



First Baptist Church News!



December | 2022

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ~ John 6:38

Every so often Christmas falls on a Sunday. This year happens to be one of those times. When people realize that, we always get the question... what are we going to do? We are planning to do what we did last time Christmas was on Sunday, which is have a combined service at 9am, and nothing else. The theme this year is "Home for Christmas", which is extremely fitting or ironic depending on how you look at it.

Home for Christmas for many people means celebrating with family and friends in the hometown and for some even the very house you grew up in or raised your kids in.

Home for Christmas for some people means staying in, not traveling or going anywhere, but being at home.

Home for Christmas for others means gathering with loved ones wherever you can. Being together is more home than any particular place.

Home for Christmas for some means being with others at church. For many there is more of a sense of family with other Christians than there is with relatives.

The sense of home for Christmas is different for most people, but it was truly unique for Jesus. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus came from heaven and had been at home with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity past. He came down to heaven on Christmas day and entered a new home with Mary and Joseph and would live among us for 33 years before returning to His true home in heaven.

Even though we didn't come from heaven, we have the same wonderful promise that our true home is heaven and one day we will get to go there and leave all the troubles of this world behind. I think our lives would be significantly different and better if we could live with the same perspective Jesus did. This world is not our home. We are citizens of a much better place. When we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that we too are on this earth temporarily, and so we make the most of the time we have here, and look forward to the homecoming that Jesus made possible through His birth, death and resurrection.

Looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you,
Pastor Luke

2022 Giving

Total giving through 11/13/22:

\$575,703.25

**Giving needed to meet
2022 budget to date: \$538,608.94**

KIDS CLUB MINISTRY


Aledo, IL **Holly Days Photo Op & Candy Cane Hunt**

Sponsored by First Baptist Church, Aledo

Take a FUN family/friend pic & go on a candy cane hunt in Downtown Aledo during Holly Days on Friday, Dec. 2nd between 5:45-7:15pm (next to Old Wagner's Pharmacy).

Finish the hunt & return by 7:15pm to get a prize (one per child/teen).

*Photos will be professionally taken by FAB Photography and posted on Facebook @ "First Baptist Church of Aledo"



Come to downtown Aledo on Friday night Dec. 2nd to enjoy Aledo Main Street's Holly Days Event! First Baptist Church will take part in fun too! We will be hosting a FREE Christmas Photo Op with photos taken by our own Felicia Bonyne of FAB Photography. So, dress up the kiddos or the whole family and come get your 2022 Christmas Photo professionally taken. We will also have a fun candy cane hunt for your family to participate in! We will be in a building near the old Wagner Pharmacy. See the poster above for all the details. Questions, see Mollie Dunn.

*Sunday School Kids
Christmas Special*

*Sunday, Dec. 11th
10:15am Worship*



The Kid's Sunday School classes (Pre-k-5th Grade) are joining up with the Praise Team to sing two Christmas songs at the 10:15am Worship Service on Sunday, December 11th. Invite your family & friends and we'll see you there! Kids are encouraged to wear Christmas attire for the performance. Practices will begin Sunday, October 2nd at 9am. Kids need to be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall area by 9am (please be on time) and teachers will take them to practice upstairs & then will take them to their regular classes afterward. Parents will continue to pick-up kids at 10am after Sunday School every Sunday. Have a question? Please see Nadine Coulter.

Sunday Mornings


KIDS 10:15am Service WORSHIP

Kids ages 3-5th grade check-in outside the sanctuary and sit with their families until they are dismissed during the third song out the back of the sanctuary. *Please present your security tag at pick-up in the Fellowship Hall immediately following service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

9-10am

We offer Sunday School classes for all ages to make connections and go deeper in the Word. We have a nursery for kids 2 and younger, several adult classes, a High School class (behind kitchen), a Jr. High class (last room on the right in the downstairs hall), 3rd-5th grade class (back of youth room), a 1st-2nd grade class (left room inside Fellowship Hall), and a Pre-K-K class (right room inside Fellowship Hall). No need to sign up. Just check-in upstairs and head to class. *Parents need to pick-up kids at 10am.



**FBC Kid Ministry
Fall'22/Winter/Spring '23**

September
Sun., Sept. 4th- **Praise in the Park** 9:30am-2pm @ Central Park
Wed., Sept. 7th- **First Night of Kids Club**
Wed., Sept. 21st- **Kids Club: Dress-like-a Grandparent & Bingo Night**

October
Wed., Oct. 12th- **Kids Club: Crazy Hair & Relays**
Wed., Oct. 26th- **Kids Club: Outdoor Movie Night (K-5th)/Indoor Movie (Pre-k)**

November
Wed., Nov. 16th- **Kids Club: Last Night of the session "Escape the Zoo & Treasure Box" Night**

