

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
515 N. LADD STREET  
PONTIAC, IL 61764



# Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

*Coffee with Jim*



## BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES

*Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;  
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.*

You may be familiar with this 19<sup>th</sup> century hymn which reminds Christians that we are to be about the business of sowing and reaping. It is an old song and does not often find its way into contemporary worship. Jesus, however made frequent use of agricultural metaphors and planting and harvesting are frequently the subject of his parables.

Some of the most famous of Jesus' parables are the Parables of the Kingdom. Jesus promises that the message of the kingdom will reproduce itself many times over what is sown, making up for the loss due to people never responding, people falling away because of persecution, and people distracted from kingdom business due to concern for riches or anxieties about the troubles of the world (Mark 4:3-9, 13-20).

In another parable (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43), Jesus contrasts the kingdom children with the children of the evil one – the wheat and the darnel (weeds that look like wheat until the time of harvest). The angels gather the wheat at the judgment, but consign the weeds to the fire.

Additional plant-parables include the seed growing of itself without any additional work required between planting and harvest (Mark 4:26-29) and the growth of the mustard seed, far beyond what its diminutive size would lead us to expect (Mark 4:30-32). (<http://deeperstudy.com/plant-metaphors-in-the-bible-a-tool-for-deeper-study/>)

In Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus instructs his disciples to take on the role of harvesting the crop. *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*

We as a community of faith, find ourselves at a moment in our history when we need to ask (pray) the Lord of the harvest to send laborers in the harvest. These words require little interpretation; they are abundantly clear. There are people all around us who need to hear the message of God's love and be welcomed into the kingdom of God. The seed planted is the word of God. We are promised that the seed grows regardless of our efforts or the obstacles placed in its path.

## From the Pastor (cont.)

The challenge for us is to be willing to *pray* for workers to enter the field and welcome people into the kingdom of God. It is the responsibility of those who claim the name of Christ to make that name known through our actions as well as our words. We are promised that ***there is a harvest***, but we are responsible to reap that harvest.

We can change the name of our Sunday morning activities, change the time of worship, establish small groups, and paint bright colors on the walls. But if no one invites it is all wasted effort. If we are committed to Jesus Christ and love the church, then we will pray and become engaged in the business of bringing people to Christ.

Oswald Chambers wrote: *The key to the missionary's difficult task is in the hand of God, and that key is prayer, not work—that is, not work as the word is commonly used today, which often results in the shifting of our focus away from God. The key to the missionary's difficult task is also not the key of common sense, nor is it the key of medicine, civilization, education, or even evangelization. The key is in following the Master's orders—the key is prayer. "Pray the Lord of the harvest...."*

How about it? How about the intestinal fortitude and the spiritual commitment to risk inviting someone to come to church or a small group? How about the courage of our convictions to risk rejection or ridicule? The promise is that there *is* a harvest waiting. The question of course, is, who will reap that harvest?

*Jim*

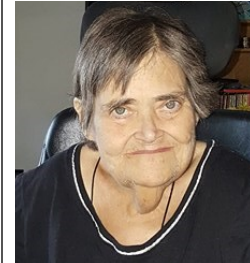
## Thanksgiving Feast



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.

Reserve your place today by filling out the reservation form and dropping it into the offering plate. Mark your calendars and plan to come and join us in giving thanks for all of our wonderful blessings here at FBC

## You Are the Branches



**Name:** Vickie Jaime

**Favorite Color?** Purple

**What's your favorite meal?** Liver and onions

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** A mom.

**What was your favorite subject in school and why?** Science. Because I liked learning about it and it came easily to me.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be? And why?** Australia. Because I want to see the kangaroos and all the other animals in the Outback.

**What's your favorite Bible Story?** The Story of Ruth.

**How many kids and grandkids do you have?** I have 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 3 grandkitties.

**Do you have any hobbies?** I love to play computer games.

**Do you remember drive-in movies?** Of course!

**Do you have a favorite 'Jim' story?** My favorite Jim stories are when he came to see me in the hospital and nursing home during rehab.

