

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



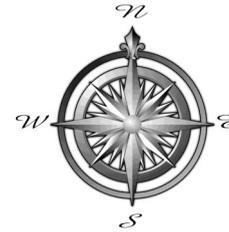
FEBRUARY

# Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. (<http://www.umc.org>)

In 2018 Ash Wednesday occurs on February 14. As has become our custom we will offer three service of ashes on that day. The imposition of ashes will be available at 6 am, 12 noon, and 6 pm. This brief service has become very meaningful to many people and you are encouraged to join us for the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

The Lenten season will also usher in a church-wide campaign of Bible study and small group activity. Beginning on Sunday February 18 we will be offering a five-part study titled, FINDING YOUR WAY BACK TO GOD, by Dave and Jon Ferguson. This five-part study will focus on the themes of, *Awakening to Longing, Awakening to Regret, Awakening to Need, Awakening to Love, and Awakening to Life*. The basis of these studies is Jesus' parable of the prodigal son found in the fifteenth chapter of Luke. Each week you will be invited to participate in a small group video and Bible study with discussion.

Small group opportunities will be available throughout the week and the Sunday messages will focus on the themes introduced in the small group events. You are warmly invited to participate in one of the small groups. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex beginning early in February.

I would also like to encourage you to consider hosting one of the small groups. Hosting need not be an intimidating prospect. All that is required is a heart for people, and openness to inviting

### From The Pastor (continued)

people into your home, and a DVD player. Please ponder this opportunity to make a difference in the life of someone you know and love.

Church-wide campaigns have a history of making a positive difference in the life and ministry of our church family. Your participation is crucial for your own spiritual development as well as the entire church family.

*Jim*

### Winter Weather

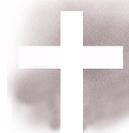


A reminder as we make our way through a season of unpredictable winter weather, ***if Pontiac schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all church activities scheduled for that day will also be cancelled and the church office will be closed.***

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.

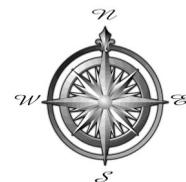
***WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO USE THEIR BEST JUDGMENT AND BE SAFE DURING HAZARDOUS WEATHER!***

### Ash Wednesday



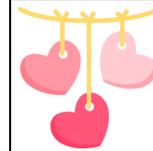
We are pleased to announce that we will offer three Ash Wednesday services again this year. In addition to our traditional Ash Wednesday service on February 14th at 6:30 p.m., we will also be offering a brief service of Ashes at 6:30 a.m. and at 12:00 Noon.

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.



*“Finding Your Way Back to God”*

Church-wide small group study coming Lent 2018!



### Ladies Afternoon Out!



**When:** Monday, February 12  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

**Where:** First Baptist Church Gymnasium

Come join us for pizza, prizes, and lots of fun!!! If you are planning to attend, please let either Jan Jolynn or Janice Staley know (call or text 815.210.3721) so that we can be sure we order enough pizza. We hope to see everyone there!

### 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 February we will be collecting Kleenex. 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.



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### 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 March newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, Feb. 16.

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.



## Thank You



I want to thank everyone for all your prayers, cards, texts, and calls to check on me during my recent health issues and to Pastor Jim for his visits and prayers. I really appreciate your kindness and thinking of me. I feel so blessed to be a part of this First Baptist Church Family where people are so caring and concerned. Bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Reva Johnson

## Community Corner

Pontiac District #429 will be holding their annual pre-school/Kindergarten screening on February 13, 14, and 15th 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 2018-19 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, 2018.

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.



Prayer Chain Number

815.419.4454

## You Are the Branches



**Name:** Virginia Asper

**What was your very first job?** Detasseling corn. I was the crew boss because I was the only one with a car.

**Where is your favorite place to pray?** In bed, right before I go to sleep, and again at 3:00 am when the cats get me up. Also I offer many "breath prayers" through the day.

**What age would you like to be again and why?** I would like to be 20 and know everything I know now. A lot of decisions would be a whole lot different!

**What advice or saying did your parents give?** "Life is not a bed of roses" and "you made your bed, you lie in it".

**What makes you laugh?** Making other people laugh.

**Favorite Jim Story?** Oh my! There are so many! Here's a serious one: EVERY time I have been in the ER, hospital, etc. Jim has been right there. What a blessing he is!

**Do you have a nickname?** Ginny. Everyone at the chair factory called me Ginny.

**Favorite cookie?** It's a tie: chocolate chip, and oatmeal with white chocolate chips. OOOH! Also macadamia nut with white chocolate chips.

**Memory of your grandparents:** My grandfather died when I was nine so not many memories of him. I spent lots of time with my grandmother and still miss her to this day. She taught me much about scripture and loved me unconditionally.

**Favorite class in school?** Geography and Psychology





# February

- 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 Aiden Hurd
- 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
- 17 Lisa Hurd
- 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   |
|--|--|-----------|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |           |  |  | <b>1</b><br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group<br>7:00 pm Covered with Prayers | <b>2</b> Groundhog Day   |
| <b>4</b><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  | <b>5</b>                                   | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>9:00 am ROMEO Club<br>10:00 am Ruth Circle<br>10:30 am Grief Group<br>1:00 pm Esther Circle                            | <b>8</b><br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group<br>7:30 pm Board of Ministries | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| <b>11</b><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 | <b>12</b><br>1:00 pm Single Women of Faith | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> Ash Wednesday<br>6:30 am Service of Ashes<br>9:00 am ROMEO Club<br>12:00 pm Service of Ashes<br>6:30 pm Service of Ashes | <b>15</b><br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group                               | <b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline   | <b>17</b><br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| <b>18</b><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 | <b>19</b>                                  | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>9:00 am ROMEO Club  | <b>22</b><br>6:30 pm Book of John Study<br>6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group                               | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b><br>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC<br>8:00 am PK Study at FBC |
| <b>25</b><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 | <b>26</b><br>1:00 pm Single Women of Faith | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>9:00 am ROMEO Club  |  |   |  |

