

Week of: May 15, 2022
5th Sunday of Easter

Weekly Communique

Words of Encouragement From Pastor Gina

Scripture: Throughout the Month of May Our Weekly Devotions Will Focus on the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23: *By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. The Greek word translated "fruit" refers to the natural product of a living thing. Paul used "fruit" to help us understand the product of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside every believer. The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit, not by the Christian. The Greek word is singular, showing that "fruit" is a unified whole, not independent characteristics. As we grow, all the characteristics of Christ will be manifested in our lives.*

The Apostle Paul uses 9 characteristics to describe the fruit of the Spirit in the book of Galatians.

Let's take a look at: Patience and Kindness

Patience is the ability to restrain one's anger, retaliation, and revenge in the face of provocation, thus it is being slow to anger and long suffering. The experience of patience begins with God's patience with me which is then to be extended toward others. The practice of patience encompasses not only my actions but especially my words and attitudes. It forbids being critical, judging others before its time, grumbling, gossiping, whining, and complaining. It is the result of the Holy Spirit's strengthening, and it is motivated both by our hope in the Lord and its ensuing joy. Further, it is associated with love, forbearance, forgiveness, perseverance, and thankfulness toward those who provoke and offend us. The proper response of those receiving patience is repentance.

Kindness is directly associated with patience or long-suffering. Patience is basically restraint, while kindness is restraint and more. Kindness is not simply the absence of retaliation, but its definitional accent is on its positive action. It is a gesture which not only restrains arrogance, harshness, pain, or evil, but positively it seeks only good for the other which is extended humbly, in sweetness, softness, gentleness, usefulness, and graciousness. It is the positive gentle work of the Holy Spirit moving God's kindness through our souls then extending that kindness to others through us. It is supremely displayed in God's saving acts in Christ which are motivated by His love, mercy, and grace. Thus, kindness is motivated by love and is an expression of goodness.

God's perfect patience often leads to God's perfect kindness and vice versa. In fact, we could think of it as patience leading to kindness and kindness leading to patience and so on and so on. Both require the other to produce fruit.

Praying with and for you,
Pastor Gina



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Blair First United Methodist Church

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Full Calendar of events may be found on our website.
Regular 9:30am Service Resumes.

May 15th: 9:30 AM Worship Service In-Person with Live Streaming and Holy Communion. 9:30 AM PreK-1st Grade Sunday School will be dismissed after Children's Message, (last Sunday of Sunday School for the Season). Coffee Fellowship following Worship.

Sermon: "Where I am Going"
Scripture: John 13:31-35



May 22nd 9:30 AM Worship Service: In-Person with Live Streaming. There will be an interactive Children's Message. Nursery provided. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.

Weekly Communique ~

Children, Youth, Information, Connections

Graduate Recognition, May 8, 2022



Picture above: Graduates receiving Prayer Shawls.
L-R: Donna Lange (presenter); Calvin Lorenzen; Ashton Tranmer; Samantha Grabowski; Breanna Matzen; Montanna Hirschert; Lexington Jones and Alec Cook, not pictured; Jordan Wolfe.

List of additional Graduates:
Grace Fowler; Kenna Heisterkamp; Ian Lode and Samantha Murray

College/Higher Learning Institutions: Carmen Shumake Fister graduated from Full Sail Univ. in Feb. with a BA degree in Graphic Arts .



Pictured above, right: Recipients of \$1,000 for each for the Youth Service Award. L-R: Samantha Grabowski and Breanna Matzen.

Summer Schedule Beginning May 22nd

This Sunday, May 15, will be the last day of Sunday School for the season. Beginning May 22nd, Pastor Gina will involve students in an interactive Children's Message during Worship. Nursery will be provided for Grade 1 and under. 2nd Grade on up is invited to share in worship. Busy bags will be available at the back of the sanctuary.

Weekly Happenings

(Please submit any entries to the office by Wednesday, 3:00pm.)

Sunday, May 15th: 6:00 PM Men's Book Club at Ross Campbell's.

Monday, May 16th: 6:00-7:00 Brownies (Fellowship Hall).

Wednesday, May 18th: 9:30 AM United Methodist Women (Parlor).

Thursday, May 19th: 7:00 PM Leadership Team (Fellowship Hall); 7:00 PM TOPS (Chapel)

Friday, May 20th: Office Closed.

Ways to Serve . . .

[Volunteer/Serve | Blair First United M](#)
 [\(blairumc.org\)](http://blairumc.org)

Donate to the Diaper Drive

Items Needed Include:

- Diapers (larger sizes preferred)
- Little Swimmers -The Bridge gives families a Pool Pass so they can swim!
- Feminine Hygiene Products also appreciated.
- Monetary donations will go towards the purchase of Tracfores and Minutes

Breakfast Fundraiser, June 11 During Gateway to the West

We will again be hosting a vender fair in the back yard and serving Breakfast Burritos for a fundraiser. We will need lots of help with the food, set up and clean up.

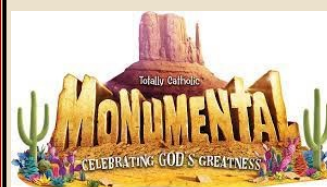
We also need Pop-Up Tents - Contact Craig Folkers to help before and during the event or to lend a tent.
(402) 306-3730

Thank You for Saving Your Receipts

For every \$150,000 in Family Fare receipts we have we receive a check from Spartan Nash for \$1,000.



We have collected \$110,000 towards our goal. Receipts can be turned in at the Information Station by the Church Office.



Save the Dates: VBS
July 18-21
Meeting in the Morning TBD.

Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness!