

Love and joy
FROM THE FBC STAFF



F B C N E W S !

WISHING YOU A

Merry Christmas

& HAPPY NEW YEAR



December | 2021

A few weeks ago, I had a strange experience. I was experiencing some intense pain all along my right side. I knew it was something to do with my right lung, but I didn't know what. My tendency is to be pretty optimistic about my symptoms, sometimes I might boarder on living in denial. So, I looked up what might be causing my pain and concluded it was probably pleurisy, which is inflammation of the tissue around the lung. I figured it would probably go away on its own. Well, my symptoms got worse and more concerning, so I decided to see a doctor. Things progressed pretty quickly. Everyone I talked to seemed very concerned when I explained what I was experiencing. Even as I was thinking the worst-case scenario, and didn't have an answer yet, I was amazed that I had no fear, no anxiety, no worry at all. I had asked myself early on, if this is something deadly, am I ready? And as far as stepping into eternity goes, I could truthfully say yes. However, when I thought about my family, I had a hard time imagining their life without me. Well, I got the CT scan and was told I had a blood clot in my lung and needed to be admitted to the emergency room. I tried to get them to give me a blood thinner and let me go home, but they protested.

All in all, I am doing fine. In fact, I am extremely grateful. People often say that you don't know how you'll handle certain situations until you experience them. How strong is your faith really? I minister to many people who are facing death, seeking to offer peace through faith in Christ. I was encouraged to know just how very real and present that peace is in my own life. I am grateful for more time. How much more, no one knows. Whatever time I have, I plan to enjoy and use wisely. And I'm grateful for everyone around me. I'm blessed with an awesome family, a great church, and dependable coworkers. I'm looking forward to a wonderful Christmas season, and happy new year.

As we enter the Christmas season I will begin a new preaching series on the life of Christ. We will explore His life through the Gospels from birth to resurrection, beginning December 12th, and concluding Easter Sunday.

Thanks for all your prayers and support.
In Christ,
Pastor Luke

FBC
Giving Details

Total Giving Through 11/21/2021
\$607,844.05

Giving needed to meet 2021 budget to date-\$507,663.45



Refuge Student Ministry News



Jr High (6th-8th Grade) continues to meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8pm and our High School Students (9th-12th Grade) meet on Sunday nights from 6-8pm. Refuge is a great place to gather with friends, play games, have snacks and dig into God's Word! Invite your friends to join us!



Refuge Christmas Party Nights

Jr. High Christmas Party
Wednesday, Dec. 29th at 6:30pm

High School Refuge Christmas Party
Sunday, Dec. 19th at 6pm

Attention girls in grades 6th – 8th. Would you like to be part of an amazing group of sisters in Christ, learn together about some historical women of faith, and have fun doing some crafts? We invite you to join us Saturday, December 11th from 10am-11:30am. If this is your first time joining us, please sign-up at firstbaptistaledo.com.



The Fugitive King Study!

Girls Grades 6-8 are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room for a small group study. This study is taught by Vickie Korn & Rhonda McKinley. The current study is "The Fugitive King," about King David. Join anytime.



Families are invited to have some FREE, festive fun at Kid's Zone after the Electric Parade between 5:45-8pm on Friday, Dec. 3rd during Aledo's Holly Days inside the old Wagner's Pharmacy building (on College Ave. across from the Button Building). Families can enjoy hot chocolate, take pics in front of our cute photo booth, and kids/teens can make a fun ornament to hang on the tree this Christmas. All kids will go home with a yummy "edible" snowman that they can make and eat at home. *All items can be taken to go or enjoyed at the location. This event is FREE & hosted by the FBC Kids Club Ministry.



The FBC Kids will be performing The Joy of Christmas on Sunday, Dec.12th during the 10:15am service. Kids in the program will need to arrive at 9am, dressed and ready to rehearse. We hope you will all join us for this LIVE performance by our kids!

Sunday School Christmas Party! The Pre-K-High School Sunday School classes will be celebrating Christmas with lots of fun on Sunday, December 19th from 9-10am during the Sunday School hour. New friends are welcome to join us! Merry Christmas!



FBC Women's Ministry

It is time to sign up for the 2022 Women's Small Group Program!

The 2022 Women's Small Group program runs from February to October. Groups will be going through "Better Together: A Guide for Discipleship," which will guide you through beginning a discipleship relationship and provide material for you to walk through together as you pursue spiritual maturity. The content covered includes sections on what is discipleship, how to articulate a personal testimony, sharing the Gospel with others, how to study the Bible, how to memorize Scripture and cultivating a life of prayer. The goal of discipleship is ultimately that Christians would use these intentional relationships to flourish in the faith, love God more and seek to glorify Him with their whole lives. We hope you will join us on this journey together!



