

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



# 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 celebration of Jubilee Christmas each year.

The date for Jubilee Christmas 2017 is December 9, and will be hosted by First Christian Church. 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

## From the Pastor (cont.)

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.

*Jim*



### 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 Shai Nyi before December 22nd.

### *You're Invited...*

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



**December 17th**

**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

817 Cimmeron Dr.  
Pontiac, Illinois



### Like to Cook? Love to Bake? ABK Needs You!

Want to help our growing ABK program but don't have the time to donate on a Sunday night? Or maybe you aren't comfortable working with the kids one on one? Good news! If you like to cook or bake, we need your help too!

Each week that ABK meets, we provide dinner for the kids and we would welcome volunteers who are willing to bake some desserts or prepare a meal at home and bring it in for the kids. It doesn't have to be fancy (crock pot meals are awesome!) - it just has to be something kid-friendly. For more information or to volunteer to help with this important children's ministry, please contact Barb Tholen!

## You Are the Branches



**Name:** Harlin Dean

**Did you have a family nickname?**  
Junior

**What makes you happy?** People and tacos

**Favorite movie star?** John Wayne

**What is your favorite saying?**  
Hold fast slim

**Favorite class in school?** History

**Who has made the most impact on your life? Why?** Pastor Jim. His leadership and goodness have made a difference. *So blame him.*

**What food do you dislike?** Liver and onions

**Do you collect anything?** Baseball cards

**Did you ever attend church camp?** No

**Favorite Jim Story?** The time Frannie and I came to work at the food pantry. It was raining out and Frannie's shoes were wet, so there was some water under her chair. Pastor Jim walked over and got a box of Depends off the stage and gives them to Frannie, saying "I think you need these". An elderly patron at the food pantry just said to Frannie "Don't be embarrassed honey, it happens to me all the time."

Frannie turned *so* red!

*"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*



## Prayer Chain

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.



## Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the January newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, Dec. 15.

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.



## A Special Thank You



We would like to thank Shai and Karen Nyi for continuing to host the Thursday night small group in their home. We enjoy their hospitality and treats, but even more, we enjoy the fellowship of our group, the lessons and the discussion. Thanks to all those who have stepped up to lead the various small groups. Not only are you answering the call of the Holy Spirit, you are fostering growth and intimacy in our church family.

It is greatly appreciated.

In Christian Love,  
Gary and Peggie Boldt

## Did You Know?



Donations to the church and her specific ministries can make wonderful gifts for those hard to shop for people on your gift lists! Have a friend with a birthday and a heart for children? Make a donation on their behalf to the ABK or ABY programs. A relative with an anniversary and a heart for helping the needy? A donation in their name to the Food Pantry or Jubilee Christmas might be the perfect gift. Also, don't forget about those hard to shop for people on your Christmas list! It's coming up faster than you think!

When you make a gift donation to the church in a loved one's name the church will acknowledge your gift by sending a lovely thank you note letting your loved one know of the gift you made on their behalf.

If you would like to honor a friend or family member by making a gift to the church, please be sure to include the person's name and address as well as the specific ministry to which you'd like your gift applied.

## Food Pantry Notes

The Esther and Ruth Circles are beginning a new project. 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 December we will be collecting shampoo and conditioner. 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.

## Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, November 9th at 7:15 pm.

**Children's Ministries:** The kids made gift bags to distribute to veterans. Possibly doing similar bags for Jubilee Christmas guests to advertise ABK.

The walls have been painted in the Koinonia Kids room and work continues to refurbish the space.

**Fellowship:** The Drive and Treat hosted 81 cars with approximately 165 children.

The food pantry served 70 families in October representing 184 people. Friday pantry hours will be changing from 9 - 11 to 10 - 12 after the first of the year.

**Diaconate:** Gordy Frobish and Joe Lind will begin valet parking again.

Christmas gifts will be purchased and distributed to the shut-ins in December.

**Senior Pastor:** Jubilee Christmas will be hosted by the First Christian Church on December 9th.

The old Sunday School room off of the financial office area is being refurbished to be used as a quiet place for prayer and privacy. It will be called "Secret Place".

Safety concerns at the church were discussed.



## 2018 Church Directory

We're in the process of gathering information for inclusion in the 2018 edition of our church directory and we're very excited to offer a new, on-line option for submitting your corrected information!

If your information has changed or if you were not listed in the 2017 directory and you'd like to be listed in this year's version, simply click the 2018 Directory tab on our website ([www.fbcpontiac.org](http://www.fbcpontiac.org)) and complete and submit the form! That's it, you're done! If you prefer to submit your information via a more traditional means, you can grab a form either in the Narthex or in one of the Sunday Morning Connections rooms, complete it and drop it by the church office.

Remember that while we will do our best to ensure the 2018 edition of our directory is as complete and accurate as possible, it's your responsibility to submit your information in a timely manner.



2 Stevie Carroll  
2 John Pohanka  
2 Hope McKenna  
4 Lindsey Flessner  
4 Lindsey Lind  
5 Roger Christianson  
5 Erik Mitchey  
7 Mikayla Stewart  
7 Ron Ingram  
7 Carol Toon  
8 Debbie Carroll  
9 Dale and Teri Newsome  
9 Shai Nyi  
10 Brittney Lundeen  
11 Jo Zimmerman  
12 Betty Riffey  
14 Ryan Ingram  
16 Jamie Beck  
18 Judy Pohanka  
19 Eric Hoover  
24 Jane Kahn  
25 Aaron Newsome  
29 Chuck and Ruth Ann Peck  
30 Vicki McBeath  
30 Shirley Alltop  
31 Jillian Christianson  
31 Rick and Deb Golliday



# December



| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                            | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
|   |  |                                    |   |  | 1  | 2<br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC  |
| 3<br>9:00 am SMC<br>10:00 am Worship<br>4:00 pm Jr. ABY<br>5:00 pm ABK<br>5:30 pm Sr. ABY<br>5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee  | 4  | 5<br>5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study  | 6<br>9:00 am ROMEO Club<br>10:00 am Ruth Circle<br>10:30 am Grief Group<br>1:00 pm Esther Circle<br>6:00 pm Jesus Calling | 7<br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group<br>7:00 pm Covered with Prayers   | 8<br> | 9<br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC  |
| 10<br>9:00 am SMC<br>10:00 am Worship<br>4:00 pm Jr. ABY<br>5:00 pm ABK<br>5:30 pm Sr. ABY<br>5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee | 11<br>1:00 pm Single Women of Faith  | 12<br>5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study | 13<br>9:00 am ROMEO Club<br>6:00 pm Jesus Calling   | 14<br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group  | 15 Newsletter Deadline   | 16<br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| 17<br>9:00 am SMC<br>10:00 am Worship<br>1 - 3:00 pm Wolfe Open House<br><br>4:00 pm Jr. ABY<br>5:00 pm ABK           | 18<br> | 19<br>5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study | 20<br>9:00 am ROMEO Club  | 21<br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group  | 22   | 23<br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| 24 Christmas Eve<br>7:00 pm Christmas Eve Svc.  | 25 Christmas Day<br>Church Office Closed   | 26<br>5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study | 27<br>9:00 am ROMEO Club  | 28<br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group<br> | 29   | 30<br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| 31 New Year's Eve   |  |                                    |   |  |  |   |