



Colony Communiq  

Monthly Newsletter
First Brethren Church
South Bend, IN

Volume 10, Issue 2
April / May
2024

Dear First Brethren Church Colony,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to thank you for your faithfulness to our Lord and the people of FBCSB. You are an invaluable part of this colony and the work that God has called us to do for His honor and glory.



I cannot believe that it has been just over 10 years ago that we first met this church family. Our family thanks you for your friendship, prayers, support and all that you have given to us. We have seen many changes in these 10 years, especially making our way through covid and we have had many loved ones leave us for God's eternal home.

We praise the Lord for providing for us in every way at FCBSB. We have paid off the building and are now working on repaving the parking lot. We have added streaming to our services for those that cannot attend. Our food pantry ministry has grown exponentially, we have a new Community Care Ministry, and we have more Bible Study opportunities, including leadership development.

With that all being said, the FBC Board of Directors has approved for my family to take a sabbatical this July. I know that this was presented at the Congregational meeting in December, but I want to write to you each month so that you are aware of all that is being planned and will take place.

First, I want to give a simple explanation of what is a sabbatical (Lev 25). *A true Sabbatical is a season of Sabbath for prolonged rest. It's like stringing together a number of Sabbath days. It's an extended time in which you do no work. You do no pastoring, no leading, no ministering, no visioning the future of the church, no sermon planning. You don't try to accomplish anything big. You just "do nothing"!* (soulshepherding.org)

Second, why is this needed? Bill Gaultiere writes, "I can state without wavering that the single greatest need of the church today is the restoration of ministers." His research has revealed these interesting statistics about those in fulltime ministry:

- 90% feel fatigued and worn out every week
- 91% have experienced some form of burn out
- 80% feel unappreciated and left out & unappreciated by church members
- 80% feel pressured to serve in ways that do not fit their gifts
- 72% only study the Bible when preparing their sermons for others
- 70% do not have a close friend
- 50% do not regularly meet with an accountability partner or group
- 44% do not regularly take a day off
- **85% have never taken a Sabbatical!**

(continued on pg. 2)

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Upcoming Events

- Monday, April 8, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Friday, April 12, Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea Bible Study, 2:30pm
- Monday, April 15, Board of Directors Mtg, 6:00pm
- Saturday, April 20, Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00am
- Sunday, April 21, Deacon Board Mtg, 12:00
- Monday, April 22, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10am
- Saturday, May 4, **PORK CHOP DINNER** 3-6pm
- Monday, May 6, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Friday, May 17, Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea Bible Study, 2:30pm
- Saturday, May 18, Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00am
- Saturday, May 18, Trustees' Mtg,
- Sunday, May 19, Music Team 12:15p
- Monday, May 20, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Monday, May 20, Board of Directors Mtg, 6:00pm
- Sunday, May 26, **ALL CHURCH PICNIC!** 12:00pm



(Sabbatical letter, continued from page 1)

I thank the Lord that He has brought my family through many trials and tests over the years, but I must admit that I do long for a time to not have pastoral responsibilities and spend uninterrupted times with the Lord in prayer and meditation. This is what I view this sabbatical to be for me personally. We will enjoy some time away and visit other churches (rest assured that we are not leaving FBCSB), but we will enjoy being with other Brethren brothers and sisters.

As we journey through this process together, I want you to be able to ask whatever questions you have for me. I will be writing you a letter each month so you are aware of all that is taking place. We will keep you up to date as plans are made.

Right now, We will be making these following changes for the month of July.

- ~ Services will be at our normal 9:30am timeslot for Sundays 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4
- ~ Second hour classes will not meet, but fellowship and service opportunities will be held during the second hour timeslot – more information to come!
- ~ The Office will be open but on a limited basis (more details later)

I am currently working on special speakers and musicians for the services and people to fill in for daily responsibilities. I have assembled a “Renewal Team” that will keep me on task during the sabbatical. Also, I will be asking for people to sign up as a prayer team for us during that time.

As you can see, this is not a vacation, but we are preparing for a time with the Lord without interruptions so that we can focus on Him. Janna and I are looking forward to this time of spiritual refreshing and anticipating His leading in our lives and ministry.

I want to reiterate that the sabbatical is not because we are in need of time away, or that something is wrong, or that we are going somewhere else, but it is a needed time away from full-time ministry responsibilities so that we can focus on our personal mental, emotional and spiritual lives.

