



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

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Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

“go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”
When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted -Matthew 28:10b, 17



The Garden Tomb is a rock-cut tomb in Jerusalem, which was unearthed in 1867 and is considered by some Christians to be the site of the burial and resurrection of Jesus.

It is not difficult to believe that even when they saw the Risen Lord there were some who still doubted the reality of what was right before their eyes. The Resurrection defies everything we know about life and death. Yet, the Resurrection is central to our faith and life. Without the Resurrection we have a dead prophet. Because of the Resurrection we have forgiveness, salvation, and living hope.

As nice as that sounds it is still hard to grasp the reality of the event. The Gospel of Matthew records the story of the guards reporting that Jesus’ disciples stole his body and therefore the Resurrection is a hoax. (Matthew 28:11-15). On the one hand it is perhaps easier to believe that the body was stolen, than that a dead person returned to life.

However, as Christ-followers we are committed to the reality of the Resurrection. Our entire theological system relies on the fundamental belief that Jesus died, was buried, and rose on the

third day. Scientifically, we cannot prove this. It is the basic tenet of our faith and its reality is supported by the witness of the apostles, who sacrificed their very lives rather than deny the reality of Jesus' Resurrection.

I recall a song that I heard as a young person growing up in church; "It's Real". The final words declare:

*Then at last by faith I touched Him, and, like sparks from smitten steel,
Just so quick salvation reached me, oh, bless God, I know it's real!*

The refrain says simply:

But it's real, it's real;

Oh, I know it's real;

Praise God, the doubts are settled,

For I know, I know it's real! (Homer L. Cox ca. 1907. Public domain)

Scholars have penned many books and great theological discourse taken place concerning the so-called "proofs" of the Resurrection. Let me suggest that the proof of the Resurrection is found in a transformed life. That is a life of discipleship, committing above all else to be a Christ-follower. I assure you that all of the scholarly, or scientific, debate in the world cannot prove or disprove the reality of a physical resurrection from the dead. Equally, I assure you that all of the scholarly, or scientific debate, in the world cannot disprove the life of a disciple of Jesus the Christ. If you are looking for proof of the Resurrection look no farther than in the transformation and regeneration of your own life.

Jim

Men's Night Out

It's time for another men's night out! All men are invited to meet at the church at 6:00 pm on April 25th. The plan is dinner out with plenty of fun, fellowship and laughter — location to be determined!



Thank You

Church Family,
Sheila and I would like to thank our church family for all your prayers with the passing of our daughter. We very much appreciate the cards and notes sent to me. It is so great to have the support from our church family.

Thank you,
Love in Christ,
Ken and Sheila Ferguson

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion the May edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Wednesday, April 17th. 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

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!



Congratulations to Rob Teno for recently bowling a perfect game!

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

James 5:16



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.

You are the Branches...



Name: Tyler Hoover

If you could have any animal as a pet, what would you choose? A dog

Do you like summer or winter the best and why? Winter because you can play with snowballs, make snow forts, and slide down hills.

What kind of chores do you do for your mom and dad? Dry and put away the dishes. Take out the garbage and recycle. Take laundry to the laundry room.

When you are older, what kind of job would you like to have? Train engineer because it's really fun and I already drove a train at the age of 8!

Favorite color? Orange

What food does your mom make that you love? Crescent roll hot dogs - with cheese.

What do you like most about our church? You can make new friends and learn about God. Giving Jay a hard time because it makes people laugh.

If you had \$50, what would you buy? I'd add it to my savings for a Nintendo Switch or I'd buy a Lego set.

Favorite ice cream? Chocolate in a cone. Oberwies is my favorite.

What do you like to watch on tv? Sponge Bob, Loud House, and Lego Ninjago

Schedule Notes

In honor of the Easter holiday, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, April 21st and the church office will be closed on Monday, April 22nd.

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

Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 pm.

Stewardship: we received \$2,300 for the America for Christ Offering.

Adult Ministries: The Ruth Circle is filling bags for my homeless. They will begin working on bandages at their next meeting.

Planning ABW Sunday for September.

A mother / daughter tea is planned for April 28th.

Fellowship: Men's night out was held Feb. 21st with 11 in attendance. The next one is scheduled for April 25th at 6:00 pm.

The food pantry served 91 families representing 251 people in February.

Diaconate: Gordy Frobish has roughly 16 volunteers work with him to help church family with small tasks and odd jobs.

The volunteer group has been made an extension of the Diaconate Council.

Facilities: Work on office heating issue will be completed following boiler shut-down for the season.

Senior Pastor: We received an anonymous donation of 2 televisions and 2 DVD players to be used in 2 of the adult classrooms.

Baptism will be scheduled for Easter Sunday.

VBS will be held Sunday, July 28th - Wednesday, July 31st.

Mother - Daughter Tea



April 28th at 2:00 pm

If you don't have a mother or daughter available to attend with you, grab a friend! All ladies are welcome!

Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

VBS - Save the Date!



Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Sunday, July 28th - Wednesday, July 31st. Mark the dates in your calendars and watch upcoming newsletters and bulletins for more information on how to volunteer to help or register your kids for a time of fun and learning!



- 1 Bob Matteson
- 1 Brianna Meister
- 2 Jenna Battleson
- 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 Easley 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
- 25 Marshall Hoover
- 25 Jordan Staley
- 26 Dean and Becky Easton
- 26 Donna Hammond
- 27 Ron McBeath
- 27 JoAnn Miller
- 28 Christina Beck
- 28 Karen Meister
- 29 Devin Battice
- 29 Michael Cole
- 29 Jill Cole

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle	4 	5	6 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
7 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	8 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	9	10 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 pm ABY 6:00 pm ABK	11	12	13 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
14 Palm Sunday 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 	15	16	17 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30 am Grief Support 5:30 pm ABY 6:00 pm ABK	18 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm Soup and Sandwich Supper 7:00 pm Maundy Thurs. Svc.	19 Good Friday 	20 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
21 Easter 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 	22 Easter Monday Church Office Closed 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	23	24 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 pm ABY 6:00 pm ABK 	25 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	26	27 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
28 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 2:00 pm Mother/Daughter Tea	29	30				