



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
515 N. LADD STREET  
PONTIAC, IL 61764

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PONTIAC, IL 61764  
Permit No. 126

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

*From the  
Pastor*



God’s desire for all who know Him is for us to become more like Christ. We become more like Christ by first growing in our knowledge of Him. It stands to reason that we cannot grow to be like someone we don’t know. The deeper our knowledge of Christ, the deeper our understanding of Him, and the more like Him we become. Among other reasons, we are to know and understand Christ so that we will be secure in the faith. The America for Christ

Offering 2016 theme “Discipleship: Becoming More Like Christ” reminds us that, as American Baptists, we embody the love of our Lord in word and deed.

The Apostle Paul reiterates this truth in Ephesians 2:10: “For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” It is refreshing to read that God is continuously working on us, bringing us up in maturity, shaping our hearts and growing our faith. We see that pointed out in Samuel, who “continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people” (1 Samuel 2:26). And we hear it in the exhortation of Peter, who concluded, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). The writer to the Hebrews, likewise, commands, “Therefore let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ” (Hebrews 6:1).

The natural consequence of knowing and obeying God is that He becomes greater and greater, while we become less and less, as we yield control of our lives to Him. Just as John the Baptist knew that “He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30), so the Christian grows to reflect more of Christ. Luke sums it up best when he describes what Jesus told His disciples: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it” (Luke 9:23-24).

The America for Christ Offering 2016 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ’s church. Extending the hope, love and compassion of our Lord to our neighbors and communities is a powerful demonstration that we have been transformed. We are reinvigorated by this year’s theme to come alongside people as they journey through

### From the Pastor (cont.)

life. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's America for Christ Offering 2016 and in doing so, help us to reach our goal as a church in support of home mission.

We will receive the America for Christ offering at the close of worship on Sunday, April 24th.

Hello Family,

I would like encourage you to pray and celebrate with me. Pastor Jim and I have spoken to you about our involvement in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the time has finally come for our official kick-off event! We will be hosting our first FCA event April 2nd in our gym here at the Church! Our kick-off event will include fun, food and fellowship along with a showing of the movie, Woodlawn. I ask you to pray for this exciting new ministry and that these young men and women feel the presence of God in our church and with one another.

Although the kick-off event is our first large scale event, I've already led the first FCA meeting for the students of Fieldcrest in Minonk. The meeting was held at 7:30 am and attended by 27 students along with 6 teachers/coaches. It was such a great experience and a rousing start for this amazing ministry! I have also been in contact with the lead person at Pontiac Township High to discuss starting a group there. . My personal goal is to have huddle groups (this is the term FCA uses for our group meetings) in Pontiac, Flanagan, and Fieldcrest and wherever else God may open a door for us. I ask for you to lift this ministry up in prayer with me as we work to reach as many students as possible in our area. What a blessing it is to see God working in these young people's lives! I thank you for your support and prayers.

In Christ

Jay



### Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the May edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Wednesday, April 20.

You may submit your articles by phone (842.4321), fax (844.6943), by e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org) or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.

### Nursery Care Available

Nursery care is available during worship services for infants and toddlers through age 3.

The nursery is located across the hall from the sanctuary.

### APRIL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The April congregational meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 in the Kum Dubble classroom. This meeting will be conducted concurrently with the Board of Ministries. At this meeting the following amendment to the church by-laws will be presented:

#### ARTICLE 1- Section 1- Admission

The Moderator, Vice-Moderator, or Pastor may call the church to order of business at any time without prior notice, for the purpose of affirming by congregational vote, new members into the church family.

All church members are encouraged to participate in the congregational meeting.



### Important Radio Ministry Changes



Local radio station WJEZ will no longer broadcast our worship services live. Effective Sunday, April 3rd our worship service will be broadcast one week behind.

This was not a decision made by the church and we apologize for any inconvenience.

### Children's Church

April 3: Janet Halford

April 10: Janet Halford

April 17: Missy Hoover

April 24: Missy Hoover



Prayer Chain Number:  
815.419.4454

## Well Done FBC!!



In 2015, First Baptist Church of Pontiac ranked 63rd out of 5,200 churches in the ABC-USA in giving to United Missions with a total of \$19,883 given!! United Missions gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our caring and ministry commitments to our congregations on the regional, national, and global levels. Your generous support goes to support vital works including leadership training, church planting, youth ministries, disaster response, and many more!

## Summer Music Program

Since choir will soon be on summer hiatus, we are looking for individuals who will share their talents and provide special music during summer 2016. Each Sunday (May 1 - Sept. 4) is available. If you have suggestions for possible contacts or if you are willing to share your own time and talents, we would love to hear from you!



Please phone or text Jan Jolynn Staley at 815.210.3721

## Prayer Shawl Ministry



I want to revive the prayer shawl ministry, and to that end, I am having a meeting in the Koinonia Koffee room. on Monday evening, April 11. At that time we will decide what form the ministry will take, how often and when to meet, and what we'll do when we meet. Please bring your needlework with you, as well as any yarn you do not need, as someone else may be able to use it. If you have any questions, please call me at 815-844-5295. If you have completed prayer shawls, bring them with you. If you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please join me on Monday, April 11. - Virginia Asper

Discipleship:  
Becoming More Like  
**CHRIST**  
EPHESIANS 2:10



**AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2016**

## Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, March 10 at 7:15 pm.

**Church Clerk:** The membership of Jeanna Boase has been transferred from Pontiac Bible Church. A request has been sent to First Christian Church requesting a transfer of Karen Christianson's membership.

**Youth Ministries:** The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will be meeting at our church

for the kick-off event on April 2nd.

**Children's Ministries:** Barb Tholen will begin teaching Missy Hoover's class at ABK.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 15 - 18 and directed by Jan Jolynn Staley and Kelly Ingram.

**Diaconate Council:** Checking into getting cameras put in the nursery so the nursery

workers will be able to watch the service. There have been changes made at the local radio station and our services are no longer able to be carried live.

**Moderator:** Eight people have signed up to go on the Mississippi mission trip this July.

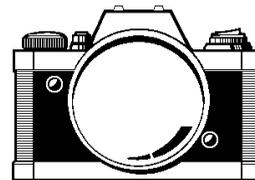
**Senior Pastor:** Been discussing with John Grisham the possibility of a Costa Rica Mission trip in 2017.

## Grief Support Ministry

Beyond the Broken Heart is an eight week support and ministry program for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. Author Julie Yarbrough combines personal experience and a love of scripture to create an authentic and deeply personal program.

If you are interested in participating, please attend the introductory meeting on Wednesday, April 6th at 10:15 am in the Vineyard Sunday School room.

## Pictures Needed!



We want to keep our website and Facebook pages current and we need your help! With smart phones and digital cameras every one of us is photojournalist ready to document our family life here at FBC! If you attend a church event snap some pictures and send them to us via e-mail at: rhonda@fbcpontiac.org and we'll choose some to share on our website and via our social networking pages. Let's work together to share the awesome things that are happening here at FBC Pontiac!



# April



- 1 Bob Matteson
- 1 Brianna Meister
- 2 Jenna Battleson
- 3 Dean and JoAnn Miller ♥
- 4 Tom Battice
- 5 James Juanita ♥
- 6 Wayne and Debbie Verdun ♥
- 7 Don and Eva Schiff ♥
- 8 Tyler Hoover
- 9 Lucy Jackson
- 9 James Letsos
- 9 Dean Sidfrids
- 10 Eisley Levin
- 11 Bill Bowman
- 12 Sarah Walters
- 13 Carter Wykes
- 15 Gabriella Krueger
- 15 Evelyn Vietti
- 16 Virginia Asper ♥
- 16 Dan and Karen Meister ♥
- 19 Calvin and Amanda Krueger ♥
- 19 Cheryl Stith
- 24 Danny and Connie Grider ♥
- 25 Marshall Hoover
- 25 Jordan Staley ♥
- 26 Dean and Becky Easton ♥
- 26 Donna Hammond
- 26 Jill Cole
- 27 Ron McBeath
- 27 JoAnn Miller
- 28 Christina Beck
- 28 DeWayne Beller
- 28 Karen Meister
- 29 Devin Battice
- 29 Michael Cole

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC 7:00 pm FCA Kick-off Event
3 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	4	5	6 9:00 am Ruth Circle 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:15 am Grief Support Group 1:00 pm Esther Circle 7:00 pm Choir Practice	7	8	9 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
10 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	11 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	12	13 9:00 am ROMEO Club	14 7:15 pm Board of Ministries / Congregational Meeting	15	16 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
17 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	18	19	20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm Choir Practice	21	22	23 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
24 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	25 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	26	27 <b>Admin. Prof. Day</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club	28	29	30 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC