

A decorative header featuring a variety of heart-shaped cookies with different icing designs, including red and white polka dots, red and white stripes, and red and white floral patterns. A white circular overlay is centered on the cookies.

*Let all that
you do be
done in love.*

1 Corinthians 16:14

*I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my
faithfulness to you.
~ Jeremiah 31:3b*

Love is a choice. Love is a feeling. The two are so closely related that they can be said to be intertwined. They build and feed off of one another. They reciprocate. In John it tells us that God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. His affection for His creation compelled Him to act. Jesus defined love in this way, that there is no greater love (in existence) than this, that someone would lay down their life for those they love. The volition, or action, proves the extent of the feeling. So, when God defines how we ought to understand love, He says, if you love Me, you will obey My Word (John 14:15). The Bible also tells us where love originates, where it comes from; we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). So, not only is love reciprocal, but it is responsive or reactionary. We feel more love and affection as a response to the clear and obvious sense of God's love for us.

The point is this; God loves us. He has spoken His love, and proved it with His self-sacrificing action by sending His

own Son to die on the cross on our behalf. He has invited us to love Him back. Responding to God's love will require three things (at least). The first is to act. Responding to God through obedience. Agreeing with God about sin, forgiveness, and growing to become more Christlike. The second thing should flow naturally from the first. We will grow in our affection for Christ. As our relationship with God grows (through obedience), our heart follows our action. The third thing that happens is that our love for others grows. Because God loves others and we are seeking to agree with God more and more, our love for others has to be the result. This follows the same pattern. It's a choice. We act. We make a choice to treat others in right and respectful ways out of respect for God. As we do this more and more, our care and enjoyment of others should be the natural result.

February is the month we celebrate and focus on love. My prayer is that we grow in love this month. It starts with God and thankfully, it never stops.

In Christ,

Pastor Luke

A photograph of the word "TITHE" spelled out in large, weathered metal letters. The letters are arranged in a row on a dark, reflective surface, creating a clear reflection below them.

TITHE

**Total giving through
1/22/23:
\$69,328.11**

**Giving needed to meet
2023 budget to date:
\$49,934.60**

KIDS CLUB MINISTRY

Winter/Spring

KIDS CLUB

February 1st-March 29th
*No Kids Club/WNL on March 15th
Family Night at Elevate in Milan (Details TBA)

No need to register unless you're NEW.
Register at www.firstbaptistaledo.com

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

Easter at FBC!



Kid's Palm Sunday Special: April 2nd
10:15am Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 7TH 9:30-11am
@ CENTRAL PARK, ALEDO, IL

FAMILY EASTER EVENT

SPONSORED BY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FREE
DONUTS @ 9:30AM
THE BIG DROP & CANDY LAUNCH @ 10AM
BAGS PROVIDED
INFANTS-TEENS CAN GET A BAG & PICK UP CANDY AFTER THE LAUNCH

THE KIDMIN IS NEEDING LOTS OF INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY DONATIONS FOR OUR FAMILY EASTER EVENT ON GOOD FRIDAY!

PLEASE PLACE DONATIONS IN MOLLIE'S OFFICE BY THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH. *ALSO ACCEPTING \$ DONATIONS, SMALL TOYS, STICKERS, PENCILS, ETC.

Party Time!

Pre-k-5th Gr. Sunday School Valentine's Day Parties

Join Us!

Sunday, Feb. 12th 9-10am
Fun & Treats

Flyers in the church lobby.

SUMMER CAMP

2023
HIDDEN ACRES

Refuge Student Ministry



High School Refuge – High School students (9th-12th grade) meet on Sunday nights from 6-8pm, doors open at 5:45pm. We are continuing our topical studies, so come join us to learn how the Bible answers some tough questions.

Jr. High Refuge – Junior High students (6th-8th grade) meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm, doors open at 6:15pm.

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.

Boom Sisters - Girls in grades 6th and up are invited to join us at FBC in the Enon Room on Saturday, Feb. 11th from 10:00-11:30am. Britni Ewing will be teaching us how to make Valentine Cards.

Bold Brothers - Boys in grades 6th and up are invited to join us on Sat., Feb. 11th from 10:00am-11:30pm here at the church in the Fellowship Hall. We're going to have a Nerf battle, so bring your Nerf weapon of choice.

