



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



The first celebration of Jubilee Christmas in Pontiac was held in 1989 and hosted by the First Presbyterian Church. We partnered with First Presbyterian and First Christian churches the following year and now eagerly anticipate the 27th celebration of Jubilee.

The date for Jubilee Christmas is December 12, and will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church. We will be serving 29 families with a total of 70 children. If you are unfamiliar with Jubilee Christmas, the host church receives a list of families who are struggling at Christmas from a local social service agency. This list is provided only to Jubilee Christmas so that there is no overlapping of services. The families are contacted by the host church and invited to participate. When they accept the invitation they are assigned a host who contacts them in advance to introduce themselves, determine that the guest will be in attendance, and to ask about possible transportation issues. Each child in the family receives three toys, ranging in price from 15-35 dollars. Additionally, each child receives two stocking stuffers and the family receives a gift certificate for the purchase of groceries.

As you can readily see this is a fairly expensive ministry. Over the course of the program's history we have made intentional efforts to carry over funds each year to help offset the cost of the following year's celebration. While we have some funds in reserve we still need the help of each one of you to make this program successful. Not only are we seeking your financial support, but we also need persons to volunteer to serve as hosts for our guests and to help wrap gifts. If you are willing to serve as host or wrapper please contact either Barb Tholen or Patty Gray. If you make a financial contribution you may make a check payable to Jubilee Christmas.

In our mission statement we proclaim that we are Growing the Family of God by Telling the Story, Nurturing Believers, and Serving the Community. Jubilee Christmas fulfills each of these points.

In sharing with persons in need we are telling them the story of God who loves so deeply that God gifted humanity with Jesus Christ. Our gifts of money and time communicate that we are committed to telling the story in our actions and in our physical presence. Jubilee Christmas nurtures believers through the fellowship of serving together. There is a sense of joy and spiritual excitement that permeates Jubilee Christmas which creates not only a sense of purpose, but a deep sense of the presence of God. When we provide a Christmas celebration for the children and their families we are serving the community and providing an incarnational witness to our faith.

Please pray for Jubilee Christmas, but then rise from your knees and become actively engaged in Growing the Family of God through this powerful ministry.

Office Notes

In honor of the upcoming Christmas holiday our church office will be closing at noon on Thursday, December 24th and will be closed all day on Friday, December 25th.

We will also be closed from Wednesday, December 30th - Friday, January 1st. The office will be open again for regular business hours on Monday, January 4th.

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



Love Gift



As is our custom this time of year, we are collecting donations for a love gift to be presented to Pastor Jim.

If you would like to take this opportunity to express your gratitude for all that our Pastor does for us through the year, please leave your donation with Dale Newsome or your Sunday School teacher no later than Saturday, December 19th.

Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Eve is always a beautiful and meaningful service. In the beauty of candles, music and the spoken word we hear again the wonderful message of "Peace on earth..."

Please plan to be in attendance on Christmas Eve at seven o'clock p.m. to celebrate the life-transforming message that the "Word became flesh."

You're Invited...

The Wolfe family invites you to join them for their annual Christmas open house on

Sunday, December 13th
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



817 Cimmeron Dr.
Pontiac, Illinois



Christmas Poinsettias



It's time to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form in your bulletin and drop it along with your check marked "poinsettias" into the offering plate.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your prayers the past few months. It has been a long, hard road, but I believe I am here and healthy because of your prayers. You are a true blessing. Never underestimate the power of prayer! How's YOUR prayer life?

In Christ's Love,
Virginia

Dear Church Family,

The Esther and Ruth Circles would like to thank everyone who donated items to the Peoria Friendship House. We would also like to thank Harlin Dean for taking his time to drive some of us over to deliver the boxes of items.

Brenda Dodd

P.S. We will be making bandages, etc., to go overseas. If anyone has old light colored sheets they don't need, we could use them.



Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the January edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 16.

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.

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." - Luke 2:12



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.



Children's Church

Dec. 6: Rick Golliday

Dec. 13: Janet Halford

Dec 20: Janet Halford

Dec. 27: Missy Hoover

*** Prayer Chain Updates ***



HOW'S YOUR PRAYER LIFE?

We ask ourselves that question each time we meet together in worship, print it on tee shirts, and attempt to live our lives as persons who take the practice of prayer seriously. One of the tools that we use to strengthen our prayer life is the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain enables us to share family news and concerns and call on one another to share in intercessory prayer.

A few years ago we began using an automated calling system which allows us to more effectively share our prayer concerns, communicate other vital family news (such as weather closings), and offer timely reminders for meetings and other activities.

As with any ministry there is room for improvement and more effective use of the available tools. Concerns have been raised indicating people would prefer receiving fewer calls during the day. Another issue is that there is no central clearing house for the calls. This allows for duplication in calls as people are using more than one contact for the Prayer Chain.

An additional concern has to do with privacy. It is the responsibility of the person making the prayer request to assure permission before releasing the name. This is extremely important as we have had several experiences of person who did not wish to have their name made public. PLEASE ask before submitting the name.

Effective at eight 0'clock am on December 7 the following changes will be made to our Prayer Chain:

- ⇒ **ALL calls for the prayer chain will be made to the following number: 815.419.4454**
- ⇒ **Please DO NOT call, email, or text the church office or staff members. This number is dedicated solely for the use of the prayer chain. As of this date it will be the only avenue to access the Prayer Chain.**
- ⇒ **Prayer chain calls will be made only between the hours of nine 0'clock am and eight 0'clock pm.**
- ⇒ **To the extent possible prayer chain calls will be made ONLY once per day. *Emergency exceptions may be made.***
- ⇒ **"Unnamed" prayer requests will not be made. A first name or relationship must be provided (e.g. brother, niece, nephew, grandchild, etc.)**

Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, November 19 at 7:15 pm.

Adult Ministries: Working on starting a Grief Support Ministry.

Several vision planning projects came from the recent board retreat including an Adopt a Grandparent program, building a garage to house ministry tools such as the van and trailer, a mission trip within the United States, and ministry for the families

of the inmates of Pontiac Correctional Center.

Children's Ministries: ABK averages between 20 and 25 kids per week. Ed Rich has been driving the van to pick up children who need transportation.

Diaconate: Ron McBeath has made 17 visits and 4 phone calls to those who are ill or homebound.

Moderator: A mission trip to Mississippi has been scheduled for July 9 - 17,

2016. Twenty-six people have signed up to attend. Jeanna Boaz is the chair for fundraising.

Senior Pastor: The phone system is over 15 years old and needs updating. Frontier will be providing an estimate.

Please Note

The December Board of Ministries and Vision & Planning meetings have been cancelled.

Our Church Directory

Our church directory has not undergone a serious overhaul in many years and, as a result, is not as accurate or up to date as we would like it to be. In an effort to remedy this situation and ensure that our directory contains the most accurate information possible, we are going to start over with a blank slate.

To that end, we ask **EVERYONE** who wishes to be listed in the church directory to complete an information form and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Like our church directory, our birthday and anniversary lists have become outdated and inaccurate. On the information form for the church directory are spaces for you to list the birthdays and anniversaries in your household. If you want your family's birthdays and anniversaries listed on the church calendar you **MUST** add them to your information card and return it to the church office. **If you neglect to add this information to your information card your birthdays and anniversaries will NOT be listed on the church calendar.**

We appreciate your cooperation and hope that these efforts will result in more accurate and timely information being made available in our church publications.








December



2-Steve Carroll
2-John Pohanka
2-Ronald and Rita Watson
4-Lindsey Lind
6-Matt Sidfrids
7-Ron Ingram
7-Carol Toon
8-Debbie Rynning
8-Debbie Carroll
9-Shai Nyi
9-Dale and Teri Newsome
10-Brittney Pemberton
11-Jo Zimmerman
12-Betty Riffey
13-Charlie Crego
14-Ryan Ingram
15-Ayianna Sidfrids
16-Jamie Beck
18-Judy Pohanka
19-Eric Hoover
20-Randy Roberts
24-Jane Kahn
25-Aaron Newsome
25-Robert Harbin
26-Doyle and Rose Hurd
28-Bethany Newsome
29-Charles and Ruth Ann Peck
30-Shirley Alltop
30-Vicki McBeath
30-Niall and Kristin Quinn
31-Rick and Deb Golliday
31-Jillian Christianson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 6:30 pm Embracing God's Love 7:00 pm Adult Choir	3 	4	5 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
6 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	7 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	8 	9 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:30 pm Embracing God's Love Small Group	10	11	12 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC Jubilee Christmas
13 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 1:00 - 3:00 pm Wolfe Open House 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK / ABY	14 	15	16 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:30 pm Embracing God's Love Small Group 7:00 pm Adult Choir	17	18	19 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
20 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	21 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	22	23 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:30 pm Embracing God's Love Small Group	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed 	26 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
27 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 