



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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PONTIAC, IL 61764

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November

Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



A great and surprising spiritual awakening is happening in Baptist churches in Cuba right now!

Since 1990, the number of churches in Cuba has grown by 450%. The number of baptisms has risen by over 500%. And the number of prayer groups and total church memberships have climbed in equally high numbers.

After decades of harsh restrictions, “the church of God has risen from the ashes,” says a retired Cuban church leader who witnessed the remarkable change firsthand. “In God’s time, the hearts of so many people have been opened up to the goodness of the gospel.”

The good news is that our church’s support of the World Mission Offering (WMO) is helping to fuel the growth of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention through financial and global worker support and through International Ministries (IM)-sponsored pastor conferences.

The better news is that there is a lot that we can learn from Cuba’s spiritual revival. For example:

- ⇒ Youth ministry is thriving through camping and sports ministries, concerts and youth rallies in the streets of Cuba’s cities and towns.
- ⇒ Spirit-filled outreach is yielding abundant fruit through evangelistic campaigns, undergirded with fervent prayer and fasting.
- ⇒ Discipleship is spreading through numerous house churches and cell groups of prayer.
- ⇒ A new generation of leaders is growing through faithful teaching at seminaries and lay training centers.

Responding to God’s Call Worldwide

And perhaps the best news of all is that Cuba’s spiritual awakening is but one of many thriving ministries run by IM partners and more than 1,800 long- and short-term global workers in more than 70 countries around the world.

IM's vision is "on earth as in heaven," which reminds us of God's invitation to participate in his work in the world.

And that's just what IM is doing—through your support of the WMO—by praying, equipping, serving, proclaiming, teaching, inviting, healing and encouraging in the name of Jesus.

Your gifts to the WMO help to raise up, place and send new global servants and volunteers to reach and touch lives for Jesus around the world. They also help to fill gaps for those workers who haven't yet reached their support goals, enabling crucial ministries to continue.

Your gifts help support IM's more than 240 global partners who are actively sharing God's message of hope, love and healing with a lost and hurting world.

Your gifts help recruit and train new global workers, open up new global mission fields, respond to global disasters with relief and development funds through One Great Hour of Sharing and much more.

The 2016 World Mission Offering will be received at the end of worship on Sunday, November 20th.

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 Jubilee Christmas might be the perfect gift. Also, don't forget about those hard to shop for people on your Christmas list! It's coming up faster than you think!

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.

Grief in the Holidays

The holidays are supposed to be a time of joy but they can be especially difficult if you've lost a loved one. If you're struggling with loss this holiday season, the grief support group will be meeting on November 9th at 10:30 am and December 7 at 10:30 am to study Julie Yarbrough's book "Beyond the Broken Heart", specifically chapter 9, "Grief in the Holidays".

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 Facebook page and made available on our voicemail system.

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

Congregational Meeting

The November Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th immediately following morning worship services.

Financial Information

Beginning Balance - 8/31/16	(17,105)
Gen. Fund Receipts	25,999
Gen. Fund Expense	15,455
Gen. Fund End. Balance	(6,561)

****Celebrating hope offering totaled \$7,915.00****

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

Nov. 6: Rick Golliday and Julie Amdor

Nov. 13: Janet Halford

Nov. 20: Janet Halford

Nov. 27: Missy Hoover

Jubilee Christmas



It's beginning to look a lot like Jubilee Christmas! For those of you who are not familiar with our Jubilee Christmas program, it is an outreach ministry that helps provide a Christmas celebration to children and families who may otherwise be unable to afford one.

This year's Jubilee Christmas event will be hosted here at FBC on December 10th and it's never too early to start planning for this incredibly meaningful community ministry! If you'd like to support this amazingly festive ministry, you can make a donation by marking your check 'Jubilee Christmas' and dropping it in the offering plate. Also watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for your opportunity to volunteer to help during the event - we'll need hosts, wrappers, loaders, and people to set up and bake cookies, etc. This is a great way to give back and share the joy of Jesus during the holiday season so make your plans to help now!

Office Notes



In honor of the Thanksgiving Day holiday our church office will be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th.

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

Daylight Saving Time



Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 6th so don't forget to change your clocks back before going to bed on Saturday night!

Don't Forget...

When leaving the church after an event, please take the time to ensure that you have turned off all the lights and locked all the doors.

Newsletter Deadline

All articles for inclusion in the December edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, November 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.

Board of Ministries

The Board of ministries met on Thursday, October 13th at 7:15 pm.

Children's Ministries: ABK has been averaging 15 to 18 children every Sunday.

Fellowship: We served 97 families, representing a total of 273 individuals in the month of September.

The Thanksgiving Feast will be held on Sunday, November 20th at 4:30 pm.

Diaconate Council: Working on Christmas gifts for our church shut-ins.

Facilities: A sign was put out front with ABK information. The sign was built by Dean Sidfrids, painted by Rich Halford, and can be

changed for different events.

Senior Pastor: World Mission Offering will be received on November 20th.

Our church will host Jubilee Christmas on December 10th.

Annual meeting will be held on November 13th following worship.

Thanksgiving Feast



FBC's Thanksgiving Family Feast will be held this year on Sunday, November 20 at 4:30 p.m. Table service and drinks will be provided, but we do ask that you bring two dishes to share so that there will be plenty to go around. We will need donations of 6 turkeys and 4 hams. We are also looking for volunteers to cook and carve/slice the turkeys and hams at home to bring to the feast.

Watch upcoming bulletins for opportunities to reserve your place or you may call the church office to make your reservations. Mark your calendars and plan to come and join us in giving thanks for all of our wonderful blessings here at FBC!

Men's Night Out

It's time for another night of fun, food, and fellowship with a Men's Night Out here at the church! All men in the church are invited to join in the pre-holiday fun

6:30 pm On Thursday, November 17th



Prayer Chain Number

815.419.4454



- 1 Tara Crawford
- 1 Ken and Sheila Ferguson
- 2 Taylor Lind
- 2 Ed Rich
- 2 Nancy Waschle
- 3 Sarah Matheisen
- 5 Sandy Bailey
- 5 Emma Chehak
- 5 Jim Dixon
- 6 Mel and Christina Beck
- 7 Leon and Louise Gray
- 8 Daniel and Lindsey Flessner
- 10 Lynn Battice
- 11 Delores Burton
- 12 Natalie Taylor
- 13 Kassondra Poshard
- 15 Gayle McBeath
- 16 Bob and Shirley Carroll
- 19 Rhonda Cowsert
- 20 Charoletta Bergin
- 20 Rob Boase
- 21 Barbara Highland
- 22 Mary Frobish
- 23 Bill Stith
- 27 Andrea Newsome
- 29 Mark Levin
- 30 Chery Spires



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:00 am Ruth Circle 9:00 am ROMEO Club 1:00 pm Esther Circle 6:30 pm Grace Sm. Group	3 9:00 am BSF Women's Class	4	5 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
6 DST Ends 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	7	8	9 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30 am Grief in the Holidays 6:30 pm Grace Sm. Group	10 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 6:00 pm Diaconate Council 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	11 Veterans Day	12 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
13 9:00 am Worship Congregational Meeting 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	14 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Covered in Prayers	15	16 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:30 pm Grace Sm. Group	17 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 6:30 pm Men's Night Out	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
20 World Mission Offering 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Thanksgiving Feast	21	22 Afternoon - BSF Class	23 No evening activities	24 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed 	25 Church Office Closed	26 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
27 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	28 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	29	30 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:30 pm Grace Sm. Group			