Super Bowl Party – Junior High and High School students are invited to join us here at the church on Sunday, February 12th to watch the big game. Doors open at 5pm. Snacks and drinks provided.

High School Outing – Save the Date! Sunday, February 19th we will be heading to the TBK Sports Complex in Bettendorf, IA for bowling and arcade fun. Sign-up coming soon!

Junior High Game Night – Calling all 6th – 8th graders! Invite your friends to Refuge on Wed., Feb. 22nd. We're filling the night with all kinds of games, including "Bring Me." We'll have pizza and snacks, too. You won't want to miss it!

FCA – 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!

A Note From our Youth Pastor Austin Shields!

"Hey Church, I wanted to thank each and every one of y'all who prayed and gave gifts to make my apartment a home! It's been a huge blessing and I can't thank y'all enough for always making me a part of your family! I promise to work hard serving the students, follow the Lord, and to seek forgiveness when I make mistakes."

- Austin Shields FBCA Youth Pastor



Flourish Women's Ministry


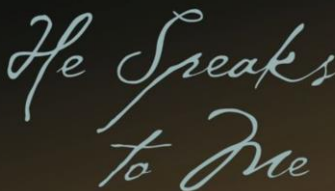


**WOMEN'S
BETTER TOGETHER
GATHERING**



**Saturday, Feb. 18th - 9-11am
@ 696 - 170th St. Aleo**

A light breakfast will be served as we explore the hope-filled topic that we have Jesus' undivided attention. Please join us for this uplifting time together hosted by Kim Sheese & Joanne Anderson at 696 170th Street, Aleo. Questions or need directions, call Kim at 309-738-9359.



PRISCILLA SHIRER

New Tuesday Women's Study

2pm Enon Room - Beginning March 7th

Taught by Rhonda McKinley

Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com

Taught by Rhonda McKinley on Tuesdays beginning March 7th at 2pm in the Enon Room. "How can I know when God is speaking to me?" In this exciting adventure, participants will discover how God spoke to Samuel, Samuel's response, and how He speaks to believers today; they will be encouraged to listen and respond to God's voice; and by listening to God's voice and obeying Him, women will experience spiritual growth, Christian discipline, and the desire to serve. Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com

Women's Classes Wednesday Night Live

Wednesdays - February 1st - March 29th

6:30-8pm @ FBC

Growing Slow; A Journey to UnHurrying Your

Heart & an off-site Verse by Verse

Study of the Book of Matthew.

See Women's Class details on next page.

Upcoming Retreats at Life Action Camp!



THRIVE Women's Retreat at Life Action Camp

April 21st-23rd Cost is \$100 Per Woman

Schedules, responsibilities, deadlines, caring for the needs of others—our lives, as women, are filled with opportunities. Most days we wouldn't have it any other way. But the stuff of life can leave us longing for more of what Jesus promised to give us. "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10)." THRIVE is a weekend designed to help you experience more of Jesus—through His Word, worship, fellowship, fun, and incredible food (that you don't have to cook!) Come join us! Because Jesus wants far more for you than to simply survive. More info at www.lifeactioncamp.com/thrive-womens-retreat/



JOURNEY Mother/Daughter Retreat at Life Action Camp - April 28th-30th

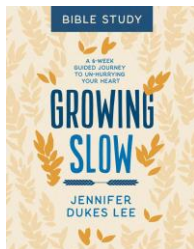
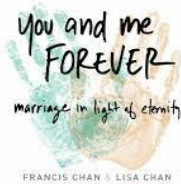
Recommended for daughters age 8-13.

Cost is \$100 per Mom and \$50 per daughter.

It's not every day that we have real, undistracted time to invest in our daughters – and yet, we Moms are among the most important influences on them. What if you could set aside a special weekend with your daughter – to invest in her, to love her, to share unforgettable experiences with her, and to learn together about biblical womanhood? What might that mean for you? And more importantly, what might that mean for HER? That's what *Journey* is all about – moms and daughters, learning, loving, and laughing together. More info at www.lifeactioncamp.com/mother-daughter-retreat/

The Women's Ministry of FBC helps cover part of the cost to attend these Retreats/Conferences. More information about the events can be found on the corresponding websites. Please register with the church at firstbaptistaledo.com, then housing and transportation will be coordinated. Deadline for registration is April 9 for THRIVE and April 16 for JOURNEY. More information and open registrations coming soon. Questions, please see Peggy Johnson or Crystal Clark.

