



Pastor Norm & Linda's Family

Andy and Brooke and their children:
Aislynn, Isla, Brynn and Nora

Tony and Jessica and their children:
Anna, Zane and Tyson

Thank you!
***for 46 years of
faithful service to:***
Fairview Missionary Church

Pastor Norm & Linda



Celebrating 46 years

FAIRVIEW MISSIONARY CHURCH

Pastor Norm & Linda Fuller

Retirement Service

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Fairview Missionary Church

Welcome & Call To Worship	Joel Greenwood
Reflections	Steve Keeslar
Video	Steve Jones
Sing	<i>It Is Well With My Soul</i>Worship Team
Special Music ...	<i>I Bowed On My Knees</i> ...David Kennedy via video
Reflections	Joe Wenger
Video	Dave Engbrecht
Sing	<i>Standing On The Promises</i>Worship Team
Memories Video	Sandee Sager
Reflections	Joel Greenwood
Staff Thank You Video	Fairview Staff
Prayer	Joel Greenwood
Introductions	Norm Fuller
Sing	<i>Blessed Assurance</i> Worship Team

Thank You

A Thank You Letter from the Fullers to the Fairview Missionary Church Congregation, July 2020.

Pastor Norm and Linda say a huge thank you to the congregation for the privilege of being your Pastor for 40 years and Caring Pastor for five years. You are a one-of-a-kind congregation.

Thank you to the group that was at Fairview in 1974 when you took the chance to call two “young kids” to be your leaders. This group raised us and helped us grow up. You have been through all the changes and challenges of a growing church. You have a special place in our hearts.

Thank you to the group of six families who all, on their own, without any suggestion from me, literally put their homes and farms on the line to secure the loan to build the first building on the corner where FMC now stands. Two of those families’ leaders are now in heaven - Clus Glenn and Don Ireland. The others, your story will be told when I have your celebration as you enter your heavenly reward.

Thank you to our two sons, Tony and Andy. They were very easy to raise. Mom and dad firmly believe that a major contributing factor in the church’s growth is that we never had to worry about what our boys were up to. We are blessed with a great family.

Thank you to all the church staff. You are the most amazing staff anywhere. Long hours of work, doing special projects like setting up Bethlehem Marketplace and building the Easter set. No one works like the FMC staff. A special thanks to Michelle, my secretary for the last 21 years.

Thank you for accepting the challenge of four building programs in 40 years.

Thank you for your extreme generosity in giving. The offerings increased 100 fold over the years.

In the early years at FMC someone asked us how long we were going to stay at the church. Our response was "our furniture is nailed to the floor." Now it is time to pull up the nails and re-nail the furniture to the floor in a home in the South Bend area where we are near our sons and families. We are going to attend every ball game and play and event our grandkids are involved in.

I, Pastor Norm, am actively pursuing other part-time ministry opportunities. What they may be has not been confirmed at the time this letter was written.

Two of our favorite restaurants - Das Essenhaus in Middlebury and the Blue Gate in Shipshewana - are half way between South Bend and Angola. Contact us any time you want to meet up for breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

Thank you for the privilege of being your leader for all these years.

Pastor Norm and Linda Fuller

Memories

Some of the many memories we take with us...

Using a log chain and tractor to pull out the steel frame windows on the Williams Street church building when we remodeled.

The people standing along the walls of the small sanctuary during the Sunday services in the fall of 1985 and the spring of 1986 because there was no room for anyone else to sit. The farewell service at the Williams Street church and the car caravan to the new church on this corner and the new church dedication.

How God always brought to the church new people with the right gifts and talents to help the church grow to the next level over the years. There are many examples of this.

How everyone came together to work to build the first building on the corner where we now are. That time in the church was marked with extreme love and willing hands and hearts. All four building projects were an extremely loving time in the church.

The moving of God's Spirit among us in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Many Sundays the altar was full of people seeking God and some services turned into all morning prayer meetings. I remember telling our sons that what they saw at the church today, most churches never experience.

The 70 Weeks of Prayer leading up to the ground breaking for the new sanctuary and the prayer rugs on the seats in the old sanctuary.

The groundbreaking for the new sanctuary on the front lawn. The two years it took to construct the building with six months of no work while the soil issues were resolved. I will always remember the sound of the machine pounding the pilings into the ground - some of them 100 feet deep to get solid ground.

All of us writing our names and favorite Bible verses on the concrete floor of the new sanctuary and classrooms before the carpet was put down.

Friend's Day - we did this outreach many times and everyone brought their friends to church.

Our son, Andy, spoke on Father's Day for several years in a row.

The Bridge Events where we reached out into our community - Bethlehem Marketplace, Easter musicals, Kid's Fall Festival, Dinner Theater, Children's Resale, Kids Crusade, It's Happenin' for teens, Fall Kick-off, Patriotic Service, floats in the 4th of July parades.

The church wide discipleship programs like The Purpose Driven Life. Most of the congregation never knew that Fairview was one of the first 100 churches in the entire nation to do this program. My original copy of the book is a spiral bound cardboard cover before the book even went to press.

The Hole in Our Gospel book forever changed us. It's about the rich American church in a world full of poverty.

We take with us memories of a music ministry that is the best anywhere.

Fairview phrases I will always remember:

"God sighting".

When the message was long, some of the guys in the congregation would tell me "You unloaded the whole wagon of hay this morning."

The Sundays we had special speakers in, there was always that special group of people who would say to me as they left the church and shook my hand, "We had a good sermon this morning, Pastor."

We had a lot of fun with the yellow Hummer illustrations for a long time.

The transition of leadership of the church to Pastor Joel. No church has ever done what we did here.

Many other memories of God's leading could be told.

In Recognition of
Pastor Norm and Linda Fuller's
46 years of ministry at and retirement from
Fairview Missionary Church,
we invite your family to an

Open House
Sunday, July 19, 2020, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
In the Fairview gym.