

Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

On May 24, First Baptist Church will celebrate 165 years of ministry in Pontiac. Over the course of those decades the church has had some 46 pastors, associate pastors, and youth ministers. As difficult as change is, we all understand that change is an integral component of life.

The verses from Lamentations remind us that although change is inevitable the love of the Lord, never ceases and his mercies never end. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Just as the ancient sun rises daily anew, so is God’s eternal mercy new every morning.” In those words, there is great assurance. Tomorrow morning when you rise, you do so in the certainty that God is present anew with you, God will enable you to meet the challenges of the day, with the understanding that God’s Spirit walks with you and abides within you. The faithfulness of the Lord is absolute.

We fail-God does not.

There will be significant transition taking place in our church over the next three months. As I announced on January 9, I will be retiring at the end of April. Pastor Jay has chosen to resign his position on May 22. It needs to be clearly understood that Pastor Jay’s resignation is not the result of my retirement. This was a prayerful, thoughtful decision reached by him and his family over an extended period of time. First Baptist is Jay’s home church, and he will be welcome to worship with this community of faith as he chooses to do so.

Change is inevitable and sometimes painful. God’s love, mercy, and forgiveness does not change. God has had an American Baptist presence in Pontiac for 165 years. That is not going to change because your current pastors are resigning. God will never give up on God’s church.

Great is Thy faithfulness

From the Pastor (cont.)

*Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me [us]*

Peace be with you,

Jim

Pastor Jay Resigns



At the Board of Ministries meeting held on Tuesday, January 18th, Associate Pastor, Jay Hurd, submitted his resignation effective May 22, 2022. We are grateful for Pastor Jay's years of service and look forward to joining in worship with him and his family in the future.

Prayer Chain Reminder

ALL requests for the prayer chain must be made to the following number:

815.419.4454

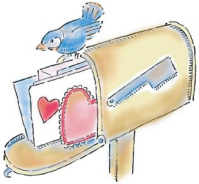
If you wish to receive prayer chain calls, please contact the church office at 815.842.4321 and request that your name and number be added to the list.

Covid-19 Response

As we work our way through the ongoing pandemic with a rising number of local cases, we continue to encourage you to wear a mask during worship, particularly if you are unvaccinated. Additionally, we've made hand sanitizing stations available just outside both entry doors to the sanctuary, in the Sunday School hallway, and in the gym.

Remember, if you feel ill, have any symptoms of Covid-19, or have been exposed to the virus, please worship with us via YouTube and rejoin us in person when you are recovered or have completed appropriate quarantine. Let's keep everyone safe and healthy!

Be My Valentine - ABK Edition!



It's hard to believe Valentine's Day is already rolling around again! Because it had such an impact on the kids last year, we are revisiting sending Valentines to the children. This year, we will make available a Valentine box in the narthex in which you can leave your Valentines for our ABK kids.

This year, we have 10 kids in ABK. Their names are: Caden, Ladon, Kohen, Luke, Emma, Eisley, Madison, Ryder, Nicci, and Lizzie.

Last year we provided Valentines for you to share, but this year we encourage you to make your own cards to share. If you're not the crafty type, store bought Valentines are also a great option! Knowing that the people of this church care enough to do this small thoughtful act can have a mighty impact. It truly meant a lot to them last year so let's take a minute and let these 10 kids know they are truly loved.

Got Pictures?

We want to keep our website and Facebook pages current and we need your help! With smart phones and digital cameras every one of us is photo-journalist ready to document our family life here at FBC! If you attend a church event snap some pictures and send them to us via e-mail at: rhonda@fbcpontiac.org and we'll choose some to share on our website and via our social networking pages. Let's work together to share the awesome things that are happening here at FBC Pontiac!



Office Notes



Are you starting a new small group meeting or has your small group ended? Planning an outing? Restarting a ministry? Don't forget to include to notify the office of your plans so that we may add your event to our calendar and help you spread the word! Our on-line Google calendar makes it easy to add events to personal calendars, track schedule changes, and set reminders, but we can't add it if we don't know about it!

You may submit your items via e-mail to: rhonda@fbcpontiac.org or by calling the church office at 815.842.4321. Let's work together to ensure we all have the most accurate and up to date scheduling available!



Feb



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Michael Poshard
- 2 Mason Christianson
- 2 Jan Jolynn Staley
- 2 John and Michelle Bohm
- 3 Trinity Miller
- 4 Tyler Lind
- 4 Gary Brill
- 9 Aiden Hurd
- 9 Barbara Sancken
- 10 Patty Gray
- 10 Leon Gray
- 11 Caiti Henson
- 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 Gilmore
- 20 Alana Christianson
- 20 John Bohm
- 22 Marcia Harder
- 27 Bob and Sharon Matteson
- 28 Skip and Carol Jones

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		1
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	7	8 6:00 pm Healing Hearts
13 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	14 Valentine's Day 	15 6:00 pm Diaconate Council 7:00 pm Board of Ministries
20 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	21 Presidents Day 	22
27 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	28	



February



Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2 Groundhog Day

9:00 am ROMEO Club
10:30 am Prayer Meeting
1:00 pm Esther Circle
6:00 pm ABK
6:00 pm ABY
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting



3

4

5

9

9:00 am ROMEO Club
10:30 am Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm ABK
6:00 pm ABY
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting

10

11

12

16

9:00 am ROMEO Club
10:30 am Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm ABK
6:00 pm ABY
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting

17

18 Newsletter Deadline

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

19

23

9:00 am ROMEO Club
10:30 am Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm ABK
6:00 pm ABY
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting

24

25

26

Thank You



We would like to thank everyone for the wonderful outpouring of love we received on the loss of our mom/grandma, Janice Staley. A special thanks to Pastor Jim, Cindy Knight, and the kitchen crew who all helped to make mom's life celebration a heart-warming memory for years to come.

Much love in Christ,
The Janice Staley Family

I'd like to thank you for the beautiful crystal Christmas tree. I've enjoyed very much. Thank you for remembering me.

Evelyn Vietti

To Our Church Family,

Thank you for the crystal Christmas tree. We enjoyed it a lot.

Jim and Marian Dixon

Community Corner

Livingston County Preschool Screening



The Livingston County Special Services Unit will be conducting spring preschool screenings for children ages birth through five years. Children will be screened for vision, hearing, speech, language, motor, and social skills. Families participating in the screenings can learn how their child is developing and receive supportive resources for parent/child activities. If an area of need is identified, parents will be connected with appropriate service providers for further evaluation and early intervention if necessary.

If you have any questions or need to set your child up for a screening, please contact the school where your child would most likely attend for more information on screening dates and times for your area.

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion the March edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, February 18. 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.

On-Line Giving



With on-line giving, it's 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!

Visit Us on the Web!

fbcpontiac.org



Winter Weather

A reminder as we continue to 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. To the best of our ability, church cancellation notices will be broadcast on WEEK, WCIA, and posted to our Facebook page.

We encourage everyone to use their best judgment and be safe during hazardous weather!





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