



HELLO
March



"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
~ Matthew 11:29

It was about nine years ago the first time someone seriously encouraged me to think about a sabbatical. For those who don't know what a sabbatical is, it is based on the biblical term sabbath, which means to rest. On the seventh day of creation God rested from all His creative work and established the sabbath. He then commanded His people, the Israelites, to observe sabbath. Each Saturday is a sabbath for the Jews where no work is to be done. They also have annual sabbaths where work is suspended for a week at a time to observe special festivals, and there are whole year sabbaths where the land is to be given rest after six years of planting. So, a sabbatical for a pastor is intended to be an extended time of rest.

I was at a pastor's retreat at the Life Action Lodge when another pastor had asked how long I'd been pastoring at FBC. At that point we had just celebrated our seventh year of ministry. He then asked if I had considered taking a sabbatical. I'm not sure if I laughed out loud or not, but I said that no, it hadn't really crossed my mind at that point. It's only been in the last two or three years that I have felt both the personal need and the congregational acceptance for a sabbatical. We've talked about it in business meetings for about two years, and have finally concluded that it is time. The Dunns will be on sabbatical from May 1st through July 31st. Mollie will be on sabbatical as well. She has been working hard at FBC for over twelve years and is ready for a time of rest. Our sabbatical schedule still has some flexibility, but we plan to take some time for a marriage retreat, a family vacation, and a pastor's retreat. Other than

that, it will be a great time to connect with family, do some work around the house, and hopefully experience church from the congregation. One thing I hope to do is attend FBC and worship alongside of you many of the weeks that we are not traveling.

The plan for the church is that there will be a rotation of preachers, which Kevin Ricke is putting together, and capable individuals are being delegated to lead the events, classes, and responsibilities that Mollie and I would ordinarily be leading during those months. My hope and expectation is that the sabbatical will be a great time for the church to step up while Mollie and I step away. When we return we will be refreshed and the church will be encouraged.

Finally, let me say, that I believe God ordained a day of rest for a reason. Jesus said that man wasn't made for the sabbath, but that the sabbath was made for man. In other words, God intends for us to seek rest and do so as part of our regular pattern of life. Sometimes I have failed to take the rest I need. I know how easy it is to keep busy. That's why rest needs to be intentional. I would like to encourage you. Don't wait until you drop or burnout. Plan your time off. Get away for a day or a week. Take the rest you need. It's not a bad thing, and it's not being lazy. God intended for us to get well deserved rest after we've worked hard. It really might be just what you need, not just physically, but to find rest for your soul as well.

In Christ,

Pastor Luke



**Total Giving Through
2/19/23:
\$122,173.56**

**Giving Needed To Meet
2023 Budget To Date:
\$98,739.44**

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 through 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

March 1st: Nerd Night

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

March 29th: Spot's Prize Shop



FAMILY NIGHT
at Elevate Trampoline Park in Milan

Wednesday
March 15
Jump from 6-8pm | check-in at 5:45

\$10 per jumper
(includes the cost of socks)

sign-up online by 2/28
www.firstbaptistaledo.com

Easter at FBC!



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.

Flyers in the church lobby.



To the families that registered, remember Family Night at Elevate Trampoline Park in Milan is on Wednesday, March 15th. This activity takes the place of Wednesday Night Live. If you're not attending the Trampoline Park, then you'll get a night off and we'll see you again on March 22nd for regular Wednesday Night Live!

Refuge Student Ministry



High School Refuge – High School students (9th-12th grade) meet on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00pm, doors open at 5:45pm. We will not have Refuge on Sun., Mar. 12th and Sun., Apr. 9th.



Jr. High Refuge - Junior High students (6th-8th grade) meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm, doors open at 6:15pm. We will not have Refuge on Wed., Mar. 15th, instead we invite students and their families to join us for **Family Night at Elevate!** We will not have Refuge on Wed., April 5th.



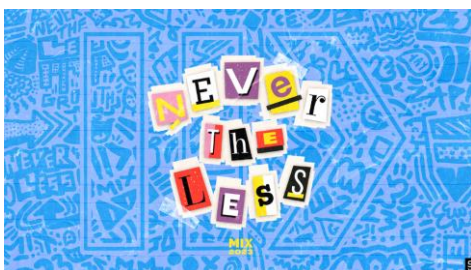
Refuge Girls' Study - Girls in grades 6th and up are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room for a small group study. Join at any time.



Boom Sisters & Bold Brothers - Boom Sisters & Bold Brothers will not meet in March.



MUNCH – Hey, Junior High and High School students! We are going to gather on Fri., Mar. 17th from 12:30pm-3:00pm here at the church for MUNCH (Movie + Lunch). No need to sign up, just show up! Free to attend and lunch will be provided.



CIY MOVE - CIY MOVE is June 25th- July 1st at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. MOVE is intended for students who will have completed grades 8th – 12th. The cost is \$195 per student. Please sign up on our church website or in the Church App by April 23rd.



CIY MIX – MIX is for students who will have completed grades 5th– 7th. This year we are headed to Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana July 9th – 14th. The cost is \$180 per student. Please sign up on our church website or in the Church App by May 7th.

