



BFCC e-Caller

June, 2021

Reaching Outward to Connect People with God's Abundance

Ever want to “toot your own horn” during worship? This coming Sunday is your chance as we begin the summer with some fun...Bumper Sticker Style! Here’s a teaser:

An honest man was being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman hit the roof--and the horn--screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."

Do you walk the talk on your bumper? Do you HAVE bumper stickers on your car? If not, that’s okay because you have them on your self. How you live reveals the bumper stickers you believe.

Rev. Eric

Looking Ahead	<u>6/27/2021</u>	<u>7/4/2021</u>
Scripture	Isaiah 28:9-13	Romans 13:1-7
Sermon	God’s Word - Bumper Sticker Style	Declaration of Dependence



Written Pastoral Prayer and Sermon Notes

Pastoral Prayer - June 20, 2021

Love Prayer By Jeremy Taylor

Oh, God(dess)

Grant me Love!

Please, make it simply Difficult.

Make it crack and melt the hard places

Where I am so sure of myself.

Make it stiffen and enliven the weak places

Where I am uncertain, ignorant, and secretly afraid.

And please make it horribly "inappropriate"

So I must really know you in myself,

Myself in you, Forced

To give up everything that is not love

(Because it is so hard to do it willingly. . .)

I pray this

Knowing it will ruin me.

Let me be ruined by love,

So that I may come back to you

Without pride, or stupidity,

- Or pretense, or opinions -

or any sense of separation -

Stripped

Like a lover,

Hungry and ecstatically full

All at the same time!

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The founding pastor of the mega-church Mars Hill in Grand Rapids, Michigan created quite a stir with his book Love Wins. Rob Bell opens his book with the following story:

Several years ago we had an art show at our church. I had been giving a series of teachings on peacemaking, and we invited artists to display their paintings, poems and sculptures that reflected their understanding of what it means to be a peacemaker. One woman included in her work a quote from Mahatma Gandhi, which a number of people found quite compelling.

But not everyone.

Someone attached a piece of paper to it.

On the piece of paper was written:

“Reality check: He’s in hell.”

Bell goes on, Really?

Gandhi’s in hell?

He is?

We have confirmation of this?

Somebody knows this?

Without a doubt?

And that somebody decided to take on the responsibility of letting the rest of us know? Of all the billions of people who have ever lived, will only a select number “make it to a better place” and every single other person suffer in torment and punishment forever? Is this acceptable to God? Has God created millions of people over tens of thousands of years who are going to spend eternity in anguish? Can God do this or even allow this, and still claim to be a loving God?

We just heard the words, “God so loved the world...” Let me share a little about the world where I grew up. I grew up in Flossmoor, Illinois. A village of 9,000 people, surrounded by 6 country clubs, where every street was named after a famous golfer of the 19th or early 20th century. People in Flossmoor said that the village was NOT a south suburb of Chicago but, instead, was located 15 miles north of Kankakee. About 70% of the population was of European descent. 20% were African-American. The remaining 10% represented the rest of the world.

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Median income in Flossmoor was about \$100,000 and the only reason that I could grow up in the village of Flossmoor was because the church where Dad was pastor provided a parsonage right next door. Yes, I am probably one of the few preacher's kids to grow up in what is easily now a million dollar manse. I was also one of the few preacher's kids who spent his summers caddying for most of his father's fellow church members.

One of the perks of my father's job was that he received a free membership to the local country club. I was also one of the few caddies who after carrying bags for several hours in the hot summer sun could run the short distance up the hill from the caddy shack and dive directly into the pool amidst the wealth and splendor of upper-middle class life. God so loved the world...that such a place was created just for me.

There were other dynamics involved in this idyllic village. Two of the country clubs were Jewish. One was primarily Roman Catholic. Flossmoor Country Club was a hodgepodge of religious belief and non-belief. Cherry Hills was the public country club and...well...God so loved the whole world that God, in God's infinite wisdom, created country clubs for everyone, even for the "least of these," those people who couldn't afford a caddy and had to carry their own bags.

The Flossmoor area had several Protestant churches, a large Roman Catholic parish, and several Jewish synagogues. My father was the president of the local ministerial association for many years. I would often go to sleep at night in my upstairs bedroom listening to the uproarious laughter from below of this ecumenical and motley clergy group telling jokes, AND finding them very funny, about the one where the rabbi, the priest, and the pastor walked into a bar and...Perhaps the "dirtiest" of the joke-tellers was one of the nuns from Infant Jesus of Prague. The next morning Dad would often proclaim, "Oh, Sister So-and-So was on a roll last night!"

