



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

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FEBRUARY

Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



As a church, we have committed ourselves to a mission statement which declares that the mission of our church is to: *Tell the Story, Nurture Believers, and Serve the Community.*

The purpose of our mission statement is to define the purpose and direct the ministries of First Baptist Church. Therefore, we have made a commitment to tell the story of what Christ has done in our lives and in the ministry of our church. To effectively tell this story means to use our words as well as our actions. Words and actions need to complement one another. It is important to live out our Christianity in all our daily activities. It is equally important to boldly tell other people the story of what Christ has done for us. It may be frightening, but it is essential that we use our words. The story will not be told unless we dare to tell what Christ has done for us.

The second point of our mission statement is that we nurture believers. Believers nurture themselves by prayer, study and fellowship. We belong in fellowship with one another. William Barclay wrote, “God knows nothing of solitary Christianity.” Indeed, we belong together. We belong in worship, Sunday church school, and small groups. We will not be nurtured in isolation.

To serve the community includes the ministry of the food pantry, but it is not limited to that ministry alone. Serving the community means traveling to Baton Rouge, and Gulfport, and Costa Rica to sweat with people whose homes and lives have been devastated. Serving the community means bringing someone to faith in Christ.

You will quickly discern that each of these points is mutually dependent upon the others. We tell the story in community, we love, nurture, and serve one another as we worship and work together to bring about the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Beginning on Sunday February 19 you are invited to participate in a church-wide campaign of transformation based on Romans 12:2 “be transformed by the renewing of your minds”. This ministry will provide opportunities for corporate worship as well as small group experiences. Among the topics to be discussed are: spiritual health, physical health, mental health, emotional health, relational health, financial and vocational health. By design the curriculum is meant to bring spiritual renewal to individuals and the church. It is also intended to reach into the community, inviting and encouraging those outside the community of faith to experience transfor-

mation in their lives and welcoming them to experience the fellowship of Christian community.

Beloved, we need this ministry. We need to be transformed for ministry and service in the church and community. Complacency cannot be allowed to control our lives and spiritual commitments. We need to be inviting our unchurched friends to experience the saving, transforming power of Jesus Christ. To the extent that we share our faith, renew our spiritual resources, and serve one another we have a profound impact on the future of God's kingdom.

SIGN UP NOW!
Professional Photography
for our Directory

Bring meaningful items to your photography session



Life Touch
Connecting You Through Family Photography

Say Cheese!

Do you ever wonder who you are sitting by in church? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished that you could put a face with that name? Are you new to our church and wish that you had something to help you sort out the jumble of faces and names? Well, help is on the way! We are producing a NEW pictorial directory for our church. There is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 color portrait and directory for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after you are photographed. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. We look forward to "seeing you in pictures".

You can make your appointment today by visiting our website at www.fbcpontiac.org or by stopping by the table in the narthex following worship.

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the March edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, February 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 door.



Winter Weather



A reminder as we make our way into a season of unpredictable winter weather, ***if Pontiac schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all church activities scheduled for that day will also be cancelled and the church office will be closed.***

To the best of our ability, church cancellation notices will be posted on our church Facebook page and will be broadcast on the WEEK and WMBD television stations, and, as appropriate will be shared via our calling system. If you do not receive church-wide notices via our automated calling system, please contact the office and request to have your number added to the list.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO USE THEIR BEST JUDGMENT AND BE SAFE DURING HAZARDOUS WEATHER!



Prayer Chain Number

815.419.4454

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

Feb. 5: Bob and Shirley Carroll

Feb. 12: Bob and Shirley Carrol

Feb. 19: Rick Golliday & Julie Amdor

Feb. 26: Rick Golliday & Julie Amdor

Ash Wednesday



We are pleased to announce that we will offer three Ash Wednesday services again this year. In addition to our traditional Ash Wednesday service on March 1st at 6:30 p.m., we will also be offering a brief service of Ashes at 6:30 a.m. and at 12:00 Noon.

We encourage everyone to join us at one of these services for a time of meaningful reflection as we make our way into the Lenten Season.

Ladies Night Out

WHEN: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017
6:30 - 8:00 pm

WHERE: Vineyard Classroom
Ladies, come warm up from the winter chill with food, fun, and fellowship!