Flourish Women's Ministry



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



Decluttering By Faith Study

Feeling overwhelmed with all your stuff?
Would an accountability group help motivate you to simplify your home??

Let's dig deeper as to why our stuff is not making us happier, more successful, or satisfied in life.

Join in on a 12-week devotional, taught by Karyn Smith, that will help us understand what God's word says about all these things. There are 6 videos and each are less than 15 min. Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com. We will meet on Sundays in the Lower Enon Room.

Video 1 Sunday, April 2nd 3:30-4:30

Video 2 Sunday, April 9th View at home ~ Easter

Video 3 Sunday, April 16th 3:30-4:30

Video 4 Sunday, April 23rd 3:30-4:30

Video 5 Sunday, April 30th 3:30-4:30

WE WILL NOT MEET FOR 3 WEEKS AS THERE ARE NO VIDEOS FOR THOSE WEEKS.

Video 6 Sunday, May 28th 3:30-4:30

A celebration day to close out the study to be determined.

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. Questions, see Beth Bowns. More details at www.lifeactioncamp.com/mother-daughter-retreat/ and sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

The FBC Women's Ministry 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 9th for THRIVE and April 16th for JOURNEY. More information and sign up available at firstbaptistaledo.com.

Celebrate Easter at FBC!



Join Us for Easter Services at First Baptist!

April 6th – Maundy Thursday Service – Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary as Pastor Seth shares a Maundy Thursday Message and Worship.

April 9th - Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am in the Sanctuary. Join us as Pastor Austin Shields shares an Easter Message.

April 9th – Join us for Easter Services at 8am & 10:15am. Please be in prayer about who you might invite to church for Easter!



April 2nd – Palm Sunday – The Sunday School Children will be singing at the 10:15am Service.



April 7th – Good Friday – Kids Only Easter Event 9am-11am. See all the details at firstbaptistaledo.com.



Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary- If you would like to honor a loved one by placing an Easter Lily in the sanctuary, please sign up on Sunday's Connect Card or call the church office at 309-582-7812. Deadline to order an Easter Lily is Sunday, March 26th. The cost of an Easter Lily is \$10.



April 9th – Easter Breakfast – Join us for a Free Easter breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 9th. Breakfast will begin about 7am in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast Menu - Breakfast Casserole, Fruit Cup and Danish. Gluten Free options available. Please RSVP at firstbaptistaledo.com or on Sunday's Connect Card.

Men's Ministry & Other Upcoming Events

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. Register at firstbaptistaledo.com.



Men do not thrive on bread alone (although the food is great at a Momentum retreat!) Food, fellowship, and spiritual recharging mark these men's times together. Guests are challenged in their Christian walk, prompting many to make life-changing decisions. We encourage men to lead their families—and ultimately our nation—with deliberate action, resisting the role of passive onlooker.

Please join us on April 14th – April 16th at Life Action Camp in Buchanan, MI. We will leave from FBC via a car pool Friday morning and return Sunday evening. Cost of this event is \$100 per person. *(Actual cost is \$150 if you would like to pay the full amount, it helps the budget.)* You can register online at firstbaptistaledo.com. Note: This retreat is designed for men ages 16 and older.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Betty Williams will celebrate her 100th birthday, 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.



Baby Dedication Sunday is Sunday, March 19th. If you are interested in dedicating your baby to the Lord, please call the church office at 309-582-7812.

Thank You

To our Church Family, Kathy and I would like to thank all those that sent prayers, words of encouragement, cards (cards from the younger Sunday School kids were so special) and continue to pray as I recover at home. Also food that has been brought over. We love you all and Praise God for his healing powers. May God continue to bless FBC in all they do for his glory.

Mike & Kathy Sponsler

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The Kelly Family would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of diapers to the Loving Bottoms organization. We are honored to donate so many in Joy's memory.

Love, J.P., Britteny, Louie & Josie Kelly

More Upcoming Events



Young Adult Group! Change In Location!

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 March 11th & March 25th at Matt & Kerri Clark's home – **507 SE 6th St. Aledo. Please note the Clarks moved to town, see address change. 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.



New Young Adult Sunday School

Young Adults, are you looking for a Sunday School option just for you? A new Young Adults class has started in the lower level in the room at the bottom of the steps to your right (former library). The class study topic is Authentic Faith and taught by Mike & Beth Bowns each Sunday at 9am. Jump in any time.

Wednesday Night Live Continues

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. **Please note, we will not be meeting on Wednesday, March 15th, instead for those who signed up, we are having a Family Night at the Elevate Trampoline Park in Milan.* If you're not attending the Trampoline Park then you'll get a night off and we'll see you again on March 22nd for regular Wednesday Night Live!

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.



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 (This date is filled)
Friday April 28th – 8am-Noon (2 Spots Open)
Tuesday, Sept. 5th – 5:30-7pm (1 Spot Open)
Friday, Sept. 8th – 8am-Noon (2 Spots Open)

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.
ALED0, IL 61231

PHONE: 309.582.7812
E-MAIL: FBCALED02@FRONTIERNET.NET
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALED0.COM

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 102
ALED0, 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 10:30am each Sunday.
- 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 Others.
Think Biblically.**

TIME CHANGE COMING UP...

MARCH 12, 2023 AT 2AM

