



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

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# The Family Tree

First Baptist Church of Pontiac  
—Growing the Family of God

Pastor: James O. Wolfe III

Do you happen to recall when you were first in love? When the sight of your beloved stirred your heartstrings; when you thrilled at the sound of her or his voice?

How long ago was that? Ten years? Twenty? Time passes. Inevitably the thrill of first love gives way to the reality of having kids to raise and bills to pay. Voices once hushed in gentle expressions of affection are often raised in anger and recrimination. The blush of first love has given way to the reality of living together; being family, which is often messy and frequently painful.

Do you happen to recall when you first fell in love with Jesus? Do you remember when you realized your sins had been pardoned and you were the beloved child of God? Can you recall when worship was an event you looked forward to in joyous expectation and service was a welcome response to God's presence in your life?

How long ago was that? Ten years? Twenty? Time passes. Inevitably the thrill of first love gives way to the pressures of managing a home, shuttling kids to the myriad activities in which they are engaged, and finding enough money to pay the bills. When the thrill of loving Jesus wears off we find a plethora of excuses to skip worship, stop serving in ministry, and we just can't find the extra money to support the church. Worship and service receive lip service but the reality is the excitement, joy, and enthusiasm are simply no longer there.

When we were first in love we couldn't stop talking, now the common complaint is, "You don't talk to me anymore." That might very well be God's comment to us. If we take the time to pick through the unraveled threads of our relationship with God we find that prayer and devotional life are among the first casualties of failed love because we just don't have the time.

St. Augustine is quoted as saying, "True whole prayer is nothing but love." Prayer is the expression of our love for God and a direct response to God's love for us. Prayer is the free expression of hurts, anger, pain and joy. Because of the loving relationship we share with God we are welcome to address God in any and all circumstances. If I love God I make the time to talk with God. There are times when I am tired, frustrated, disappointed, angry, and don't feel much like talking. If I love God I make the time to talk with God. There are moments when I am so blessed that I forget to say thank you. If I love God I make the time to talk with God.

*How's your prayer life?* My prayer life is measured in direct proportion to my love for God.

## 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 our upcoming Costa Rica Mission Trip might be the perfect gift!

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 persons name and address as well as the specific ministry to which you'd like your gift applied.

## Community Corner

McDowell United Methodist Church's 67th Annual

*"Pancake and Sausage Stuffer"*

Thursday, January 8th

7:00 am - 7:00 pm

12 and older: \$8 donation

*"All you can eat"*



## Visit Us on the Web!



For convenient access to the latest church news and schedule information, don't forget to visit us on-line at [www.fbcpontiac.org](http://www.fbcpontiac.org).

While there, you also have the opportunity to download recent services in MP3 format or browse our picture gallery and see just what we've been up to lately here at FBC! Also, don't forget to friend us on Facebook and receive all the latest church updates!

## Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the February edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Monday, January 19th.

You may submit your articles by phone (842.4321), fax (844.6943), by e-mail ([Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org](mailto:Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org)) or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.

## Office Notes



In honor of the New Year holiday, our office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31st and will be closed on Thursday, January 1st and Friday, January 2nd.

*We wish our entire church family a happy and healthy*

## 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.***

To the best of our ability, church cancellation notices will be broadcast on 98.9 FM (WJEZ) and Pontiac Channel 13, posted on our website ([www.fbcpontiac.org](http://www.fbcpontiac.org)), our Facebook page and made available on our voicemail system.

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

## 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

Jan. 4: Rick Golliday and Jacob Krominga

Jan. 11: Janet Halford

Jan. 18: Janet Halford

Jan. 25: Missy Hoover

## Thank You



We would like to thank our entire church family for the many cards, warm wishes and the generous Christmas gift you shared with us during this Christmas season. We are deeply touched by your thoughtfulness. We love you all very much and feel blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

Jim, Janet and Owen Wolfe

To Everyone at First Baptist Church who provided food, their services or memorial donations - we greatly appreciate all that you did for our family with the passing of our dad.

Everything was delicious and so nicely done.

The Gary Weber Family

I'd like to thank all of you who prayed for Michelle and hope that you will continue to do so. She is following movement and improving. It is a slow process. We are so grateful to you and wish you God's Blessings and a happy, healthy New Year.

Miracles still happen!

Sincerely,

Evelyn Vietti and Family

Pastor Jim,

My family would like to thank you and all the volunteers from your church. I can't begin to tell you how much the Jubilee Christmas has helped my family. I'd like to extend our thanks and all our love to everyone who participated!

We are blessed,

A Jubilee Christmas Guest

## Cold and Flu Season Is Here!

As the cold and flu season descends upon us, we'd like to take the opportunity to give our church family a few important reminders:

- ⇒ If you're sick (particularly if you're running a fever) we encourage you to consider staying at home and joining us for worship via the radio broadcast. This is not only important for your own comfort and welfare but also for the comfort and welfare of other church family members.
- ⇒ Likewise, if your child is sick we encourage you to keep him or her home so that he or she may rest and recuperate.
- ⇒ Influenza is especially dangerous for the elderly, the very young, and those with chronic illnesses who may be immunocompromised. Please exercise extra caution when visiting those members of our church family who fall into these categories and consider making a phone call rather than an "in person" visit if you're feeling unwell or if you've been exposed to friends and family members who are ill.



## An Important Reminder...



If you have been to see a medical professional recently you no doubt were asked to sign a form indicating that you received information regarding HIPAA regulations. What you may not realize is that HIPAA regulations prohibit hospitals and other agencies from sharing your personal information with anyone **including your pastor.**

This means if you want us to know about your hospitalization you or a family member must contact the church office directly, or you must specifically ask the hospital chaplain to contact Pastor Jim and let him know that you have been hospitalized. This is the **only** way you can be sure that we will know you have been admitted to the hospital



# January

- 1-Rosa Wing
- 1-Lynette Senter
- 2-Jay Dee Richardson
- 4-Gerald Shepherd
- 7-Jim Byrd
- 8-Kenny and Tara Crawford
- 9-Richard Halford
- 13-Jennifer Borders
- 13-Darrel Shoop
- 14-Gwen Battice
- 15-Barb Tholen
- 15-Jardin James
- 17-Jim and Joanne Perkins
- 18-Danny Heath
- 19-Mary Jo Heath
- 19-Emily McBride
- 20-Janet Wolfe
- 20-Jim Hodges
- 21-Steve Carroll
- 22-Patricia Wiser
- 23-Sharon Colclasure
- 23-Ronald Watson
- 24-Bradley Harder
- 24-Kelly Miller
- 25-Lauren Benning
- 25-Rebecca Bohm
- 25-Alex Detwiler
- 25-Austin Pohanka
- 25-Charlie and Alice Crego
- 28-Fran Dean
- 29-Larry Thacker
- 30-Kristen Quinn
- 30-Cyndi Grau

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> New Year's Day Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>4</b> Communion Sun. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 1:00 pm Esther Circle 7:00 pm Adult Choir	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Diaconate Council 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>11</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Covered With Prayer 5:00 pm ABK/ABY	<b>12</b> 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>18</b> Food Pantry Sun. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABK/ABY	<b>19</b> Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABK/ABY	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC