



March | 2021 |

Pastor's Perspective

Hope Rises

Romans 5:3-5 says: *"And **not** only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, **hope**; and this **hope does not disappoint** us, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit."*

What do you hope for? Think about that for a minute. We have a lot of things we all hope for. In general, we hope for some positive thing to happen in the near or distant future. You might hope for nice weather, a safe trip, a healthy child, or a smaller number on the scale. Whatever it is that you hope for, ask yourself this next question; what does my hope depend on? In other words, what are you or someone else doing that might contribute to that hope becoming reality?

Our theme this Easter is **Hope Rises**. When we talk about hope we have to distinguish between two definitions. The dictionary defines hope as: to cherish a desire with anticipation. Which is a good definition, no doubt, but unfortunately it fails at one crucial point. Your desire might not come true. The Bible gives

a better definition: A confident expectation of what God has promised. The big difference is between wishful thinking and faith.

Romans tells us that hope doesn't disappoint us. But the beginning of the verse says that we exult in our tribulations. Or, to say it another way, we are happy about our problems. The only reason I can think of that we would be happy about our problems is because our relationship with God grows deeper. Our hope is for the future is not wishful thinking. We have been given access to what God's plans are, and how we fit into those plans. As we grow deeper in our faith, we have more confidence in the character of God, and so our hope is actually confidence in God.

If your confidence is in God, your hope will never disappoint you. We can be disappointed in ourselves, in the world, in others, or circumstances, but when you know God, and learn what His promises are, **hope rises**.

This Easter Season, I am praying that we would begin to restore our hope, renew our walk with God, and refresh our worship. I hope you'll join me in praying for God to move in a mighty way in Mercer County.

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Luke

Giving Details

Total Giving Through 2/21/2021
\$126,023.25

Giving need to meet 2021 budget to date-\$86,410.81



Refuge Student Ministry News

Jr High (6th-8th Grade) continues to meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8pm and our High School (9th-12th Grade) will meet on Sunday nights from 6-7:30pm. Refuge is a great place to gather with friends, play games, have snacks and dig into God's Word! Please feel free to invite your friends to join us! The current Refuge study series is "Tim Mackie's - Biblical themes."



Jr. High Movie/Chick-fil-A Night!

Attn Refuge Students in grades 6th-8th. We have rented the Davenport Cinemark theater for a private showing of "Dr. Seuss' The Lorax." Meet in the church parking lot on Wednesday, March 31st at 3:45pm. After the movie we will go to Chick-fil-A for dinner. Cost is \$11, which includes dinner and the movie. We are collecting food orders at the time of registration. Estimated return time is 8:30pm. Register online at firstbaptistaledo.com. Questions, see Pastor Seth.



CIY Jr. High Summer MIX Conference

CIY Mix is held at Hope College in Holland, Michigan and is for students who have completed grades 5th – 8th. Dates for our trip are **August 1st-4th**. Reservations are coming in quickly, we have five open spots. The total cost for CIY is \$314. FBC will scholarship \$164 of that cost and the student needs to pay \$150. The \$150 can be paid in one lump sum or in three \$50 payments. Final payment must be received by July 18th. Pastor Luke & Mollie will chaperone our group. Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com under the Student Ministry tab.



CIY Move High School Conference

CIY Move is held at Hope College in Holland, Michigan and is for students who have completed grades 9th – 12th. Dates for our trip are **June 28th - July 3rd**. We have ten spots available. The total cost for CIY Move is \$334. FBC will scholarship \$184 of that cost and the student needs to pay \$150. The \$150 can be paid in one lump sum or in three \$50 payments. Final payment must be received by May 31st. We ask that you save the date and we will open online registrations soon.



FBC Kids Ministry Update!



A Case For Christ
K-5th Grade

*Pre-K Kids Club will learn about God's Love this session

Kids Club
Winter/Spring '21
Feb. 3rd-March 24th
Wednesdays 6:30-8pm

Open registration all session.
Kids Club is for ages 3-5th Grade

Register at www.firstbaptistaledo.com

Kids Worship Lab
Sundays at 10:15am (2nd-4th Grade)

Kids Worship is for kids ages 3-4th Grade
*Pre-K is diving into topical lessons.

Kids check-in at side lobby door and sit with their families until they are dismissed out the front of the sanctuary before the message. Registration not required.



