



Jefferson

First Baptist Church

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

85 W. Jefferson St.

Jefferson, OH 44047

440-576-1631

Finding Ourselves Happy in the Lord

This past Sunday, our family travelled to Warren, Ohio, to participate in orientation for our children's Classical Conversation Home School Cooperative. It was a fun time meeting other families and getting oriented to the home school material. One of the curriculum pieces we will use this year is the Westminster Catechism. It is a series of Christian questions with answers. The first question is "What is the chief end of man?" and the answer is "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." Easier said than done!

Perhaps my greatest challenge as a pastor is still my greatest challenge I had even before I became a pastor. It is the challenge of continually finding my soul happy in the Lord. George Mueller, a great man of faith, once wrote, "I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not, how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man may be nourished...I say that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God and to meditate on it."

In a day and age of distractions, worries and rabbit trails, finding our souls happy in the Lord is a challenge. Through the week, with the onslaught of news and information, we become cynical, discouraged and distracted--and life's problems make fertile ground as a place to lose strength and lack joy. In writing 1 Corinthians 15, Paul tells the church what is of first importance, mainly the death and resurrection of Jesus. "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures and that he appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve" (1 Cor 15:3-5). As we keep the gospel central in our hearts and lives, joy from the love of God and the presence of God is the natural result. It is why God prescribes church attendance and worship in the regular rhythm of life as a critical dynamic to a healthy Christian soul. Sunday worship orients our hearts to finding joy in worshipping Christ and finding direction from God's Word. Nehemiah tells us that "the joy of the Lord is our strength." But the Scriptures also remind us that joy is a choice (Phil 4:4) and comes when we understand our great need for Christ and God's great provision.

As C.S. Lewis once wrote, "Joy is the serious business of heaven." When our hearts are rightly oriented to the gospel, Christianity is not a job, but a joy. As I tell my children, it makes obedience a labor of gratitude not a labor of guilt. This fall, I pray you might find greater joy in your Bible reading, church attendance, and service as you keep the gospel central.

Pastor Kevin Phillips

Operation Christmas Child



Yes? No? Should it go?

It's getting to be that time of year again; and in four short weeks, we will be beginning to collect shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. One of the most frequently asked question about OCC shoeboxes is "What should I pack in my box?" The answer to that question is as varied as the number of people packing boxes. Although Samaritan's purse does make suggestions of possible gifts, there are no required items. Samaritan's Purse encourages starting with a 'WOW' Item. A 'WOW' item could possibly be a soccer ball, a doll, a stuffed animal, a pair of shoes or an outfit. They also suggest adding some other small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.

There are items that may not be put in a shoebox. Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; and aerosol cans. None of these items should be packed. I would like to note that previously owned but unused items can be put in a box. An example would be a stuffed animal that was part of collection but never played with. All items packed need to be in new condition.

As you pack your box, pray and follow the leading of the Lord. Every child is different and so will be every shoebox. If you have any questions about Operation Christmas Child, please contact Yvonne Woodworth at 440-576-1401 or ymwoodworth@yahoo.com.

September

Happy Birthday!

Ethel Dumperth	4
Barb Smith	4
Lorraine Dennis	11
Dan Havens	18

Happy Anniversary!

Jerry & Barbara Greene 13

B.W.M. Care & Share for September Is Homesafe

Our women's missionary society continues to support various nonprofit groups mainly in Ashtabula County. This month and next we are asking your help in supporting Homesafe Inc. Homesafe is a private, non-profit community agency, committed to breaking the cycle of violence in Ashtabula County and it's surrounding areas through the provision of emergency and non-emergency services. Their mission is to assure greater awareness of the problems of domestic violence and abuse through the education and empowerment of individuals, families, and the community.

A woman is beaten every 9 seconds in this county. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women. One of two women will be abused during their lifetime and over 53% of male abusers also beat their children.

For a full list please see the bulletin board in the foyer or call the office to have one mailed to you.

Cleaning supplies: Lysol/Clorox cleaning sprays and wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, window cleaner, food floor cleaner, dusting supplies (Swiffer/Pledge), scouring pads, Magic eraser, brooms, mops, dustpans, Mr. Clean, 91-percent rubbing alcohol (for cleaning) and foaming bathroom cleaner.

Over the counter medicines: All types for children and adults, First Aid supplies.

New clothing items (adults & children's sizes): Socks; pajamas/slippers-all sizes; underwear— women's sizes 5/6, children's sizes 2/4/6, girls' sizes 12/14/16 and male adult sizes for teen boys and male clients.

Children's welcome pack supplies: Flash cards, playing cards, children's card games, travel-size games, journals, small puzzles, word search books (all ages), sketch pads, colored pencils and teen-related items.

Equipment: Towels/washcloths; six kitchen trash cans (13 gallon).

HOME MISSIONS OUT-REACH FOR SEPTEMBER

Koinonia Camp & Conference Center is our mission partner for September. Summer camping season has ended, but that is only one part of the year-round-ministry that goes on at Koinonia. Check out their newsletter on the bulletin board at the north entrance to the church sanctuary or go to christian-campohio.org/newsletter.html

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Church Picnic at Pickards	3	4 6:30 Leadership Team Meeting	5 6:30 Worship Practice 7:00 Prayer Mtg. and Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	10	11 7:00 Town Hall Meeting to discuss the constitution	12 6:30 Worship Practice 7:00 Prayer Mtg. and Bible Study	13 2:30 Hymn Sing	14	15 8:00 Men's Breakfast
16 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Women's Sunday	17	18 Leadership Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. 7:00 Mary Elizabeth Circle	19 6:30 Worship Practice 7:00 Prayer Mtg. and Bible Study	20 11:00 Martha Circle	21	22
23/30 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	24	25	26 6:30 Worship Practice 7:00 Prayer Mtg. and Bible Study	27	28	29

**First Baptist Church
85 West Jefferson St
Jefferson OH 44047**



SEPTEMBER 2018

440-576-1631 (Fax 440-576-1630)

Email: fbcjefferson@outlook.com

Pastor Kevin Phillips

Sunday Services:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship

Nursery Care Provided

**7:00 p.m. Wednesday
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study**

Elevator Chair Available