

Baptiscope

April Edition 2018

First Baptist Church 85 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio 44047

Jefferson First Baptist Has a New Pastor

WE HAVE A NEW PASTOR!! On June 3, Pastor Kevin Phillips will preach his first sermon as the new pastor of Jefferson First Baptist Church. Kevin, Brenda, Daniel, Emma, and Lila are moving from Madison, Wisconsin and will be living in the church parsonage in Jefferson, Ohio. They should be here about May 31 or June 1. That came about as the result of a unanimous vote on Wednesday, April 4, but more so as a result of the faith and obedience of you, the congregation, and of your Leadership Team.

One year ago in the April 2017 Baptiscope, I wrote the following opening paragraph: "The days, weeks, and months ahead could be monumental in the life of Jefferson First Baptist Church--maybe more important than any other time in the past 100 years or more." In many ways, I believe that to be true. We have a new pastor coming, and even though nobody in our congregation would have believed it in April of 2017, we are no longer an American Baptist Church.

The Leadership Team has served First Baptist well by faithfully meeting every two weeks for the past year. Each time they have met, they have taken almost the first half hour sharing how God was working in their lives and then they all prayed. We are now seeing the fruit of their prayers and the fruit of their work. And I believe that you (the congregation) have also served First Baptist well. Foremost in the way you have served is also through your prayers. You have made prayer a first priority just as A. J. Gordon has suggested, "You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed." And you have prayed the way that 1 John 5:14 tells us to pray, "*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*" You have continuously prayed for God's will to be done.

In the April 2017 Baptiscope, I also quoted Matthew 16:18 where Jesus promised Peter, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The invisible church of God will always exist on this earth until Jesus comes back to claim his own people, and we at Jefferson First Baptist want to be a part of that work until Jesus returns.

A PRAYER: "Thank you, Father for Pastor Kevin Phillips, his wife Brenda, and for Daniel, Emma, and Lila. May all of us together be what you have called us to be as a church, united in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our community and throughout the world."

Interim Pastor Ed Pickard

Power of Prayer

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed."
A.J. Gordon

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." Samuel Chadwick

(We have been praying the following prayers for over a year now. Let's keep on praying them.)

My Prayerful Commitments

Prayerful Commitment 1 Lord, teach me to pray. Teach me to pray consistently. And teach me to keep passionate and believing prayer as the lifeblood of this church.

Prayerful Commitment 2 Father, remind me that I am to be a Great Commission Christian in a Great Commission church. Remind me that, in Your strength, I am to do whatever it takes to reach out into my community with the transforming power of the Gospel.

Prayerful Commitment 3 Father, ignite the hearts of our church members, including me, to have a passion for the Gospel. Teach our church to share the Gospel with others. Teach us to live as men and women who are true bearers of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Remind us of our purpose. Convict us of our purpose. Empower us to live our purpose.

Prayerful Commitment 4 Lord, open my eyes to the needs of others. Show me how to live more like Your Son, who always put others' interests first. And especially show me that attitude as I serve in my church.

Prayerful Commitment 5 Lord, let me see my church with honesty and open eyes. Help me to see if we have gotten out of balance with inward and out-ward ministries. And give our church a vision to make a difference in our community.

Prayerful Commitment 6 Lord, give me the conviction and the courage to be like the heroes of Hebrews 11. Teach me to let go of those things in my church that are my personal preferences and styles. Show me not only how to let go, but where to let go, so that I may heed Your commands more closely.

Prayerful Commitment 7 Lord, help me to grasp that all the money I think I have is really Yours. Help me to grasp that all the money our church has is really Yours. Give us healthy giving hearts to use these funds according to Your purpose.

Prayerful Commitment 8 Father, open my eyes that I might see my church as You see it. Please let me be part of the solution and not the problem. Show me what I need to see. Open my eyes to Your reality. And give me the courage to move forward in the direction You desire.

Prayerful Commitment 9 God, when our new pastor comes, please give this person a heart and a vision to reach and minister to people beyond our own walls. Teach me to be the kind of church member who encourages and supports our pastor.

The above prayers are in Thom Rainer's book, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*

Mya Women's Center Is April Mission Outreach

This month we are supporting the Mya Women's Center in Ashtabula. The following is from their website. "Facing an unintended pregnancy? Mya Women's Center is a women's health clinic that confidentially answers any questions you have regarding your options. Your health and emotional well-being are the first priority of our professional medical staff specially trained to serve women facing unplanned pregnancies." Check out the Mya Women's Center at <https://www.myawomenscenter.com/>
- Mission Team

Lunch Bunch April 17

Lunch Bunch will be held on April 17; come and enjoy the food and fellowship. Age is not a qualification! A signup sheet will be in the foyer or you can call Brenda Headley at 624-0232 and place a reservation. (We always plan on some extra if you should happen to forget to sign up.) Hope to see you there.

