



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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nvermber

Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



From the Pastor . . .

Luke 17 contains the story of ten lepers who were healed by Jesus. One of those healed was a Samaritan. Samaritans and Jews had a long-standing hatred and by and large had nothing to do with one another. However, in this instance, when he realized that he was healed it was the Samaritan who returned to say thank you to Jesus.

More often than not, I find myself among the nine; running off to celebrate my good fortune without ever bothering to thank the one who made the good fortune possible. It is an unfortunate trait of human beings that we desperately pray for some divine intervention and when our prayer is answered we don't have time to say thank you.

Thanksgiving serves as reminder that we need to follow the example of the Samaritan who "when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and *thanked* him" (Luke 17:15-16 italics added). The family to which we belong we too often take for granted. The possessions we own we assume are ours by right. The breath of life that swells within our lungs we assume without conscious thought.

Thanksgiving reminds us that family, possessions, life itself, is the gift of God. Rather than taking that gift lightly or as our just due we are called to remember, and praise God for all that God has done for us. The Psalmist wrote: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2).

On Sunday December 2, you are invited to say thank you in a tangible fashion by sharing in Miracle Sunday. Miracle Sunday is a one-time giving opportunity where we pray, respond, and celebrate what God is doing in our church and live into God's vision for our future. As we age and gray many mainline denominational churches are struggling to maintain their ministries. We all want to see our church survive and thrive into the next generation. We do not want to leave a large indebtedness for our children and grandchildren. Miracle Sunday provides the opportunity to relieve the current debt and provide resources for new and existing missions and ministries.

Nine people were healed of a dread disease that isolated them from all human contact. Nine people neglected the healer in their excitement to return to their homes and families. Only one, returned to say thank you. Miracle Sunday is a challenge to all of us to consider a sacrificial gift to say thank you to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The gift you make on Miracle Sunday not only serves the present need, but assures that First Baptist Church will continue to witness to the presence of God into the next generation.

Jim

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.

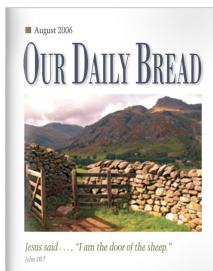
This year's Jubilee Christmas event will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, December 8th and will be serving 29 families with a total of 75 children. FBC will be hosting 10 of those families! If you'd like to support this amazingly festive ministry, you may make a donation by marking your check 'Jubilee Christmas' and dropping it in the offering plate or you can donate your time and energy volunteering at the event. We'll need hosts, wrappers, loaders, and people to set up and bake cookies, etc. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Barb Tholen. 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!

** PLEASE NOTE THANKSGIVING CHANGES **



This year we're making some fun changes to our Thanksgiving holiday traditions here at FBC! Instead of hosting a family Thanksgiving Feast the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we'll be hosting a family dinner following worship at 12:00 noon on Miracle Sunday, December 2nd! Dinner and sides will be provided but everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share with the family. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for this day of family fellowship and celebration.

Daily Bread Devotions



We've had several requests recently for a large print edition of the Daily Bread Devotional books. This is not an option currently available to the church but you may contact the Daily Bread company and request the large print to be sent directly to your home at no charge. Simply visit <https://odb.org/subscription/united-states> or call 1.616.974.2210 and request the large print edition.

Important Reminder

As the cold and flu season descends upon us, we'd like to take the opportunity to give our church family a few important reminders:

- ⇒ If you're sick (particularly if you're running a fever) we encourage you to consider staying at home and joining us for worship when you feel better. (Remember you can always listen to our service on our website later in the week.) This is not only important for your own comfort and welfare but also for the comfort and welfare of other church family members.
- ⇒ Likewise, if your child is sick we encourage you to keep him or her home so that he or she may rest and recuperate.
- ⇒ Influenza is especially dangerous for the elderly, the very young, and those with chronic illnesses who may be immunocompromised. Please exercise extra caution when visiting those members of our church family who fall into these categories and consider making a phone call rather than an "in person" visit if you're feeling unwell or if you've been exposed to friends and family members who are ill.



Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion the December edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, November 16. 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.

On-Line Giving

Remember, we've made it easier than ever to make a donation on the go!

To make an on-line donation, simply visit our website 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.

Thank You



What an amazing church family we have. So many came to our aid doing small things that meant a great deal. God bless you all - you are loved!

Mike and Carol Toon

We would like to thank the church family for all the well wishes, thoughts and prayers for the happy union of Owen and Melissa Wolfe. We are also grateful for those who joined us for the open house reception. We are deeply touched by your thoughtfulness. We love you all very much and feel blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

Jim and Janet Wolfe
Owen and Melissa Wolfe

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, WEEK, WCIA, and posted on our Facebook page.

We encourage everyone to use their best judgment and be safe during hazardous weather!

Office Notes



In honor of the Thanksgiving Day holiday our church office will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd.

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 4th so don't forget to change your clocks back before going to bed on Saturday night!

Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 pm.

Financial: \$3,270.90 was received during the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Children's Ministries: The 2018 - 2019 ABK year has begun. A back up driver has been found but a ride along helper is still needed.

SMC: We have had an average attendance of 61 with an average offering of \$39.00 in the month of September.

Fellowship: Changes are going to be made to our food pantry. Beginning on December 1st, the food pantry will be open on Fridays from 9 - 11 am instead of 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

Diaconate Council: The home bound will receive gift cards as a Christmas gift this year.

Facilities: The boiler is in need of additional minor repairs. Ruyle will be coming to address the issues with a potential repair cost of \$600.

Pastor: Jubilee Christmas will be held on Dec. 8th and will be hosted by the First Presbyterian Church.

Miracle Sunday is scheduled for Dec. 2nd.

Jim is going to check into alarm and camera systems from ADT.

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.



- 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
- 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
				1 6:30 pm Principles Sm. Group 7:00 pm Board of Ministries	2	3 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
4 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	5 7:00 pm Revelation Sm. Group	6	7 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 5:30 pm ABY 6:00 pm ABK 6:00 pm Unbinding the Gospel	8 6:30 pm Principles Sm. Group	9	10 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
11 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	12 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Revelation Sm. Group	13	14 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 pm ABY 6:00 pm ABK 6:00 pm Unbinding the Gospel	15 6:30 pm Principles Sm. Group	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
18 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	19 7:00 pm Revelation Sm. Group	20	21 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30 am Grief Support Group 5:30 pm ABY 6:00 pm ABK 6:00 pm Unbinding the Gospel	22 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	23 Church Office Closed	24 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
25 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship	26 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Revelation Sm. Group	27	28 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 pm ABY 6:00 pm ABK 6:00 pm Unbinding the Gospel	29	30	