

First Reminder

THE PONDERINGS WITH PASTOR BEN POOLE

Are you enjoying this? I mean, at the beginning, it was kind of nice, no people, no problems. But then you begin to miss the people, you begin to miss the normalcy of life. Then it gets worse, you wish you could even deal with a little drama just to have something from before. Okay, maybe not drama, but you definitely miss what was, and desire to have it back again.

Our nation and culture have taken this time to spew lies, conspiracies, promote fear above faith to keep everyone at bay. Sure, I have my frustrations and thoughts on what is going on, but the reality is...doesn't matter what I think. What matters is what I do.

We, as Christians, are called to a higher way of living. We are called to live above the noise of this world, to begin seeing the world from God's perspective. Not easy, is it? What is easy is getting into the gossip, getting into the noise. It is easy to spread more fear, more hate, to take sides – cast blame. What good has it done? ZIP! ZERO! NADA!

Listen, the world has faced hundreds, if not thousands of pandemics, diseases, things that have shook people to the core during the time they were experiencing it. I don't believe there needs to be any fear in you. Definitely be aware, and take the necessary precautions, but you have nothing to fear. Many of you have experienced great hardships, seen things many others could never imagine. Losing control to fear doesn't help but will only hinder.

Paul writes to the Church in Rome (remember these people were suffering under the Roman empire, being hunted like animals-legally-and murdered in the streets) and give them this encouragement:

“³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” – Romans 5:3-5 NLT

Church, though this time is not what we want it to be, and we eagerly wait for what is to come, rejoice in the trial! As we do what seems completely unnatural, to make those in the world shake their heads at us in true wonder, our faith will only be made stronger. We will be equipped to endure ever greater trials as they come. Here's hoping the next one is long down the road...

Always remember, Jesus love you! I love you! And there is nothing you can do to stop us.

Pastor Ben Poole



Mother's Day

Each one of us has a story woven within that is so beautiful from our Creator, that He allows us to share our journey with a woman God ordained to be our mother.

Throughout history and even in times of famine strong, female characters dot our minds and complete our imagery of how social constructs formed society as we know it today.

From the very first mother, Eve, to our mothers of today, many similarities still exist with the way we raise our children.

Strong women often set the example for our daughters in today's society to know how to make confident decisions. In fact, I strongly

believe, that God has placed this as one of our greatest responsibilities—raising the next generation of Biblical leaders.

As a woman, I know the road and struggles I have faced to find God's calling sometimes daily. I struggle—HARD—many days to stay on a course that I believe God uses. Yet, at the end of the day, I know it's not up to me because I can see His grace and mercy in my life and my family's life. That's the true miracle. I had nothing to do with it. If I did I'm pretty sure that I would not be reflective of Proverbs 31 at all.

Proverbs and Song of Solomon provides powerful images and comparisons for women. Women and moth-

ers have a calling to provide leadership through action and example. What does that mean though? It certainly doesn't mean being PTA, Soccer Mom, Basketball Mom, and Cheer Mom because that's what society "SAID TO DO". God instructs us in Deuteronomy 4:9 "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." Good advice from ages ago.

Honoring ALL of our beautiful mothers this year —Lacey Fleeman.

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness." Proverbs 31:26 (NKJV)

CHURCH HOURS

Welcome, Pastor Ben Poole to First Baptist Church as Senior Pastor. We are so glad to have you as our God chosen leader.

As previously announced, and even through the Covid-19 pandemic, Pastor Ben will maintain regular office hours from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

Please feel free to call the church with questions, concerns or prayer requests.

Pastor Ben's information will be listed at the bottom of this information. He does have two small children. Please be considerate and do not call later in the evening unless it is an emergency.

Church Phone:

(308)-635-2548

Pastor Ben's Cell:

(308)-562-0089

LOOKING AHEAD:

On Bended Knees and Humbled Hearts

Ahh—Spring, joyous, springtime in Western Nebraska. So many of us look forward to this time of year so that our annual traditions of camping, fishing and traveling can begin after a long winter. The farmers have begun their work and signs of new life are showing daily in our yards. I love spring!

COVID-19 and quarantine is hopefully going to draw to an end sooner rather than later. However, I will admit that I have used the last three weeks of working at home to find a few new creative ways to spend time with my kiddo. She's somewhere between giving me more hugs than I've ever gotten (and I mean EVER!) and driving me crazy because she did not realize her mom was a really good teacher.

I've used this time to get really creative with all of the hours together so I thought I would share a few ideas. Next month, I am pretty sure we will either be wrapping up this quarantine or talking about the end of it (HOPEFULLY!) so I'm hoping some more of my Mom's/parents will pitch in some creative solutions to share

on this article too. The biggest change you've all seen is us getting active. A super cost friendly idea we did was buying bikes at a local thrift shop (two for under \$100!) for hours of family fun. Did I mention family picnics every day? Those are a major bonus. With all this meal prepping it's super easy for Caleigh to plan picnics on days she chooses. It's a great way to play soccer or add a little mom and me time in the middle of a stressful day. It's fun and FREE.

We also started an herb garden on our front porch with mint, basil and cherry tomatoes. It's so much fun and very aromatic. Our next project is maybe a butterfly garden or Venus Fly Trap.

Rainy days are here so aside from school we fill our time with games, music, lots of dancing and singing (Caleigh loves to sing A LOT! With Patrick) and family reading time. I am looking forward to Camp Rock and VBS SOON!

WHAT ABOUT YOU? TELL ME HERE!

(Contributed by Lacey Fleeman)

First Baptist Ministries Continue—We Need YOU!

Church services on Facebook are up and going quite successfully and will hopefully be together again soon. Church leadership is meeting the first week of May to discuss the new health mandates to see how they can be safely implemented for our church family.

UNTIL THEN....

Your offering is vital to the continued support of our outreach not only to our members but to the community of Scottsbluff. So many people are hurting right now and need to see the love of Jesus Christ. We truly have an opportunity to show the Great Commission in action more than ever! Continue giving online through the website, mailing in your offering or dropping it off during office hours. A deacon will even come pick it up for you (just call the church).

Hymn of Inspiration for the Month: “Because He Lives”

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain day, because He lives

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

And then one day, I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

HONORING GRADUATES & VETERANS

May normally brings many gatherings to celebrate graduations and our veterans.

Although First Baptist Church does not have any seniors this year, we pray for success and happiness for all those who are graduating this year. In a small community we are all tied together.

May is also a time when our church celebrates and honors our veterans. To our many Veterans, their families, whether here or abroad, thank you.

Our church normally closes May with a barbeque hosted by the Deacons. At this time, and for obvious reasons, nothing has been announced for this event. If it is scheduled an announcement will be made in the future. Rest assured, that God will bring FBC Scottsbluff through this stronger than ever. Continue praying and we will fellowship together soon.

First Baptist Church Funny Page (AKA Covid-19 Can't Keep Us Frowning!)

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



"We know what our summer project can be.
We can start a water slide ministry."



"Hello, Pizza Palace? For Mother's Day,
would you deliver breakfast in bed?"

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF SCOTTSBLUFF**

Weekly Activities

Sundays:

Breakfast 7:30-8:30

Sunday School 9-10

Worship Service 10:30-12

Mondays:

Topical Bible Study (Verlie
Wagner's Home) 6:30 PM

Wednesdays:

Fellowship Meal 6:00 PM

Praise Team 7 PM

Fridays: Bible Study Fellow-
ship Hall

OUR COVENANT AS MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Having been led by the Holy Spirit into a new relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, and having repented of our sins and trusted in Jesus for our salvation, we now commit ourselves to walk in newness of life.

As members of one Body in Christ, we now know God's grace and his claim on our lives. Therefore, we joyfully accept this Covenant as an expression of our faith, trusting the Holy Spirit to help us as we fulfill our Covenant to Christ and his Church

We acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus over every area of our life, and the power of the indwelling Spirit to strengthen and direct us in all we do. We will seek to be faithful in personal prayer and Bible Study, to maintain a devotional life, and to educate our children. We agree to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to remember each other in prayer. We will share each other's joys and sorrows, and be patient with each other's weaknesses and failures. We will be slow to criticize or take offense, but quick to ask and give forgiveness. We will be gracious in speech, and seek to build up one another through the expression of love. In the Christian faith. In work and action, we will share our faith in Christ as opportunity allows, seeking the salvation of our relatives and friends.

We will meet together regularly to worship, study, pray, and observe the ordinances of Baptism and Communion. We will seek the love and unity of the Holy Spirit in our fellowship, encouraging one another in spiritual growth. Recognizing that our time, abilities and resources are all a trust from God, we will be faithful in stewardship, contributing regularly and cheerfully to support the ministry of our Church, to help the poor, and to spread the Gospel at home and around the world.

We will seek to direct all our behavior in obedience to the Great Commandment – that we love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. We will be honest and gentle in our dealings with all persons. We will seek the direction of the Holy Spirit in every matter, and when convinced that any personal attitude, habit, or activity is harmful to ourselves or others, we will make every effort to correct it.

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