December
Sunday, Dec. 11th- **Sunday School Kids Sing**

January
Sun., Jan 15th- **Family Fun Event TBA**

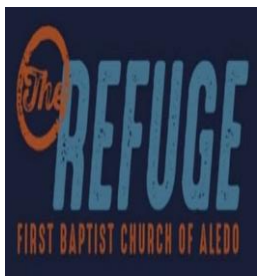
February
Wed., Feb. 1st- **First night of Kids Club for Winter/Spring '23 Session**
Wed., Feb. 15th- **Kids Club: Birthday Bash Night**
Sun., Feb. 19th- **Family Fun Event TBA**

March
Wed., March 1st- **Kids Club: Nerd Night**
Wed., March 15th- **No Kids Club (Family Fun Event TBA)**
Wed., March 29th- **Last Night of Kids Club: Prize Night**

April
Fri., April 7th- **Family Easter Event**



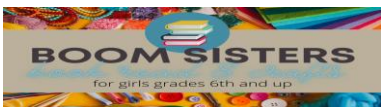
Refuge Student Ministry



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!

High School Refuge- There will be no High School Refuge on Sunday nights from Dec. 4th - Jan. 1st.

Jr. High Refuge - There will be no Jr. High Refuge on Wednesday nights from Nov. 23rd - Jan. 4th.



Boom Sisters – Will not meet in the month of December



Bold Brothers - Boys in grades 6th and up are invited to join us Saturday, Dec. 10th from 10:00-11:30am at FBC. We will be having a cooking class with Marjie Earl.

Refuge Girls' Study - Girls in grades 6th and up are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room for a small group study. We are studying "True Princess" by Erin Davis. Girls can join at any time.



**FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**

FCA is Meeting Weekly - Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) meets each Thursday at 7:15am in the Driver's Ed Room at Mercer County High School. All High School Students are welcome. Come for food and fellowship!

Helping Hands 2022

23 Households Served by 49 Volunteers



Flourish Women's Ministry/Grief Share For All

2023 Women's Small Group Program



Are you ready to deepen your relationship with Christ, while also growing in community with others? Registration will open November 5th and run through December 4th for the 2023 Women's Small Groups. Small groups will be going through FLOURISH: A Mentoring Journey Year 2 starting in January, which explores what Scripture says about womanhood, stewardship, suffering, hospitality and more.

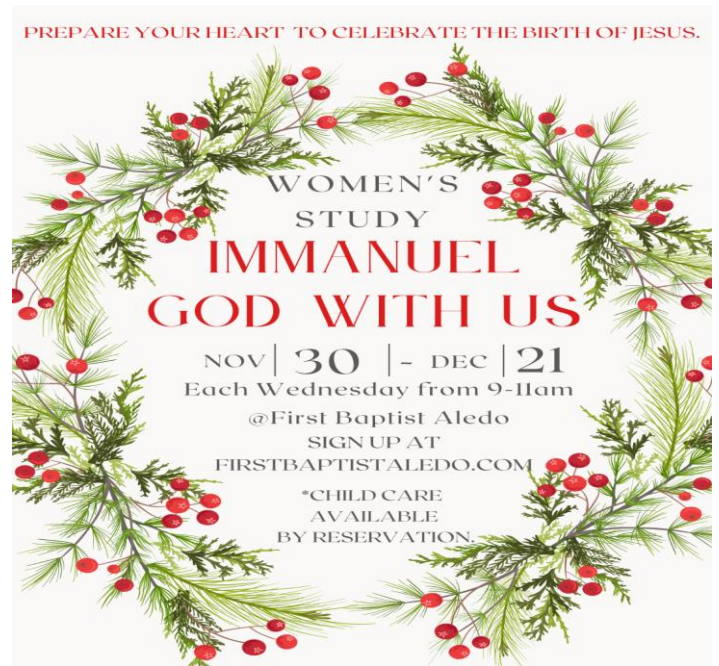
All ladies need to register at firstbaptistaledo.com, even if you have been in the program before. Small groups will decide when, where and how often they meet, though our recommendation is at least once a month.

Please register online at firstbaptistaledo.com, where you can choose if you are already in a group that is continuing to meet or would like to be placed in a group. For questions, please see program coordinators Peggy Johnson and Crystal Clark. Note: Completing FLOURISH Year 1 is not required and will not hinder you from using this book.



New Women's Winter Bible Study The book of James with Britni Ewing Wednesdays from 9-11am January 4th - March 8th

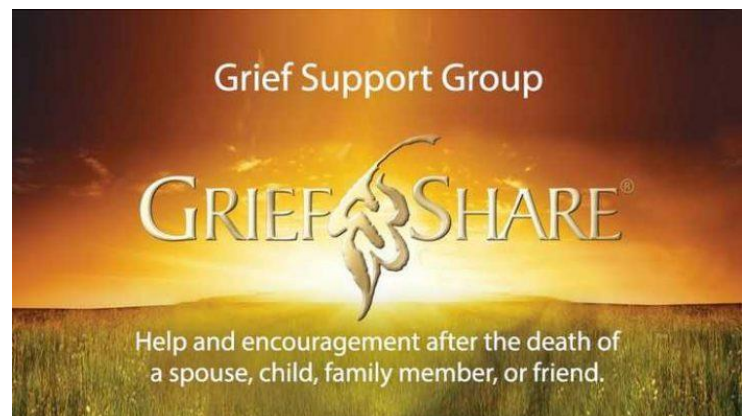
Please bring your Bible and a notebook/binder. We will dig into the Scriptures together, studying the book of James verse by verse. Childcare is available by registration. Sign up coming soon at firstbaptistaledo.com



Immanuel - God With Us (Isaiah 7:14)

Women's Bible Study - Taught by Britni Ewing

Take four weeks to prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This will be a study focusing on Jesus' birth and the events surrounding His birth. Class supplies: Bring your Bible and a notebook or three ring binder. We'll meet in the Enon room. TWO Class Options either Tuesday nights from 7-9pm starting Nov. 29th OR attend on Wednesdays starting Nov 30th from 9-11am. Childcare available by reservation at firstbaptistaledo.com. Please sign up by Nov. 23rd.



We will begin a new session of the **GriefShare** Class in January at First Baptist. This class is open to everyone. Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. This 13 week class is taught by Joe and Kathy Olson and will be held on Tuesdays beginning Tuesday, January 10th-April 4th at 6:30pm at First Baptist in the Enon Room. Sign up is coming soon.

Christmas Services & Nursing Home Gifts



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Celebrate Christmas at FBC by inviting your friends and family to join us on Saturday, Dec. 24th at 7pm for our special Christmas Eve Candlelight service. This is always a beautiful and moving service. There will be no official nursery on Christmas Eve, however, we will live stream the service in there if you and your kiddos need to use it. If you are unable to attend 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 Day Dec. 25th 9am Worship

Celebrate Christmas morning at First Baptist on Sunday, Dec. 25th. We will have one combined service at 9am on Christmas Day along with nursery. Pastor Luke will be sharing a special Christmas message. *No Sunday School, No Kids Worship, No 8am & No 10:15am service on Dec. 25th.



Christmas Poinsettias

We will 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. 4th. Cost is \$10. Checks can be made payable to FBC with Poinsettia in the memo



We know that you wait all year for the chance to help us out! Help out with what you may be asking? Here is the answer...it will soon be time for the annual collection of gifts from some of the area churches for the residents of Mercer Manor and Aledo Rehab and Health Care Center! A tote and empty boxes that are labeled **NURSING HOME GIFTS** is now in our lobby starting **Sun., November 20th**. We will be collecting unwrapped gifts until **Thursday, December 15th**.

Cathy and Linus Griswold are coordinating this effort and would love for you to donate gifts. Your help would also be appreciated for sorting and packing the gifts on **December 15th at 10am** in the church lobby. Please feel free to take a list of gift suggestions from the front of the tote. If you have any questions, please call Cathy or Linus at 582-2838 or the church office at 582-7812. Thank you so much for your help with this project! ~ Linus & Cathy



Grief Share-Surviving the Holidays 1 Night Event at FBC Sunday, Dec. 11th at 6-7:30pm Taught by Joe & Kathy Olson in the Enon Room

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. 11th 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 and 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.

Bell Ringers/Thanks/Events



Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

On Saturday, Dec. 17th from 9am-7pm FBC has been asked to provide 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 at the Welcome Desk in the Lobby or call the church office at 309-582-7812 to volunteer.



Young Adult Group!

Are you a young adult looking to connect with others in our community? If so, we invite you to stop this gathering of our new 'Young Adult Group' we'll meet on Friday, Dec. 9th @ 7pm at Matt & Kerri Clark's home – 2206-40th Ave. Aledo.

We will have dessert & fellowship. What does it mean to be a young adult? Not in high school and not quite ready to hang out with the older adults. No need to sign up just show up. Questions, call the church office at 309-582-7812.

Thank You

Thank you to all of our church family for helping us remember mom. Mom wasn't able to get to church the last few years but she always asked how things were going at church during our visits.

Thanks to the hospitality committee for the wonderful lunch. It was great being able to use the New Addition.

Thanks to Luke for a great message and comforting us through this.

The Family of Martha Moffitt



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ALEDO

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE
WINTER/SPRING '23

Classes for the whole family!

DETAILS AND JOIN AT firstbaptistaledo.com

FEB. 1-MARCH 29
WEDNESDAYS
6:30PM-8PM

KIDS CLUB
REFUGE JR HIGH
NURSERY

ADULT/HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES



Church Council Meeting – The FBC Church Council will meet Tuesday, Jan. 10th at 7pm.

FBC Annual Business Meeting-Sunday, Jan. 15th following the 10:15am Service. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

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

PHONE: 309.582.7812

E-MAIL: FBCALED02@FRONTIERNET.NET

WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM

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ALEDO, IL 61231

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 the "Church Center App" from the App Store or Google Play and choose "First Baptist Church, Aledo, IL" to easily sign up for church events, check our church calendar, give online, watch sermons and receive important church notifications.
- Find Us On Facebook.
- Call the Church Office at 309.582.7812.



***Love Christ. Love Others.
Think Biblically!***

