



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone (1 Timothy 2:1).

There are sound reasons why I constantly remind you to pray for one another. The first of those reasons is that it is a biblical mandate. Prayer is not an optional task that we perform only on special occasions. Prayer is a fact of spiritual life. We cannot remain in Christ without the discipline of prayer. Jesus reminded his disciples that they cannot survive without being connected to him. The connecting tissue is the practice of prayer.

The second reason that I continue to push you in the practice of prayer is for the health of Christ's body, the church. Before he went to the cross Jesus prayed for the unity of those he was leaving behind: protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one (John 17:11). When the people of God pray for one another there is unity and spiritual maturity in the body of Christ. The lack of prayer is equally obvious.

The words of Paul to Timothy call us to make supplications, intercessions and thanksgivings for everyone. The work of intercession is crucial to our personal spiritual development. It is critical to the life of the body of Christ.

In his book, *Life Together* Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes concerning intercession: "A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. There is no dislike, no personal tension, no estrangement that cannot be overcome by intercession . . . Intercessory prayer is the purifying bath into which the individual and the fellowship must enter every day."

As a first step in intercessory prayer I want to renew the challenge to each of you to find a prayer partner. When you establish a relationship with a prayer partner you will begin the discipline of intercessory prayer. You will intercede for specific requests and in turn your prayer partner will intercede for you. It is a practical method of learning this form of prayer which will strengthen your personal relationship with God and with at least one other person.

Intercession is often defined as representing another person to God. It may be better understood as seeing the other person as God sees them. When we learn to see one another through God's eyes we will find ourselves much less judgmental, a great deal more patient and understanding. When we see the other as God sees them forgiveness will be a matter of fact, not a legalistic task that we simply must perform.

From the Pastor... (cont.)

When we pray in community we will experience both personal and corporate growth. It cannot be otherwise. We neglect the discipline of intercessory prayer to the detriment of our spiritual growth and the demise of the Christ's body.

The old hymn states it quite simply: "For you I am praying, For you I am praying, For you I am praying, I'm praying for you."

Below are five suggestions for establishing a prayer partner relationship.

1. Invite someone to join you in a mutual prayer journey.
2. Meet regularly. Once per week is preferable. You may meet in person or by phone.
3. Share what is happening in your life, at work or at home. Joys and concerns.
4. Maintain absolute confidentiality.
5. At the close of each session ask the question, "How can I pray for you?" As you become comfortable pray aloud for each other.

Prayer doesn't change things. Prayer changes me. As I am transformed each day more fully into the image of Christ, my relationships are transformed, my thoughts become more fully the thoughts of Christ. Home life, work challenges, and social interactions are all transformed because of the practice of prayer. Ultimately, the body of Christ is transformed as each of us take seriously the requirement to pray daily for one another.

Peace be with you all,

Graduate Recognition Sunday



We will be recognizing our graduates this year on Sunday, June 4th. If you or someone you know in the church family will be graduating this year, please contact the church office no later than May 19th with the information. Also, encourage your graduates to join us that day so that we may celebrate their accomplishments together!

Bible Study Fellowship

Discover how you can find joy, freedom, and satisfaction in your life as you encounter God in the Bible. Bible Study Fellowship will host an informational "Welcome" open to all women who would like to learn more about BSF along with the opportunity to register for next year's study of the Book of Romans on Thursday, May 4th at 9:15 am here at FBC.

Scholarship Opportunity

We are blessed to be able to offer one time scholarships to those in our church family who are attending college, graduate or technical school! If you fit this description and haven't already received a scholarship from FBC, we encourage you to apply for a scholarship by submitting a letter to the church office outlining your church activities, community involvement and future educational goals no later than May 31st.

Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

Summer schedules for LSBC have been posted!

Day Camps

K-4 grade: June 24th (\$35.00)

K-5 grade: June 29th (\$35.00)

Overnight Camps

Junior High: June 11-17 (\$270.00)

4-6 grade: June 18-23 (\$210.00)

2-5 grade: June 25-28th (\$140.00)

Sr. High: July 6-8 (\$96.00)

Junior High: July 9-15 (\$270.00)

Sr. High: July 16-22 (\$270.00)

1-4 grade: July 23-26 (\$140.00)



If you would like to send your child to camp this summer you may register them by going to the LSBC website: lsbconline.com. Remember that the church will offset half of the fee for the campers from our church.

