

**FORT WAYNE BAPTIST**  
Church



**September 2020**  
**Newsletter**

**Pastor:**

Rev. Scott Carter  
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**Web:**

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**Sunday:**

Bible Study—9:00 AM  
Worship—10:00 AM

**Wednesday Eve:**

Dine Lite—6:00  
Bell Choir —4:30  
Choir Practice—5:30

## Holding Patterns and Planning Past It

Growing up I lived near enough to a small airport that private planes would pass over head when on approach. Sometimes they would pass by over and over again in a holding pattern, waiting their turn to land. I always wanted to be up there, looking down from above on all I knew; but I did think that eventually all that circling must get boring.



That is, in some ways where we are now. In a holding pattern. Circling. Waiting.

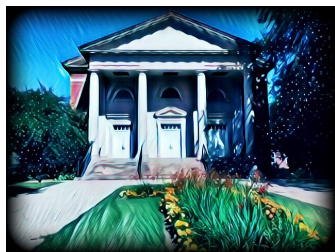
Church has been admittedly weird over the past few months. First going online, then to a very abbreviated in person service along with supplemental video content via our website. So much of the business of doing the work of the church is done casually, in simple interactions that happen in passing during coffee hour, or before Sunday School, or during dinner on Wednesday nights and that is not getting done.

Yet I think it best if we see this not as a great disaster, but as a great challenge, an opportunity even.

One of the things I have tried to do is be more deliberate about contacting people during the week. Making phone calls and sending messages. To be honest I know I am not great at it, and some people have slipped through the cracks in my system.

So that is why we must all take up this challenge. The challenge to be deliberate, purposeful, and active in doing the work of the church.

We can no longer rely on the easy mechanisms of the past. We need to work to reach people. We must make phone calls, send cards, messages, emails, and other things to keep these connections. I don't think we should stop either. If we all take up the active work of the church, we will be a better community for it.



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It won't hurt to embrace new ways of doing things either. Investing in technology and software and the people who know how to use it. I guarantee that going forward most churches in the 2020s will look nothing like they have before. These mean two things. First we need to work from an organizational side to figure out what needs to be done and how to help people do it and second we need to take an individual approach figuring out how we can integrate new ways of interacting in our lives.

These are not the only challenges we will face. A huge wave of need is rising and is going to be washing over us in the coming months as the financial consequences of Covid hit home in the cold. We need to be thinking about making plans and being the church at work in the world, in a world where things have changed.

In the short term we are going to keep with what we are doing. Abbreviated worship on Sunday, Video Bible/book study on Wednesdays, Thursday Blog, Saturday Bonus Sermon. We will be looking at ways to reintroduce communion and expand worship this fall. I will keep calling and checking on people, but I want you to be doing that as well. If people are in need share that with me or the church office. Take care of one another. Accept that there is no "return to normal" as it used to be. This is a different place that it was yesterday, and it will be different again tomorrow.

We have the ability, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to rise to meet the challenge. Now it is only a question of will.

—Pastor Scott

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me,

'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'

To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world."

~Fred Rogers

**Continue to Join us for Bible Study and a  
Sunday Worship Service  
from your home!**

Tuesday through Thursday Pastor Scott has been doing a Bible Study, and on Sunday we have a short service and sermon. These are all available through our website:

**<https://fortwaynebaptist.com/blog/>**



# PRAYER REQUESTS

- The country and world during the corona virus pandemic
- Reopening schools
- Pastor Christina
- Fritz Hepler (former choir director)—passed away on July 14
- Eugene Ely—declining health
- Charlie & Marvel Powell—multiple health issues, home and better but still suffering
- Hti Mu
- Jeremy Gray (Scott's Cousin)—is recovering from liver issues and will be preparing to get on the transplant list
- June Smith (Scott's brother's mother-in-law)—cancer
- Thomas Fitch (Scott's Friend)—complications due to diabetes
- Maureen Nichols (Janica's Aunt)—stage 4 pancreatic cancer has spread to her liver, planning chemo but no surgery.
- Jane Tagmeyer Dawkins—nearing the end of life, her husband Dave passed and she is growing significantly worse
- Rowan and Rey - premature twins in the care of their Grandmother Beverly. Born to a heroin addict currently on the run from the police. Rowan will need surgery in October. Seeking adoption.
- Jamie Stumpf (someone our church has assisted)—leukemia is back and was given 6 months to live.
- Liz Hager (young daughter of Janet's friend n KY)—next surgery September 22
- Brenda Edwards—continued prayers
- John Trammel—continued prayers
- Seth (Vaunetta's grandson)—continued prayers

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Limited office hours until further notice

If you need immediate assistance,

call or text Pastor Scott at (260) 715-8080 or Janet at (260) 609-8710.

Until we resume regular office hours, Janet will be in the office on

Wednesdays 1:30-3:30pm and Fridays 10:00am-1:00pm.

Nick is in on Tuesday afternoon.

Email will be checked on a regular basis, so if you leave a message,  
be patient and Janet or Nick will get back to you.

Thank you.

# Missions

During the last few months without Sunday worship services and even now as we have resumed and have restrictions during the Sunday service, the international missions projects have been neglected. If you would like to give either to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS—the spring missions) or World Mission Offering (WMO—the fall missions), or both, please still mail in your check and include which offering you would like to contribute to on the memo line. During this time of global crisis, we mustn't forget about these mission projects. Thank you!

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## Letter from the International Ministries CEO:

We all find ourselves this spring and summer living through very uncertain times. As followers of Jesus Christ, sometimes the best response we can give in the face of overwhelming unknowns is to take the time to remember how each of us has experienced and known God's faithfulness in the past.

As I think about International Ministries, the first thought that comes to my mind is how our 206 years of continued participation in the mission of God has only been possible because of God's faithfulness to us. God has been faithful in allowing us to serve him through two world wars, the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, 9/11, the 2008 recession, and so many other times of distress, upheaval, and loss around the world.

In each of these crises, it was not always obvious what God was up to or where God's hand was at work. In John 11, when Jesus reaches the tomb of Lazarus and meets Mary and Martha after Lazarus' death, the sisters are both saddened by the fact that "if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Yet, even in this sad statement, there is a clear expression of trust and hope in Jesus.

My prayer is that this letter finds you in a place where you are able to trust Jesus to make clear in God's time the things that perplex you.

**This year's World Mission Offering theme is "I once was blind, but now I see."** We are seeing God at work in so many hopeful and encouraging ways through our global servants and global partners. And we are sharing some of those stories with you and your church this September and October through videos, bulletin inserts, and other resources so you can see the impact you are having on global mission. Your participation now more than ever will help global servants and partners rebuild and re-establish ministries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and crisis. We have created a downloadable document (available at [www.worldmissionoffering.org](http://www.worldmissionoffering.org)) to offer you specific ideas on how to use our materials, whether your church will be meeting in person or virtually in September.

When confronted with uncertainty, we as Christians have the opportunity to respond with faith in Jesus. I urge you to consider prayerfully how your faithful giving and prayers could be used by God at this moment to impact the lives of many in need of him around the world today... until it is on earth as it is in heaven.

Gratefully,  
Sharon Koh, Executive Director / CEO



# Fort Wayne Baptist Church

## September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCIA SHEPPARD!!	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	7	8	9	10	11 HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHARLIE POWELL!!	12 HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARC ALDRIDGE!!
13 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	14	15	16	17 HAPPY BIRTHDAY PHYLLIS MISENER!!	18 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BILL & PHYLLIS MISENER!!	19 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAKKOBBA WOODWORTH!!
20 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	21	22	23	24 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOAN MORGAN!!	25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY NEIL SOWARDS!!	26
27 10:00 AM Worship Srvc.	28	29	30			