



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

I was quite moved this past Sunday when Jim Pentzer, who is a school principal, raised a prayer concern about our schools in the ongoing wake of the Florida high school mass shooting on Ash Wednesday. What I heard Jim saying is that we, as people of faith, need to be thinking and talking and praying together about how to prevent such slaughter in the future.

Toward that goal, I would like to share with you all the best article that I've read in recent weeks about steps that we might take as a nation. It's a New York Times op-ed piece written by a Republican Congressman and N.R.A. member. We have printed it in full below. I would be very interested in hearing your thoughts about how we move forward as a nation, and what the witness of the Church ought to be as the nation seeks to do so. We can talk over lunch on Sunday, or at any time that one or more of you would like to do so. Thanks for your willingness to engage in dialogue about this.

Blessings, Pastor Bruce

I'm Republican. I Appreciate Assault Weapons. And I Support a Ban.

By Brian Mast, Feb. 23, 2018

The most important and unregrettable time of my life was the 12 years I spent in the Army. I became a bomb technician because I wanted to save lives. I nearly gave my own life for that — I lost both my legs and a finger when a roadside bomb detonated beneath me — and have known more heroes than I can count who died defending others.

When I was with others on the battlefield and we saw a chance to save a life, we didn't have a meeting about it; we acted immediately. I never worried about becoming a casualty myself.

Now, as a Republican congressman from Florida, I don't fear becoming a political casualty, either. If we act now by changing laws surrounding firearms and mental illness, we too can save lives.

Most nights in Afghanistan, I wielded an M4 carbine and a .40-caliber pistol. The total barrel length of my M4 was approximately 14 inches with Trijicon ACOG sights, as well as an infrared laser. I usually carried 10 magazines stacked with 20 rounds of 5.56-millimeter ammunition each.

My rifle was very similar to the AR-15-style semiautomatic weapon used to kill students, teachers and a coach I knew at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where I once lived.

I have fired tens of thousands of rounds through that rifle, many in combat. We used it because it was the most lethal — the best for killing our enemies. And I know that my community, our schools and public gathering places are not made safer by any person having access to the best killing tool the Army could put in my hands. I cannot support the primary weapon I used to defend our people being used to kill children I swore to defend.

The truth is, most gun owners are responsible sportsmen and collectors who enjoy shooting recreationally, like me, or want to protect their home in the way they see fit. I am a longtime member of the National Rifle Association. My grandfather bought me my first NRA membership when I was young, and I have the same pride he and many Americans feel at being responsible gun owners, becoming excellent marksmen and joining in the camaraderie of hunting.

We are Americans and we like to be the best; we should never lose this trait. The AR-15 is an excellent platform for recreational shooters to learn to be outstanding marksmen. Unfortunately, it is also an excellent platform for those who wish to kill the innocent.

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I conceal and carry a 9-millimeter pistol most days because I know the threats, and I don't want to die because I am unprepared to return fire. I also know that I am made less safe by the threat of tactical rifles. I am confident I can eliminate an active shooter who is attacking with a pistol because the attacker would have to be close to me. But the defense my concealed 9-millimeter affords me is largely gone if the attacker is firing from beyond 40 yards, as he could easily do with the AR-15.

No firearm is evil. Guns are tools that fulfill the intent of their users, good or bad. But we've seen that the rifle of choice for many mass shooters is the AR-15.

The Second Amendment is unimpeachable. It guarantees the right of citizens to defend themselves. I accept, however, that it does not guarantee that every civilian can bear any and all arms.

For example, the purchase of fully automatic firearms is largely banned already, and I cannot purchase an AT-4 rocket, grenades, a Bradley fighting vehicle or an Abrams tank. I know that no single action can prevent a truly determined person from committing mass murder, and I am aware of other ways to commit mass murder, such as bombings and mass vehicular slaughter. Not being able to control everything, however, should not prevent us from doing something.

