



## PASTORAL PONDERINGS

As you will recall, the sermon title this past Sunday was Be the Attitude. On Tuesday morning, I received a piece by Carey Nieuwhof entitled *5 Crucial Attitude Differences between Churches that Grow and Churches that Don't*. Here is an edited version of what Pastor Nieuwhof had to say. It's meaty food for thought.

So...what's the difference between a growing church and a declining church? Well, there are many, but one of the biggest differences I see is the *attitude* of the leaders. The leaders of growing churches almost always share a common attitude. So do the leaders of declining churches. And the attitude has a huge influence over the results each church sees.

Here are 5 attitude differences I see again and again in growing churches and declining churches.

### 1. WE CAN VS. WE CAN'T

Perhaps the biggest differences between growing churches and declining churches is the attitude around what's possible. Growing churches believe they can. Declining churches believe they can't. They're both right.

It was Henry Ford who said, "Whether you believe you can or believe you can't, you're right." Growing churches make a way when there's no way, which seems to be what God specializes in when you read the Bible.

At a Board or Ministry meeting, do you come up with 20 ways to make it happen, or 20 reasons why it won't work? That tells you a lot about your church. Growing churches believe they can. It's that simple. And even if they're wrong, at least they tried. The mission is important enough to take significant risk.

### 2. THEM VS. US

Declining churches focus on themselves. Growing churches focus on the people they're trying to reach. If your conversations are all about the needs and wants of your members, it's a sign that your church is insider focused. But the mission of the church is to reach the world. Growing churches not only *know* that; they live it.

If you're becoming smaller and smaller, is it because you're overly focused on yourselves?

### 3. PRINCIPLES VS. PREFERENCES

Declining churches focus on their member's preferences:

*Todd didn't like the music. Allison thinks we're not deep enough. Bill wants to start a new program.*

And so the leaders respond, trying to please everybody. In reality, declining churches bend to the preferences of its members. Growing churches don't. Instead, they focus on the principles and strategies that will help them reach new people. Is your leadership team principle-driven or preference-driven? There's a world of difference between the two.

#### 4. PROACTIVE VS. REACTIVE

Growing churches are *proactive*. They choose their agenda and immediately get on issues that can impact their future. Declining churches are reactive, letting members determine the agenda and reacting to problems as they arise. In fact, most declining churches are so busy reacting to problems other people raise that they never get around to charting a course for the future. If you never get around to charting a course for the future, you will have no future.

Growing churches have a strong bias for setting their own agendas, not in the selfish sense, but in a way that determined leaders see what the mission requires and decide to deal with it. The leaders in a growing church simply refuse to yield to the agenda of others that would take them off mission. And as a result, they are far more effective.

#### 5. NOW VS. EVENTUALLY

Growing churches act. And they act now. Declining churches don't. Declining churches don't actually *say* they won't act, they'll just say they'll get to it 'eventually', or 'someday', or 'when the time is right'—which means never.

By contrast, great leaders and great teams banish the word 'someday' from their vocabulary. If you want to be effective, you act. If you want to be ineffective, you don't. Talk without action has little value. And too many church leaders specialize in talk. In addition, too many church teams meet for the sake of meeting.

If you can't remember the last time you made a major decision that changed the course of your church, your leaders are wasting their time.

If you talk about the same issues meeting after meeting with no resolution, you're not leading, you're spinning your wheels. Does that mean you have to act on everything? Well, yes and no. If you're not going to act, strike the item off the agenda and move on. If you are going to act, act. Now.

Just make a decision and move on with it. Don't get stuck in the no man's land of believing the lie that talking about things solves things. As Casey Graham says, action produces traction. So act.

Okay; Pastor Bruce is back. Pastor Nieuwhof has given us something to think about, and pray about, as we move into the future that God has placed before us.

Blessings!

Pastor Bruce

**Bring your family, your friends,  
invite your whole neighborhood.**

**All are welcome.**

**We hope to see you there.**

**Donations accepted.**



**March 16**

**Free Community  
Breakfast  
3rd Saturday  
of the month  
★ 8 am-10 am**

## ALL CHURCH

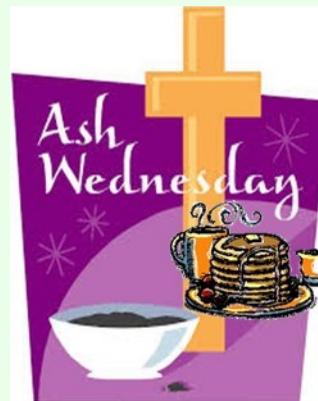
# Fellowship

**Sunday, March 3**, 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.

### **Pancakes and Ashes:**

#### **A celebration of abundance as we journey into Lent**

The Worship Committee will host a Pancake Supper on **Wednesday, March 6**, in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to drop by between **5:30 pm – 6:10 pm** to enjoy some pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice and milk. Donations will be accepted. At **6:30 pm** will be our Ash Wednesday Service, which marks the first day of Lent and the beginning of forty days of repentance and prayer.



