



The *June 2018*
Anchor



We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a

**First Baptist Church , 215 Ann Street, Ravenswood, WV 26164 ~
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As we begin to head into the summer months, we hear many of church members talking about vacations, family reunions, outdoor events and cookouts. All of these events are wonderful settings that will open the door for relationship building if we think about those opportunities before we take part.

For example, one of the greatest things we can do at these events is to talk about our love of Jesus Christ with our friends and family. Having this meaningful fellowship time at these events does not have to be preachy and intrusive, but what they can be is genuine and honest. What is meaningful fellowship, you may wonder, and how do we do it? It is actually not that complicated and is much easier than you think. **The concept of meaningful fellowship is to use five-to-ten minutes and tell someone what you are up to, or doing in church, and always end that conversation by inviting them to join you at an upcoming service.**

According to Christianity Today, nine out of ten people who are unchurched say they would attend a service if they were invited. **Can you believe that fact?** Nine out of ten unchurched people surveyed said they would attend a service if they were asked. We are missing opportunities at every corner.

In the coming months, you'll hear me talk a lot about *growing from the inside out*. When you hear that, what I mean is that we need to start inviting some people we know to join us at First Baptist. It is fun to go to church with people you know. Imagine two or three people right now that you would love to have in church with you today if you could. Often, we fall prey to hoping people will just walk through our doors on Sunday. We need to be more intentional in our efforts. I have found that being intentional doesn't have to be "Bible-Pounding," it just needs to be done in love and sincerity. It is as simple as saying why you attend church.

One more nugget before I go this month! In the same article I referenced, it points out that many of the unchurched felt guilty about not attending church. This is another reason that having a real or genuine conversation with someone you know is a great place to start.

We have a great church. First Baptist has plenty of seats for people to come join us and learn about the Lord. There's probably a seat by you that you can offer that special someone in your friend circle. We have great youth programs to encourage these persons to bring their children to youth fellowship for spiritual growth. The Bible is clear about our efforts being fruitful. ***In Isaiah 51:11, we learn the Lord's Word will not be void...It will achieve its purpose.***

So, don't be afraid, and let us invite someone to church.

In His service,

Pastor Toby



The Youth at First Baptist will have a busy month ahead as summer gets underway. We have several youth attending Camp Cowen this year in Webster County. Camp Cowen is a great place where kids get to be kids, with opportunities to grow in their faith. We are pleased to announce that we have 8 youth attending camps this year. Several of our younger kids will be attending camp the week of June 24 through June 30.

We do still have time for July registrations for Camp Cowen. *The early bird deadline for July registration is June 15.* If you are interested, please see Susan West or Pastor Toby as soon as possible. If you need a scholarship in order for your child to attend camp, please let us know. *Church members who would like a donation to support our camp scholarships, please earmark your check as **camp sponsor**.*

First Baptist will have four high school teenagers attending *Brothers Keeper* later this month. This includes **Zack Graham, Nikki Nicholson, John Wagoner and Aaron Wagoner.** *Brothers Keeper* gives teenagers the chance to complete local mission project work specifically helping persons who are unable to make much needed repairs to their homes in Jackson County. Frank Miller at Parchment Valley Conference Center oversees the program and it is a first class operation. First Baptist makes an annual contribution to *Brothers Keeper* to support this annual ministry.

Vacation Bible School is coming up in a just a couple of weeks. This is going to be a great time for everyone. There will be a special finale of fun including a waterslide. *Dates for Bible School are June 11 through June 15 with the finale on Saturday June 16 from 11-2.* Liz Stewart is the Bible School Director this year. Adults, please ask Liz about how you can help with this year's event. If nothing else, please come and show your support. We can always use some extra hands, here and there.

On Saturday, June 30, the church is sponsoring a trip to the ***Living Word Outdoor Drama***. All youth in the church can attend for free. They must register in advance. The event takes place in Cambridge, Ohio. Pastor Toby will have a van rented that will accommodate about 15. So far, four teenagers are already signed up to attend. Adults can go for \$10. Please see Dena Williams for more information. The trip will depart around 3:30 p.m. and return about 11:30 p.m. This is an amazing outdoor drama! If you only take one church trip this year, this would be a good one.

The youth are busy planning some summer events for July and August including a ðFriends and Familyö pool party in Ravenswood, a trip to the Putnam Wave Pool, the Sky Zone Trampoline Park, and maybe even the Columbus Zoo. We are currently looking at dates for July and August. Most of these events will be open to all of youth and their families. *Please see your youth leader about details.* More info will be coming soon.

First Baptist loves our young people. If you are willing to volunteer to help with our youth programs, take a turn in the nursery or children's church, please let Liz Stewart or the office know. *We will make your volunteering fun. In fact, we believe you will be blessed for your efforts.*

Love and Prayers,

Pastor Toby