Small groups decide when, where and how often they meet, though our recommendation is at least once a month. There are options available online when you register to decide if you would like to be placed in a small group, if you are already in a small group that is continuing to meet, or if you would like to form your own small group with some ladies God has placed on your heart. All women, even those currently in a small group need to register, as this will help us know how many materials to order.

Registration begins Dec. 5th. The deadline to register is January 9th. Then you will receive information on who is in your group (if applicable) and how to pick up your books in time to begin in February. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy Johnson or Crystal Clark.

Courageous Simplicity

"I'm just so *busy* and *tired*." These words fall from your lips as easy and often as your next breath. You're weary of your packed schedule and frenetic pace and responsibilities at every turn. Even good things no longer feel life-giving. You long for a simpler life. You want to be able to face daily burdens and the chaos of this world and say with confidence, "It is well with my soul." But how? (in)courage is ready to come alongside you through *Courageous Simplicity*, a seven-session Bible study on living in the simple abundance of Jesus. This study will help you release control of what frays your soul and will lead you to true refreshment. As you train in the spiritual practice of simplicity, you will discover the God who loves you lavishly and wants to show you how to live with a heart open and surrendered to his presence. You can live in the peace and freedom of having and being enough. Let your friends at (in)courage show you how.

If this Women's Study appeals to you, you can register online at firstbaptistaledo.com



NEW WINTER DAY TIME
WOMEN'S STUDY

Courageous Simplicity

ABIDE IN THE SIMPLE
ABUNDANCE OF JESUS

**9AM-10:30AM
EACH WEDNESDAY
BEGINNING JAN 12**

7 Week Study
At FBC In The Enon Room
Taught By Britni Ewing
Childcare Available
Register at firstbaptistaledo.com

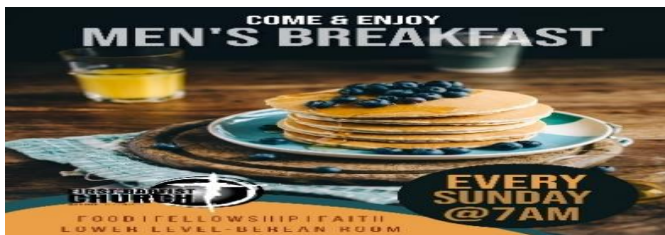
Grief Share/Giving & More!

Christmas Gifts for the Nursing Home Residents



It is now time to begin bringing gifts for the residents of Mercer Manor and Aledo Rehab and Health Care Center. Your unwrapped gifts may be placed in the boxes marked **NURSING HOME GIFTS** in the church lobby **until 10 am on Tuesday, Dec. 14th**.

Both nursing homes are so appreciative of the gifts! Gift suggestions include: Small fleece blankets, dressy scarves, lotion, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, aftershave, stamps, stationary, diabetic socks, slipper socks with grips, small stuffed animals, adult coloring books with markers, metal tins of cookies, sugar free candy, chocolate candy, costume jewelry, cube boxes of Kleenex, Christmas wrapping paper, tape, and tags. Please **DO NOT** give powder or open back slippers. Cathy Griswold is coordinating this effort and would love to have anyone interested in helping sort and pack the gifts come to the church lobby on **TUESDAY, DEC. 14TH at 10 am**. Any questions call Cathy Griswold at 582-2838, or the church office at 582-7812. Thank you for your help with this project!



Men's Sunday Morning Breakfast

We've created a purposeful environment where you can enjoy a casual and relaxed time connecting with other men in our church, sharing some great food and conversation about our faith and how God is working in our lives. Invite a friend to join you!

The FBC Men's Breakfast is held every Sunday morning, at 7am in the Berean Room (lower level through Fellowship Hall). The breakfast is free but a love offering can be left. No need to sign up, just show up. Questions, see Kevin Ricke.

Grief Share-Surviving the Holidays 1 Night Event at FBC Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 6:30pm Sign up at Firstbaptistaledo.com



Help and hope as you navigate the Christmas season

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated?

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar on Dec. 1st is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Register online at firstbaptistaledo.com or call the church office at 309-582-7812 and Pam will assist you.



Upcoming Events for the Whole Church Family!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Celebrate Christmas at FBC by inviting your friends and family to join us on Friday, Dec. 24th at 7pm for our special Christmas Eve Candlelight service. This is always a beautiful and moving service. If you are unable to make it in person, we will also live stream this service on our website and Facebook page.

The Christmas Eve offering will go towards the Deacon fund which assists local families in crisis with things like heat, food, rent etc.



Christmas Poinsettias-We will once again be placing poinsettias in the sanctuary "In Memory Of" loved ones. Sign up on Sunday's Connect Card or call the church office (309-582-7812) no later than Sunday, Dec. 5th. Cost is \$10. Checks can be made to FBC with "Poinsettia" in the memo.

Christmas & New Year's Office Hours

In celebration of Christmas & New Years, the church office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24th & we will be closing at noon on Friday, December 31st. Otherwise, our regular church office hours are 8:30am-4pm Tuesday-Friday. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed-On Saturday, Dec. 11th from 9am-7pm FBC is providing bell ringers for the Salvation Army Kettle at the Aledo Walmart. There are ten - 1 hour slots that need to be filled. The sign-up sheet is in the lobby on the bulletin board.



Did you know you can make a charitable donation from your retirement and pay less taxes? In this seminar, you will learn how to make donations from retirement accounts and how to gift other appreciated assets.

- ✓ Making Charitable Donations
- ✓ Gifting Appreciated Assets
- ✓ Donating from Retirement Accounts

Register online at firstbaptistaledo.com



Scott Stoltenberg
CPA
Founding Partner
Adviser



Scott Stoltenberg - Quad City Investment Group
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FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH ALEDO

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE WINTER/SPRING '22

Classes for the whole
family!

DETAILS AND
REGISTRATION COMING
SOON AT
firstbaptistaledo.com

FEB. 2-APRIL 6
WEDNESDAYS
6:30PM-8PM

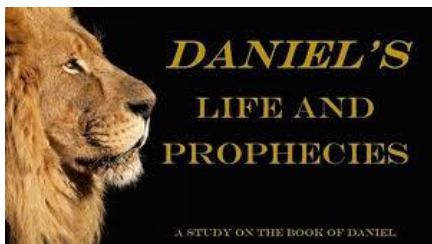
KIDS CLUB
REFUGE STUDENTS
ADULT CLASSES
NURSERY

What is Wednesday Night Live?

WNL is a series of classes & programs for the whole family held at First Baptist. WNL runs from Wednesday, Feb. 2 through April 6th, 2022 each Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm.

We will have **Kids Club** for kids ages 3 years through 5th grade. Kids Club kids will be diving into the gospels with Gospel Project, playing games, engaging in activities, making friends, enjoying yummy snacks, and having lots of fun on theme nights. Your kids won't want to miss learning all about Jesus and his life as a kid.

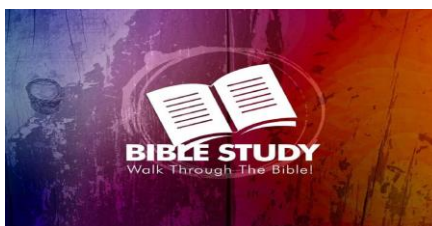
The Refuge Student Ministry on Wednesdays is for students 6th-8th grade. High School students are invited to attend the adult WNL classes. High School Refuge will continue to meet on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm. Our goal is to make Refuge a safe place for all students to come and be themselves. Life throws us a lot of crazy storms but everyone needs a place to take Refuge from the storm. Our Refuge verse is Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." The Refuge staff and adult leaders work hard to greet and talk to every student that comes through the doors. We have adult leaders reaching out to the Refuge students for prayer, encouragement, and bible verses through the week. Bring your Bible, get ready for some games and enjoy the snacks as you come to the Refuge to hangout.



Adult Class - "The Daniel Prophecies" – Pastor Luke will be teaching this class. Some of the most profound prophecies of the Bible are found in the book of Daniel. It has been often said that you cannot understand the book of Revelation apart from a good grasp of Daniel's prophecies. Come join us as we briefly explore the life of Daniel, and dive deeply into the prophecies. Registration coming soon!



Couples Study - "Marriage Remodel" This class will be taught by Steven & Felicia Bonyng. This fulfilling and engaging five-week study by the authors of the acclaimed "Fundamentals of Marriage," Howard and Danielle Taylor, is aimed at enhancing the marital bond between couples at varying stages of their marriage. The Marriage Remodel guides couples through a practical 5-step program, mirroring that of your favorite home remodel show, although upon completion it will be your marriage to be admired! Whether you're looking to simply refresh a specific area of your marriage or you're in need a complete marriage makeover, The Marriage Remodel program provides couples with an actionable blueprint for building the marriage of their dreams.



Verse by Verse Bible Study for Women – This study is held off site at Laurie Louck's home. They walk verse through verse through the Scriptures. You only need to bring your Bible and a notebook. The address to the Louck's home can be found when you register.

Registration for Wednesday Night Live will begin in mid-December. Stay tuned!

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Stay Connected!

- We are having In-person worship at 8am & 10:15am. Sunday School for all ages is at 9am along with a nursery for 0-2 years old. We 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!*

