



JANUARY NEWS

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**
ALEXANDRIA, ILLINOIS

2023

“Serve the Lord with gladness.” ~ Psalm 100:2a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We wish everyone happy holidays, happy birthdays, merry Christmas's and good mornings, as well we should. And I truly hope we are having good days and happy celebrations. I had to stop and think about it recently because I read something that stopped me in my tracks. I am currently reading an old puritan spiritual book by William Gurnall called “The Christian in Complete Armour.” He quoted Deuteronomy 28:47-48 that “Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart... therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies... in hunger.” We may have less control over our feelings than we like, and it might not even be reasonable to think that someone could “be happy” just because we asked them to, but I believe we have more control than we give credit over our attitudes and our thoughts. The Bible gives us clear instructions that we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds,

and our minds ought to be shaped by the Word of God. Philippians 4 tells us that “whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” It is the intentionality of thanking and praising God that creates a glad and joyful attitude. It doesn't happen by accident, and we are not powerless to control our feelings. It may be more difficult at some times than others, and there are certainly circumstances and seasons that will be times of mourning, but even then, we have hope because of the great God we serve and the wonderful promises He has given us in and through Christ. I don't know if 2023 will be the happiest new year, but we can find joy in it. I am committed to “serving the Lord with gladness” this year, and I invite you to do the same.

In Christ, Pastor Luke

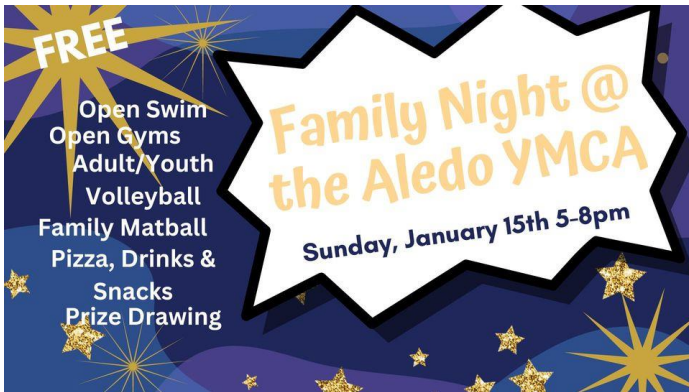


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**Total giving through
12/25/22:
\$649,120.88**

**Giving needed to meet
2022 budget to date:
\$608,862.28**

KIDS CLUB MINISTRY



All ages are invited to join us for fellowship & fun at the Aledo YMCA on Sunday, Jan. 15th from 5-8pm.

It's free and friends are welcome to join.

The pool will be open as well as all the gyms. There will be a friendly adult/youth volleyball game as well as Matball for the family to enjoy.

Pizza, snacks, & drinks will be provided. Please DM or text Mollie Dunn at 309-371-6962 if you need GF pizza and/or if you can help serve food/clean-up.

Don't forget to enter our prize drawing that will be located in the YMCA lobby.

See you there!

A Note From Mollie

I have a couple pieces of news that I wanted to hand-deliver to our families. The first tidbit is that after much prayer and consideration, I have decided to hit the books again and begin my doctorate in Biblical Counseling/Pastoral Care. My reason for this is there are so many challenges our young people & families face and often times a shortage of affordable counseling that is Bible-centered. It's all online and I'll work at my own pace. This shouldn't affect my ministry to families, but it does mean I won't be taking on "extra" while I'm pursuing this degree. Thanks in advance for your support and help when we need extra hands.

Secondly, Pastor Luke & I will be gone for three months (May, June, & July) on sabbatical. Jackie Burns will be the point person for church camp starting in May and Denise Bowker will be the director for VBS this year. In the spring I will also be asking for a few parent hosts to organize family outings this summer. We will have as many as we can find hosts for. Let me know if you'd like to host one of these & we'll go from there. Thanks for sharing your families with us! Love you all,

Mollie



KID'S CLUB WINTER/SPRING SESSION '23 (FEB. 1ST-MARCH 29TH)

Hey Parents!

Kids ages 3-5th grade are invited to join us for Kids Club from **Feb. 1st-March 29th on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:10pm at FBC in Aledo.** Check-in begins at 6:15pm and pick-up is at 8:10pm. *(No early check-in's please, as the crew needs time to set up before kids arrive.)* We're diving into the New Testament with Gospel Project and having lots of fun with friends, games, activities, & snacks. No need to register again if you joined us in the fall. New friends can register at www.firstbaptistaledo.com. *Adult classes/ nursery and Jr. High Youth Group (6th-8th grades) are at the same time.

Please bring kids inside the lobby door (no door drop-offs, please) & grab your security tag when you check-in. You'll need to present the security tag when you pick-up kids. This is a free program and open to the community. Friends can join us any time. Let us know if you have questions! ~Mollie Dunn

Special Nights

Feb. 15th: Bday Bash

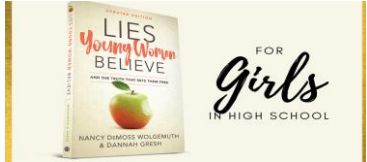
March 1st: Nerd Night

**March 15th: No Kids Club
Family Night @ Elevate**

March 29th: Spot's Prize Shop



Refuge Student Ministry



High School Refuge – High School students (9th-12th grade) meet on Sunday nights from 6-8pm, doors open at 5:45pm. Join us Sun., Jan. 8th at 6pm for our Christmas/New Year Party.

Jr. High Refuge - There will be no Jr. High Refuge on Wednesday nights now through Jan. 25th. However, we will meet on Wed., Jan. 11th for our Christmas/New Year Party and then resume our regular Wednesday gatherings on Feb. 1st.

Refuge High School Girls' Study - We are currently studying "The Lies Young Women Believe". With this study we are 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 meet every Monday night from 6-8pm at Justina Abbadusky's home (408 NE 12th St, Aledo) and dinner is 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.

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.

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!

Boom Sisters Sleepover - Girls in grades 6th and up are invited to join us for a sleepover at the Church from 6:00pm on Fri., Jan. 13th through Noon on Sat., Jan. 14th. We'll have food, movies, crafts and lots of fun!

Bold Brothers - Boys in grades 6th and up are invited to join us on Sat., Jan. 14th at 10:00am. Stay tuned for more details.

Exciting News!

Welcome to our new Youth Pastor Austin Shields!

In November the FBC members unanimously voted to approve hiring Austin Shields as our new Youth Ministry Pastor!

Austin is coming to Aledo all the way from the great state of Texas! Austin has experience working with students from his time as the Youth Revivalist with Life Action Ministries. He has also served as an Adult Youth Intern at a church and as a Camp Counselor at a Summer Camp.

Austin's first day at FBC will be Sunday, Jan. 15th! We are all looking forward to Austin jumping on board and working with our students. Help us give a warm welcome to Austin when you see him on Jan. 15th!

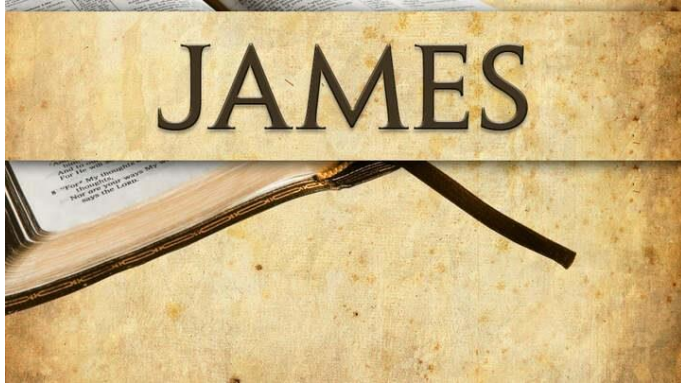
There is a gift registry to help Austin purchase some items for his new apartment. He is basically starting from scratch. If you'd like to give him a little house warming gift to get him started in his new home, you can find his registry on Amazon. It's under "Custom Gift List" for Austin Shields. Gift cards or gently used item from the list Pam Ricke has in her office are welcome too! Thanks for your help in welcoming Austin to Aledo!



Flourish Women's Ministry

New Women's Winter Bible Study
The book of James with Britni Ewing

Wednesdays from 9am-11am
January 4th - March 8th
Enon Room

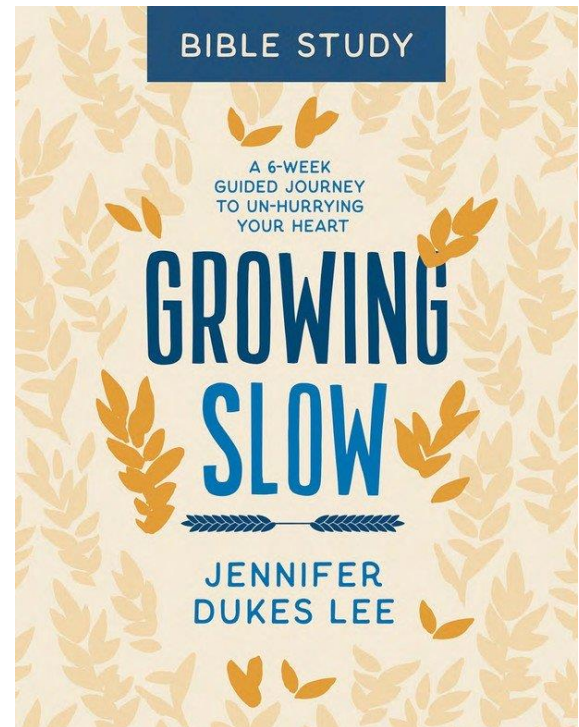


All ladies are invited to join us as we dig into the Scriptures together, studying the book of James verse by verse. Please bring your Bible and a notebook/binder.

Childcare is available by registration.
Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com

Women's Class Wednesday Night Live
Wednesdays - February 1st - March 29th

Growing Slow by Jennifer Dukes Lee; A Journey to UnHurrying Your Heart.



We want to believe that a slower life is possible, but are afraid of what we may miss out on if we don't keep up the frantic pace. This study invites us to dig deep into Scripture to reveal how land is a picture of good things grown slowly with God.

WNL is a series of classes & programs for the whole family held at First Baptist. WNL runs from Wednesday, Feb. 1st through March 29th, 2023 each Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm.

All classes and programs are free to attend and open to the public so invite your friends to join us! Along with these adult classes, which high school students can participate in, we offer Kids Club for kids 3 years old through 5th grade and Refuge Student ministry for 6th-8th grade. Join online at firstbaptistaledo.com.

2023 FLOURISH Small Groups



We are so excited about starting the new year together in God's Word! If you signed up to be in a group, your leader will be reaching out to you soon with meeting times! FLOURISH books are available to be picked up at the Welcome desk.

Wednesday Night Live



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. 1st through March 29th, 2023 each Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm.

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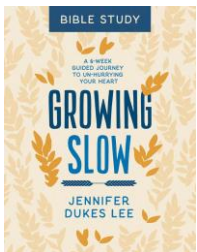
You and Me Forever~Marriage in Light of Eternity by Francis and Lisa Chan. Taught by Matt & Kerri Clark.

Marriage is Great, But it's not Forever-This seven session Bible study series will challenge you to view your marriage like never before. This study will help you dive deeper into the content and explore themes like:

- While we cannot allow lesser things to destroy our marriages, we also cannot allow marriage to distract us from greater things.
- A jealous God asks us to pursue Him first and most. Then life makes sense, and everything falls into its proper place.
- Love, laughter, and intimacy were all created to be enjoyed. So there is a way to love family deeply without ignoring heaven.
- It all comes down to our focus.
- Jesus was right. We have it all backwards. The way to have a great marriage is by not focusing on marriage.



The Chosen – Season #3 – Taught by Pastor Luke - As the biggest crowdfunded project in TV history, The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season show about the life of Jesus. This series allows viewers to see the life of Jesus through the eyes of those that knew Him. Follow the transformations of His followers through the ministry of Jesus as He journeys to change the world.



A Women's Study – Growing Slow-A Journey to UnHurrying Your Heart- by Jennifer Dukes Lee. **Teacher TBA** - We want to believe that a slower life is possible, but are afraid of what we may miss out on if we don't keep up the frantic pace. This study invites us to dig deep into Scripture to reveal how land is a picture of good things grown slowly with God.



