

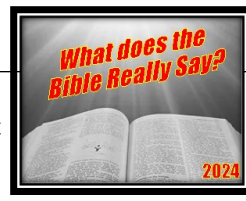


Colony Communiqué

Monthly Newsletter
First Brethren Church
South Bend, IN

Volume 10, Issue 1
February/March
2024

From the Pastor's Office . . .



Since 2024 has begun, I must admit that I'm befuddled with what has already taken place around me. The new year has already brought us a few interesting quandaries. We had to cancel church and Bible studies because of weather one week, and we are still bailing water from a roof leak in the library. We also have had deaths and people with issues physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The world is in more chaos with Ukraine & Russia, Israel & Hamas, and now with Ecuador in South America.

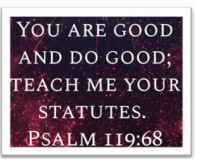
I must admit as one that loves structure and organization, that I do not do well with major inconveniences. The various interruptions are not necessarily bad, but as people with emotions, and being overwhelmed with situations that we cannot control, what are we to do? I find it interesting how I can be so affected by the world around me.

As I ponder about the needs all around us, I am drawn to the attribute of God's Goodness. As Janna sang the song, "Goodness of God" last Sunday I took some time to ruminate on that simple characteristic. Do I really understand His goodness? His goodness is not based on my knowledge of it, or upon my situation. It is based on His essence though!

"What does the Bible Really Say" about the goodness of God and how shall we respond? The Psalms tell us to

- 34:8 taste His goodness
- 100:4-5 bless Him for His goodness
- 107:1 give thanks for His goodness
- 145:6-7 celebrate His goodness

And so much more!



I know the situations of the world concern all of us, but I pray that we can focus on the goodness of God when unforeseen things intersect our lives. Do you remember the chorus, "God is so Good"? It is a very simple chorus, but do I really believe that He is Good no matter what happens in my life? I really like the new song and it's words, Goodness Of God; "I love You Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me, All my days, I've been held in Your hands. From the moment that I wake up, Until I lay my head, I will sing of the goodness of God."

(Chorus:) "All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God."

(verse 2) "I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire, In darkest night, You are close like no other. I've known You as a father, I've known You as a friend, I have lived in the goodness of God."

(Bridge:) "Your goodness is running after, It's running after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything, Your goodness is running after, It's running after me."

God has been soooo incredibly good to me in my life, even in the tragic times. I cannot praise Him enough for His Goodness and His faithfulness in my family. "Lord, help me to see Your goodness despite the difficulties that may surround me."

If you ever need someone to talk to or have any spiritual questions or needs, please feel free to contact us at our website, firstbrethren.org, 574-291-4909, or email firstbrethren@att.net or me personally at 330-903-1044 or fyongen@proton.me. We are here for you & love you.

God is good all the time! Blessings,

Pastor Fred



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Upcoming Events

- Monday, Feb. 5, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Friday, Feb. 9, Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea Bible Study, 2:30pm
- Sunday, Feb. 11, Music Team, 12:15
- Saturday, Feb. 17, Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00am
- Saturday, Feb. 17, Trustees' Mtg, 9:30a
- Sunday, Feb. 18, Deacon Board Mtg, 12:00pm
- Monday, Feb. 19, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10am
- Monday February 26, **BLOOD DRIVE**, 1:30-6PM
- Saturday, March 2, **BRETHREN PRAYER GATHERING** 9a-12p
- Monday, March 4, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Friday, March 8, Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea Bible Study, 2:30pm
- Sunday, March 10, **TIME CHANGE** **Clocks AHEAD 1 hour**
- Sunday, March 10, Music Team 12:15p
- Saturday, March 16, Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00am
- Monday, March 18, Men's Monday Coffee Club, 10:00am
- Monday, March 18, Board of Directors Mtg, 6:00pm
- Saturday, March 23, All-Church Work Day, 9am-12pm
- Sunday, March 24, **PALM SUNDAY** Brethren 3-Fold Communion, 9:30am
- Sunday, March 24, Music Team 12:15p
- Sunday, March 31 **RESURRECTION DAY!**



February Volunteer Schedule

SUNDAYS

Greeters

- 2 - 4 Cheryl Kisner & Vickie McCarty
- 2 - 11 Becky Reynolds & Kim Sherrod
- 2 - 18 Dawn Powers & Bonnie Swiatkowski
- 2 - 25 Sally Wagner & Connie Wood

Financial Stewards

- 2 - 4 Jack Kary, Sr. & Jack Kary, Jr.
- 2 - 11 Glen Scott & Becky Reynolds
- 2 - 18 Kathi Ginter & Linda Kohman
- 2 - 25 Angela Scott & Jack Kary, Sr.

**Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea (FACT)
Feb. 9 - 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, February 17. Enjoy some great food and fellowship together.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Saturday, February 17, 9:30am

**TRUSTEE
MINISTRY**

Trustee of the Month - Joshua Youngen

Men's Monday Coffee Club

We will be meeting at 10:00am on February 5 & 19. All men are invited for this great time of fellowship.



Happy Valentines Day, February 14

ST. MARGARET'S HOUSE WINTER WALK



is a fundraising walk to support the work of St. Margaret's House. Scheduled in the middle of the winter, the community joins together for a one mile walk in solidarity with the women and children of St. Margaret's House whose everyday means of transportation is their feet.

Proceeds from **Winter Walk** will enable St. Margaret's House to continue to be a haven of hospitality and provide life changing support, programs and services for women and children in need in our community. The in-person walk is Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 2:30pm. There is also a virtual walk between February 11-18, 2024. Please see our event bulletin board or their website for more information (<https://stmargarethouse.org/>).

Winter Camp
2024
February 16th - 18th

ENERGY ZONE!

Grades 3rd—6th
ONLY \$ 129.00
2 Comfortable Nights
5 Hearty Meals / 2 Delicious Snacks
BIBLE LESSONS & FUN ACTIVITIES!

BRETHREN RETREAT
at Shipshewana Lake
REFRESH YOUR LIFE

9095 W 275 N Shipshewana, IN 46565
260-768-4519 www.brethrenretreat.org

Scholarships are available to help pay for this camp.



FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 2/1 - Kathi Ginter
- 2/2 - Peggy Baer
- 2/2 - Kathy Plaia
- 2/2 - Ryne Wright
- 2/8 - Tracy McKee
- 2/11 - Bill Grenert
- 2/16 - Alexis Kary
- 2/20 - Michael Graf
- 2/20 - Jessica Molina
- 2/21 - Sally Wagner
- 2/24 - Karen Simko
- 2/27 - Ruthann Millage
- 2/28 - Mia Cruz

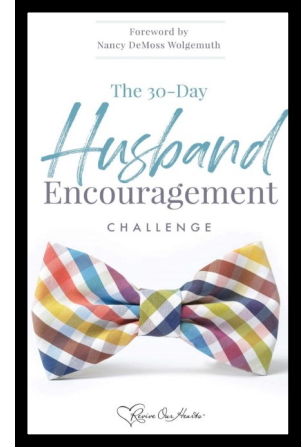


Anniversaries

- 2/1 - Bill & Laurie Grenert
- 2/26 - Lyle & Glendy Walter

“Let all that you do be done in love.”

1 Corinthians 16:14



During the month of February - the “Love month”, here are some ideas to enhance your marriage:

~ how about a couple’s night out of fun, laughter and encouragement with the Marriage Date Night? More information is on the bulletin board.

~ Wives, how often do you encourage and support your husband? Could you do it for 30 days? The challenge: don’t say anything negative about your husband - to him or to anyone about him. Then tell your husband something you admire or appreciate about him - and say it to someone else about him. This book will walk you through it. Your husband will thank you, and you and your marriage will be blessed! God will bless you for your efforts.



YOUTH NEWS

The FBC youth have been busy serving our church and community and building relationships:




- ◆ *In December, we helped with the Friends Class Christmas party by serving food and washing dishes, and the Friends Class enjoyed opening the Christmas presents that we gave them.*
- ◆ *Over Christmas break, we took down the church Christmas decorations and then we had a group outing to go out to eat and see a movie.*
- ◆ *In January, we began preparing Valentine bags and cards to be delivered to our shut-ins.*
- ◆ *Throughout the year, our youth help out with the Omega class. They interact with the younger kids, help them with their Bible lesson, craft and activities.*

Thank you to all of our youth for being a part of our FBC family!! We love you and pray for you!



First Brethren Church of South Bend

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p> 	<p>6</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>7</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>8</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>9</p> <p>2:30 PM Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea</p> 	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p> <p>12:00 PM Praise Team</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM Food Pantry</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>8:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 AM Trustees Meeting</p>
<p>18</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>19</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p> <p>9am Board of Directors</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p> <p>Youth Activity</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>BLOOD DRIVE</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>HAPPY LEAP DAY</p>		

Jan 2024

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	31			

Mar 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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
31						



March Volunteer Schedule

SUNDAYS

Greeters

- 3 - 3 Kathi Ginter & Charlie Frye
3 - 10 Rich & Kathy Hollister
3 - 17 Dawn Powers & Brenda Graf
3 - 24 Cheryl Kisner & Vickie McCarty
3 - 31 Becky Reynolds & Kim Sherrod

Financial Stewards

- 3 - 3 Jack Kary, Sr. & Jack Kary, Jr.
3 - 10 Glen Scott & Becky Reynolds
3 - 17 Kathi Ginter & Linda Kohman
3 - 24 Angela Scott & Jack Kary, Sr.
3 - 31 Glen Scott & Jack Kary, Jr.

Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea (FACT) March 8 - 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, March 16. Enjoy some great food and fellowship together.

Trustee of the Month - Bonnie Campbell

Men's Monday Coffee Club meets at 10:00am on March 4 & 18. All men are invited for this great time of fellowship.



DON'T FORGET To set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour on Saturday night, March 9, 2024 for the beginning of Daylight Savings time.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

- 3/2 - Tyler Wagers
3/5 - Joyce Grenert
3/6 - Amy Riley
3/7 - Rich Hollister
3/18 - Scott Kresca
3/19 - Sharon Ayers
3/25 - Adam Wagers
3/26 - Laurie Grenert
3/27 - Brittany Riley
3/31 - Claire Wright



Anniversaries

- 3/7 - Richard & Kathy Hollister
3/22 - Scott & Suzie Kresca

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

We truly appreciate all of you who gave financially in 2023 to support the ministry of First Brethren Church, South Bend. We couldn't do this ministry without you. As of the time of publication of this newsletter, the 2023 final numbers were not yet available. As soon as numbers are finalized, we will publish an update to keep you informed. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Moderator of our Board of Directors, Jennifer Kary.



Finance Update

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THESE HOLY WEEK



EVENTS:

- * March 23, Saturday - Church Work Day 9-12
* March 24, Sunday - Palm Sunday Service with 3-Fold Brethren Communion, 9:30am
* March 29, Friday - Good Friday Meditation walk-in, 6-7p
* March 31, Sunday - Resurrection Services
8:00am - Sunrise Celebration
8:45am - Continental Breakfast
9:30am - Resurrection Celebration



First Brethren Church of South Bend

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p> <p>8am Board of Directors</p>	<p>6</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>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry</p> <p>2:30 PM Friday Afternoon Coffee & Tea</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Brethren Prayer Gathering</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p> <p>12:00 PM Praise Team</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 AM Men's Br</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p> <p>12:00 PM Praise Team</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Monday Coffee Club</p> <p>8am Board of Directors</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Spring</p>	<p>20</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>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>All-Church Wo Day 9am-12pm</p>
<p>24</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 AM Music Team</p> <p>9:30 AM Palm Sunday Communion</p> <p>12:00 PM Praise Team</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Holy Week</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer & Bible Study</p> <p>11:00 AM P.A.C.E.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Walk-in Meditation</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>8:00 AM Sunrise Service</p> <p>9:50 AM Breakfast</p> <p>8:30 AM Resurrection Celebration</p> <p>10:50 AM MORE</p>						



Blood Drive
Monday, February 26,
1:30-6pm

Recruit and schedule appointments here:

https://donate.indiana.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/162834

Ask Janna if you have any questions.



Regional Prayer Gathering
Saturday, March 2, 9a-12p



JOIN US for this special event to
**gather together as Brethren believers to
 pray for our churches, our country and
 for God's work to be done in all of us!**

EASTER BLESSINGS TO ALL!



It is cold in this building. I have been missing everybody who can't come because of the weather but I hear it's supposed to get warmer.

Being a mouse, I can't give blood but most of you can. There will be a Blood Drive here at FBC on Monday, February 26 from 1:30-6pm. Blood is needed badly so please give if you can.

I am very excited about the Regional Prayer Gathering here at FBC on March 2 from 9a-12p. This is a wonderful time to gather with other Brethren believers to pray for our churches, our cities, states, world, and all kinds of things. Please plan to attend this special event.

Daylight Savings time starts March 10. This is close to Spring so you will Spring ahead 1 hour. Be sure to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on the 9th.

If you were wondering why I wished you a Blessed Easter for February, March Newsletter is because Easter is March 31 this year. Ash Wednesday will be February 14 (and yes, also Valentine's Day). As Brethren, instead of giving up something for lent, you ask to do more to get to know God better, like reading and studying your Bible more, or doing more for God and His people.

Since the Jewish calendar is different, Passover will be April 22 this year so we won't be doing a Seder during Holy Week. However we will be having a Brethren 3-fold Communion service on Palm Sunday, March 24. All the details are not planned yet but there will be the Bread and Cup, Foot washing and a meal. Please plan on coming that day.