We love our FBCSB colony. I am looking forward to serving you now and for many years to come. Thank you for being a loving congregation and for your passion for our God. Please pray for us as we prepare for this adventure. I am praying for God to use this time for our growth both personal and as a congregation to lead us on to a more effective ministry for the Lord. Again, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (574.291.4909, 330.903.1044, fyongen@proton.me) May God richly bless you and the FBCSB colony.

In Christ,
Pastor Fred



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Dear Church Family,

I want to echo the words of Pastor Fred. Careful thought and preparation are going into this sabbatical. The FBC Board has fully-backed and endorsed the plan outlined above, and in fact, we have directly contributed to the design. The board and I hope that you will join us in having an open mind about these plans. We are excited to see what God will be teaching us in this time. The board is also looking forward to sharing some exciting ideas we are working on for fellowship and community service opportunities. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to reach out to me at 574-276-5895 or jenckary@comcast.net.

God Bless,
Jennifer Kary, President



April Volunteer Schedule

SUNDAYS

Greeters

- 4 - 7 Bonnie Swiatkowski & Sally Wagner
4 - 14 Connie Wood & Charlie Frye
4 - 21 Dawn Powers & Brenda Graf
4 - 28 Rich & Kathy Hollister

Financial Stewards

- 4 - 7 Jack Kary, Sr. & Jack Kary, Jr.
4 - 14 Glen Scott & Becky Reynolds
4 - 21 Kathi Ginter & Linda Kohman
4 - 28 Angela Scott & Jack Kary, Sr.

Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea (FACT)

April 12 - 2:30pm

Please join us for a great time of fellowship and good discussion on Zechariah. Enjoy this time for added learning from the Word!



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be at 8:00am on Saturday, April 20. Enjoy some great food and fellowship together.



Trustee of the Month - Dennis Wood

Men's Monday Coffee Club

** Please note the date changes!!! **

We will be meeting at 10:00am on April 8 & 22. All men are invited for this great time of fellowship.



Food Pantry Update

In 2023, we received 25,095 lbs. of free product through the Food Bank agency shopping area/ reclamation which is equivalent of up to 19,605 meals.

Thank you for all of your prayers & support!



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 4/2 - Paula Freed
4/3 - Jennifer Kary
4/6 - Ardyce Kreider
4/11 - Steve Gratrix
4/11 - Joyce Trygg
4/15 - Bev Wolf
4/16 - Patricia Barnhart
4/17 - Ron Ginter
4/18 - Andrea Gratrix



Anniversaries

- 4/17 - Dennis & Connie Wood

TO OUR YOUTH...



Thank you for being a part of our FBC family!! We know this is a busy time for you as you wrap up this school year. Know we are praying for you and are proud of the hard work you are putting in. May God continue to bless you as you seek to serve Him wherever you are.

We love you and pray for you!



Philippians 1:6

I am confident of this, that the One Who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus!



First Brethren Church of South Bend

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p> <p>11:30 AM Seed Starting Class</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Pantry</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p>  <p>2:30 PM Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p> <p>12:00 PM Deacons</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am Board of Directors</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p> <p>11:30 AM Seed Starting Class</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Pantry</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>

Mar 2024

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May 2024

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



May Volunteer Schedule

SUNDAYS

Greeters

- 5 - 5 Kathi Ginter & Cheryl Kisner
5 - 12 Becky Reynolds & Vickie McCarty
5 - 19 Dawn Powers & Kim Sherrod
5 - 26 Sally Wagner & Bonnie Swiatkowski

Financial Stewards

- 5 - 5 Jack Kary, Sr. & Jack Kary, Jr.
5 - 12 Glen Scott & Becky Reynolds
5 - 19 Kathi Ginter & Linda Kohman
5 - 26 Angela Scott & Jack Kary, Sr.

Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea (FACT)
May 17 - 2:30pm

Please join us for a great time of fellowship and good discussion on Zechariah. Enjoy this study time for added learning from the Word!



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be at 8:00am on Saturday, May 18. Enjoy some great food and fellowship together.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Saturday, May 18, 9:30am

TRUSTEE MINISTRY

Trustee of the Month - Todd Lange

Men's Monday Coffee Club

meets at 10:00am on May 6 & 20. All men are invited for this great time of fellowship.



All-Church Picnic - Sunday, May 26, 12:00pm

We hope you will stay and enjoy some wonderful fellowship and food!!



MAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 5/2 - Ricky Baer
5/4 - Annalisa Campbell
5/4 - Valerie Wagers
5/10 - Patrick Fink
5/13 - Ann Wisniewski
5/14 - Adrianna Ward
5/21 - Gail Oles
5/22 - Karen Carson
5/24 - Dennis Wood
5/27 - Jeaniece Bumgardner
5/29 - Gary Doerr



Anniversaries

- 5/2 - Randy & Paula Freed
5/8 - Todd & Ann Wisniewski
5/10 - Pastor Fred & Janna Youngen
5/14 - Chad & Corinne Freel
5/26 - Robert & Judith Heying



Spring Pork Chop Dinner May 4, 2024 3-6pm

Our Annual Spring Pork Dinner will be here soon, and we need your help! Volunteers are needed for Advertising and Sales, Ordering Supplies, Kitchen and Food prep, Grills, Carry Out and Clean Up.

All proceeds from the Pork Chop Dinner go directly to our FBC general fund to help maintain our programs and ministries. See Linda Kohman, Jen Kary or Mary Wisniewski for further information.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Thursday, May 2

First Brethren Church, 10-11:00am

~ or ~

Battel Center, 12:00-1:00p, 904 N Main St. Mishawaka



First Brethren Church of South Bend

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
<p>Apr 2024</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					<p>Jun 2024</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study 11:00 AM P.A.C.E. 11:30 AM Seed Starting Class</p>	<p>2</p> <p>National Day of Prayer @ FBC 10:00am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Pantry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3:00 PM Pork Chop Dinner</p>
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SPECIAL BLESSINGS TO EVERYONE!



The weather is confusing me. We had 60's and even 70's in February and early March so the trees and flowers may blossom early. But whenever they do blossom, please take time to enjoy God's creation. Remember, when you see the new life in creation, think of the you have new life in Jesus.

Since Easter is early this year, we celebrated Easter in March, I don't have a lot of new news for April. I thought it might be a good time to remind you of some usual things. Starting with worship and 2nd hour every Sunday, starting at 9:30am. Wednesday morning Bible Study is every Wednesday at 10am. Friday afternoon Bible Study is the 2nd Friday of the month at 2:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join these studies.

Men, you have Saturday morning Prayer Breakfast on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 8am. Men's coffee is the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 10:00am (Except in April, it is the 2nd and 4th Mondays).

Meetings are being planned for you ladies, so keep your ears open.

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2. You can come to the church at 10am or go to the Battel Center at 12:00pm. From what I hear on the news, the United States (and the world) can sure use these prayers.

Good news!! The spring Pork Chop Dinner will be May 4 from 3-6pm. Everyone knows I love those chops. Since you have been putting on these dinners for years, you already know what needs to be done. So pray, pass the word, get tickets to sell, and sign-up to work.

Mother's Day is May 12 so bring your mom to worship with you here at 9:30am and then stay for fellowship time and 2nd hour study classes. Then you can take her out to dinner, or you can cook it yourself. Pray for all the mothers and thank God for your mom.

We will be having our college graduation celebration on Sunday, May 19. We have Karsten Kary and Joe Giczi. Boy, do I feel old!! I remember how young Karsten's mom was when I became your church mouse!

There will be a picnic luncheon again on Sunday May 26 for Memorial Day. As you know, I love to eat and I do enjoy hearing the fellowship time.

I don't always remember everything and more things get added all the time. So come each week, stay in touch, keep coming to the church so you don't miss anything.

God bless you,

BENJAMIN

BRETHREN RETREAT CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER



When: April 27, 2024 from 10:30am—2pm

Where: LaGrange County Courthouse, 105 N. Detroit St., LaGrange.

~ Chicken, Potatoes and maybe Ribs. Come try King's famous BBQ.

Proceeds go to support the camp and retreats to impact youth, refresh adults, and reconnect families.



If you are not a regular part of our church congregation but would still like to receive the bi-monthly newsletters, you must contact the church office by phone (574) 291-4909 or email at firstbrethren@att.net. In the interest of saving money and not wasting your time, we will be revising our mailing list by the next newsletter distribution (May 26). Thank you for your understanding.



South Bend
FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH

4909 S. Ironwood Dr.
South Bend, IN 46614
(574) 291-4909

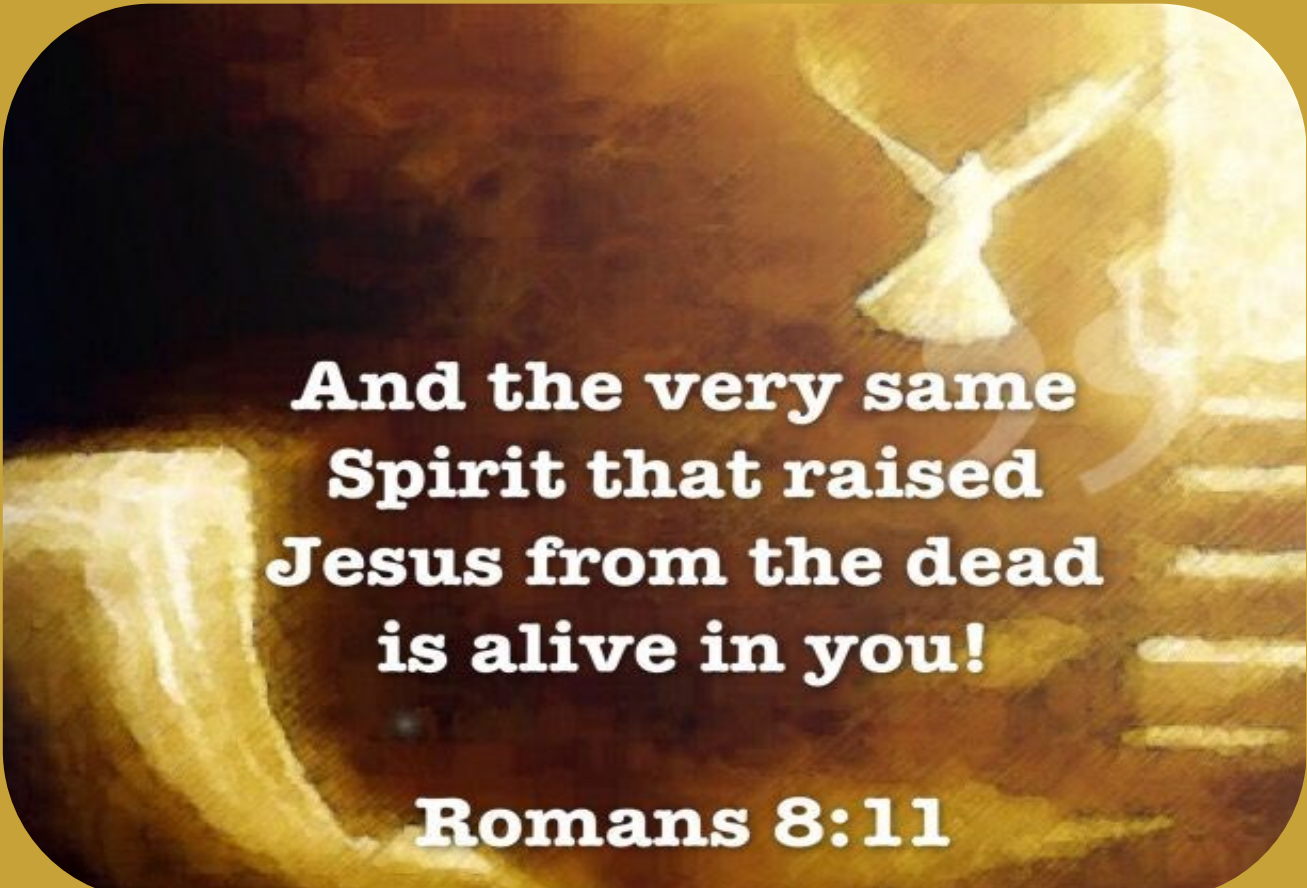
E-mail: firstbrethren@att.net

Return Service Requested

We're on the web!
firstbrethren.org

**"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die,
yet shall he live.' "**

- John 11:25



**And the very same
Spirit that raised
Jesus from the dead
is alive in you!**

Romans 8:11