

Welcome Home!



September | 2020 |

Pastor's Perspective

Defining and Redefining the Church

Over the last several months we have struggled with coming to terms with the new normal. The Corona Virus has impacted every aspect of our society in ways we couldn't have imagined a year ago. In all these months my thoughts have been drawn to the church. What is God's plan and purpose for His church? By God's grace First Baptist has continued to be strong, healthy and focused throughout these months. Our commitment to bless our community and point people to Jesus hasn't wavered.

Even still, we often find ourselves trying to define what the church is and what it should be. If the church were merely a weekly *event* or a collection of *events* we would be very discouraged. Our participation is considerably lower than it has been for over a decade. Some people(media/government), in an effort to minimize the importance of the church have tried to make it seem like that is all the church is... an event. But, those who belong to a local church, and those who know their Bibles, know that church isn't an event. Church is a community. We belong to the Lord (as His body), and we belong together. Church literally means "to gather."

This is why it is so difficult to redefine the church as virtual. In an effort to be wise and considerate with health issues, especially for those with vulnerable immune systems, we have made church services available through technology. For many people this will continue to be the primary way for them to engage in worship. This will be a strong emphasis of outreach for our church and many others moving forward. But being the church is more than watching a service. We are a community, we are a body, we are a family. We are connected, we have a purpose, and we are complex. We change and move, suffer and rejoice. Sometimes the church celebrates and sometimes it grieves. One thing that it doesn't do is stop. In some sense, we've been waiting for things to go back to normal, almost like we've stopped. But we didn't stop. We adapted and navigated some very choppy water.

Throughout this pandemic, we never stopped being the church, and no matter what the future holds, we never will. I say all this to encourage you. Whether you feel connected or disconnected, you are an important member of the community we call "the church." You haven't stopped being part of the church just because you've missed a few worship services. Whatever ways we connect and engage as the church are less important than the fact that we are connected by a common faith in the only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to one another as brothers and sisters.

In Christ, Pastor Luke

August
Giving Details

August Monthly Giving (through Aug. 23)
\$40,734.30

Monthly need to meet budget-\$48,599.33



Theme: "How To Be the Greatest"

Verse: "...Anyone wanting to be the greatest must be the least – the servant of all!" Mark 9:35

Date & Place: Sept. 19th @ Camp Summit in New Windsor, IL

Who: Students Grades 6th-12th!

Start Time: 7:30am (Load the bus located in the Church parking lot)

Return Time: 8:30pm (Bus will arrive back to the Church parking lot)

Cost: \$20 paid at the time of registration; this includes meals, drinks, t-shirt and activities (t-shirt not guaranteed after September 1st.)

Activities: Low Ropes Course, Archery Tag, Zip Line, Archery, Boating, Fishing, Board Games, GAGA Ball, Basketball (You will select your top three choices. We cannot guarantee your participation in everything but we will do our best.)

Questions: Contact Pastor Seth at 309-582-7812

Parents, please make sure to update your student's information with their cell phone and email address, if applicable. Registration is not complete until the Camp Summit Health Form and Camp Summit Consent & Liability Form are returned. All participants (student and adult) must complete and return the Camp Summit forms. If you do not have a printer at home, you can stop by the church office and pick up a printed copy of the forms. Please drop off signed forms at the church office.



Refuge Student Ministry Meets as Follows

High School – Sunday nights from 6-7:30pm at FBC.

Jr. High (6th-8th grade) Beginning in September, we will adjust our time to 6:30-8pm to coincide with Wednesday Night Live programming at FBC.

Sunday School for Students Grades 6th-12th begins, Oct. 4th at 9am.

Kids Ministry Update

Kids Worship Update: Kids are invited to join us on Sunday mornings on Facebook at 9am or in person at FBC during the 10:15am service. We miss you!

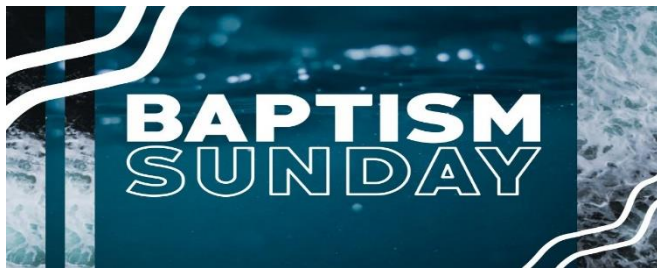
Kids Club Update



Kids Club will kickoff for the Fall on Wednesday, Sept. 9th and run through Oct. 21st from 6:30-8pm at FBC for all kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade. Registration is required and will be limited. The Kids Club Adventure this session is "An Adventure with Jonah!" The super exciting news is that we're offering Kids Club in-person and virtually. No matter which way your kids join us, they'll get to experience fun activities & crafts as we follow Jonah to Nineveh. Reserve your child's spot online at firstbaptistaledo.com



Sunday School Update: Sunday School for kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade will begin Sunday, Oct. 4th at 9am.



Baptism Sunday will be Sunday, Sept. 20th. Have you made that all important decision to follow Jesus and now, in a step of obedience, you would like to be baptized? If so, call the church office at 309-582-7812 or fill out Sunday's Connect Card at the bottom of the bulletin and turn it in to Pam at the information table in the lobby following Sunday's service. Pastor Seth will be in contact with you about all the baptism details.

New Office Hours Begin-The FBC office is beginning new permanent office hours in September. The church office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30-4pm and closed on Mondays. Pastor Seth will be available on Mondays by appointment. If you have questions, or need to set up an appointment with our pastoral staff, call 309-582-7812.



Sunday School for all ages will begin Sunday, Oct. 4th at 9am. Everyone is invited to join a Sunday School Class. The class list will be available online soon.

Baby Dedication Sunday coming in October!

Sunday, Oct. 11th we will have a Baby Dedication Service at the 8am & 10:15am service. Weather permitting, the 8am will be an outdoor service and the 10:15am will be inside the sanctuary. Parents can select whichever service suits their family best. If you are interested in dedicating your baby to the Lord, please call the church office at 309-582-7812.



**Wednesday Night Live @ FBC
Sept. 9th – Oct. 21st – 6:30-8pm Each Wednesday
Register online at firstbaptistaledo.com**

Adult Classes Open to Everyone

The 7 Signs of John- Taught by Pastor Luke - People are often drawn to the Gospel of John. Something about his unique perspective and writing inspires and intrigues us. If you love the Gospel of John and would like to dig deeper into his mysterious style and purpose, this is a study you won't want to miss. We will focus our attention on the seven signs of Jesus that John shares to reveal the truth of Jesus' divine nature. Out of everything Jesus did, John chose 7 miracles that would convince millions of people across the world that He truly is the Word made flesh.

Heaven & Hell. Angels & Demons – Heaven & Hell, Angels and Demons are among some of the most intriguing topics in the Bible. We'll spend our class time exploring the scriptures that address each of these subjects in the unseen realm. Register online at firstbaptistaledo.com.

Kids Club for 3 years old through 5th Grade

Kids Club- Begins Wednesday, Sept. 9th and runs through Oct.21st from 6:30-8pm at FBC for all kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade. Registration is required and will be limited. Sign up online

Refuge Jr. High-6th-8th Grade Students

Refuge Jr. High - Students 6th-8th Grade are invited for fun, games, God's Word and some decent snacks on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm (This new time begins Sept. 2nd) at First Baptist in the Refuge Room. No need to sign up, just show up! Grab a friend and join us.

Refuge High School for 9th-12th Grades

Refuge High School - Students Grades 9th-12th will continue to meet on Sunday Nights only from 6-7:30pm but, High School students are welcome to join an adult class on Wednesday nights if they are interested.

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Stay Connected!

- Until further notice, our 8am service will be outside on our front lawn. (In the event of rain, it will move inside. Our 10:15am Service will be held indoors in our sanctuary.
- For all the details about our upcoming events and live streaming Visit FirstBaptistAledo.com.
- Listen to WRMJ 102.3 at 10:15am on the 1st-3rd Sundays & at 5:10pm on the 4th and 5th Sundays.
- Download our New Church App by texting *fbcaledo app* to 77977.
- Find Us On Facebook
- Call the Church Office at 309.582.7812.



Love Christ.

Love Others.

Think Biblically!