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Upcoming Events



Save the Date

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Event

Date & Time: April 1, 2023- 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Coram Deo Bible Church, Davenport, IA

Who: Specific to men of all ages 13+

Keynote Speakers: Joe Martin & Stephen Kendrick

Iron Sharpens Iron men's one-day equipping conference has been designed specifically to help you, as a man: Better understand your spiritual journey and where you are on it. Determine the one or two areas in your life that most need to be sharpened. Give you the skills, tools and encouragement you need to make real progress in the coming year. Look for registration information coming in February on the FBCA's website.

Thank You

Thank you very much to everyone who donated to the Nursing Home Christmas Gift project again this year! We know that your generous donations of gifts are definitely appreciated. This is a community wide event, so we would also like to thank the following churches: Sunbeam United Presbyterian Church, Hamlet-Perryton Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Catherine's of Aledo and St. Anthony's of Matherville Catholic Churches, and Community Bible Fellowship. We would also like to thank Sheri Olson, Carol Hill, Kevin Ricke, Sue Ewing, and Marylee Finch for their help in sorting, boxing, loading and delivering the gifts! Thanks to Sheri for driving the bus for us too, Pastor Luke for loading the gifts, and Pam for all her help with all of the odds and ends! This important ministry goes smoothly and quickly when people are willing to serve and volunteer to help us out.

Thanks again! Linus and Cathy Griswold

COUPLES' GAME AFTERNOON

Couples are invited to join us Saturday, January 7th from 1-5pm in the Fellowship Hall for a fun afternoon of playing games. Please bring your favorite card game or 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.



Cards for Mike Sponsler - Mike will be at Mayo's in Rochester, MN while he receives a stem cell transplant. If you would like to send a card of encouragement to Mike & Kathy, here is their address:

Centerstone Plaza
401 6th St SW
Attn: Mike Sponsler
Rochester, MN 55902

FAMILY TALK & DONUTS

SUNDAY, JAN. 29TH 9-9:45AM

All ages are invited to join us in the sanctuary for donuts and testimonies.
No SS Classes. Nursery will be provided.

January Family Talk & Donuts!

All ages are invited to join us in the sanctuary for Family Talk & Donuts on Sunday, Jan. 29th from 9-9:45am. We're going to hear testimonies from our church family, you don't want to miss it! Donuts & drinks will be provided. *No SS classes this day. **The nursery will be open. We hope you'll join us.

More Upcoming Events



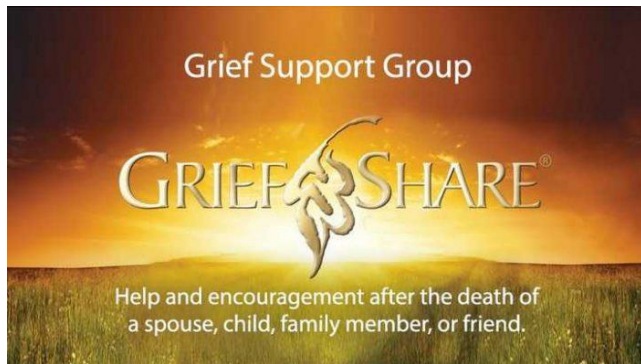
NEW NIGHT!
YOUNG ADULT GROUP
Meeting at Matt & Kerri Clark's Home
2206 - 40th Ave. Aledo
Dessert & Fellowship
Saturdays at 7pm
Jan. 14, Jan. 28, Feb. 11 & Feb 25th
No RSVP Required

Young Adult Group!

Now meeting on Saturdays!

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 now be meeting on Saturdays at 7pm. Join us on January 14th, January 28th & Feb. 11th & Feb. 25th 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.



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 at firstbaptistaledo.com

FBC ANNUAL MEETING 2023

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.



Offering Envelopes

We are phasing out the Offering Envelope system as only a handful of people are currently using them. Therefore, we will not be ordering new offering envelopes for 2023. If you would like to continue to put your tithe in an envelope, we do have some envelope boxes available or you can use the blank ones found at any of the offering boxes found in the lobby or at the Sanctuary exit doors.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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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.***

