



MAY 2024

Color and the Church Year

God has blessed our world with a variety of color. We all have our favorite colors. We prefer color that looks good on us. Color is used to identify our team, or country, or brand. Color speaks to our mood.

Color has also been used in the church to help communicate important lessons. During our past Holy week colored cloth was draped on the cross to help remind us of the meaning of the season. Thank you to those who suggested the enhancement.

There is an interest in using color to drape the cross during special times of the year. Why and what do these colors mean? For centuries, Christian Churches have used color to communicate the seasons of the church calendar, sometimes called the Liturgical Year (meaning: having to do with public worship).

Within each of those seasons, there are special worship services that help us name and celebrate our participation in the Christian story today.

Advent : Originally begun as a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, Advent is a time of expectancy and anticipation in which we “prepare the way of the Lord.” In the ninth century, Advent was established as being the four Sundays before Christmas counted down by lighting the candles of an Advent wreath.



Our worship services throughout Advent focus on the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy, and love. The color for Advent is purple, signifying “royalty” and the reign of Christ on earth. Christmas : Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ, is one of the high-water marks of the liturgical calendar. With great joy, we remember that God has come to be part of our world and part of our lives.

Advent at First Baptist culminates in our Christmas Eve service. While the structure of this service may vary from year-to-year, the traditions of telling the story of Jesus’ birth, singing carols, and lighting a candle to signify our witness that the light of the world has come. The color for Christmas is white, signifying purity, joy, and light.

Epiphany : The Christmas season concludes with Epiphany, a word meaning “manifestation” or “showing forth.” It commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child.

Continued from page 1...
Color and the Church Year

The Magi understood that Jesus was “God with us;” it is the mystery and the miracle of Epiphany that these wise ones knew enough to fall down and worship Jesus. Epiphany Sunday is observed on the Sunday closest to Epiphany, January 6. The final Sunday after Epiphany recounts the Transfiguration of Christ. The color for Epiphany is white, signifying joy and light.

Lent : Lent is part of the Easter cycle which begins forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays). Lent is a time to rest, to meditate, to pray, and to gather spiritual strength in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The color for Lent is purple, signifying mourning and repentance.

Ash Wednesday : Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. In many churches Ash Wednesday service is a reflective service including the imposition of ashes on the forehead. The wearing of ashes signifies sorrow (for our sinfulness) and repentance (a desire to turn away from self and toward God).

Palm Sunday : Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Worship on this day enacts this event and foretells the coming week in the life of Christ. Our children process into the sanctuary waving palm fronds in anticipation of the coming of Christ’s kingdom.

Maundy Thursday : “Maundy” is derived from the Latin word meaning “commandment” and recalls Jesus’ words to his disciples just before his arrest: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” Our Maundy Thursday service relives Jesus’ last evening through meditative scripture and song, and worshippers are invited to participate in Holy Communion.

Good Friday : On Good Friday, the most solemn date on the Christian calendar, we remember the Crucifixion of Christ. The color for Good Friday is black, signifying death and mourning.

Easter : This day of celebration is marked with joy and festive expressions in the exclamation of Christ’s resurrection. The Easter service of worship at First Baptist focuses on Christ’s defeat of death and his living presence in our world. “He is Risen! He is risen indeed!” We pronounce our faith, “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!” The color for Easter is white.

Pentecost : Fifty days after Easter, Pentecost celebrates the birth of the church and empowering of the Holy Spirit. A vibrant service of worship celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit, who is at work in the Church and in the world. The color for Pentecost is red, signifying the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit.

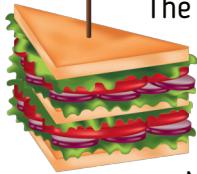
Ordinary Time : The Sundays after Pentecost comprise the liturgical year’s longest period, which lasts until Advent. While the other liturgical seasons relive the life of Christ, this season focuses on the ongoing work of the church. The color for Ordinary time is green, the color of growth, reminding the church that we are given the charge to make disciples who follow Christ in the Kingdom of God.

As we move through the Church Year, may color remind us of the miracle of Jesus’ love.

(This article prepared with help from the website of the First Baptist Church, Greenwood, Indiana.)



Keenagers Update



The Keenagers, our senior adult group, will be meeting at 11:00 am on May 16 at the Garver Family Farm Market. FBC has connections as the owners are Dave and Janet Hazelwood's (FBC members) daughter and husband. Dave and Janet's granddaughter, Alayna, will be giving us the tour. Of course, we will also share lunch together. I hear the food is wonderful! If you have more questions, contact Tonja Randall.