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.

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.

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. **Taught by Kim Quam** - 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.

Women's Verse by Verse Study through the Bible **Taught by Sheri Olson** at Laurie Louck's home-612 NE 2nd Ave., Aledo. We are currently in the book of Matthew. Join online at firstbaptistaledo.com

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.

Upcoming Events



Save the Date

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Event

Date & Time: April 1st - 8:30AM – 4PM

Location: Coram Deo Bible Church, Davenport, IA

Who: Specific to men of all ages 13+

Keynote Speakers: Joe Martin & Stephen Kendrick

The FBC Men's Ministry is inviting men, 13 years and older, to attend Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference on Saturday, April 1st at Coram Deo Bible Church Davenport. The conference begins at 8:30am and ends at 4pm. We will meet at the church and carpool to the event. Keynote speakers will be Joe Martin and Stephen Kendrick. The cost, including lunch is \$59 for adults and \$43 for student ages 13-22.

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, and give you the skills, tools, and encouragement you need to make real progress in the coming year. Online registration begins February 15th at Firstbaptistaledo.com.

Thank You

Marsha and I would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, texts, calls and visits while I was in the hospital. We appreciate you all so much. We could have never gotten through it without our Heavenly Father. We give all the Praise to Jesus.

Thanks again, Bill & Marsha Loving
& Family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Betty Williams will celebrate her 100th birthday, next month on Sunday, March 5th, 2023. Family and friends are invited to attend an open house in her honor from 1-3pm at First Baptist Church Aledo. Your presence is requested as your present.

Ladies, you are invited!



BABY Sprinkle

For Britteny Kelly & Shelby Gonzales

FEB. 25TH



10AM - 12PM

We will honor the memory of Baby Joy Kelly by bringing diaper donations for *Loving Bottoms*.

We will celebrate Baby Boy Gonzales by sprinkling mom with love. Shelby is registered at Baby List.

Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church
800 NE 6th Ave, Aledo

RSVP to Denise Bowker (309)270-1883



More Upcoming Events



NEW NIGHT!
YOUNG ADULT GROUP
Meeting at Matt & Kerri Clark's Home
2206 - 40th Ave. Aledo
Dessert & Fellowship
Saturdays at 7pm
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 by our new 'Young Adult Group' gathering. We are now meeting on Saturdays at 7pm. Join us on 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.



Communion Sunday is Sunday, February 5th

Communion Sunday is also the Sunday we remind you to bring a non-perishable food item for our Blessing Box if you are able. The items can be left in the pink tote in our lobby near the coat rack. The FBC Blessing Box is found on the east side of the back parking lot. It is open 24/7 for anyone in need. Thanks for helping bless others in need in our community!



Looking for Mercer County Food Pantry Volunteers! Can you help?

First Baptist has the opportunity to serve on the following dates at the Food Pantry in Aledo:

Tuesday, April 25th – 5:30-7pm

Friday April 28th – 8am-Noon

Tuesday, Sept. 5th – 5:30-7pm &

Friday, Sept. 8th – 8am-Noon.

We need 2 volunteers for each day. If interested, call the church office at 309-582-7812 or see Pam Ricke at the Welcome Desk to sign up.

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

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

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 102
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.**

WED NIGHT LIVE!
Feb. 1st-March 29 6:30-8pm
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com

THE CHOSEN SEASON 1
Featuring: The Chosen
Directed by: Lee Correy

MARRIAGE
You and Me Forever
Marriage is Right of Christy
Teach by: Mark & Amy Correy

WOMEN'S CLASS
GROWING SLOW
Discover the power of the Word
Teach by: Amy Correy

THE REFUGE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEDO

KIDS CLUB Ministry

GROWING SLOW
Discover the power of the Word
Teach by: Amy Correy

VERSE BY VERSE
STORY OF MATTHEW