Therefore, I support the following:

- Defining what constitutes an assault or tactical firearm and not allowing them for future purchase — just as we already prohibit the purchase of fully automatic firearms. The exact definition of assault weapon will need to be determined. But we should all be able to agree that the civilian version of the very deadly weapon that the Army issued to me should certainly qualify. I would not support any version of a ban that results in confiscating existing legally owned firearms.
- Ensuring that every firearm purchaser has a background check. We also need to improve the background check system.
- Banning the sale of accessories and add-ons that circumvent the ban on automatic firearms, and increasing the ages at which individuals can purchase various categories of firearms.
- Ensuring that those who have been detained for mental illness, or have been ordered by courts to receive treatment for mental illness, cannot purchase firearms.
- Ensuring that someone who is being looked at as a possible terrorist, through a system of due process, cannot purchase a firearm and that any person threatening to shoot or blow up a school, in word or on social media, is placed on an F.B.I. watch list for a long time.
- Providing behavior detection training to anyone seeking a Federal Firearms License.
- Making substantial resources available to schools, at their discretion, for security measures, including the opportunity to purchase enhanced security screening, install classroom panic buttons wired directly to law enforcement and hire additional school resource officers.
- Holding the F.B.I. and state agencies accountable for their failures to identify a threat like Nikolas Cruz, as well as ensuring that schools enforce basic security protocols to prevent access by unauthorized personnel.
- And finally, conducting further research into the nexus of gun violence, violence in mass media and mental illness.

The president, House of Representatives, Senate, every state legislature, sheriffs, police officers, school boards, students and parents must unite with one mission: that no one will ever be murdered in school again.

Brian Mast, a Republican, is the representative for Florida's 18th congressional district.

MARCH



We are collecting Cleaning Supplies for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of March. All packages can be placed in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food you wish to donate is welcome any month.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
			<p>Lenten Lunches</p>	<p>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</p>		<p>12:00 pm Birthday Party - Fellowship Hall</p> <p>5:00 pm Middle School Lock In</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>8:45 am Elder's Mtg</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>11:30 am Fellowship Hour</p>		6:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg	<p>12:00 pm Lenten Lunch</p> <p>Choir Practice</p> <p>6:15 pm</p>	<p>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</p>		<p>9:00 am Budget Planning Retreat - Fellowship Hall</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Rosalie Roberts Birthday Open House Macadoo's Hall.</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>	<p>7:00 pm Disciples Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>6:00 pm Board of Director's Mtg</p>	<p>12:00 pm Lenten Lunch</p> <p>Choir Practice</p> <p>6:15 pm</p>			<p>Free Community Breakfast</p> <p>8:00 am - 10:00 am Fellowship Hall</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p> <p>1:00 pm Homebound Communion</p>			<p>12:00 pm Lenten Lunch</p> <p>Choir Practice</p> <p>6:15 pm</p>			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>9:30 am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Worship</p>		<p>6:00 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg</p> <p>6:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg</p> <p>7:00 pm Outreach Mtg</p>	<p>Choir Practice</p> <p>6:15 pm</p>	<p>7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service FUMC</p>	<p>Good Friday</p>	<p>1:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt - Camp Bedford</p>



National Benevolent Association
XPLOR
 FAITH, JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY

Special Guests

We are very much looking forward to hosting Ashlyn Reynolds and her colleagues Nathan Berry and Paige Bobbitt this coming **Sunday, March 4**, as they speak with us in worship about their experiences in the Xplor program. Xplor is a program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which provides young adults with the opportunity to do community service and to live in community as they seek vocational clarity and further their faith formation.

You can learn more about Nathan, Paige and Ashlyn by going to this

link: <https://www.nbacares.org/xplor-residents/nba-xplor-st-louis>

You'll have the opportunity to speak further with them during our March Fellowship Meal right after church. Just fill-up your plate with food and then go to a table where you will see one of them sitting. As our guests, please allow them to go through the line first.

ALL CHURCH

Fell wship

Sunday, March 4, immediately following worship.

Please bring a dish to share. It can be sweet or it can be savory or it can be both. Make your way to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some delicious food and fellowship with your church family and our special guests.



The next Dressmaking Workshop sponsored by Outreach Committee is scheduled for **Saturday, April 28th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Lunch provided. Please come and share your talents. If you can't sew or don't have a portable sewing machine, we'll find a job or machine for you. Needed supplies at

this time are: *white all-purpose thread and Extra Wide Double Fold bias tape in the following colors (color number): green (044), mint green (618), scarlet (076), dark pink (1232), cadet blue (584), pink (061), lavender (040), "peacock" blue (069).*

If you would like to make a dress or two, there will be kits available for you to take home and complete at your leisure. Contact Sue Pentzer (812-345-6382) if you plan to attend and whether or not you plan to sew but need a machine.



It's Coming.....
Saturday, April 7, 2018
 Mark your calendar.
 Get your Ticket(s) now.

\$8.00 Adults
\$5.00 Kids 12 & Under

SERVING SCHEDULE:

March

Elders:

Karen Anderson
Pat Bennett

Deacons:

Suzanne Coleman
George Sorrells
Ginny Jones
Linda Smith
*Mona Miller
*Lee Waltz

Steward:

Amy Holbrook

April

Elders:

Christie Maxwell
Jack Maxwell

Deacons:

Susan Maxwell
Cathy Allman
Pat Romine
Donna Myers
*Steve Harrell
*Kathy Wray

Steward:

Marsha Ochs

If you cannot serve, please contact another Elder, Deacon or Steward and arrange to trade dates.

Deacons marked with * are scheduled to assist the Elders with Homebound Communion on the third Sunday of each month.



Birthday Open House

Rosalie Roberts is turning 90 and you are invited to help her celebrate. Her family is hosting an open house on **Saturday, March 10** at Macadoo's Hall (former Pappas building), 2808 Washington Ave. Stop by anytime between **3:00 pm - 5:00 pm** to wish her a happy birthday and enjoy some cake. Rosalie request no gifts beyond your presence. Cards are welcome.

If you have any questions, call the church office.



***March:**

Carol Mifflin
Ron Bell
Francena Beasley

***April:**

Bev McFadden
Sally Allen
Bill McFadden

*If you are unable to be a greeter please find a replacement and arrange to trade dates.



Happy BIRTHday to you,
Happy BIRTHday to you,
Happy BIRTHday dear FRIENdS,
Happy BIRTHday to you.

March

03/04 Treva Hooten
03/05 A.J. Holbrook
03/05 Treva Olson
03/05 J.K. Robbins
03/08 Devin New
03/10 Gary Ochs
03/10 Jackie Robbins
03/10 Matt Wilson
03/10 Bev Wray
03/11 Toby Fields
03/11 Rosalie Roberts
03/11 Ginny Schultz
03/14 Bob Bailey

03/15 Barbara Hall
03/17 Ryan Terry
03/20 Landon Jones
03/22 Shirley McMunn
03/22 Christian Wilson
03/24 Bonnie Dixon
03/24 Barbara Roach
03/25 Andrew Foster
03/28 Darren Lewis
03/29 Tiffany Byford
03/29 Victor Harrell
03/29 Steve Schultz

Please let our office know if we don't have your birthday.

A Morning Prayer:

Dear God, I do not know all of the challenges that face me this day, but still I pray: if I should be tempted by desire for earthly gain, remind me of my citizenship in heaven. If I should be distracted by hunger, satisfy me with your Holy Spirit until I hunger no more. Let me walk in the way of Christ so that my life testifies in deed and word, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." Amen.

An Evening Prayer:

Dear God, great is your mercy to me, even when I have not remembered you. Where I have strayed from your path, forgive my sins and show me the way to salvation. Grant me rest this night that I may rise refreshed in my commitment to the way of my Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.

We remember the following friends and loved ones in our prayers:

Don Allen, Dee Anderson, Luke Anderson, Savanna Bailey, Francena Beasley & Family, Terri (mom) Belcher, Karen Billberry, Dean Blackwell, William Bouldin, Randy Brady, Basil Briscoe, June Briscoe, Danny Briscoe, Debbie Burgess, Bill Bunch, Dawson Bunch, David Bunch, Brandy Busz, Jerry Byrd, Gloria Canada, Westin Clausen, Aaron Collier, Janet Cooper, Mary Cordeiro, Carolyn Crafton, Matthew Drude, Dyan Duncan, Danny Dyke, Aaron Evans, Colin Forrest, Natalie Forte, Eileen Gage, Lucas Geyer, Stephanie Grissom, Judy Hasket, Ann Hignite, the Hooch Family, Julanna Hornocker, Walter Howell, Carolyn Johnson, Kimberly Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Bill Jones, Wanda Jones, Stacia Kern, Beverly Sullivan Kirkman, Ed Laverny, Alan Lewis, Maggie B. Lewis, Daven Lindley, Bev Lockhart, George Lockhart, Josh Love, Tim Lubinski, Michael Martin, Larry Mattis, Averi McArtor, Patricia McClure, Laverne Meadows, Jan Merchant, Bill Miller, Frank Miller, Mariah Mills, Harmony Mosier, Brooklyn Newman, Marilyn Olson, Cynthia Palmer, Ross Pentzer, Kathy Philpot, Jalen Pigg, Karen Pittman, Nancy Poynter, Larry Roach, Lydia Roberson, Michael Roberts, Guy Rumsey, Jill Sandburn, Josie Sargent, Jim Sears, Ruby Sides, Naomi Sides, Natalie Sides, Nelson Sides, Janell Sides, Nora Sides, Dick Sides, Dee Sivey, Janet Smith, Laverne Speer, Russ Spencer, Toni Star, RJ Steckler, Dorothy Stone, Nancy Strunk, Angela Sturgeon, Gene Swain, Candace Sykes, Megan Tincher, Don Tirey, Jim Tomes, George Tulette, Dale Underwood, Sherry Voigtschild, Sharon Waggoner, Betty Wagoner, Al Walker, Carol Wieneke, Jerene Wigley, Logan Wilson, Matt & Heather Wilson, Maurice & Marge Wilson, Morris Wilson, Emily Wingo, Renee Worthington, Doris Wykoff, Trent Wykoff, Sarah Zell, Jed and Melanie Zumhingst.

Those unable to be with us in Worship: Bonnie Blackwell, Bob Bunch, Janet Cunningham, Barbara Hall, Jacob Householder, John and Ellie Grissom, Shirley McMunn, Marilyn Olson, Rosalie Roberts, Warren Smith, Jimmy Waggoner.

Those away from home serving the church, in military and civil service, for education and work.

Please advise Elder Jack Maxwell, or the church office of any new prayer concerns, corrections or updates.

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

1101 15th Street - Bedford, Indiana - 47421 - 812-275-4497

We are Disciples of Christ, A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

*Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity

**Come Worship
With Us!**

Sunday School

9:30 am

Worship Service

10:30 am

UPCOMING WORSHIP READINGS

March 4: Xplor Interns

March 11: Measures of Greatness

Text: Mark 9:30-37

March 18: The Power of Partnership

Text: Mark 9:38-41

March 25: Palm Sunday

Passionate Power

Texts: Mark 11:1-11; Philippians 2:5-

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:

Rev. Bruce Ervin

E-Mail:

pastor@firstccbedford.org

Music Ministry:

Choir Director:

Christa Tahere

E-Mail:

christa.tahere@me.com

Organist:

Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistant:

Mitzi Flynn

E-Mail:

office@firstccbedford.org

Custodian:

Steve Harrell

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:

8:00 am-4:00 pm

Closed 12-12:30 for Lunch

PASTOR BRUCE'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday and Wednesday:

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

CUSTODIAN'S HOURS:

Monday - Friday:

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

SOCIAL MEDIA

Web Page: www.firstccbedford.org

Facebook: First Christian Church Bedford - DOC

Camp Facebook: Bedford Christian Camp