



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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# Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

*Coffee with Jim*



The America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities,” reminds us that, as American Baptists, we exemplify a vital legacy of mission and ministry dating to 1824. The 21st-century challenges of leadership are numerous, but we are invigorated by the passage of Luke 4: 18-19: “*The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor*” (NRSV).

Through your generous donations and partnership, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is committed to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities, and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness, and proficiency.

Your AFC gifts will come alongside ABHMS as we continually address the question: What do leaders need to continue growing and developing? The AFC Offering 2017 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ’s church. Cultivating leaders is a call to all of our American Baptist Family.

Consider making a generous gift!

We are encouraged by this year’s theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities.” I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering to help us meet our goal of raising \$3,500 in support of home mission across the United States and Puerto Rico. We will receive the offering at the close of worship on Sunday, March 26th.

Together we can make a difference!

*Jim*

## Getting to Know the Branches of our Family Tree!

We are excited to announce an exciting new feature in our monthly newsletter! Beginning in April, we will be asking people to share a bit of themselves with the church family. We will ask two people (adults and children) each month to answer simple and fun questions about themselves. What's your favorite color? Your proudest achievement? Your most embarrassing moment? Your favorite Bible Verse?

Participation is strictly voluntary, and if you decide to participate, your picture will be taken and published with your answers in the newsletter. This will be a fun way to get to know one another in our church family so keep an eye out for future features on the branches around you!

## Mission Opportunity!

Mississippi Mission Trip

June 10th - 18th

We will be working again with the same individuals and staying in the same places!!

**The Cost for the week is \$500.00**

We'll be having even more fun than last time!

Avoiding hospitals! Not allowing Pastor Jim to drive at night or in the rain!  
And, most importantly,

Helping others and showing Christ through our work!!

To guarantee your spot a deposit of \$100 is due by March 5th. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Dale Newsome.

## Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the April edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Monday, March 20.

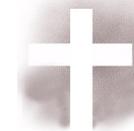
You may submit your articles by phone (842.4321), fax (844.6943), by e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org) or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.

## Daylight Saving Time



Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 12th so don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday night!

## 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 Len-



**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

**March 5:** Janet Halford

**March 12:** Janet Halford

**March 19:** Missy Hoover

**March 26:** Missy Hoover

## Thank You

I want to thank everyone who has been thinking of me with prayers, phone calls, cards, and texts since I have been having some health issues lately. I appreciate your concern and caring so much and am so glad to be a part of this wonderful church family.

Bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Reva Johnson

Thanks to everyone who remembered us with prayers, visits, cards, and visits when Jim had surgery and after he returned home. A big thank you to Pastor Jim for coming to the hospital and praying with us. It was all very much appreciated.

Thanks again to our wonderful loving church family.

Jim and Joanne Perkins

## The Shack



The movie "The Shack", based on the book by William P. Young, is coming out in early March. As many of you may remember, there was a book study group at the church that read and discussed the book about six years ago and now that the movie is being released, Julie Amdor and Peggie Boldt are arranging an outing to see the 4:05 pm showing of the movie on March 4th at Wehrenberg Theaters in Bloomington (1111 Wylie Drive).

Following the movie there are plans for the group to stop for dinner at the nearby Steak n Shake restaurant.

The group will meet at the church at 3:00 pm that day and carpooling may be an option. Or, if you'd rather, you're welcome to meet the group at the theater in Bloomington.

If you'd like to be a part of this outing, please contact Julie Amdor or Peggie Boldt to sign up or for additional information.

## Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, February 9th at 7:15 pm.

**Sunday School:** There was an average of 65 people attending Sunday School with an average offering of \$37.00.

Ideas are needed to engage children and keep them for Sunday School following

Children's Church.

**Fellowship:** The food pantry served a total of 89 families representing 244 individuals. This is a decrease from the amount served during the same period in 2016.

**Facilities:** The boiler required some minor maintenance.

A new sink will be installed in the bathroom area of the new media room.

The garage door has been completely installed and is functioning properly.

\* The March Board meetings will be suspended.

## Easter Lilies



It's time once again to begin ordering lilies to decorate our Sanctuary for Easter. Lilies will be \$12 each this year. If you would like to order a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete the order form in the Sunday bulletin and drop it with your check in the offering plate (please be sure to mark your check 'lilies').

## FBC Directory 2017



The 2017 edition of our church manual is now available in the Narthex. To conserve costs, we ask that you take only one per family.

*\*Please note that we have done our best to ensure that our directory is as complete and accurate as possible. Any errors or oversights are completely*



# March

- 2 Jim and Rhonda Hodges
- 3 Jayme Soule
- 3 Patricia Shoop
- 6 Matt Highland
- 6 Robert Brackney
- 6 Donna Brackney
- 7 Rhonda Hodges
- 10 DeWayne & Trudy King-Keller
- 11 Bethany Miller
- 12 Tyler Stewart
- 16 Todd Miller
- 17 Barry Schell
- 17 Aaron Waschle
- 17 Julia Bonnivier
- 19 Erik and Chayla Mitchey
- 22 Sheila Ferguson
- 23 James and Janice Letsos
- 24 Amanda Krueger
- 27 Micah Hurd
- 29 Farrell Porter
- 31 Barry and Sue Schell

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 Ash Wednesday</b> 6:30 am Ash Wednesday Svc 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Svc. 1:00 pm Esther Circle 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Svc.	<b>2</b> 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 7:00 pm Covered in Prayers	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	<b>6</b> 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30 am Grief Group	<b>9</b> 9:00 am BSF Women's Class	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>12 DST Begins</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club	<b>16</b> 9:00 am BSF Women's Class	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	<b>20 Newsletter Deadline</b> 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile @ VFW	<b>23</b> 9:00 am BSF Women's Class	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club	<b>30</b> 9:00 am BSF Women's Class	<b>31</b>	

