

# Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers



March 15, 2020 was the last time we gathered for corporate worship without any form of restriction due to the pandemic. It has been a long struggle to find our way back into some sense of worship which is comfortable and familiar. In a sense, we have found ourselves in a strange, alien land, not unlike the children of Israel, in forced exile in Persia.

Regardless of the external circumstances in which we find ourselves we are still the children of God. The church is there through the act of God and has not been made by human beings (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). We claim the Spirit and power of God as we move forward in ministry.

The Old Testament book of Esther relates the story of God working in human events to save the lives of the chosen people. Although God is never mentioned in the book of Esther, God is powerfully present in placing Esther in a position of power where she is given the opportunity to save her people from genocide. When fear causes her to hesitate her cousin Mordecai challenges her with the words, “Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Esther 4:14

The mission of the church has not changed. The Church exists to be the visible presence of God in the world. The Board of Ministries has adopted the logo you see above and a new tag line, “For such a time as this. . .”

You will quickly note that the points are the same as our existing tag line, “Growing the Family of God” with the addition of the words committed to prayer.

Telling the story...  
we proclaim Christ crucified (1 Cor. 1:23)

Nurturing disciples. . .  
“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” (Matthew 4:19)

Serving the Community. . .

(cont. page 2)

## From the Pastor (cont.)

“the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45)

Committed to Prayer. . .

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

We are not attempting to change the nature and mission of the church, but rather to acknowledge and live into the reality that there is an urgency to our mission. We need to be passionately committed to telling the story of Christ’s sacrifice for the world, nurturing persons into discipleship, serving the church community and the neighborhood and to wrap our ministry in constant prayer. There was a definite sense of urgency when Mordecai approached Esther and there is a sense of urgency for the message of Christ in our world “For such a time as this. . .”

The words encircle the praying hands to indicate both overlapping and interrelatedness. This is not a four-step process but is an ongoing commitment to incarnate each of these actions in our personal lives and our corporate ministry.

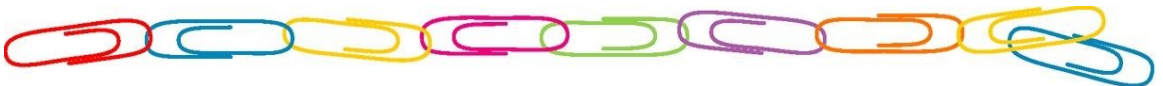
The hands are not closed in prayer, but rather open to receive what the Spirit says to the church.

*Jim*

### Office Notes



If you’ve recently moved, changed your phone number or e-mail address, please be sure to update your contact information with the church office. You may submit your updated information via e-mail: Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org, by phone (815.842.4321) or by leaving a note in the black box outside the church office door.



## Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 pm.

**Diaconate Council:** Discussing what it means to be a welcoming church and reviewing the role of diaconate with new members.

Implementing new strategies for reaching out to our members who are homebound or in nursing homes.

**Fellowship:** We served 32 families representing 96 individuals in our food pantry during the month of March. We are also distributing \$10 gift certificates for the County Market meat department to food pantry patrons.

**Moderator:** We are providing a vital community service by allowing the Livingston County Health Department to conduct Covid-19 vaccination clinics at our church.

The parking lot is in need of repair.

**Senior Pastor:** Proposed changing the church tagline to “for such a time as this.” The tagline will be accompanied by the mission statements: telling the story, nurturing disciples, serving the community, and committed to prayer. Over the course of the last year we have found ourselves in a strange land and, while the mission of the church has not changed, the challenges facing our times have. Harlin made a motion to accept the new tagline. Motion seconded and carried.

## Visit Us on the Web!



As we slowly transition back into a more normal schedule of activities, please remember to visit our website ([fbcpontiac.org](http://fbcpontiac.org)) and social media pages for the latest scheduling and covid related information. While there, you also have the opportunity to watch recent worship services, check the church activity calendar, or browse our picture gallery and see just what we've been up to lately here at FBC!



M

- 2 Josh Chehak  
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 Karla Gidwani  
25 Amy Levin  
26 Steve Walters  
26 Gavin Wykes  
27 Jan Miller  
29 Vickie Nicol  
30 Karen Christianson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>2</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>9</b> Mother's Day 10:00 am Worship  Happy Mother's Day!	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Healing Hearts
<b>16</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>17</b> Newsletter Deadline  Don't Miss the <b>DEADLINE!</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>23</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>30</b> 10:00 am Worship	<b>31</b> Memorial Day Church Office Closed	

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Wednesday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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5 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	6 National Day of Prayer 	7	8	
12 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	13 7:00 pm Board of Ministries	14	15	
19 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	20	21	22	
26 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK	27	28 	29	

## Thank You



We would like to thank our church family for all your support at the time of Todd's passing. Your phone calls, texts, cards, and prayers gave us support and comfort at this sad time.

Thank you to Pastor Jim for being there and for everything you did. We would also like to thank Gary Boldt for setting Todd's tree marker at the playground.

We are so grateful for all of you. Thank you for helping us get us through this difficult time.

God Bless all of you,

Todd Henderson's Family  
Harlin and Brinda Dean  
Joy Henderson  
Sandy Griffith

Dear First Baptist Church,  
Thank you for opening your doors for the vaccination clinics. Livingston County is lucky to have generous churches to help at this time.

Thanks again!  
Susan Strauch



Dear Church Family,

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for all the cards, calls, prayers, flowers and expressions of sympathy as we grieve the loss of Jim's mother. Your love and support make this difficult time easier to bear. We are especially grateful for the lovely floral arrangement sent by the church family.

Jim and Janet Wolfe  
Karla and Sanjay Gidwani, Asha and Karina  
Owen and Melissa Wolfe

## Newsletter Deadline

All articles for inclusion the June edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Monday, May 17th.

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.

## Schedule Notes



In honor of the Memorial Day holiday, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, May 30th and the church office will be closed on Monday, May 31st.

**Memorial Day** *We wish our entire church family a safe and happy holiday weekend!*

## On-Line Giving



With on-line giving, it's easier than ever to tithe or make donations to special fundraising campaigns like this month's America For Christ offering! .

To make an on-line donation, simply visit our website [www.fbcpontiac.org](http://www.fbcpontiac.org) and follow the donation link near the top of the page. Our on-line giving is powered through PayPal and allows you to use an existing PayPal account or any debit or credit card you'd like. You'll have the opportunity to leave specific notes about your donation and you'll receive a donation receipt in your e-mail!



**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.





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PONTIAC, IL 61764