"Treasured" VBS 2021

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church June 28th-July 2nd, 2021 from 9am-Noon. VBS is for all kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade. Kids going into 6th grade and up will have an opportunity to serve but must be registered to serve in advance. More details coming your way in April.

Sunday School /Family Talk /Easter Tees & Candy



Sunday School will begin April 11th at 9am. This will include Sunday School for adults and children. We are planning on 1 more Family Talk Session, open to everyone in the congregation on Sunday, March 7th. See details below about our Family Talk and Donut Sunday School Sessions in our sanctuary.



Making Real Connections at Church: Sun., March 7th 9-9:45am in the FBC Sanctuary

All ages are invited to join us for our second Family Talk in the Sanctuary. Grab a donut and get settled in as we hear from our own church members on getting connected and making life-long friendships within the church body. Our panel is going to chat about steps they have taken to get connected within the church body, what discourages them from connecting to others at church and simple, intentional ways to get connected and build relationships with other believers.



Hope Rises T-Shirts Arriving in time for Easter!

Starting at \$10

Purchase at firstbaptistaledo.com
or at the Welcome Desk.

Order Deadline to order is March 17th!



EASTER CANDY NEEDED!

We're planning a fun, outdoor Easter event for all ages on April 2nd (details will be announced next week). We are now collecting individually wrapped, "egg-sized" candy donations. Donations can be placed in Mollie's office. Thank you for your help!

Men's Ministry/Baby Dedications/Showers/Thank You

Men's Ministry Conference in Davenport

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference – This one-day conference is being held at Coram Deo Church in Davenport on Saturday, April 10th from 8:30am-4pm and is for men of all ages; beginning with men age 13 and older.

We will be taking as many men as we can to this unique event. There will be sixteen different seminars for men at this conference so we know there will be something for every one of us. - Registration Cost is \$55 (\$40 for students) and includes an on-site lunch. Car pool from FBC. Registration now available online at firstbaptistaledo.com. Questions, see Kevin Ricke.



IRON SHARPENS IRON 2021

16 DIFFERENT SEMINARS
SPECIFIC TO MEN
FOR MEN OF ALL AGES (13+)
8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

FOCAL POINT MINISTRIES

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Davenport, IA
April 10th



Jerry Boykin Brydan Loritts

Building Godly Men!

Register with the men from your church!
FocalPointMinistries.net



Baby/Child Dedication Coming Sunday, March 28th

On March 28th, which is Palm Sunday, we will have a Baby Dedication Service at the 8am & 10:15am services. Parents can select whichever service suits their family best. If you are interested in dedicating your baby or young child to the Lord, please call the church office at 309-582-7812 to sign up.

Celebrating Your Marriage! The FBC Marriage Ministry would like to celebrate and pray for your marriage. We are asking all married couples to call 309-582-7812 or e-mail Pam at the church office fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net with your anniversary date. She will add your names to the Anniversary list for that month and the FBC Marriage Ministry Team will pray for your marriage during the month of your anniversary.



The FBC Ladies Are Invited to a Drive Thru Baby Shower on April 3rd for Danika (Higgins) Volz!

**Instead of a card, the mommy to be requested a book for Baby Volz.*



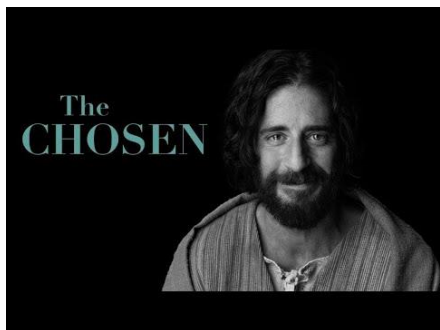
Thank you

A huge thank you to our Church Family for all your prayers and concerns during the last 5-6 months of dealing with my Cancer. Our family truly appreciates all the support during this challenging time. Prayers do work and Praise to God for his healing powers and enduring love, God bless you all.

Mike & Kathy Sponsler & Family

Wednesday Night Live @ FBC
Continues through March 24th, 2021 – 6:30-8pm Each Wednesday
It's not too late to join! Register online at firstbaptistaledo.com

Adult Classes Open to Everyone



The Chosen Series- **Taught by Steven & Felicia Bonyng & Jordan & Crystal Clark** - What does it mean to be chosen by Christ? Join us on this 8-week study as we dive into Scripture, exploring the life of Jesus interactively through the episodes of the ground-breaking television series *The Chosen*. Come discover that you are called, cherished, have been made new and are now His witness by engaging in the lives of real people Jesus called personally while on this Earth. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its

promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation. This study is open to adults and high school students.

Genesis In The Beginning – Taught by Steve Struble –

This study is a verse by verse walk through Genesis where it all began! Since we are going verse by verse you will be able to gain an in depth understanding of this book that is the foundation of our Christian faith. We'll cover as much ground as we can in 8 weeks! This study is open to adults and high school students.



Kids Club for 3 years old through 5th Grade

Kids Club- Begins Wednesday, February 3rd and runs through March 24th from 6:30-8pm at FBC for all kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade. There is open registration all session.

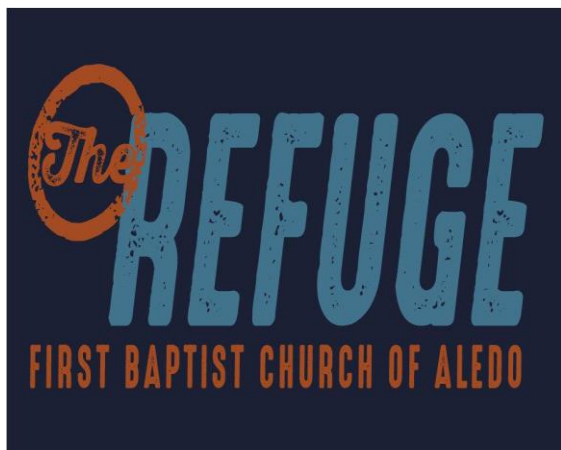
Refuge Student Ministry

Refuge Jr. High for 6th-8th Grades

Students 6th-8th Grade are invited for fun, games, God's Word and some great snacks on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. 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 continue to meet on Sunday Nights from 6-7:30pm but, High School students are welcome to join an adult class on Wednesday nights if they are interested.





Easter 2021

Hope *Rises*

CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION

04. 4. 2021

First Baptist Church Aledo

SERVICES AT 6:30AM | 8AM | 10:15AM

800 NE 6th Ave. Aledo, IL • FIRSTBAPTISTALED.COM

Easter is Sunday, April 4th, 2021!

Please Join Us in Celebrating our Risen Lord!

Family Easter Event - "Hope Rises" - Join us at FBC on Good Friday, April 2nd from 10am-12:30pm. See next page for details.

Easter Morning Services-In addition to our 6:30am Sunrise Service, we will also have Easter Services at 8am and 10:15am. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us as we celebrate our risen Savior who brings hope to each one of us!

Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary- If you would like to honor a loved one by placing an Easter Lily in the sanctuary, please sign up on Sunday's Connect Card or call the church office at 582-7812. Deadline to order a Lily is Sunday, March 21st. The cost of an Easter Lily is \$8.

**T-SHIRTS
AVAILABLE
STARTING
AT \$10**

Hope RISERS

EASTER EVENT

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEDO, IL
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND**

10AM-12:30PM

ALL AGES WELCOME/KIDS STAY WITH FAMILY

FREE/INDOOR & OUTDOOR

WHEN INDOORS: FACE MASKS & SOCIAL

DISTANCING RECOMMENDED.

REGISTRATION APPRECIATED AT

WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM

Contact: Mollie Dunn @ 309.371.6962

**BEGINS AT 10AM
IN THE FBC SANCTUARY.
DOORS OPEN AT 9:40AM.**

A "HOPE" RISES PRESENTATION

BELIEVE IT, LIVE IT, SHARE IT

MAKE A LIVING

RESURRECTION GARDEN

ONE PER HOUSEHOLD

EGG HUNT RACE COURSES

TWO COURSES: 3 & YOUNGER/4 & OLDER

EAT LUNCH OR GRAB & GO

HOT DOGS & CHIPS

PHOTO BOOTH

IN FRONT OF OUR LIFE-SIZE TOMB

SCIENCE EXPERIMENT STATION

WILL IT RISE?

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH AVE.
ALEDO, IL 61231

NON-PROFIT ORG
PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 102

PHONE: 309.582.7812
E-MAIL: FBCALED02@FRONTIERNET.NET
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM

Stay Connected!

- We are having In-person worship at 8am & 10:15am. Sunday School will begin on Sunday, April 11th at 9am. We will still have Kids Worship at the 10:15am service as well as a nursery for babies 0-2 years.
- 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 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!