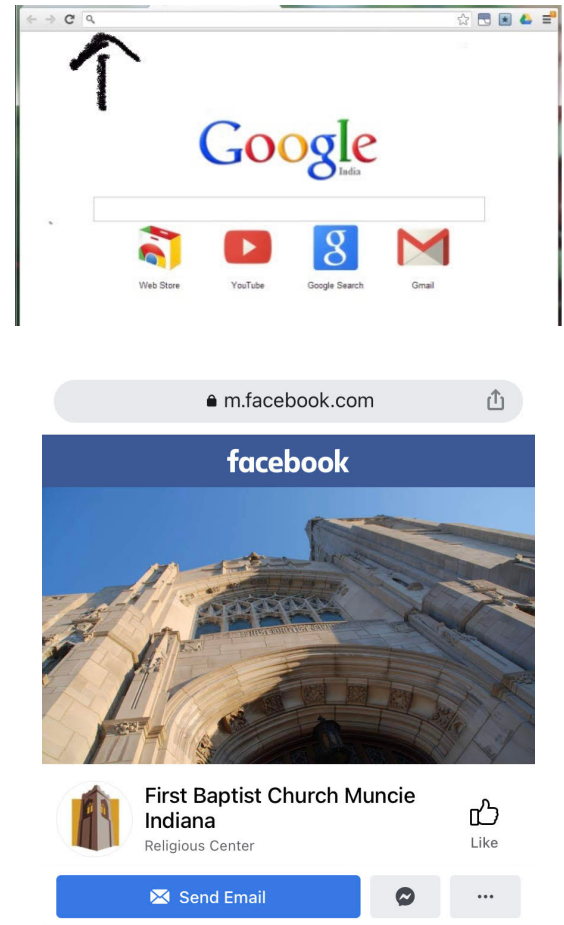
Have you wanted to tune into our Wednesday night live prayer time on Facebook, but just don't know where to start? This info can help!

Just before **7 pm on Wednesday nights**, type **bit.ly/2ChQHsl** into your search engine. (Arrow shows where to type link.)

The link will take you directly to the videos tab on our First Baptist Church Facebook page. (Picture shows what you should see after typing in link.)

Look for the video with the little red box that says "LIVE". Click the video to make it full size. From here you should be able to listen to the praise and prayer time. Please note, if you do not have a Facebook account, you will only be able to watch and listen. You will NOT be able to comment.

If you would like to get a Facebook account to be able to participate in the comment section, please let the church know and we will be happy to help! You may email the church at **info@fbcmuncie.org** or **ask a church member**.



Upcoming Opportunity: Operation Christmas Child

Jennifer Durke, Cathy Henderson, and Mallory Flodder are heading up the Operation Christmas Child boxes project with the help of long-time leader **Jane Patton**. Watch the Wednesday Weekly for more information about what to collect.



November Women's Conference

Loving Yourself Expands Relationship with God

A women's conference set for Saturday, November 6, will be an opportunity for area women to focus on themselves with a theme of "Take Me Away . . .," using techniques of self-care, gratitude, good mental health, and learning from seasoned trailblazers.

The conference will be at First Baptist Church from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the lower auditorium fellowship hall and in classrooms around the church. "This action-packed day of learning, sharing, and fellowship will be designed for girls and women ages 16-90 from our church as well as their invited family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers," said Molly Flodder, conference team chair and FBC adult ministries coordinator.

The keynote speaker and a breakout-session leader is Dorica Young Watson, a local social worker, trainer, and speaker who is manager of community engagement at Open Door Health Services. Her topic is "Reflect, Release, Refocus: The 3R's of Self-Care."

Dorica was with TEAMwork for Quality Living and Second Harvest's Forward STEPS, who met weekly at First Baptist Church for fourteen years. That work involves helping people build resources to get out of poverty.

During a recent interview, Dorica said, "We are taught that the way to find joy is to love Jesus, others, and yourself, that those things bring 'JOY.' Some time ago I began to understand that I needed self-care first before I could really tap into what joy meant for me and for other people.

God loves me as his perfect creation, but I can't love others if I don't love me first! I can't seek that other bigger-than-me thing which is my relationship with God unless I show up for me."

Dorica began a self-love journey almost five years ago that has changed her life, her relationship with the Lord, and her prayer life. She now teaches those techniques to others and helps them identify and appreciate the positives in their lives.

Day's Agenda

The day will begin with registration and selection of breakout sessions and then the keynote.

A boxed lunch will be served, and then the conferees will go to selected breakout sessions ranging from Dorica's "Developing a Self-care Plan," to sessions on "Decluttering to Gain Gratitude," "Focusing on Good Mental Health," and a panel discussion on struggles experienced by some of FBC's most seasoned women.

Logistics

There will be child care all day for women who have registered for their children to be there. There is no charge for child care, but children should come with their own sack lunches.

There is a charge of \$10 to attend the conference. This covers the cost of lunch and printed materials. If you would be interested in sponsoring the cost of one or more attendees who may have difficulty paying, please notify one of the team members listed below.



DORICA YOUNG WATSON

Door prizes will be given out at the main sessions and workshops. "Wisdom Words," which are quotes, and information cards, will be available to take home for future inspiration.

Links to register will be sent out three weeks prior to the event, or women may register by calling the church office at **(765) 284-7749**.

Conference team members to date are **Emily Anderson, Barb Campbell, Julie Davis, Cheryl Flaherty, Molly Flodder, Loraine Garrett, Deena Green, Ann Heilman, Ella Mae Lemen, Nina Oisten, Cora Shonk, Maggie Sims, and Gayle Songer.** 🏠



FAQs about FBC

What happened to the prayer chain list?

The updated prayer list comes to the FBC family in the Wednesday Weekly, an online update that is published every Wednesday. You will see the Wednesday Weekly as an email, and when you get to the mention of the prayer list, there is a link (a highlighted or colored group of words) on which you need to click. The prayer list will appear.

How can we find out what is on the church calendar?

The calendar is on the FBCM website at www.fbcmuncie.org. At the top of the web page, move your mouse over to the word "Media," and a drop-down menu will appear. Find the word "Calendar" on that menu, and click it to see what is happening at the church, including weddings and major uses of the building. If you have questions about the calendar, call the church office on weekday mornings at **(765) 284-7749**.

When is the church office staffed?

Although there are other times when someone is there and will answer the phone, church volunteers staff the office from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday**.

How can I get up-to-the-minute info about what is going on in the church?

FBC publishes the Wednesday Weekly, which goes out electronically to all members as an email. **Katie Braswell** will be editing that publication. Information you want to include should go to info@fbcmuncie.org by **noon on Tuesdays**.

FBC Licenses James Heimlich



In a business meeting on July 11, members of First Baptist Church voted to grant a license to preach the gospel to church moderator **James Heimlich** who is being called to be a minister. James, who grew up at First Baptist Church of Richmond and came to FBCM in 2014, is working on a master of arts degree in New Testament at Northern Seminary.

James is an archaeologist, and he and his wife, **Michelle**, and their children are very involved at FBC. The couple is leading a newly-formed small group that meets two Sunday evenings a month. James also teaches a Sunday school class, and Michelle is the children's ministries representative on the Church Coordination Team.

First Baptist Church Leaders

Interim Senior Pastor—Dr. David Hinson, davidkhinson@gmail.com

Worship Arts Pastor—Dr. Clifton Davis, clif@fbcmuncie.org

Moderator—James Heimlich, baronjlm88@gmail.com

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