### **Disciples Women's Fellowship**

**Monday, March 11, starting at 7:00 p.m.** We will gather in the Parlor to discuss business and have a short devotion by Barbara Sorrells. Then it's off to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some light refreshments prepared by Sally Allen, Treva Olson & Bonnie Duncan. All women are invited to enjoy this wonderful time of fellowship and bring a friend with you.



### **Blessing Box Offerings**

We share our gratitude during Lent when we drop coins or dollars into our Blessing Boxes each day following a reading from our Lenten Calendar. You will find a copy of the Lenten Calendar in this e-caller or you may pick one up at church. **These boxes and calendars will be handed out on March 3, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. The boxes will be collected on Palm Sunday, which falls on April 14 this year.** Half of all Blessing Box giving goes to support the mission of the whole church through the Disciples Mission Fund. **Please participate in this act of worship.**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## March

03/03 Leslie Downey	03/11 Ginny Schultz
03/04 Treva Hooten	03/14 Bob Bailey
03/05 A.J. Holbrook	03/15 Barbara Hall
03/05 Treva Olson	03/20 Landon Jones
03/05 J.K. Robbins	03/22 Shirley McMunn
03-06 Stephen Fisher	03/24 Bonnie Dixon
03/10 Gary Ochs	03/24 Barbara Roach
03/10 Jackie Robbins	03/28 Darren Lewis
03/10 Bev Wray	03/29 Tiffany Byford
03/11 Toby Fields	03/29 Victor Harrell
03/11 Rosalie Roberts	03/29 Steve Schultz



Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday to you,  
Happy Birthday dear Friends,  
Happy Birthday to you.

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

# March 2019

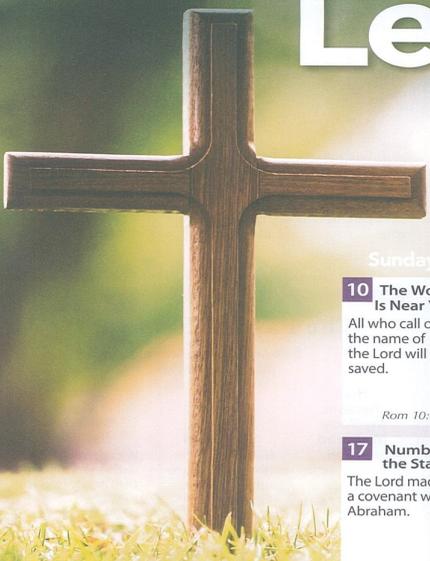


We are collecting Cleaning Supplies for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of March. All packages can be placed in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food you wish to donate is welcome any month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Daylight Saving Time is beginning! So I just popped up to say... Hickory dickory dock! Don't forget to turn forward the clock! <b>March 10</b></p>					1	2
<p>3 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 pm Fellowship Hour</p>	4	<p>5 10:30 am Bible Study - Library 4:15 pm Parent Café (Private Event) Fellowship Hall and Kitchen</p>	<p>6 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 5:30 pm - Pancake Supper &amp; 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>7 <b>Holy Moly!</b> 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</p>	8	<p>9 </p>
<p>10 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:45 Elder's Meeting 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:00 Homebound Communion</p>	<p>11  7:00 pm Disciples Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>12 10:30 am Bible Study - Library 6:00 pm Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>13 <b>Choir Practice</b> 5:00 pm Youth 6:15 pm Adult</p>	<p>14 <b>Holy Moly!</b> 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</p>	15	<p>16 <b>Free Community Breakfast 3rd Saturday of the month</b> ★ 8 am-10 am Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>17 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	18	<p>19 10:30 am Bible Study - Library</p>	<p>20 <b>Choir Practice</b> 5:00 pm Youth 6:15 pm Adult</p>	<p>21 <b>Holy Moly!</b> 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</p>	22	23
<p>24 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>	25	<p>26 7:00 pm Outreach Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>27 <b>Choir Practice</b> 5:00 pm Youth 6:15 pm Adult</p>	28	29	30
<p>31 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship</p>			<p>Wednesdays: March 13 - April 10: Lenten Lunches - First Baptist Church (notice change of venue)</p>			

# Lent 2019

Daily Mass Readings and Reflections for the Sacred Season



You who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.  
— Ephesians 2:13

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>10</b> <b>The Word Is Near You</b> All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. <i>Rom 10:8-13</i>	<b>11</b> <b>The Lord Is Holy</b> You shall be holy, for the Lord your God is holy. <i>Lv 19:1-2, 11-18</i>	<b>12</b> <b>The Word Sent Forth</b> The Word of God will accomplish his purpose. <i>Is 55:10-11</i>	<b>6</b> <b>MARCH My Sin Is Before Me</b> God will not despise a broken and contrite heart. <i>Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17</i>	<b>7</b> <b>Take Up Your Cross</b> Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus. <i>Lk 9:22-25</i>	<b>8</b> <b>Help Those in Need</b> Feed the hungry; shelter and clothe the poor. <i>Is 58:1-9</i>	<b>9</b> <b>Called to Repent</b> Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. <i>Lk 5:27-32</i>
<b>17</b> <b>Number the Stars</b> The Lord made a covenant with Abraham. <i>Gn 15:5-12, 17-18</i>	<b>18</b> <b>Forgive Others</b> Be merciful, as your heavenly Father is merciful. <i>Lk 6:36-38</i>	<b>19</b> <b>Hope in the Promise</b> Faith in Christ Jesus is counted as righteousness. <i>Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22</i>	<b>13</b> <b>The Sign of Jonah</b> Behold, something greater than Jonah is here. <i>Lk 11:29-32</i>	<b>14</b> <b>Ask, Seek, Knock</b> Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find. <i>Mt 7:7-12</i>	<b>15</b> <b>Lord, Hear My Voice</b> With the Lord there is steadfast love and redemption. <i>Ps 130:1-8</i>	<b>16</b> <b>Love Your Enemies</b> Love your enemies; pray for those who persecute you. <i>Mt 5:43-48</i>
<b>24</b> <b>Peace With God</b> While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <i>Rom 5:1-2, 5-8</i>	<b>25</b> <b>Call His Name Jesus</b> The child to be born will be holy, the Son of God. <i>Lk 1:26-38</i>	<b>26</b> <b>Forgive Your Brother</b> Forgive others as you have been forgiven by God. <i>Mt 18:21-35</i>	<b>20</b> <b>To Give His Life</b> The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom. <i>Mt 20:17-28</i>	<b>21</b> <b>By Streams of Water</b> Blessed is the man who delights in the law of the Lord. <i>Ps 1:1-4, 6</i>	<b>22</b> <b>The Stone Rejected</b> The stone rejected by the builders is the cornerstone. <i>Mt 21:33-43, 45-46</i>	<b>23</b> <b>Lost and Found</b> Celebrate, for my son who was lost has been found. <i>Lk 15:1-3, 11-32</i>
			<b>27</b> <b>The Lord God Is Near</b> The Lord our God is near to us when we call on him. <i>Dt 4:1, 5-9</i>	<b>28</b> <b>By the Finger of God</b> The kingdom of God has come upon you. <i>Lk 11:14-23</i>	<b>29</b> <b>Walk in His Ways</b> Return to the Lord and dwell in his shadow. <i>Hos 14:2-10</i>	<b>30</b> <b>On the Third Day</b> God will raise us on the third day to live before him. <i>Hos 6:1-6</i>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
<b>31</b> <b>Walk in the Light</b> You are light in the Lord; walk as children of the light. <i>Eph 5:8-14</i>	<b>1</b> <b>APRIL No More Weeping</b> God will create new heavens and a new earth. <i>Is 65:17-21</i>	<b>2</b> <b>God Is Our Refuge</b> Come and behold the works of the Lord. <i>Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9</i>	<b>3</b> <b>Honor the Son</b> The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and live. <i>Jn 5:17-30</i>	<b>4</b> <b>Believe the Word</b> The Scriptures bear witness to Jesus, the Son of God. <i>Jn 5:31-47</i>	<b>5</b> <b>This Is the Christ</b> No one arrested Jesus; his hour had not yet come. <i>Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30</i>	<b>6</b> <b>Like a Lamb</b> Jesus was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. <i>Jer 11:18-20</i>						
<b>7</b> <b>Risen to Life</b> I am the resurrection and the life; believe in me. <i>Jn 11:1-45</i>	<b>8</b> <b>I Will Fear No Evil</b> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <i>Ps 23:1-6</i>	<b>9</b> <b>The Son Lifted Up</b> Lift up the Son of Man and know that I am he. <i>Jn 8:21-30</i>	<b>10</b> <b>The Truth Frees You</b> The Son will set you free and you will be free indeed. <i>Jn 8:31-42</i>	<b>11</b> <b>Father of Nations</b> I will make my covenant between me and you. <i>Gn 17:3-9</i>	<b>12</b> <b>Jesus Is God's Son</b> Jesus' enemies seek to arrest him for blasphemy. <i>Jn 10:31-42</i>	<b>13</b> <b>A Covenant of Peace</b> God will make an everlasting covenant with his people. <i>Ez 37:21-28</i>						
<b>14</b> <b>Humble Lord</b> Jesus was obedient to the point of death on a cross. <i>Phil 2:6-11</i>	<b>15</b> <b>Anointed for Burial</b> Mary anoints Jesus for the burial of his burial. <i>Jn 12:1-11</i>	<b>16</b> <b>One Will Betray Him</b> Now God will be glorified in the Son of Man. <i>Jn 13:21-33, 36-38</i>	<b>17</b> <b>With the Twelve</b> Jesus celebrates the Passover with his disciples. <i>Mt 26:14-25</i>	<h2>The Paschal Triduum</h2> <p>from Holy Thursday evening through Easter Vigil</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> <b>My Body, My Blood</b></td> <td><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>Jesus Is Crucified</b></td> <td><b>EASTER VIGIL</b> <b>Buried in Baptism</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>This cup is the new covenant in Jesus' blood. <i>1 Cor 11:23-26</i></td> <td>He said, "It is finished," and gave up his spirit. <i>Jn 18:1 — 19:42</i></td> <td>We are buried with Jesus in baptism and raised to new life. <i>Rom 6:3-11</i></td> </tr> </table>			<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> <b>My Body, My Blood</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>Jesus Is Crucified</b>	<b>EASTER VIGIL</b> <b>Buried in Baptism</b>	This cup is the new covenant in Jesus' blood. <i>1 Cor 11:23-26</i>	He said, "It is finished," and gave up his spirit. <i>Jn 18:1 — 19:42</i>	We are buried with Jesus in baptism and raised to new life. <i>Rom 6:3-11</i>
<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b> <b>My Body, My Blood</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>Jesus Is Crucified</b>	<b>EASTER VIGIL</b> <b>Buried in Baptism</b>										
This cup is the new covenant in Jesus' blood. <i>1 Cor 11:23-26</i>	He said, "It is finished," and gave up his spirit. <i>Jn 18:1 — 19:42</i>	We are buried with Jesus in baptism and raised to new life. <i>Rom 6:3-11</i>										