Hymn Sing on April 12

Hymn Sing is April 12 at 2:30 at Jefferson Health Care. We look forward to worshiping in song with you. Please join us!

MEN'S BREAKFAST APRIL 14 at 8:00 A.M.

All men of Jefferson First Baptist Church are invited to come on Saturday morning, April 14, at 8:00 a.m. for the men's breakfast. Bring a rake with you and spend a little time helping to move some dirt and sod back to where it belongs!

Women's Society Meeting

All women are invited to attend a special meeting at the church on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m.

Mary Elizabeth Circle
Tuesday, April 17 at 7 p.m.

Martha Circle
Thursday, April 19 at 11 a.m.

A.B.W.M. and Birthcare of Ashtabula

A.B.W.M. are supporting Birthcare of Ashtabula in March and April. Birthcare has helped thousands of women, girls, fathers, and families from diverse backgrounds and with a variety of needs. They are married, divorced, single, and often very alone. Housewives, teenager, college students and career women have all visited Birthcare's offices. Many races, income levels, and religions are represented. Each person receives the same compassionate personal care. The doors remain open by the generosity of our outside supporters and it is an all volunteer organization.

A list of needed items are:

Diapers sizes 3, 4, and 5 (most needed), Receiving blankets, Any sleepers and onesies (for ages up to 2), Used clothing up to age 3 (clean and folded please), Sippy cups. Used Clothing up to age 3 (clean and folded please!) Car seats, Cribs, Bassinets, and Highchairs.



PRAYER CONCERNS

April 1, 2018

If you have a concern to add to the prayer list for Sunday, contact Brenda Headley at 624-0232 or bloutheadley@gmail.com. If you have an emergency request for the prayer chain, call Donna Browning(994-4451). If you cannot reach her, call Sara Hinkle (576-9583) Give requests for sending cards to Carolyn Hansford.

NEW THIS WEEK

Ethel Dumperth has asked for prayer for her family as there have been several family emergencies. Scott Swanson, her nephew, had open heart surgery this week.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Norma Davis, Gwendolyn Headley , Billy Herrmann, Eleanor Herrmann, Lillian Laird , Skip McClintock ,Jimmy Prine, John Stone Jr, Duane Tanner, Ruth Tanner, Jeffery White , Jeffrey Wilcox, Ryan Dumperth

TREATMENTS/CANCER

Becky Adame, Sherry Comp, Larry Fisher (Debbie Woodworth's father), Nancy Hopes, Roger Mills ,Becky Prine, Tim Prine, John Shaffer (Ellie's friend), Susan Smith (Ellie's friend),

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Joanne Beckwith, Valarie Burlingame, Abby Kovacs, Brenden Legg, Naomi Oeffner, William Oeffner

MILITARY SERVICE

Dan & Samantha Au, Patrick Bisigni, Alex Cash, Jennifer Dyrzcz, David Kline

PLACE BOUND

Jean Friedrich – at home
Bea Grassi - with nephew
Ruth Gran – Jefferson Health Center
Libby Mason – Austinburg
David & Kathryn Neige – home
Anne Pinney (Ethel's sister) – Geneva Village
Don Sarna – home



CHURCHES

Life & direction of Jefferson First Baptist Church
Ashtabula First Baptist (without a pastor)
Dorset Baptist (working to return to their church building)

MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET

Attention all women and girls– Save the date of May 12 for the Mother Daughter Banquet at First Baptist Church. It will be a pot luck held at noon at the church , and the theme is angels.



Happy Anniversary

**Larry & Donna Browning
April 13**

Happy Birthday

Ruth Tanner	9
Ed Pickard	18
Cindy Fisher	29

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER 8:00 Sunrise Service 8:30 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	2	3 10:30 AM Book Club 7:00 Leadership team meeting	4 7:00 Town Hall Meeting	5	6	7
8 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 2:00 - 4:00 Ruth Tanner 90th birthday party	9 7:00 A.B.W.M meeting	10 10:30 AM Book Club	11 6:30 Worship Practice 7:00 Prayer Mtg. and Bible Study	12 2:30 Hymn Sing	13	14 8:00 Men's Breakfast
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	16	17 10:30 AM Book Club 12:00 Lunch Bunch 7:00 Mary Elizabeth Circle 7:00 Leadership Team meeting	18 6:30 Worship Practice 7:00 Prayer Mtg. and Bible Study	19 11:00 Martha Circle	20	21
22 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	23	24 10:30 AM Book Club	25 6:30 Worship Practice 7:00 Prayer Mtg. and Bible Study	26	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship	30					

First Baptist Church
85 West Jefferson St
Jefferson OH 44047

APRIL 2018

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

Email: fbcjefferson@outlook.com

Ed Pickard 440-576-0390 & 440-478-7031

Sunday Services:

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Morning Worship

Wednesday, 7 pm, Prayer Meeting

Elevator Chair Available