



Garden Matters

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” – Gen. 1:15

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.” – Gen. 8:22

Most of you know that I like to garden. It's a hobby that I learned from my parents and have found delight in being able to share with our grandsons. As the grandson of a farmer myself, there is something I find personally rewarding about working the soil – planting, cultivating, and harvesting takes me back to my roots. In fact, it's work that goes back to the beginning of creation and was reaffirmed after the flood. (See above) It's work that keeps one tied to the rhythmic movement of the seasons and fosters reflection on the wonder of life.

That said, this year my garden is off to something of a mixed start. As soon as the weather was warm enough, I tilled up the soil and began preparing it for planting. It was a little early in the season, but I took a chance and invited the grand boys to join me in some seed dropping. “This is the day we've been waiting for,” I told them, overseeing the disbursement of seeds for lettuce, spinach and peas.

A few days later the miracle of new life appeared. Little green sprouts pushed through the soil, tender and vulnerable, braving the cool nights, and soaking up the daytime sun. Since they made it, we added more: beans, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, potatoes and squash. They too began to grow. All was well, even the strawberries had begun to ripen.

But as the garden was getting its start, life was coming to a close for our dog Boomer. In his absence a warren of pesky rabbits has claimed the back lawn (garden included) as their own. Though the garden is mostly fenced in, with Boomer no longer a deterrent, the rabbits found an opening. Those beautiful beans and some of the peas have been stripped of their leaves – rabbit fodder! In dismay I've pointed out this desecration to anyone who will listen. Most feign alarm, but for me it's personal! So, I'm considering my next steps – sitting by the garden 24/7? Pie pans or other noise makers? A fake owl? A new dog? (Not an option, I'm told). Maybe I'll bury Boomer's ashes in the garden, so his essence is felt?

In the Bible God is oft compared to a gardener. Jesus says as much in John 15. Isaiah uses the language as well. Jeremiah says the Lord told the exiles to plant gardens. Proverbs 28:19 promises abundant food to those who work their land. Revelation 22 describes an urban garden of the new creation. The garden serves as a book-end image for life with God. There is little mention of rabbits, however, and what I have found is negative.

A few years ago, our family spent a couple of days in Canmore, Alberta Canada. Canmore is known for its rabbits. Years ago, someone turned out a bunch of tame rabbits on the town. They've since multiplied and can be found in abundance throughout the community. “How cute,” I heard someone say. Obviously not a gardener! May your summer sprout abundantly, your garden yield bountiful harvest and your life be free of all vermin.

Pastor Dan

Did you know? In 2021 over 725 lbs. of vegetables was donated from our FBC SEEDS garden ministry to Love Chapel.



SEASON OF THE CHURCH: PENTECOST

JUNE 4TH - NOVEMBER 26TH

Sabbath

I'm taking a break from classes for the summer. I had planned on doing a full year to see if taking the summer off was wise, but now I'm realizing: I'm tired!

Summer break is good. It's needed. Breaks in general are good and needed. And, since it's June, many of us are taking that good and needed break. Whether you're going on a vacation, taking a staycation, or just being outside more, this is a season of rest. But it's also a season of activity. The two things are not mutually exclusive.

After two summers on staff here, I'm preparing myself for the inevitable lull that our scheduling goes through. It caught me off guard the first two times, but now I'm ready for it. I have a house. I have hobbies and friends. So this summer is going to be full of restful activity.

Of course, I say that, but then surely something will get in the way won't it? We have a tendency to make grand plans even though they inevitably change. I wrote last month about waiting, and that continues to be what I hear from God: "Wait." For what? I don't know. But what if our rest was found in the activity of waiting on God to set His plans in place by enjoying the goodness of Creation around us? What if Sabbath was a way of training our eyes to see the Kingdom of God in our midst? What if peace was the key to our mission toward others who are also looking for it? What if practicing Pentecost by paying attention to the Holy Spirit breathing through us was enough to enliven us? (Would it be the first time?)

Peace.

- Pastor Daniel



Around The Church

Pentecost Sunday

We will celebrate Pentecost together on Sunday, June 5. Dr. Bill Griffith will be our guest preacher. You are invited to wear something “**red**” – the color of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Dan will be taking vacation the weeks of May 23 – June 5.

Vision Focus continues

In May we began a Sunday worship/preaching focus on the topic of “vision”, specifically looking at Bible texts where God’s vision was shared for a faith group or community (people of Israel, early church). This focus will continue in June by looking at a series of texts that are more focused on personal vision. We invite you to consider these passages ahead of time as we engage them on Sunday mornings:

June 12 – Isaiah 6 “**Seared Lips**, Dislocated Hips & Changed Name”

June 19 – Genesis 32:22-32 “Seared Lips, **Dislocated Hips** & Changed Name”

June 26 – Acts 9 “Seared Lips, Dislocated Hips & **Changed Name**”

Employment Opportunity

Laura Friedrich, our Administrative Assistant at FBC for the past 17 years, has announced her plans to retire effective July 31. We will miss Laura and are grateful for her faithful service and efficient administration of our church office.

The Church Council, led by our Staff Relations team, will be looking for the next person to fill this position. A job description and posting of the position appears on our website. If you know of someone interested in this opportunity, please share the information with them. Interested parties should submit a cover letter and resume to dcash@fbccolumbus.org.

Around The Church

CLASS OF 2022

Please join us in celebrating
the graduation of
Evan Babb

Open House at the Babb Home
Sunday, June 5th
1p.m. - 4 p.m.

