



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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers



The counselor said, “You’ve got ants.” “Ants,” I queried, “you mean like ants in my pants?” “No,” came the reply, “ANTS- Automatic Negative Thoughts.” As the conversation continued I realized the wisdom of his words and the reality of those automatic negative thoughts in my life and ministry.

As I have taken the time to reflect on that conversation in the ensuing years I am forced to acknowledge that my immediate response to most comments, even compliments, is to internalize the words as a negative statement on my personal self-worth. The habit has become so ingrained that self-deprecating remarks and self-criticism have become my standard modus operandi.

I’m sure that I am not the only person who functions this way and I see it carried over into the life of the church. Regardless of how successful a ministry is carried out there are always those naysayers who can see only what is wrong. We apply Automatic Negative Thoughts not only to ourselves, but that mindset quickly spills over into all areas of our life to the point that we see little of value in ourselves, our institutions, and sadly even in our relationship with God. It is self-defeating and devaluing.

Let me suggest that we download a new app to replace ANTS. We’re going to call this app Automatic Positive Perceptions (APPS.) This app is not available from the app store, but rather is a way of beginning to reprogram our thought processes away from the negative and focus, in the words of Paul on, “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8).

This is more than merely the repetition of scripture it is a practical, meaningful way of replacing the negative reactions that beset us with a focus on the positive attributes of ourselves and those with whom we come in contact. While we may lament the fact that some people have left our family for what they perceive to be greener pastures, let us look instead to the number of children participating in our ABK program or the excite-

From the Pastor (cont.)

ment of our reinvigorated ABY program. Not everything is bad or wrong. Not every person is evil and out to hurt us. There is goodness, justice, and praiseworthy attributes in each of us and in our families and churches. It is possible that we have become so inured to seeing only the negative that we automatically reject the good that is often around us.

As the New Year dawns upon us I want to suggest that as individuals and faith community we download Automatic Positive Perceptions which will diffuse and replace the negative attitudes that prevent us from being the people God has created and called us to be.



Prayer Chain

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

815.419.4454

- ⇒ Please DO NOT call, email, or text the church office or staff members with prayer chain requests. This phone number is the ONLY avenue to access the prayer chain.
- ⇒ Prayer chain calls will be made only between the hours of 9:00 am and 8:00 pm.
- ⇒ To the extent possible prayer chain calls will be made ONLY once per day.
- ⇒ “Unnamed” prayer requests will not be made.

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

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.

Office Notes



In honor of the New Year holiday, our office will be closed from Wednesday, December 30th through Friday, January 1st. We will re-open for regular business hours on Monday, January 4th.

We wish our entire church family a happy and healthy holiday weekend!



Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the February edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, January 15th.

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.

Children's Church

Jan. 3: Lynn Battice and Vicki McBeath

Jan. 10: Lynn Battice and Vicki McBeath

Jan. 17: Patty Gray and Mary Frobish

Jan. 24: Patty Gray and Mary Frobish

Jan. 30: Julie Amdor

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.



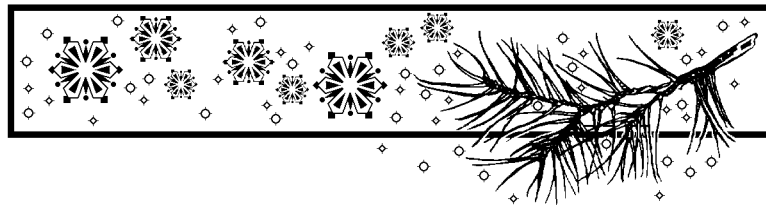
Winter Weather



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), our Facebook page and made available on our voicemail system.

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



Valet Parking



Valet parking is available each Sunday morning. To utilize this service please drive your car to the front door and ask one of the valets to park your vehicle.

You may ask to have your vehicle parked at the north end of the building to accommodate your needs if you attend Sunday school.

Reminder



When leaving the church after an event please take a moment to ensure that all the doors are locked and the lights are turned out.

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. 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 follow us on Facebook and receive all the latest church updates!

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



A decorative border at the bottom of the page featuring various stylized snowflakes in shades of blue, purple, and white.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<div>1New Year's Day Church Office Closed</div> 	<div>2</div> <div>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC</div>
<div>3</div> <div>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK</div>	<div>4</div> <div>1:00 pm Single Women of Faith</div> 	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 7:00 pm Adult Choir</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC</div>
<div>10</div> <div>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK / ABY</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:00 am ROMEO Club</div> 	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	<div>16</div> <div>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC</div>
<div>17</div> <div>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY</div>	<div>18</div> <div>1:00 pm Single Women of Faith</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC</div> 
<div>24</div> <div>Regular Sunday Schedule</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> 	<div>27</div> <div>9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC</div>
<div>30</div> <div>Regular Sunday Schedule</div>						