

First Baptist Church News!



November | 2022

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ~ Matthew 16:24

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ~ Galatians 5:24

Discipleship. It’s a word that you’re going to hear a lot over the next few weeks and months. You might almost get tired of hearing it. If you prefer, we can use other words; Spiritual formation, Christian living, spiritual growth, following Jesus, becoming mature believers, sanctification, or any other term you like. Far from being a temporary emphasis, discipleship is what being a Christian is all about, and it’s the primary if not exclusive purpose of the church. One of the illustrations Jesus used to help us understand what it means to follow Him was that we should pick up our cross. For the Christian who fully understands what Jesus went through to purchase salvation for all who would believe, it is both a vivid and impossible image to apply to ourselves. The people of Jesus’s day would have been horrified by the idea of carrying a cross. The whole point of a Roman crucifixion was to show that the victim had become completely submissive to Roman authority, even to the extent that they were made to carry their own cross. The very instrument that would be used to torture and kill them.

Discipleship is intended to be a similar submission of the human life and will to the authority of God specifically expressed in the Lordship of Jesus. So, it was not unusual in any way that the Apostle Paul would reiterate that language when he referred to himself having been crucified with Christ, and then in Galatians 5 indicating that all who belong to Christ have done the same thing. Salvation is always understood as the first step of accepting God’s will. Accepting the reality that our sin separates us from God, and only by receiving Jesus as Lord do we come to know forgiveness and begin a relationship with God. That process is meant to be applied every day. A daily acknowledgement of God’s will and authority in our lives, which produces a growing and life-altering relationship with Christ. It’s not complicated. We spend time in prayer, Scripture, worship, and fellowship with other believers. But it is something that we must do intentionally and consistently. It won’t come naturally. In fact, the things that come naturally are the very things we need God to change. My will, and my desires that don’t do me any good and don’t honor the Lord. Learning God’s ways and His thoughts are the solution. This requires picking up a cross.

In Christ,
Pastor Luke

2022 Giving

Total giving through 10/23/22:

\$538,103.13

**Giving needed to meet
2022 budget to date: \$503,482.27**

KIDS CLUB MINISTRY




Kids Clubbers! Join us for the Great Zoo Escape!

Kids Clubbers are going to have loads of fun on Wed., Nov. 16th with our special guests and with our Escape the Zoo activity. Their crew will also work together to earn a treasure box through Bible Memory so they'll go home with some fun loot. New friends are welcome to join us anytime. This is also the same night to bring your filled Operation Christmas Child box back to the church!



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 WORSHIP **10:15am Service**

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)**

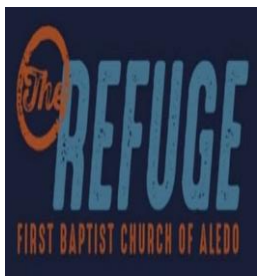
Wed., March 29th- **Last Night of Kids Club: Prize Night**

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 - High School students (9th-12th grade) meet on Sunday nights from 6-8pm, doors open at 5:45pm.

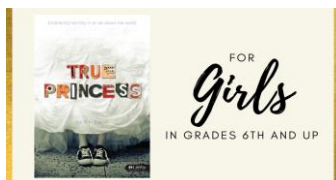
Jr. High Refuge - Junior High School students (6th-8th grade) meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8pm, doors open at 6:15pm. There will be no Jr. High Refuge on Wed., Nov. 23rd and Wed., Nov. 30th.



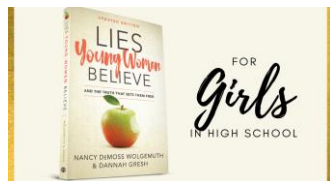
Boom Sisters - Girls in grades 6th and up are invited to join us at FBC on Saturday, Nov. 19th from 10:00am-12:00pm. We will be watching a movie, "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler."



Bold Brothers - Boys in grades 6th and up are invited to join us Saturday, November 5th. We will meet at FBC at 10:00 and then carpool to the Litwiler Farm where we will ride in a combine and learn about harvest. Pick up will be at FBC at 11:30am.



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.



Refuge High School Girls' Study - Calling all High School girls! We have started a study called "The Lies Young Women Believe". With this study we will be diving in to uncover some of the most common lies that you hear and learning how to combat those lies with the truth of God. We will meet every Monday night from 6-8pm at Justina Abbadusky's home (408 NE 12th St, Aledo) and dinner will be included. Please go to our website or the Church Center App and click on 'Groups' to be part of this great study! This is FREE to attend.



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!



Meet the Youth Pastor Candidate - On Sunday, November 6th we will meet Austin Shields, who is a candidate for our Youth Pastor position. Austin will be sharing a little of his testimony and his call at the 8:00am & 10:15am services. Parents of Refuge students are invited to join us during the Sunday School hour at 9:00am in the Refuge Room for a time of Q&A. Jr. High & High School students are invited to join us for Refuge on Sunday evening from 6-8pm where Austin will be giving the message and leading games.

Flourish Women's Ministry

Reminder to the ladies who registered - Women's Ministry Fall Conference at FBC is Nov 5th!



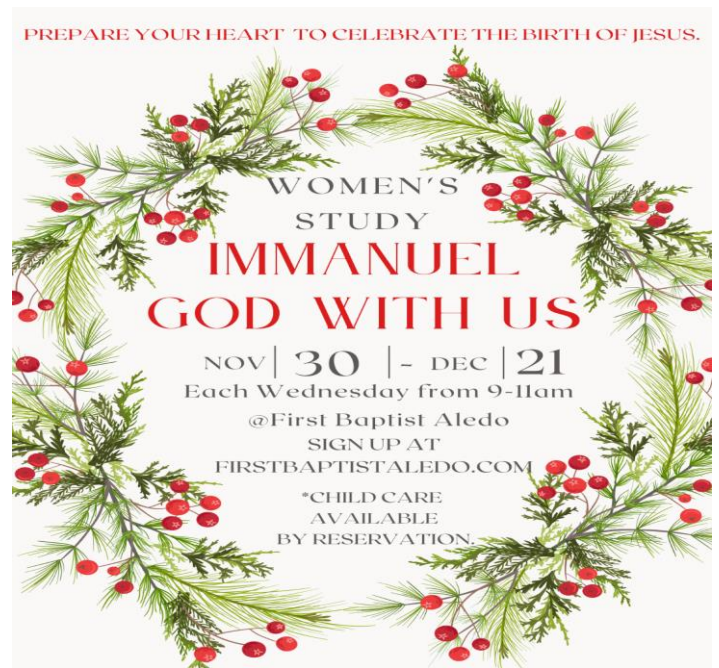
2023 Women's Small Group Program



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.



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

Dates: Wednesday, November 30th - Wednesday, December 21st @ FBC in the Enon Room

Time: 9am-11am. Childcare available by reservation.

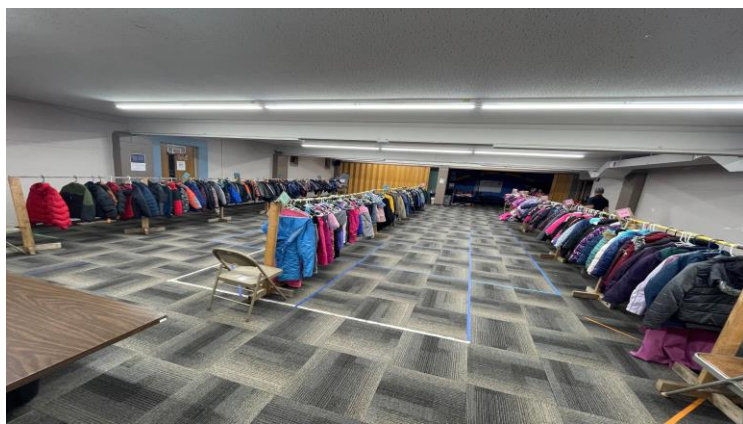
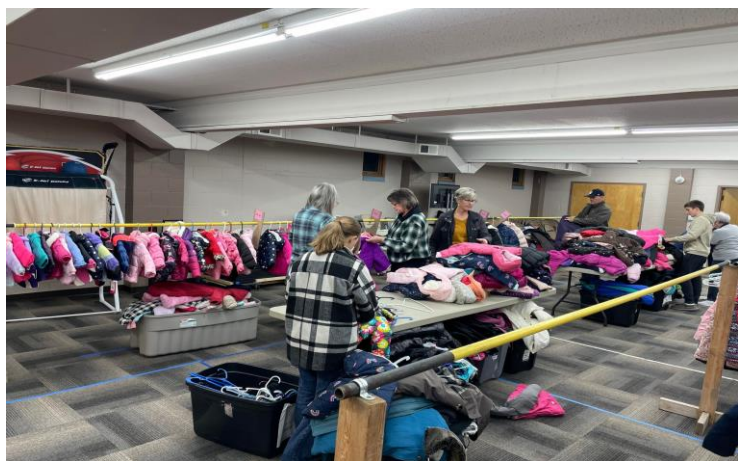
Please sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com no later than Nov. 16th.



All ladies are invited to join us Tuesday, Nov. 29th
Please note, this date is not the normal Tuesday and also a different location. This Christmas gathering is the final event for J.O.Y. Circle for 2022. J.O.Y. Circle will gather at 6pm at Joe's Trattoria Pizzeria in Aledo. We will order from the menu. Please bring a paper product for the food pantry as well as a \$5 gift exchange.

There will be no J.O.Y. Circle in December, January, or February. J.O.Y. Circle will pick back up on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm in March and continue on through 2023. Merry Christmas to the ladies of J.O.Y. Circle!

Coat Giveaway/Nursing Home Gifts & Couples Game Night



"The 2022 FBC coat drive/giveaway was a huge success!"

Thank you so much to all of you! It was with YOUR contributions, time, muscles, and smiles, we as a church body were able to fit approximately 129 people in our community (from about 54 households) with winter coats, hats/gloves jackets, sweatshirts, snowpants and more for this winter.

After the giveaway was over, we were able to stock (or restock) 7 local school coat closets for students in need, and helped supply coats to 2 area community resource centers.

God is SO great at meeting our needs, we were thrilled to open up donations this year to include adults and anyone in our area in need of winter gear. We could not have done this community outreach project without your time, help and contributions! Thank you so much for loving our community and Christ so well! (Matthew 25:40) "

~ Kady Hofer

Thank you!

On behalf of the FBC Staff we want to thank you all who sent cards of encouragement and prayers for us. We greatly appreciate our church family for thinking of us during Pastor Appreciation Month! Love, Your FBC Staff



Couples Game Night!

Couples are invited to join us Saturday, November 26th from 1-5pm in the Fellowship Hall for a fun afternoon of playing games.

Please bring your favorite card/board game and an appetizer to share. There is no need to sign up, just show up ready to have a great time of fellowship.



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** will be placed 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

Volunteer Opportunities



Helping Hands - Our Fall Helping Hands is scheduled for Saturday, November 12th from 7:30am-Noon. If you would like to volunteer, please signup online by going to our website or the Church Center App and clicking on Signups before November 5th.



OCC Collection Week - FBC is excited to once again be a Collection Site for Operation Christmas Child. The 2022 National Collection Week is November 14th - 21st. We are looking for volunteers to help with the collection of shoeboxes from area churches and organizations. Please go to our website or the Church Center App and click on Signups to volunteer.



Community Thanksgiving Volunteers Needed - We will again be serving a free community Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 24th. We are looking for volunteers to serve in various capacities between 10am-1pm that day. Please go to our website or the Church Center App and click on Signups to volunteer.

Community Thanksgiving Meal



First Baptist Church Aledo is once again sponsoring free Thanksgiving meals on Thu., Nov. 24th to our community. We will offer deliveries (11:30am-12:30pm), pick up at FBC (11:30am-12:00pm), and dine-in at the Senior Center 137 W Main St, Aledo, IL 61231 (arrive 11:00-11:30am).

Invite Postcards for the Thanksgiving Meal can be found in our lobby. Please invite anyone you know who could use a delicious, hot Thanksgiving meal! Remind them to RSVP so we have an accurate head count.

We only have 200 meals, so please RSVP early to get your meal reservations. RSVP by calling the Church office at (309)582-7812 or by going to our website (firstbaptistaledo.com) and clicking on Signups.

Youth Pastor/OCC Volunteers

Meet the Youth Pastor Candidate-On Sunday, November 6th we will meet Austin Shields, who is a candidate for our Youth Pastor position. Austin will be sharing a little of his testimony and his call at the 8:00am & 10:15am services. Parents of Refuge students are invited to join us during the Sunday School hour at 9:00am in the Refuge Room for a time of Q&A. Jr. High & High School students are invited to join us for Refuge on Sunday evening from 6-8pm where Austin will be giving the message and leading games.



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, Nov. 11th & 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. We will meet at Matt & Kerri's home every other Friday night at 7pm. No need to sign up just show up. Questions, call the church office at 309-582-7812.



Operation Christmas Child Bring those filled boxes back!

Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world.

You may pick up an empty OCC shoebox with instructions in the church lobby! Return your filled box by ****Sunday, Nov. 13th** along with \$6 for shipping cost (check made payable to FBC with "OCC" in the memo). The Women's Ministry team pays the remainder of the shipping cost. The FBC Jr. High Sunday School is coordinating the OCC project this year! Questions, see OCC Coordinators Pam or Kevin Ricke. (**Kids Clubbers are to bring their OCC boxes back Wednesday, Nov. 16th for the final night of Kids Club.)



Church Council Meeting – The FBC Church Council will meet Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 7pm.

FBC Special Business Meeting-Sunday, Nov. 20th following the 10:15am Service. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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E-MAIL: FBCALEDO2@FRONTIERNET.NET

WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM

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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 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!***

