



The Visitor

AUGUST 2020

Back in the Building

It has been a long, arduous journey over the last few months. The process of discerning how to best protect our congregation—and at the same time, provide for the spiritual needs of all ages—has been difficult. While we still have much more to figure out, we plan to gather in the sanctuary on **Sunday, August 2, at 10:45 AM** for the first time in twenty-one weeks.



This edition of the *Visitor* will provide the necessary information for preparing to re-enter our building. The months-long pandemic is not over. We will need to continue to take measures to protect our church family. Please take the time to read this information.

Let me encourage you to pray for church leaders and staff as we continue to work out the details over the next several weeks and months. As the COVID-19 landscape seems to be shifting on a weekly basis, we are taking one month at a time. Our hope is to provide the necessary information through Labor Day. By mid to late August, we will provide more direction for the remainder of the fall.

Philippians Study

During the month of August, we will continue to study Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. If you have missed previous sermons, you can catch up at <https://fbcmuncie.org/video>. The letter is only four short chapters. Perhaps you would want to take the time to read through this letter during the month as you prepare for worship each week.

Coming to Worship Details

As we re-enter the building in August, it might look a little different. Here are a few details about what to expect:

What doors should I come in? – For everyone’s safety, please have your mask on before entering the building. Please enter through the main doors on Adams Street at the front of the church. If you need access to the elevator, you may enter through the elevator doors in the circle drive. At both entrances, just before you enter the sanctuary, there will be a table with hand sanitizer, an offering box, and a person to record your name.

What doors should I use to go out? – Please exit the church through the same doors that you entered the church. There will be an usher to dismiss people by rows so that we aren’t all exiting at the same time.

What restrooms may be used? – The main restroom to the right of the pulpit will be the only restroom available for use.

How should I social distance while in the sanctuary? – As you enter the sanctuary, please allow appropriate distance between yourself and the group ahead of you. To be seated, please use either of the outer aisles along the windows. (Please do not use the center aisle.) When choosing your seat, please allow two empty rows between families. The balcony will not be available for seating. When the service is over, an usher will release you by row. Again, please exit using the outer aisles along the windows. Please leave the church through the same doors you entered. As our attendance increases, we will re-evaluate our seating arrangements.

How will we proceed to do an offering? – There will be an offering box at each table as you enter the sanctuary.

Are we having communion? – We will have communion on August 2. Individual communion packets will be available at the table as you enter the sanctuary. When service is over, please discard your trash as you leave the sanctuary in the trash cans at the tables.

Will there be time to fellowship? – Please restrict your fellowship in the sanctuary to smiles and waves. If you choose to socialize, we ask that you do it outside of the church building.

We would like to remind everyone that the rest of the church building will be closed to attendees. This will help to minimize our cleaning costs.

As a reminder, per Governor Holcomb’s request, all individuals must wear a mask to enter the building. As a church, we are doing our best to follow the expectations that have been put forth by the governor and the Indiana Board of Health. We appreciate your cooperation and continued support as we navigate through this pandemic.

Update on Children's Ministries

Britney Sue, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Hello, FBC families! I just wanted to give you all a quick update regarding our nursery and children's ministries. As most of you know by now, after prayerful consideration, there will be no childcare or children's classes during the month of August. Most area schools are opening back up in August, and we would like to watch and learn from local school districts to see what we can apply to our own classrooms and the nursery at church. We cannot wait to be together again in person with all our FBC kids, but our top priority is keeping everyone as safe as we possibly can.



In the meantime, we have amazing mentees continuing to teach our children and lead us in worship virtually! I am so thankful for all their hard work and dedication to our kids over the summer! When we're able to resume in-person childcare and children's classes, we will continue to rely on volunteers to keep our rooms running. I know some of you may have questions or concerns about this. If you are a volunteer or are interested in becoming one, please don't hesitate to give me a call or shoot me an email. I will do my best to answer any questions or concerns with the information I have available. The children's ministry team will also be meeting this month to discuss the transition back to in-person childcare and classes as soon as we're able to safely do so. I appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this time!

Youth Zoom Sunday School

Deena Green, Youth Ministries Coordinator

Beginning **July 26**, Spencer Goodman will be hosting Zoom Youth Sunday school **every Sunday evening at 5:00 PM**. Spencer has taught our Youth Sunday school class in the past. He is now living in Cleveland, Ohio, and has graciously offered to teach our youth via Zoom. If you have a youth in grades 6–12 who would like to join our group, please email me at deenaslanker@comcast.net so that we can send the Zoom information to them. All youth are welcome to participate every week or occasionally. We would love to have your youth participate with us.



Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the September Visitor, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, August 23**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

Worshiping in a Computer Age

Molly Flodder, Adult Ministries Coordinator



As we complete our month of outside services, each of us is examining whether we are ready for the next step: to go back into the church building. As explained elsewhere in this issue, the reintroduction of services inside will not look like “the way we have always done things.” No Sunday School, children’s services, or widespread use of the building will be occurring this first month back inside. Instead we’ll see social distancing, the use of masks . . . all the things that make us feel like we are still in a pandemic.

Now is a good time to decide if you are ready to join the troops “going back” or if you feel safer in a virtual church setting via computer, as we have done since mid-March.

1. **Computer-literate church family:** Live streaming of our 10:45 services will occur at <https://fbcmuncie.org>. People able to do that will be able to also join friends and fellow church family at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays for the live-streaming prayer session. If you are a member of Facebook and have “liked” the FBC Muncie page, you will see the link and easily be able to join in at <https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmuncie>.
2. **Computer-fearful church family:** Most people in our church have a computer and WiFi hookup. But there are those who just aren’t sure what to do and find they are stymied when it comes to joining in on these services or even clicking on the weekly messages coming from our church clerk, Colleen Massoth. Colleen and long-time member Wilma Neal made connections recently, and now Wilma is not only finding herself able to get every message coming her way. There are a number of FBC families ready, willing, and able to help you with that sort of thing.
3. **Non-computer-user church family:** For those who are not able to use computers but would like to be connected, there is a solution. In May, the church received a technology grant from the Center for Congregations, and among the technology communications benefits of the grant was an opportunity to buy new iPads that could help church leaders and those who “don’t do computers” be hooked up to several communications capabilities and be more closely linked with the church and its current programming. The Roger and Julie Morency family have helped to set this up, and a call to Colleen Massoth can help you start the process to take advantage of that benefit.

Good old-fashioned communications can seem closer for those who decide to informally communicate with church colleagues and friends. Groups are starting to meet outside in each other’s yards to conduct small-group meetings, etc. While summer is here, this would be a way to offer Sunday School, women’s circle meetings, or other get-togethers. The “Warm Weather Life Group,” which typically meets from May through October, is meeting twice monthly, wearing masks and communicating as they discuss a variety of Scriptures and topics. A few other groups in our church are contemplating an outside visit as a way

to begin their slow move back toward life as we once knew it.

No matter where you stand in your opinion of what is the right thing for you to do, our church is offering a variety of options where you can plug in.

Facebook Live Prayer Time

During this season of social distancing, we continue a weekly Facebook Live prayer time! Look for one of our smiling faces **every Wednesday at 7:00 PM**. Make sure to like our church Facebook page, First Baptist Church Muncie Indiana, to be able to watch and share any prayer requests or praises.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmuncie>

YouTube Channel

Several videos have been produced to help in this transition. You can find these videos on the church YouTube Channel

Please go to the channel and **SUBSCRIBE!** This is where all church videos will go, including sermons, music, announcements, children's lessons, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/fbcmuncieorg>

August Birthdays

We would like to say Happy Birthday to the following people in the month of August. Please let them know that you are thinking of them on their special day.

08/02 - Nathan Miller	08/21 - Nathan Shutters
08/06 - Michelle Heimlich	08/24 - Thomas Kistler
08/07 - Don Jennings	08/25 - Larry Van Deventer
08/12 - Melva Ratchford	08/27 - Nova Jarvis
08/13 - Irene Hiatt	08/28 - Cole Randolph
08/16 - Chris Hill	08/29 - Adria Say
08/18 - Honor Hendrickson	08/29 - Carolyn Harke
08/20 - Brittney Say	08/31 - Isabel Heimlich
08/21 - Barbara Turner	08/31 - Maryanne Bayer
08/21 - Beau Mansker	
08/21 - Dana Davis	