2948 Wild Orchid Way
Columbus, IN

Evan will be attending Ball State
University in the fall.



*thank
you*

Thank you to all who made School kits and Health kits this year for Church World Service. Fifteen School kits and nineteen Health kits are being donated to them. The kits are used here in the U.S. and around the world to help people in emergency situations.



Wedding of Jacob Jessup & Reilly Jones

You're invited to livestream their wedding
Saturday, June 18 at 3:55pm

To view this event just click the link below:
<https://boxcast.tv/view/jessup-wedding-ebncdykydhjytqjvr4uq>
or copy and paste it into your browser.



MISSION

Faith Partners in Compassion Update

This mission effort has been one of waiting, patience, and perseverance. We continue to explore options for bringing a displaced Afghani family to Columbus to be part of our community and a growing group of families supported by local faith communities.

We will share information as soon as it becomes available. Meanwhile, thanks for your continued prayers and readiness. Please also continue to pray for the other "Faith Partner" congregations in Columbus who are involved in this project.

Heart Matters

So what were you doing on Saturday, May 21 around 4:00 p.m. when the storm hit and the electric power stopped? No TV, no cooking, no lights, no air conditioning, no computer, no refrigeration. A definite surprise and change of routine. Right?

I have to confess, at first I started to grow a little anxious and impatient. But as I settled in, I found it all a bit refreshing...a time for quiet, for reflecting and for journaling. As darkness set in and I lit a candle, I was reminded that: we do not dwell in darkness because we have the "Light of the world" (John 18:12); "His Word is a lamp for my feet and a Light for my path"; we do not always have to hear the surround sounds of the world because He gives us a song in our hearts to sing (Psalm 104:33).

It reminded me to "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). And it reminded me that we are NEVER without Power...the Power that controls and changes the world around us, the Power that lives within us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In, through, by and because of that power we can be and do all that He calls us to be and do.

God called and empowered Billy Graham, the great evangelist, to preach the Gospel to thousands perhaps millions of people all over the world. But I believe our calling is on a smaller scale. God calls me, God calls you and God empowers us to share our faith story with "One At A Time" with an open, simple, genuine, humble and personal faith journey.

Are you ready, willing and prepared to do that for Him?

Jan Carlstrom (Evangelism)

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

June 5 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman
June 12 - Paul & Carol Poe
June 19 - Bob & Jean Langdon
June 26 - Kerry & Alice Richmond

Serving in the Nursery:

First Sunday: Susan Hoffman
Second Sunday: Adams
Third Sunday: Fee
Fourth Sunday: *Open*
Fifth Sunday: *Open*

Children's Sunday School

2-4 Year Olds -

Teachers:

First Sunday: Ben Slaton
Second Sunday: Susan Carter
Third Sunday: Carol Poe/Beth Slaton
Fourth Sunday: Heidi Jones
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Helpers:

First Sunday: Slatons
Second Sunday: *Open*
Third Sunday: Jennifer Kelley
Fourth Sunday: *Open*
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Kids Connection:

First Sunday: Marcia Cheek
Second Sunday: Linda Reid
Third Sunday: Terri Ketterling
Fourth Sunday: Deanna Glick

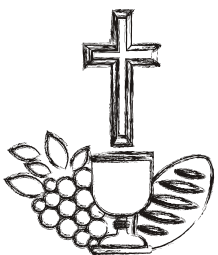
No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.



June Coffee Fellowship (following worship) - June 26

Last names R-Z are invited to bring treats to share.

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, June 5

For those of you who join us for worship via live stream, we invite you to have something available to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.

June Birthdays



4. ~ Lindsay Silcox
5. ~ Larry Sims
6. ~ Troy Cheek
8. ~ Michelle Emmert
9. ~ Tim Pickup
10. ~ Dennis Orwin
12. ~ Ted Burton
14. ~ Ramona Harlow, Josh Fields
16. ~ Donna Emmert

20. ~ Julia Casey
21. ~ Frank Tull
22. ~ Keith Arbuckle, Margaret Hatter
23. ~ Jon Carlstrom
24. ~ Adrienne Hatton
25. ~ Roberta Walls, Eric Olson, Emma Patrick
27. ~ Jessica Arbuckle, Catherine Fields, Ben Slaton
29. ~ Dennis Steele

The Body of Christ Prays For...



Ramona Harlow, Beth & Dick Miller, Jon Carlstrom, Ashley Fee, Joan Kline, Marcia Battle, Jeanette McKim, Rick McClintock, Myrna Shane, Lois Griffith, Donna Moore, Shorty Whittington, Alice Richmond, Joyce Sutton & all others who are homebound, in nursing care centers, and recovering from illness.

Looking Ahead

June 15 - Newsletter Deadline
June 17 - Wedding Rehearsal
June 18 - Wedding of Jake Jessup & Reilly Jones
June 21 - Church Council (7:00 pm)
June 26 - Coffee Fellowship (Last Names R-Z are invited to bring snacks)

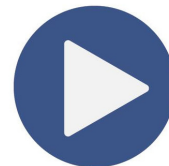
Prayer Shawl Group continues on Tuesdays at 11:15 am

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am
(in-person worship & Live Stream)

2nd Hour Learning - following worship at 10:45 am

Live streaming available for Sunday Services

In addition to watching our streaming service on our website, the service is also streamed to Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30
firstbaptistcolumbus.org



FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH