



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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# Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers



The first celebration of Jubilee Christmas in Pontiac was held in 1989 and hosted by the First Presbyterian Church. We partnered with First Presbyterian and First Christian churches the following year and now eagerly anticipate the celebration of Jubilee Christmas each year.

The date for Jubilee Christmas 2019 is December 14th and will be hosted here at First Baptist Church. If you are unfamiliar with Jubilee Christmas, the host church receives a list of families who are struggling at Christmas from a local social service agency. This list is provided only to Jubilee Christmas so that there is no overlapping of services. The families are contacted by the host church and invited to participate. When they accept the invitation they are assigned a host who contacts them in advance to introduce themselves, determine that the guest will be in attendance, and to ask about possible transportation issues. Each child in the family receives three toys, ranging in price from 15-35 dollars. Additionally, each child receives two stocking stuffers and the family receives a gift certificate for the purchase of groceries.

As you can readily see this is a fairly expensive ministry. Over the course of the program's history we have made intentional efforts to carry over funds each year to help offset the cost of the following year's celebration. While we have some funds in reserve we still need the help of each one of you to make this program successful. Not only are we seeking your financial support, but we also need persons to volunteer to serve as hosts for our guests and to help wrap gifts. If you are willing to serve as host or wrapper please contact either Barb Tholen or Patty Gray. If you make a financial contribution you may make a check payable to Jubilee Christmas.

In our mission statement we proclaim that we are Growing the Family of God by Telling the Story, Nurturing Believers, and Serving the Community. Jubilee Christmas fulfills each of these points.

In sharing with persons in need we are telling them the story of God who loves so deeply that God gifted humanity with Jesus Christ. Our gifts of money and time communicate that we are committed to telling the story in our actions and in our physical presence. Jubilee Christmas nurtures believers through the fellowship of serving together. There is a sense of joy and spiritual excitement that permeates Jubilee Christmas which creates not only a sense of purpose, but a deep sense of the presence of God. When we provide a Christmas celebration for the children

## From the Pastor (cont.)

and their families we are serving the community and providing an incarnational witness to our faith.

Please pray for Jubilee Christmas, but then rise from your knees and become actively engaged in Growing the Family of God through this powerful ministry.

*Jim*

### \*\* PLEASE NOTE THANKSGIVING FEAST CHANGES \*\*



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 holiday dinner following worship at 12:00 noon Sunday, December

1! Meat, stuffing, and mashed potatoes will be provided but everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share with the family. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for this day of holiday fellowship and celebration.

### Daylight Saving Time

Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 3rd so don't forget to change your clocks back before going to bed on Saturday night!

### Office Notes



In honor of the Thanksgiving Day holiday our church office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th.

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

## 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 WEEK, WCIA, and posted to our Facebook page.

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



**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.

## 2020 Church Directory

We're in the process of gathering information for inclusion in the 2020 edition of our church directory and we're very excited to offer a new, on-line option for submitting your corrected information!

If your information has changed or if you were not listed in the 2019 directory and you'd like to be listed in this year's version, simply click the 2020 directory tab on our website ([www.fbcpontiac.org](http://www.fbcpontiac.org)) and complete and submit the form! That's it, you're done! If you prefer to submit your information via a more traditional means, you can grab a form either in the Narthex or in one of the Sunday Morning Connections rooms, complete it and drop it by the church office.

Remember that while we will do our best to ensure the 2020 edition of our directory is as complete and accurate as possible, it's your responsibility to submit your information in a timely manner.



### Newsletter Deadline

All articles for inclusion the December edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, Nov. 15th. You may submit your articles by phone (842.4321), fax (844.6943), by e-mail ([Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org](mailto:Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org)) or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door



## You Are the Branches



**Name:** Jenny Vaughn

**How much was your allowance and what did you do for it?** It was 25¢ a week before Junior High. I don't remember what I did to get it...maybe helping with setting the table and dishes.

**For vacations, would you rather go to the mountains, the ocean, or desert?** The ocean

**Would you ever want to change your first name?** No

**What is your favorite color?** Blue

**What is your favorite food?** Pretty much anything Mexican

**Who was your favorite person in grade school or high school? Why?** Favorite person in grade school was Julie Starks. She was really nice and easy to be around.

**If you became famous for something, what would it be?** Probably my baking.

**What food do you hate to eat?** Peanut Butter

**What can you do that we'd be surprised about?** I don't think I have any hidden talents. Ha ha!

**Your favorite pet and its name?** One of my cats, Bandit. But really they are all my favorites!

### Thank You



To Pastor Wolfe and all the people who helped with Mickey Griffith's services on such short notice, I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. Thank you!

The Griffith Family

### On-Line Giving

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](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!

## Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on October 17th at 7:00 pm.

**Youth Ministries:** Youth group has 9 youths consistently attending and as they bring friends, the numbers have grown.

**Children's Ministries:** 13 children attend ABK. Kids are bringing friends and having a good time.

**Fellowship:** 3 men attended the last Men's Night Out on September 21st.

78 families were served at the food pantry representing 218 individuals.

**Facilities:** Continuing labeling circuits in the boiler room.

**Senior Pastor:** Proposed changes in the wording for

Staff Relations Committee.

*The staff relations committee shall consist of five (5) persons elected by the congregation for three-year terms, in rotating classes. 2, three (3) year terms is the maximum they can serve with a one (1) year absence*

Motion made and carried to accept the wording changes.

## Christmas Shopping Got You Stressed?



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 hard to buy for friend with a heart for children? Make a donation on their behalf to the ABK or ABY programs. A relative with too many gadgets and a heart for helping the needy? A donation in their name to the Food Pantry or Jubilee Christmas might be the perfect gift. Christmas is coming faster than you think and this is a perfect way to mark those names off your Christmas list! You can even make your donation by going to our website and utilizing our on-line giving option.

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.

### Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for 11:30 am on Sunday, December 8th.



- 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
- 19 Rhonda Cowsert
- 20 Charoletta Bergin
- 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 6:30 pm A Life Beyond Sm. Gr	2 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
3 DST Ends 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Middle of the Mess	4 7:00 pm Ruth & Esther Sm. Gr.	5	6 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 5:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK 7:00 pm Jesus Calling Sm. Gr.	7 6:30 pm Experiencing God's Presence Sm. Group	8 6:30 pm A Life Beyond Sm. Gr	9 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
10 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Middle of the Mess	11 Veteran's Day 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Ruth & Esther Sm. Gr.	12 6:00 pm Parents Grief Supp. Group	13 9:00 am ROMEO Club 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK 7:00 pm Jesus Calling Sm. Gr.	14 6:00 pm Diaconate Council 7:00 pm Board of Ministries 6:30 pm Experiencing God's Presence Sm. Group	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm A Life Beyond Sm. Gr	16 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
17 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Middle of the Mess	18 7:00 pm Ruth & Esther Sm. Gr.	19	20 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30am Grief Support Group 5:30 - 6:30 pm WYRED 6:00 pm ABK 7:00 pm Jesus Calling Sm. Gr.	21 6:00 pm Men's Night Out 6:30 pm Experiencing God's Presence Sm. Group	22 6:30 pm A Life Beyond Sm. Gr	23 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
24 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Middle of the Mess	25 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Ruth & Esther Sm. Gr.	26	27 9:00 am ROMEO Club	28 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30