I went to every Bar Mitzvah when my Jewish friends turned thirteen. I went to a Jewish berith ceremony when a "whoops-baby" younger brother of a good friend of mine was circumcised on the eighth day of his life. I remember being uncomfortable during the actual ceremony but the food was good later at the celebration. I dated two beautiful Jewish girls, each a prom date in successive years.

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My brother created quite the stir when he began to seriously date one of the rabbi's daughters. There were whispers and finger-pointing about that relationship. Not because my brother and his girlfriend were crossing some religious line of taboo being of different faiths. No. My brother was/is 6' 6". The rabbi's daughter was just barely over 5' tall. God so loved the world...that God created short ones, tall ones, Christians, Jews, golfers with low handicaps and golfers who find every hazard on a golf course and in life.

I believe that I am a product of one of the most visionary confirmation youth programs in the whole world that God loves. Somehow, in the midst of the particular way of life in the village of Flossmoor, my dad's church created and celebrated a year-long class that every high school freshman youth took to become confirmed as a member of Flossmoor Community Church.

Our weekly explorations together covered ethical issues, biblical education, service projects, weekend retreats in Michigan and fun times. The culminating event of the year was a weekend trip into the Chicagoland-area where we visited peoples and places of other faith cultures. We worshiped at an inner-city African Methodist Episcopal church, different from our own expression of the Christian faith, but still very much Christian. We also visited other faiths. An Islamic mosque. A Hindu temple. We encountered the Ba'hai faith and toured the magnificent, nine-sided Ba'hai Temple on the shores of Lake Michigan in Wilmette. We encountered fringe religious groups that are labelled "cults." In the cultural mix of Rogers Park we worshipped with the Hare Krishnas. We visited with members of the Unification Church, "affectionately" called "the Moonies" after their founder Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Our trip also included a visit with the Scientologists where each of us expressed our skepticism about their claim of being a religious faith.

After our return, the following Sunday we were confirmed into Christian membership of Flossmoor Community Church. Given bibles. Crosses made of nails placed around our necks by our youth leaders. And welcomed into the body of Christ by all the gathered church. I wear that cross with pride today. I wear it NOT as a symbol of how I believe and therefore am not condemned. My DNA and the reason why I shared a bit of my early faith journey with you today, simply do not allow me to condemn the other for a belief that is different from my own. I wear this cross as a symbol that God so loved the world...the WHOLE world.



**Please silence
or turn off all
electronic
devices before
worship.**

**They can interfere
with our Live
Stream.
Thank you.**



**New Lodge Floor at
Camp Bedford**

The downstairs area in the lodge at Camp Bedford has a new floor. It was installed last week and looks amazing.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

COVID INFORMATION FOR 2021 CHURCH CAMP
(as of March 31, 2021)

We are staying in close communication with state and county health departments to prepare for camp. Our current modifications for camps are as follows:

A licensed medical professional will be present at all camps.

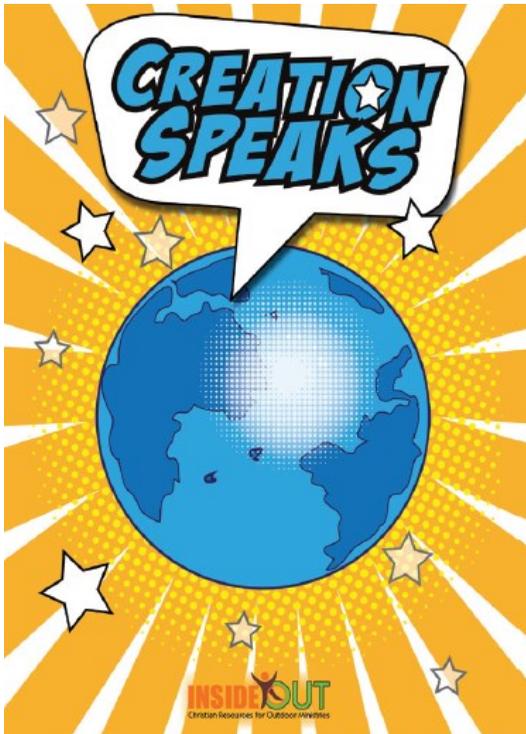
The ways in which we clean will change. For example, sanitizing after meals will be done by adults instead of by campers. Sanitizer stations will be everywhere campers gather.