BE TRANSFORMED

The Transformed small groups will begin meeting the week of February 19th. We're very excited about this new program and if you haven't signed up for a small group, stop by the table in the Narthex to sign up as soon as possible! Be TRANSFORMED!

2017 ABHM Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to do something a little extra in 2017? To give something more back? American Baptist Home Missions has some upcoming opportunities to share your time, skills and talents to help people here in the United States.

- Several work weeks and volunteer opportunities exist in:
- Baton Rouge, La., where they are still cleaning up after an August 2016 flood;
- Rainelle, W. Va, where they are cleaning up and rebuilding after a flood that occurred in June of 2016;
- New Jersey where they are still in the process of rebuilding homes and lives after the October 2012 devastation of Hurricane Sandy;
- New Orleans, where the rebuilding still continues 12 years after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast;
- Muskogee, Ok., where general construction, office help, and grounds maintenance work is needed at Murrow Indian Children's Home, a residential home for orphaned Native American Children.

For additional information and a complete list of volunteer opportunities, please contact Victoria Goff, ABHMS national coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization Ministries, at vgoff@abhms.org or 1-800-ABC-3USA, x2449.

Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, January 12th at 7:15 pm.

Sunday School: 2016 had an end of year attendance of 65 with an average offering of \$40.10.

Fellowship: The food pantry fed 1,178 families representing 3,605 people in 2016.

Children's Ministries:
ABK has resumed meeting

after the Christmas break with 14 children in attendance.

Facilities: Some lights have been replaced in classrooms. The boiler tank needs to be cleaned out and the seals replaced on the boiler pump.

Senior Pastor: June 4th has been chosen as the official day of celebration in honor of our church's 160th anniversary.

As a part of the 160th anniversary celebration, we are having a pictorial directory made. Lifetouch will be at our church taking photographs March 16, 17, and 18th.

The Global Leadership Summit will be held at Eastview Christian Church on August 10 and 11.

Community Corner

Pontiac District #429 will be holding their annual pre-school/Kindergarten screening on February 14, 15, and 16th here at First Baptist Church.

- OSF-St. James staff will be here to conduct developmental screenings for birth to 2 year 9 month children.
- Pontiac #429 ECE Special Education and Pre-K teachers will be screening the 2 year 10 month to 4 1/2 year old children not yet age ready for kindergarten.
- Parents of 4 - 5 year old children who are eligible for Kindergarten during the 2017-18 school year are strongly encouraged to make an appointment for screening. To be eligible for kindergarten, your child must turn 5 on or before September 1, 2017.

You may make an appointment for your child by calling 815.844.5448 between the hours of 8 to 4. All children being screened are encouraged to bring a certified birth certificate to screening and children entering kindergarten are required to have a certified birth certificate on file before school starts.



- 1 Michael Poshard
- 2 Mason Christianson
- 2 Jan Jolynn Staley
- 2 John and Michelle Bohm
- 3 Trinity Miller
- 3 Neisha Hibbs
- 4 Tyler Lind
- 4 Gary Brill
- 6 Bill Battice
- 9 Barbara Sancken
- 10 Patty Gray
- 10 Leon Gray
- 10 Peggie Boldt
- 11 Caiti Henson
- 12 Maxine Zytniowski
- 13 Claire Nyi
- 13 Joanne Perkins
- 13 Margaret Turner
- 14 Barry and Barbara Highland
- 15 Cheyle Herman
- 18 Earl Childers
- 19 Calvin Krueger
- 19 Dean and Kay Sidfrids
- 20 Karen Gilmoure
- 20 Alana Christianson
- 20 John Bohm
- 22 Marcia Harder
- 27 Bob and Sharon Matteson
- 28 Skip and Carol Jones



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle | 2 Groundhog Day 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 7:00 pm Covered in Prayers | 3 | 4 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| 5 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee | 6 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 6:30 pm Ladies Night Out | 7 | 8 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30 am Grief Group | 9 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 7:15 pm Board of Ministires | 10 | 11 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| 12 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 9:00 am ROMEO Club | 16 9:00 am BSF Women's Class | 17 Newsletter Deadline | 18 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| 19 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee | 20 President's Day 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith | 21 | 22 9:00 am ROMEO Club 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile @ VFW | 23 9:00 am BSF Women's Class | 24 | 25 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| 26 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee | 27 | 28 | | | | |