**Is there anything you want people to know about you that they might not know?** Rhonda (the church secretary) is my oldest daughter.

## Office Notes

In honor of the Thanksgiving Day holiday our church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23th and Friday, November 23th.

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

## Prayer Chain

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.



## Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the December newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, Nov. 17.

You may submit your items by phone (815.842.4321), fax (815.844.6943), e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org), or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.



## Thank You

We would like to thank our Church Family for the many prayers during and since my and Andrea's surgeries. We didn't expect either of them to linger in the after care as long as it has. Your prayers have not just been felt for Andrea and I, but for Dale as well. He has worked so hard without complaint. A real blessing. Those extra prayers have not gone unnoticed. For those that have visited, prepared meals, and checked in...we thank you so very much for your extra time and efforts...You are all a huge help to this Family. We thank Jay for continuously checking in before and after surgery and Pastor Jim for being there to pray for us before our surgeries and he and Janet for checking in on us after, and of course their continued prayers and support.

We love our Church Family!

The Newsome Family

## 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.

## A Shiny New Website!



For convenient access to the latest church news and schedule information, don't forget to visit us on-line at [www.fbcpontiac.org](http://www.fbcpontiac.org). We have an entirely new look that we hope you will find more user friendly, including an integrated Google Calendar that allows you to add events to your own Google Calendars so you never miss an event! Also, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and receive all the latest church updates!

## World Mission Offering

The 2017 World Mission Offering theme, Discipleship: Come, Follow Me (Mark 1:17), illustrates the many ways that International Ministries provides holistic discipleship through the work of our global servants and partners worldwide. It is our mission to follow Jesus just as the disciples did more than 2,000 years ago. This year, we are highlighting our ministries in the areas of Conflict Transformation, Abolishing Slavery and Economic and Community Development. Thanks to your partnership, together we are mobilizing local communities in the name of Jesus Christ to lighten the burden of poverty, encourage peaceful ways to live in diverse cultural contexts and offer hope and dignity to the marginalized.

*"When you see something happening in the world that concerns or disturbs you, many times God already has people in the setting doing something, and many times IM has been a participant in that transformative work. By giving through the World Mission Offering, you can be seeding the good work that God is doing around the world."* - Rev. Dr. Dan Buttry International Ministries global consultant for Peace and Justice

We will receive the World Mission Offering at the close of worship on Sunday, November 19th.

## Food Pantry Notes

The Esther and Ruth Circles are beginning a new project. They will be collecting an item (toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc.) each month to share with the people who come to visit our food pantry. One item each month.

In November, we will be collecting toothpaste and tooth brushes. If you would like to make a donation, please bring the specified items and put it in the box in the Narthex or in the gym.

The item being collected each month will be shared in the newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Ruth Circle.

## 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!***



# November

- 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 Cowser
- 20 Charoletta Bergin
- 21 Barbara Highland
- 22 Mary Frobish
- 23 Bill Stith
- 27 Andrea Newsome
- 29 Mark Levin
- 30 Chery Spires



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1 All Saints Day</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 6:00 pm Jesus Calling	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group 7:00 pm Covered with Prayers	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>5 DST Ends</b> 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	<b>8</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 pm Jesus Calling 10:30 am Grief Group	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group 6:00 pm Diaconate Meeting 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	<b>10</b>	<b>11 Veterans Day</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>12</b> 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	<b>14</b> 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	<b>15</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 pm Jesus Calling	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group 6:30 pm Men's Night Out	<b>17 Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>19</b> 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Family Thanksgiving 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	<b>22</b> 9:00 am ROMEO Club	<b>23 Thanksgiving</b> Church Office Closed 	<b>24</b> Church Office Closed	<b>25</b> 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
<b>26</b> 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	<b>27</b> 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	<b>28</b> 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm Jesus Calling 7:00 pm Congregational Meeting	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm Believe Sm. Group		