Social distancing will be encouraged.

As of right now, our camps will be registered at half capacity with the possibility that this could change as camp season grows closer.

Masks will be required in all common areas.

Upon arrival to camp, temperatures will be taken before campers exit the car.



2021 Camp Bedford Dates:

June 21-26
Explorers
(completed grades 4-5)

June 28-30
New Beginnings
(completed grades 1-3)

July 5-10
High School
(completed grades 9-12)

July 12-17
Middle School
(completed grades 6-8)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June

- 01 *Megan Maxwell Ranjbar*
- 05 *Pat Merchant*
- 06 *Ric Olson*
- 07 *Chelsea Cassidy*
- 11 *Starr DeJesus*
- 12 *Melissa Wilkerson*
- 16 *Don Mains*
- 20 *Kevin Jones*
- 22 *JoAnn George*
- 23 *Amber Kay*
- 23 *Ashlyn Reynolds*

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.



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

July

03 *Jessica Bellush*
06 *Leona Russell*
07 *Jovy Dixon*
08 *Barbara Bunch*
12 *Jamie Blackwell*
15 *Kevin Robbins*
18 *Jerry Byrd*
18 *Guy Rumsey*
19 *Lakota Wilkerson*
25 *Linda Smith*
26 *Suzanne Coleman*
28 *Donna Myers*
31 *Addy Bunch*

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday dear friends,
Happy Birthday to you.

June 2021

We are collecting Taco Fixings for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of June. Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer.

Any food or items you wish to donate are welcome any month.



*Food
Pantry
Needs*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Elder's Mtg 10:30 Worship 1:00 Maggie B's Open House, Depot	7	8	9 1:00 pm Bliss House Pie Picnic, Company Concourse	10	11	12
13 10:30 am Worship 	14	15 5:30 pm Board Mtg 	16	17	18	19
20 10:30 Worship 1:30 Don Mains Open House Camp Bedford	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 am Worship	28	29	30			

July 2021



We are collecting **Canned Fruit/Individual Fruit Cup Packages for L.I.F.E Pantry** during the month of July.

Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food or items you wish to donate are welcome any month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Have a Great 4th of July!</i>  10:30 am Worship	Church Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30 Elder's Mtg 10:30 Worship	12	13 5:30 pm Board Mtg 	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24 8 am - 2 pm Private Event Fellowship Hall (Amy Holbrook)
25 10:30 am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

Prayer List

Prayer requests will remain in the e-caller for one month, unless an update has been provided. If an individual for whom prayer has been requested still needs prayer after one month, please contact an Elder or the church office. We take your praise and prayer requests very seriously and updates are always appreciated.



In Your Mercy, Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Our Friends and Family: Paula Austin, Francena Beasley, Jordan Covey Blackwell, Charles Bouldin, Susan Branaman, Bob and June Briscoe, Greg Brooking, Hannah Brooking, Brandy Busz, Levi Chisholm, Marian Cooley, Tina Corum, Dave Cox, Chantell Emberton, Aaron Evans, Diana Hall, Ariene Gilbert, Danny Gillock, Todd Glenn, Kim Hostetter, Ainsley Jefferies, Rita Jenkins, Lisa Jordan, Maddie Lynch, Don Mains, Felix Miller, Chris Mills, Sheila Miskuf, Sarah Mullis, Shelly Perrson, John Robbins, Gregg Romine, Scott Roberts, Steven Taylor, Greg VanCleave, Carol Wieneke, Kristy Williams, Mark and Kelley Wingo, Doris Wykoff

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

Those unable to be with us in Worship: Barbara Hall, Jacob Householder, Ellie Grissom, Marilyn Olson, Laverne Speer, Jimmy Waggoner.

**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**

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:45 am - 2:00 pm

Custodian's Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 am - 11:00 am, Sunday: 1 hour

Sunday Minister: Rev. Eric Brotheridge

E-mail: fccbedfordpastoreric@gmail.com

Organist: Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistant: Mitzi Flynn

Custodian: Steve Harrell

Camp Manager: Chuck Bair

E-Mail: manager@campbedford.com

Web Page: firstccbedford.org

Camp Bedford Web Page: campbedford.com

