



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



Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



Sitting quietly the thought came to me, “How am I praying into God’s future?” I am adept at praying for my family and church, but it occurred to me to ask how effectively I pray to be in God’s will going forward; going forward in ministry as well as in my private life with God.

You may remember the movie, *Pay It Forward*. Released in 2000 the film is set in Las Vegas in the present day, and it chronicles 12-year-old Trevor McKinney's launch of a goodwill movement known as 'pay it forward'. Trevor’s social studies teacher gives the class an assignment to devise and put into action a plan that will change the world for the better. Trevor's plan is a charitable program based on the networking of good deeds. He calls his plan "pay it forward", which means the recipient of a favor does a favor for three others rather than paying the favor back. However, it needs to be a major favor that the recipient cannot complete themselves.

It occurred to me that perhaps we need to “pray it forward”. By this I mean we commit only to pray for the welfare and blessing of others-not ourselves. We pray looking forward to God’s future-not looking back on where we have been. Ministry is meant to be forward-looking; not history-bound. It is entirely too easy to look back to the “good old days”; which probably weren’t nearly as good as our memories tend to make them. The great “I am” is a forward-looking, vision casting, sin-freeing, totally loving, mercy practicing God who wants those who serve God to always look forward to the future that God has planned. It is human nature that looks over our shoulder at what has been. It is the spirit of God that calls us forward into the future that God has not only prepared but is already working to create in us.

As we pray into God’s future we cannot help but live into that future as well. Living into God’s future means that we free ourselves from fear, learn what it means to live in community, and welcome everyone into the kingdom that God is building “on earth as it is in heaven”.

We are called to be a forward looking people; people of vision; people of love, power, and self-discipline.

Jim

It's All About the Kids!



ABK may have ended their regular meetings for the year but we're already gearing up for our summer VBS program! As last year, VBS will Starting in April through July, we will have Vacation Bible School once a month on the 3rd Saturday. Those dates will be April 21, May 19, June 16, and July 21. VBS will run from 9:30 until 11:30 and will include breakfast.

In addition, there is a special field trip planned to visit the Raccoon Ridge Rehab in rural Chenoa on Saturday, May 5th from 1-4 pm. So many fun and exciting adventures coming up!

And don't forget about Koinonia Kidz Zone on Sunday mornings! It's a perfect place for kids the learn through Bible stories, games, and videos all designed specifically with them in mind!

On-Line Giving



We're very pleased to announce the recent addition of an on-line giving option to our website making it easier than ever to tithe or make donations to special fundraising campaigns.

To make an on-line donation, simply visit our website www.fbcpontiac.org and follow the donation link near the top of the page. Our on-line giving is powered through PayPal and allows you to use an existing PayPal account or any debit or credit card you'd like. You'll have the opportunity to leave specific notes about your donation and you'll receive a donation receipt in your e-mail!



"I prayed for snow on Christmas eve, Sir, and it didn't arrive 'til Easter eve. A small computer would clear up that backlog."

Reminder

As a part of our safety protocol, all doors will be locked within 15 minutes of the start of any church activity.

You're Invited!



God has been gracious and merciful to me, healing me twice, so that I can celebrate my 70th birthday. Please come and celebrate with me on Sunday afternoon, April 15, from 2-5 in the Fellowship Hall. God heard your prayers for healing on my behalf, so please come and celebrate with your presence, not your presents!

Virginia Asper



**Prayer Chain
Number**

815.419.4454

If you wish to receive prayer chain calls, please contact the church office at 815.842.4321 and request that your name and number be added to the list.

To Know and Be Known

*Making our churches know and attractive
to our communities.*

Area III GRR Annual Meeting on

Saturday, April 14th
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Peoria
401 W. Lake Ave.

Dr. Gene Crume, President of Judson University will deliver the keynote speech. Cost to attend this event is \$25 before April 1st.

After that the cost is \$30 per person. Registration forms are available at the church office, in the adult classrooms or by going to the abcgrr.org website.

Schedule Notes

In honor of the Easter holiday, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, April 1st and the church office will be closed on Monday, April 2nd.

We wish our entire church family a happy and healthy holiday weekend.



Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the May newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, April 20.

You may submit your items by phone (815.842.4321), fax (815.844.6943), e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org), or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.



Know Your Branches



Name: Scott Knight

What's one thing you can never find when you need it? A Philips Screwdriver.

Favorite activity on a Sunday? Going for a motorcycle ride.

Favorite memory about your first car/truck? It was a 1969 GTO. It was a fast car.

If you could "star" in a TV show, what would it be? Counting Cars.

Favorite board game? Monopoly

A grandparent memory - My grandma Weichman would have something baked for me every day when I delivered her paper. So I would go and visit with her.

Secret talent? Sorry, can't really think of anything.

Any favorite stories of Jim? Many good memories doing mission work in Costa Rica.

Favorite meal of all time? Ribeye steak and baked potato.

Do you have a pet? A little dog named Crackers.



Food Pantry Notes

The Esther and Ruth Circles are working on a project for the food pantry. They will be collecting an item (toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.) each month to share with the people who come to visit our food pantry. One item each month.

In April we will be collecting paper towels. If you would like to make a donation, please bring the specified items and put it in the box in the Narthex or in the gym.

A Special Thank You

Dear Pastor Wolfe and First Baptist Congregation,

Thank you for letting us use your beautiful church for our weekly Bible Study. We have been very blessed!

Gratefully,

BSF International Women of Pontiac, IL and Kathy Marley

Dear Members of First Baptist Church,

We would like to thank you again for the use of your church building during the week of February 12—16, 2018 for our annual Kindergarten/Pre-School screenings. Your building is ideal for our screening set up and your staff is exceptional to work with. We appreciate being able to come in and set up in the space provided to us.

Again, thank you for your hospitality.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Corrigan
Special Needs Director
Pre-K Coordinator





APRIL SHOWERS BRING ... LADIES AFTERNOON OUT!!!

Calling All Ladies!! You are welcome to join us Monday, April 16, 2018 from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm in the gym for food, fellowship, and fun! We will start with a pizza lunch and go from there. Make sure you call or text Jan Jolynn (815-210-3721) if you plan to attend, so that plenty of pizza is ordered. Come and see what else April Showers bring as we spring into Spring!



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 Cheryl Stith
- 24 Danny and Connie Grider
- 25 Marshall Hoover
- 25 Jordan Staley
- 26 Dean and Becky Easton
- 26 Donna Hammond
- 27 Ron McBeath
- 27 JoAnn Miller
- 28 Christina Beck
- 28 DeWayne Beller
- 28 Karen Meister
- 29 Devin Battice
- 29 Michael Cole
- 29 Jill Cole

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship No Evening Activities	2 Church Office Closed	3	4 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 10:30 am Grief Group 1:00 pm Esther Circle	5 7:00 pm Covered with Prayers	6 	7 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
8 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY	9 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	10	11 9:00 am ROMEO Club	12 7:00 pm Board of Ministries	13	14 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
15 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY	16 12:00 pm Ladies Day Out 	17	18 9:00 am ROMEO Club	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC 9:30 am VBS
22 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY	23 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	24	25 9:00 am ROMEO Club <i>Administrative</i> PROFESSIONALS <i>DAY</i>	26	27	28 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
29 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY	30					