## Traditional Lenten Disciplines

**Fasting & Abstinence:** Catholics aged 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day.

**Prayer:** Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Scripture. Lent is also an ideal time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

**Almsgiving:** Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more on God's abundant grace.

## Easter Christ Is Risen!

He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.  
*Mt 28:1-10*

## SERVING SCHEDULE:

### March

#### Elders:

Pat Bennett  
Mitzi Flynn

#### Deacons:

+Francena Beasley  
\*Melissa Wilkerson  
\*Ginny Jones  
+Donna Myers  
Linda Smith  
Mona Miller

#### Steward:

Amy Holbrook

### April

#### Elders:

Christie Maxwell  
Jack Maxwell

#### Deacons:

Susan Maxwell Lewis  
Junior Deacon  
\*Cathy Allman  
+George Sorrell  
\*Melissa Wilkerson  
+Steve Harrell

#### 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.

Deacons marked with + are the microphone runners for joys/concerns.



#### **\*March:**

15th Street	Carol Mifflin
K Street	Ron Bell
Canopy	Helen Merchant

#### **\*April:**

15th Street	Bill McFadden
K Street	Sally Allen
Canopy	Bev McFadden

## Hospitality and Welcome Table

#### **\*March:**

**03** Pat Bell  
**10** Barb Sorrells  
**17** Christie Maxwell  
**24** Amy Holbrook  
**31** Open

#### **\*April:**

**07** Jackie Robbins  
**14** Linda Smith  
**21** Barb Sorrells  
**28** Bonnie Duncan



\*If you are unable to be a greeter or staff the Hospitality and Welcome Table, please find a replacement and arrange to trade dates.

# 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**

## CHURCH STAFF:

### **Pastor:**

Rev. Bruce Ervin

### **E-Mail:**

[pastor@firstccbedford.org](mailto:pastor@firstccbedford.org)

### **Music Ministry:**

### **Choir Director:**

Christa Tahere

### **E-Mail:**

[christa.tahere@me.com](mailto:christa.tahere@me.com)

### **Organist:**

Mary Ruth Yates

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Mitzi Flynn

### **E-Mail:**

[office@firstccbedford.org](mailto:office@firstccbedford.org)

### **Custodian:**

Steve Harrell

## UPCOMING WORSHIP READINGS

### **March 3**

Theme: The Cloud of Fear and the Light of Faith

Text: Luke 9:28-36

### **March 10**

Theme: Wilderness and Holiness

Text: Luke 4:1-13

### **March 17**

Theme: The Power of Faith

Text: Luke 7:1-10

### **March 24**

Theme: Awe, and then Some!

Text: Awe, and then Some!

### **March 31**

Theme: : Go and Tell It!

Text: Luke 7:18-23

## 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](http://www.firstccbedford.org)

**Facebook:** First Christian Church Bedford - DOC

**Camp Facebook:** Bedford Christian Camp