

*First Baptist Church*  
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**FIRST BAPTIST**  
**FARMINGTON**

*News and Views*

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June 27, 2019



**Goldilocks Christianity**

A few years ago, as I was driving past a local church, I noticed their marquee sign which read, "Pray with us - God, please stop the rain." I couldn't help but find this a little humorous because only two weeks earlier that same sign had read "Pray with us - God, please send the rain."

Where I was living at the time we had been dealing with one of the worst droughts the area had ever experienced. Lakes had dried up, farmers were losing their crops, ranchers couldn't feed their livestock, and food prices were spiking. During those years there were innumerable prayer meetings, many of which I was a part of, where God-fearing men and women cried out to God seeking relief. As the months and then years of the drought dragged on, we were all left wondering when the rains would come. And then they came. Oh my, how they came!

An old saying is that a drought always ends in a flood. I'm not sure of the science behind that, but it certainly proved true in this case. In the blink of an eye, things went from bone dry to soaking wet. I had never seen anything like it before. Now I don't want to make light of what was an extremely difficult and even tragic time for many, but when I saw how quickly that church sign had shifted from one extreme to the other, I couldn't help but wonder if God was up in Heaven asking, "Exactly how much rain would you prefer I send?"

I know full well that God didn't send a flood just because the prayers of His people weren't specific enough. However, this situation of going from one extreme to another reminded me how easy it is for Christians to fall into what I call the "Goldilocks trap." This is what happens when our relationship with God is focused on what we want from Him to make our lives seem "juuuust right!" When there's no rain we pray, "God, give us rain," but when the floods come we cry, "God, why did you let so much rain fall?"

Let me show you how this fallacy of our faith can be applied elsewhere. How many have asked, "God, could you please help me find a job?" But when the stress of the nine-to-five gets too tough the same person will plead, "God, I don't like this job I have, please give me a different one." Or how about, "God, I desperately desire to have a family. Will you please give me children?" only to later shout, "God, why did you give me these kids? They're driving me crazy!"

Just like Goldilocks, we want our lives to be lived in the sweet spot, where nothing's too hot or too cold, too big or too small, too hard or too soft. In our endless pursuit of perfection, we often focus our efforts, energy, and even our prayers on those missing pieces that we hope will make us happy. But is that really where God wants us to be?

When's the last time you prayed to God asking Him to make you uncomfortable or just to thank Him for the challenges you are facing? You may be asking what would be the purpose of doing such a thing, but think about it for just a moment. Isn't it precisely when life is uncomfortable that our faith is most effectively deepened? Let's consider the following Scripture.

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:1-2, ESV)*

We love the picture of being fruitful but we tend to forget that fruitfulness comes from being pruned, which is neither easy nor enjoyable. Going through trials or having one or more elements of your life out of whack may not be fun, but it is necessary. Consider this: Do not both the drought and the flood serve a purpose? We might not like either one but both teach extremely important lessons.

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<b>Regular Schedule:</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
8:00 A.M. Worship	7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track
9:15 A.M. Bible Study	6:00-6:45 P.M. Session 1
10:30 A.M. Worship	Ignite, Small Group Study
Lighthouse Harbor	6:45-7:30 P.M. Session 2
6:00 P.M. Worship	Ignite; Adult Choir; Prayer Meeting
<b>Activities for June 27 through July 10</b>	
<b>Thursday June 27</b>	<b>Friday June 28</b>
7:30-9:30 A.M. NO Walking Track	7:30-9:30 A.M. NO Walking Track
7:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. You Are The Light	7:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. You Are The Light
9:00 A.M. Seed Sew-ers	9:00 A.M. Seed Sew-ers
10:00 A.M. NO Life PLUS Bible Study	10:00 A.M. NO Life PLUS Bible Study
<b>Saturday June 29</b>	<b>Sunday June 30</b>
1:00 P.M. Family Reunion (gym)	Regular Schedule
<b>Sunday June 30</b>	1:30 P.M. Crocker Recital
Regular Schedule	<b>Monday July 1</b>
1:30 P.M. Crocker Recital	Youth Mission Trip
<b>Monday July 1</b>	7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track
Youth Mission Trip	1:30 P.M. CARE "C" Team
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	<b>Tuesday July 2</b>
1:30 P.M. CARE "C" Team	Youth Mission Trip
<b>Tuesday July 2</b>	7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track
Youth Mission Trip	
7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track	

<b>Wednesday July 3</b>	<b>Thursday July 4</b>
Summer Schedule	Independence Day - Office Closed
Youth Mission Trip	<b>Friday July 5</b>
	7:30-9:30 A.M. Walking Track
<b>Thursday July 4</b>	<b>Saturday July 6</b>
NO Ignite	Noon Family Fellowship
<b>Friday July 5</b>	<b>Sunday July 7</b>
Independence Day - Office Closed	Regular Schedule
<b>Saturday July 6</b>	5:00 P.M. Finance Committee
Noon Family Fellowship	7:00 P.M. Deacons Meeting
<b>Sunday July 7</b>	<b>Monday July 8</b>
Regular Schedule	8:30-11:30 A.M. Vacation Bible School
5:00 P.M. Finance Committee	1:30 P.M. CARE "A" group
7:00 P.M. Deacons Meeting	<b>Tuesday July 9</b>
<b>Monday July 8</b>	8:30-11:30 A.M. Vacation Bible School
8:30-11:30 A.M. Vacation Bible School	6:00 P.M. Budget Committee Meeting
CARE "A" group	<b>Wednesday July 10</b>
<b>Tuesday July 9</b>	8:30-11:30 A.M. Vacation Bible School
8:30-11:30 A.M. Vacation Bible School	
Budget Committee Meeting	
<b>Wednesday July 10</b>	
8:30-11:30 A.M. Vacation Bible School	



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Let me leave you with this:

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV)*

The next time you're tempted to ask God to fix, change, or provide something that you think will make your life "juuuuust right," think of these verses and try the following:

**Thank God** for what you are facing today, for you know that with His help, your faith will grow stronger.

**Tell God** you trust Him even though you don't understand why these things are happening.

**Ask God** to make you teachable so you can see past the pain to the increased fruitfulness waiting ahead.

**Worship God** for being God, the one who holds all things, including you, in the palm of His hand.

Blessings!

Pastor Greg

## Summer TEAM Games

It's not too late to join us for Ignite TEAM Games! Come join us every Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. and be placed on a team for a chance to win a BIG prize at the end of the summer.

## Mission Trip

Be in prayer for us as we leave this Sunday, June 30 for our Mission Trip! We will meet at 6:00 A.M. to pack and get on the road at 7:00 A.M.

## Sports Crusaders Meals

We are in need of some families to provide a lunch or dinner meal for the 3-4 Sports Crusaders Coaches during the week of July 8-12. If you are able to help, contact Pastor Jason.

## Youth Float Trip

Our youth are floating down the Black River on Monday, July 15. We will leave at 8:00 A.M. and will return to the church around 5:00 P.M. The cost is \$20 per person plus you will need to bring your own sack lunch. The deadline to register is Sunday, July 7.



Our 5th annual Basketball camp will take place the afternoons of VBS on July 8-12 from 1:00-4:00 P.M. Bring your children to VBS that morning and have them stay all day. The cost for camp is \$55 per child, and the camp is for all children who have completed grades 2-6. You may register in the office (573) 756-4654 or on our church website, [www.farmingtonfbc.org](http://www.farmingtonfbc.org).

## Back to School Fair Changes

The annual "Back to School Fair" has one again changed. A Women's Veterans Auxiliary in the Mineral Are has agreed to sponsor and organize the fair. FBCF has agreed to help this year with the donations of t-shirts. We still have some shirts left from last year and several more have been donated. The fair is August 3, at Mineral Area College. You can help in a few ways:

1. When you find "T" shirts at a good price now is the time to make the purchase.
2. Help organize the t-shirts on Thursday, August 1.
3. Help with the booth at Mineral the day of the fair.



July 25, FBCF Gym  
3:00 - 7:00 P.M.

For rapid pass or to make your reservation online please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter FBCFarmington. Walk-ins are also welcome.



July 8-12  
8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Please pray for the children, parents, and volunteers participating in VBS this week. Here are daily suggestions to guide you:

- Day 1 ~ thank God for sending Jesus to do His will. Ask that God will help kids and leaders to do God's will in their lives. John 6:38
- Day 2 ~ Thank God for giving us assurance that Jesus is indeed His Son. John 1:34
- Day 3 ~ Ask God to help us believe in His son and let our hearts not be troubled. John 14:1
- Day 4 ~ Ask God to help kids know that Jesus is the only way to have eternal life. John 14:6
- Day 5 ~ Thank God for sending the message of Christ so that we may believe. Romans 10:17

## Costume Closet

We are in the processes of cleaning out and organizing the costume closets. If you have borrowed a costume and/or prop please return to them church office so that we may have a better inventory of what is available.

## Thank You

I want to thank everyone who helped with the summer musical *Danny and the Shacks* ~ Barb Towler, Penny Robinson, Helen Griffin, Darrell Griffin, Susan Holman, Kimberlee Canter, Don Stephens, Darrell Griffin, Andrew Canter, Julia Robinson, David Rhives, Becky Bales, Matthew Klinkhardt, Lizzie Rhives, Highley Griffin, Karen Moore, Sarah Fletcher, Danny Copeland Aseneth Dispenziere, Marvin Dalton and the 2018-19 Graded Choir Leadership.

Thank you, Pastor Greg, for all you help, encouragement and for being the lion king. All of you helped to make this a happy and blessed experience for the kids. I could not have done this without you. Thank you for all the prayers.

Jeanie Griffin

## Prayer List:

Bonnie Robinson, Sandy Fritschle

## Christian Sympathy:

- To Clara Grimes and family in the death of her husband, Ronnie Grimes.
- To Eddie Powell and family in the death of his brother, Guy Powell.

## Congratulations:

To Maxine Cole on the arrival of a great granddaughter, Sailor Lim, June 14.

## Financial Statistics for:

June 16, 2019

Budget Requirements (wkly)	\$ 18,591.00
Budget Receipts (6-16-19)	13,119.14
Requirement (wk 37)	687,867.00
Receipts (wk 37)	676,386.32
STB-BTS (from Oct)	47,065.00