On Good Friday there will be a time to meditate on what Jesus did for everyone, what He suffered on the cross and before. This will be a walk-in time from 6:30-7:30pm. Then there will be a Sunrise service on Resurrection Sunday at 8:00am, followed by a Continental Breakfast at 8:45am and morning worship service at 9:30am.

As usual, I am only sharing a few things. I know the weather might stay bad and things might change. Stay in touch with the church if you have any questions. Pray for each other and keep in contact with each other too. Stay safe and I hope to see everyone soon.

God bless you,

BENJAMIN



South Bend
FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH

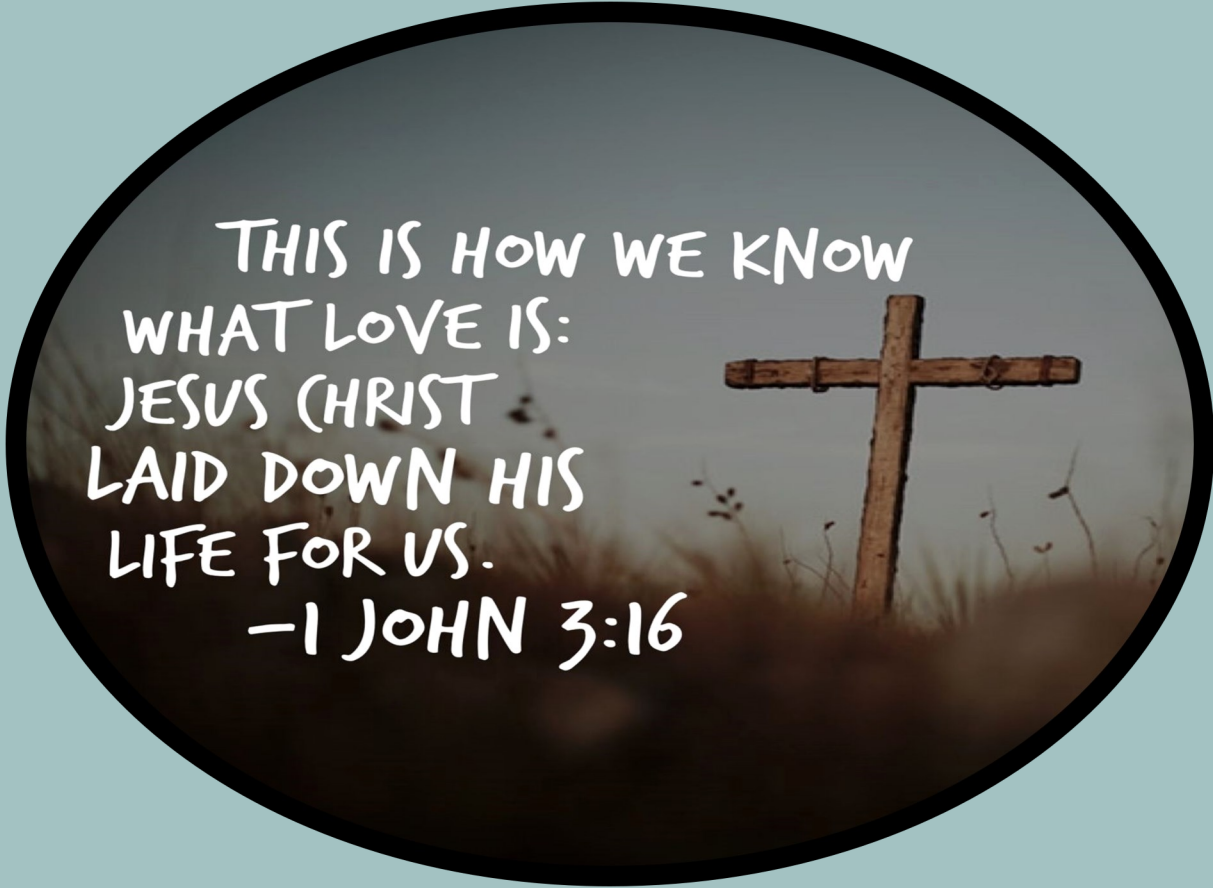
4909 S. Ironwood Dr.
South Bend, IN 46614
(574) 291-4909

E-mail: firstbrethren@att.net

Return Service Requested

We're on the web!
firstbrethren.org

*"Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves."
~ Romans 12:10*



THIS IS HOW WE KNOW
WHAT LOVE IS:
JESUS CHRIST
LAID DOWN HIS
LIFE FOR US.
-1 JOHN 3:16