



*Youth Pastor Chuck and Adrianne Babbitt  
children L to R Titus, Rebekah, Carolaine, & Zoey*

My name is Chuck Babbitt, and I moved to Bloomer, WI in mid-August, to be the new Youth Pastor at Bloomer Baptist Church. My wife and I, along with our four children (# 5 due in February), moved from Spencer, IA, where I had been the Associate Pastor of Family Ministries for five years. We had felt God preparing us for something big at the beginning of 2020. When COVID-19 hit, we figured that was what God had been preparing us for, but He called us to Wisconsin.

At the time of our move, neither Spencer nor Bloomer had many cases of COVID. From day one, moving to a mask mandated state, the mask topic has been a daily conversation/headache. Working with

students, having them wear masks has been little of a struggle, as they are used to wearing them in school and sports. However, navigating opinions, on either side of the mask debate, from parents, leaders and the congregation has been discouraging.

One difficulty I have faced because of COVID is not being able to attend student's activities and events. Going to student's games has always been something my family and I enjoy doing together. This was also the time I could meet the families of students and get introduced to their friends. While I can still watch the games at home, with free popcorn, connecting to the parents of students who don't come to church on Sundays, has been very difficult.

Another area I must be creative and intentional about is finding and building connections with other VCNM Youth Pastors. Youth Pastor gatherings, as we called them in Iowa, were a huge reason for my effectiveness and longevity at my previous church. With COVID, there are very few in-person meetings at all, and it seems like everyone is doing all they can do to avoid one more Zoom call. I am committed to reach out and connect with other VCNM Youth Pastors to reach as many students as possible for Christ in WI.

I am grateful BBC is a tech-savvy church that had the technology in place to go virtual when needed. I absolutely love all the outdoor activities around us here! Students are hungry for personal contact and in person conversations, which is making it very easy to connect with most students. Whether it be skiing, mountain biking, ice skating, etc. This time has also allowed the extras of ministry, that can unintentionally become the primary focus of a ministry, to go away. Thus, leaving the truth of the Word of God as the only focus. This has been incredibly beneficial for our students and the ministry.

As there have been many struggles and drawbacks with COVID-19, this unique time has grown the ministry in ways I didn't expect.

*Chuck Babbitt, Youth Pastor  
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