The Abell Circle

The Abell Circle brought in \$777.00 last month in donations with an additional \$200 donated by the Circle. They were able to purchase sheet sets, blankets, and pillows for the Serve City shelter. Money was also sent to Church World Service for blankets. Many thanks to those supporting their efforts.

Abell Circle will meet Tuesday, May 14 at 10:30 in the church library. They will be taking donations for the Women and Girls Fund. This is their last meeting before summer break.

Where to Go When You Are Here:

Sunday School & Groups

9 A.M. Sundays

Nursery/Toddlers - Room 207
Children Pre-K - 6th grade - Room 206
Youth 7th - 12th grade - Room 201
Berean Adult Bible Fellowship - Room 200
WINGS, Women In God's Service - Room 205

Wednesday Groups

6 P.M.

First Baptist Youth, grades 7-12 - Room 201
Adult Prayer & Bible Study - Room 200

6:30 P.M.

First Baptist Kids, Pre-K through 6th
Room 206

First Baptist Youth

7-12 grades

Led by JD & Becky Simpson
and Natalie Lakes

9 a.m. Sundays

6 p.m. Wednesdays
in Room 201

First Baptist Kids

Pre-K-6 grades

Sundays @ 9 a.m.
Room 206

Nancy Whipple, Debby Gibson,
Jill O'Hara, Lisa Witmer - Teachers

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.
Room 206

Jill O'Hara - Lead Teacher

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HAMILTON

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



BREAKER ROCK BEACH

GOD'S ROCK-SOLID TRUTH IN A
WORLD OF SHIFTING SANDS
ROMANS 12:2

9 A.M.-NOON JUNE 24-28, 2024

>> FOR CHILDREN AGE 4 TO COMPLETED 6TH GRADE <<

1501 PYRAMID BLVD.
(513) 868-1412 | GOFBCH.ORG



REGISTER ONLINE BY JUNE 23



VBS 2024

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it! We're very excited for the opportunities we will have as the youngsters join us to learn about Jesus.

Please be in prayer for those that will be coming through our doors. May they be blessed and encouraged.

Let those you know with young ones that they can register early. They can go online at gofbch.org.



Volunteers for VBS, please **save June 2** on your calendar. We will be having a volunteer lunch that day as we prepare for the big day! It will be immediately after church on the stage.

Pulpit Schedule

As First Baptist is in the process of seeking a new senior minister, others are filling in on Sunday mornings. The following is the current list of who will be giving the message.



- May 5 - Dr. Dan Clemens
- May 12 - Rev. Chuck Russell
- May 19 - Rev. Chris Beecher
- May 26 - Rev. Chuck Russell

Series: Who Are Those Pictures on the Wall?

(part 1)

REV. JOHN S. BRINKMAN

It seems good as FBC Hamilton begins our official 178th year, that we might consider the pastors of the past 100 years. We begin with the Rev. Dr. John S. Brinkman, pastor Sept. 30, 1928 – Aug. 16, 1949.

John S. (Silas) Brinkman was born Aug 26, 1892 in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. He married Ila, they had 3 sons, 2 daughters. He was a veteran.

Rev. Brinkman descends from an ancestral line of ministers, his father having been a lay-pastor in Lincoln, Nebraska and his grandfather an ordained Lutheran minister in Sweden. He and Mrs. Brinkman were graduates of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, and he attended seminary.

Rev. John S. Brinkman accepted a unanimous call and came from Pontiac, Illinois to begin his ministry on September 30, 1928. He was interested, not only in shepherding his people, but also in many worthwhile community projects. For many years he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Fort Hamilton Hospital, Booker T. Washington Center, and Salvation Army Advisory Board. He also served for years on the Ohio Baptist Board of Managers and was elected President of the Ohio Baptist State Convention for two successive years.

Dr. Brinkman's pastorate became the longest the church had ever known (at that time). This became possible because of his versatility as a Bible teaching preacher, a skilled administrator, with deep warm-hearted love for people. That love was greatly reciprocated by the large and growing congregation. Mrs. Brinkman was a happy and fruitful co-laborer with her husband as she shared in numerous positions of leadership and teaching.



