



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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PONTIAC, IL 61764

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Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



Jesus teaches us to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Our church follows the teaching of Jesus by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors’ needs, physical and spiritual alike.

Our church’s efforts are supported by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), which provides resources for cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing and transforming communities. Through ABHMS, we serve neighbors in Puerto Rico and other places in the United States in long-term recovery after natural disasters. Indeed, ABHMS provides many ways to help our church love our many neighbors, near and far!

Our church supports this work through our generous gifts to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering. Each dollar given increases the ministry and impact of ABHMS to serve neighbors with ministries incarnating Christ’s love, justice and compassion. Further, a portion of this offering (28%) will be shared with our American Baptist Churches region for strengthening local church leaders through programming, pastoral search support and other efforts to help our local church thrive, especially in these times when North America is its own challenging mission field!

In 2019, our church’s AFC gifts supported the following ministries:

- “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” — rebuilding the island one church and one building at a time.
- Scholarships and Emerging Leaders — providing scholarships to students to help ease the debilitating effects of excessive student-loan debt.
- Immigration and Refugee Resettlement — partnering with organizations that have resettled more than 100,000 displaced persons from across the world.
- Rizpah’s Children — partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty.

Additional supported ministries included Disaster Response, Volunteer Mobilization, Prisoner Re-Entry and Community Outreach Ministries.

(Cont.)

From the Pastor (cont.)

AFC 2020 empowers our local and national efforts to “love our neighbor.” I ask you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering and help us to reach our goal, as we partner with ABHMS to love our neighbors and share the gospel!

We will receive the America For Christ offering at the close of worship on Sunday, March 29th.

Jim

VBS Save the Date!



**SAVE THE DATE:
JULY 26 THROUGH JULY 30, 2020
6PM – 8PM**

*Please contact Janet Wolfe if you are interested
in being a part of this vital ministry*

North Castle is hidden a frozen land. The King’s valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King’s Armor. But the armor isn’t what they think it is. **Knights of the North Castle: Quest for the King’s Armor** invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God’s power! Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King’s Book. They’ll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, The Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Help kids take up the gauntlet and accept the challenge to “armor up” and be strong by remaining with God! Our Quest for the King’s Armor is based on Ephesians 6:10-20.

Daylight Saving Time



Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8th so don’t forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday night!

Newsletter Deadline

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

Easter Lilies



It’s time once again to begin ordering lilies to decorate our Sanctuary for Easter. Lilies will be \$13 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’).

America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020

“You shall **LOVE** your **NEIGHBOR** as **YOURSELF.**”
MATTHEW 22:39



**Prayer Chain
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.



“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

James 5:16

America For Christ at Work

Puerto Rico Urgently Needs our Support! The daily struggle in Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria is astounding.

Some recent statistics provide a snapshot of what Puerto Ricans are facing:

- ⇒ 70,000 homes were destroyed.
- ⇒ 250,000 homes have partial damage.
- ⇒ 48 American Baptist churches were damaged.
- ⇒ Approximately 30,000 people are without jobs.
- ⇒ Approximately 50% of the houses are not covered by insurance.

Unbelievably, there are tens of thousands of homes in Puerto Rico still covered by blue tarps. In addition, that means tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters live day-to-day with leaky roofs and buckets in their living rooms to catch the rain, always worrying about the next cloudy day or pending tropical storms.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is currently providing funds for repairing roofs in Puerto Rico.

“Life was hard before [the roof was fixed]; we were saving and trying to make it, but it was hard. ... The house kept getting wet with every rain.” — Magaly Figueroa

“My life is so much happier now. I don’t have to keep putting towels and buckets on the floor if it rains. ... I can finally sleep in peace.” — Mary Luz Jiménez

Your gifts to America for Christ support ABHMS funds for repairing homes and Volunteer-mobilization Ministries teams.

Pastor Wolfe’s Anniversary!



March 1st 2020 will mark the 30th anniversary of Pastor Wolfe and his family joining us here at FBC Pontiac! That’s 30 years of sermons, of comfort, of prayer, of learning and growing, of sharing, of friendship, of midnight hospital visits, of weddings and baby dedications, and of family. Join us on March 1st and let Pastor Wolfe know just how much you appreciate everything he’s done over the past 30 years!

You Are the Branches



Name: Kate Hoover

What is one of your favorite vacations so far? It's hard to pick between Disney World and Gatlinburg, TN.

What is something you get asked a lot? Do you play basketball? (No I do not.)

What can you do that we would be surprised about? I have very flexible ankles that click when I walk.

Would you ever want to change your first name? Maybe because I sometimes feel wilder than my name.

If you became famous for something what would it be? Dancing. Specifically tap dancing or lyrical/contemporary dance.

What is your favorite color? That's actually hard... light blue or yellow

What is your favorite food? Chicken alfredo

What is your favorite tv show? Riverdale

What is your favorite church memory? When I got baptized. Also, when we played hide a seek at ABY and my friend and I hid outside by the sign so no one could find us.

What's your favorite saying? She believed she could so she did. The only thing stronger than fear is hope.

FBC Directory 2020

The 2020 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 unintentional.





March

- 2 Jim and Rhonda Hodges ♥
- 3 Jayme Soule
- 3 Patricia Shoop
- 6 Matt Highland
- 6 Robert Brackney
- 6 Donna Brackney
- 7 Rhonda Hodges
- 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
1 Jim's Anniversary 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 	2	3	4 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	5	6 World Day of Prayer 	7 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
8 DST Begins 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	9 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	10 6:00 pm Parents Grief Supp. Group	11 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	12 7:00 pm Board of Ministries	13	14 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
15 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30 am Grief Support Group 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	19 First Day of Spring	20	21 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
22 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	23 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	24	25 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	26	27 	28 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
29 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	30	31				