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.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the June newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Wednesday, May 17th.



Children's Church

May 7: Juanita James

May 14: Michelle Bohm

May 21: Michelle Bohm

May 28: Shirley and Bob Carroll

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to ALL who made the Maundy Thursday service and Easter Sunday services possible. All were very meaningful and we realize that a lot of work goes into making these things happen. This extends to all who participated as well as Rhonda, the janitorial staff, those who donated lilies, etc.

God bless our church family,.

Gary and Peggy Boldt

We want to thank our church family for all the cards, visits, food and prayers during the loss of Alice's mother in February and the surgery on her arm in March. We are very thankful to have such a loving church family as yourselves. We send a huge thank you to Pastor Jim for his telephone calls and prayers in the hospital during this difficult time.

Alice and Charlie Crego

You Are the Branches...



Name: Karen Meister

Favorite food? Ice Cream

Favorite meal? Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner—turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy, pie, veggies.

Where were you born? Fairbury, IL

What is one thing you want people to know about you? I am blessed with a large family—29 in-laws, 32 nieces and nephews (plus spouses), and 46 great nieces and nephews

Who made the most impact on your life and why? My grand-ma...shew as a strong Christian woman who was there for me when my mom died - I was 15.

If you could talk to anyone from the Bible who would it be and why? Mary—I am inspired by her faith, strength, and obedience. I'd like to hear her tell her story.

How long have you been coming to First Baptist? 35 years

Do you collect anything? Willow Tree Angels and Figurines

If you could go anywhere in the world for vacation, where would you visit? France 

You Are the Branches...



Name: Aiden Hurd

Favorite Color? Blue

Favorite Food ? Cheeseburgers

Sweet or salty? Sweet

Where were you born? Normal, Illinois

What was your nickname growing up? AJ

How long have you been coming to First Baptist? 2 years

Least favorite household chore? Taking out the garbage.

What do you like to do on a day off? Play outside

Favorite singer? Elvis and my dad

The Scoop on our Youth Group!

Hello Church Family

He is Risen, Risen Indeed!!

What a great day Easter was as we were able to start with our Youth Service for sunrise and a breakfast following. We had a record turn out and even ran out of sausage. The youth did an outstanding job. I want you all to know the youth of our church and myself appreciate all your support in all we do. Please continue to pray for us as we enter into the graduation season and we prepare for our annual Teen Serve event. Registration has started and we look forward to this ministry again this year. If you ever have any questions or suggestions for the youth please feel to contact me via email at jay@fbcpontiac.org.

God Bless you all

Jay

Schedule Notes



In honor of the Memorial Day holiday there will be no evening activities on Sunday, May 28th and the church office will be closed on Monday, May 29th.

We wish everyone a blessed and happy holiday weekend.



May



- 2 Josh Chehak
- 2 Mark Verdun
- 5 Alex Beck
- 5 Reid Cole
- 5 John and Judy Pohanka ♥
- 5 Myles Gilliam
- 6 Joyce Wilson
- 10 Gordie and Mary Frobish ♥
- 10 Keith Battleson
- 11 Mark Highland
- 12 Michael Schiff
- 13 Joe Lind
- 16 Linda Gruen
- 17 Dan and Patty Gray ♥
- 18 Doris Williams
- 19 Payton Borders
- 21 Kenny Crawford
- 21 Ruth Ann Peck
- 22 Linda Green
- 22 Judy Shepherd
- 23 Todd and Jan Miller ♥
- 23 Lori Pemberton
- 24 Dan Gray
- 25 Amy Levin
- 26 Steve Walters
- 26 Gavin Wykes
- 27 Jan Miller
- 29 Vickie Nicol
- 30 Karen Christianson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 10:30 am Grief Group 1:00 pm Esther Circle	4	5	6 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
7 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	8 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	9	10 9:00 am ROMEO Club	11 7:00 pm Covered in Prayers 6:00 pm Diaconate Council 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	12	13 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
14 Mother's Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School No Evening Activities	15	16	17 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am ROMEO Club	18	19	20 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
21 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	22 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	23	24 9:00 am ROMEO Club 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile @ VFW	25	26	27 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
28 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School No Evening Activities	29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	30	31 9:00 am ROMEO Club			