On Sunday August 14, 1949, Dr. Brinkman preached both morning and evening. He entered the Fort Hamilton Hospital as a patient on Monday and spent part of the evening visiting among other patients whom he knew. Tuesday morning, he underwent surgery and Tuesday night the city was shocked with the special news bulletin that his earthly ministry had been completed. The deep grief of the church was shared by people in every walk of life throughout the city where his fidelity to Jesus Christ, and the church, and his tender concern for all mankind had made indelible impressions as in the likeness of His Lord as he went about doing good. During his pastorate he received 1,651 new members into the church, 1,075 of which came by baptism.



Happy Birthday

May Birthdays

5/1
Nancy Muskopf
5/6
Lilly Gibson
5/6
Lisa Dulli
5/9
Ruben Calzado
5/18
Ruth Gaskins
5/24
Marilyn Shearer

5/25
Abram Simpson
5/27
Troy Miller
5/28
Jerry Hampton
5/29
Dorothy Hollowell
5/30
Alaina Witmer
5/31
Isaiah Witmer



Tabitha Ministries

We are meeting every 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month from 9:30-noon. We will be working on pillowcase dresses for our missionaries. Ann Clemmer has 1,700 children in her area! We will also be making quilts for Pathway to HOPE along with lap quilts for our shut-ins and baby quilts for our new babies at church. Please contact Cheryl Motzer if you know of a shut-in or new baby. We also have dress or quilt kits if you would like to sew something at home and bring it back to church!

Online giving is easy: Give it a try

If you're using the internet, go to the website:
<https://fbchamilton.churchcenter.com/giving>

If you're on your phone or tablet, download the "Church Center" app and find First Baptist Church of Hamilton.

You will need your bank account website login details to set up recurring payments. Have that in hand before proceeding. We ask that you include the processing fee, which is .25 to .30 cents per donation.

Church Center can also be used for getting more information about FBCH and to check in on Sundays. It is a service of Planning Center, which we use to keep membership records and more.



**CHURCHCENTER
APP**



Pathway to HOPE 10th Annual Banquet May 16

Pathway to HOPE Pregnancy Care Center has served Hamilton and surrounding Butler County for 31 years. Mission Board is once again sponsoring a table at this event and invites anyone interested to fill our table and attend.

You will be blessed by the testimonies and the work of this ministry. Keynote speaker is Scott Klusendorf, teacher and author and President of Life Training Institute. The banquet is at 6:30pm at the Savannah Center in West Chester. See Cathi Thomas or call the office to reserve your place!



IM Global Encounter Carry-in Dinner and Watch Party, May 22

Join us to celebrate our church's long connection with missions and IM through coming together for fellowship and to watch this online presentation from our global servants across the globe.

Carry-in meal begins at 5:15, and watch party starts at 6pm in Room 200. This takes the place of the regular Wednesday night prayer/Bible study.

PLEASE sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board for a side or dessert (Mission Board is providing the chicken entrée.) You can also RSVP on the connect card or by calling the office.



Pastoral Search Committee Elected

At the first quarterly Congregational Meeting on April 21, church members voted for the following people to serve on our Pastoral Search Committee.

The newly elected members are: Larry Bowling, Kathy Click, Juli Ford, Megan Miller, Tonja Randall, J.D. Simpson, and Bob Thiemann.

Their job is to seek out the next permanent pastor for FBC. Please be in prayer for them as they begin their search.

In the meantime, the Deacons Board is charged with finding an interim pastor for the church. They are moving forward in their duties as well.





Come Celebrate Memorial Day with Us!

The Board of Christian Education is sponsoring a carry-in lunch on May 26, immediately following church. They will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring a side or dessert to share. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside of the family center or you can call the office. If you have questions, contact Becky Simpson.



A Prayer for All Mothers

On this joyous day dedicated to honoring mothers, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude. We ask, Lord, for Your special touch upon every mother who is a part of our family here at FBC. Bless them abundantly, and may the work of their hands be forever cherished in Your sight.

Grant each mother strength, patience, and endless love as they nurture and guide their families. Let her example to her children be a beacon that guides them through life's challenges and joys. May her wisdom and faith be a legacy passed down to the next generation of mothers.

We also pray for comfort and support for those who find this day difficult--those who have lost their mothers, those yearning to be mothers, and those who have strained relationships. Surround them with Your love and peace, providing comfort in their hearts.

May today be a reflection of the joy and beauty they bring into our lives. We thank You for the gift of motherhood, the endless sacrifices made, and the unconditional love given. We ask these blessings in Your holy name, Amen.

--author unknown

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

