

“When I saw Him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But He laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore.” ~ Revelation 1:17-18

A couple weeks ago I was in Nicaragua on a mission trip with a group of students and a few adults. When we stepped off the bus to walk into the airport in Chicago it was about 17 degrees. When we stepped off the plane in Managua it was in the mid 80's and very humid. It felt great. As the week went on, I realized how unaccustomed I was to the heat and humidity. I was tired. When we got back to Illinois it was as cold as when we left. But I didn't mind. I knew spring was right around the corner and it gave me a chance to appreciate the change of seasons. In Nicaragua there are only two seasons. Hot & dry and hot & rainy. The change of seasons is always a reminder of new life. We start seeing robins, the grass gets green, the sun comes out and we start thinking about doing outdoor activities that don't include shoveling snow.

For us spring is more than just the hope of warmer weather, it's a celebration of the resurrection. We live with the knowledge that our Lord is alive. He spent three days in the tomb and walked out never to die again. Our salvation is based on that fact. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ each spring not only in recognition of the victory He won over death, but also because His resurrection was a promise and a prophecy about our own eternal life. Jesus said in John 14:19 “Because I live, you also will live.” In some way what we celebrate is not just Jesus's life in Himself (His power to defeat death), but Jesus's life in us (His willingness to share that power with us). In turn, we are able to shed our greatest fear (of death), and live confidently and joyfully. It's true that in this world we will have trouble, but it is also true that we can take heart, because our Lord has overcome the world. In light of that, we are also told that we are more than conquerors in Christ. So we are not merely going to observe Easter, we are going to celebrate our risen Lord this spring and always.

In Christ, Pastor Luke



**Total Giving Through  
3/26/23:  
\$192,907.46**

**Giving Needed To Meet  
2023 Budget To Date:  
\$160,451.59**



# KIDS CLUB MINISTRY

## 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

*Easter Fun*  
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
ALEDO, ILLINOIS

☎ 309-582-7812

📍 Easter Event at Central Park Aledo

🌐 [www.firstbaptistaledo.com](http://www.firstbaptistaledo.com)

No RSVP Necessary



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.



Kids Club has concluded for the Winter/Spring Session! Our Fall Session of Kids Club will kick off on Wednesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>!



# Refuge Student Ministry

## HIGH SCHOOL REFUGE

meets Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00pm  
doors open at 5:45pm  
no gathering on April 9th

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## JUNIOR HIGH REFUGE

meets Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm  
doors open at 6:15pm  
no gathering on April 5th

**High School Refuge** – High School students (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) meet on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00pm, doors open at 5:45pm. We will not meet on Sun., April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Jr. High Refuge** - Junior High students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm, doors open at 6:15pm. We will not meet on Wed., April 5<sup>th</sup>.



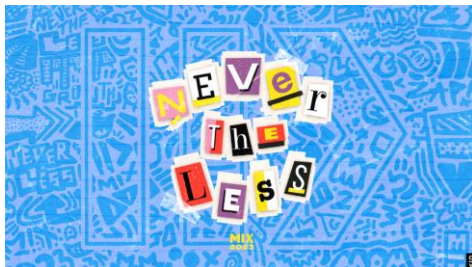
**Refuge Girls' Study** - Girls in grades 6<sup>th</sup> and up are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room for a small group study. Join at any time.



**Boom Sisters** – Boom Sisters is for girls in grades 6<sup>th</sup> and up and is all about friendship, learning and creating. Please join us at FBC on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – 12:00pm.



**Fuse** - "FUSE" is Refuge youth nights for students in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades all combining for the glory of God! Here at Refuge we will be spending a few Sunday nights this summer all coming together to worship, play games, eat snacks, build closer meaningful relationships in small groups and learn how to be unified for Christ whilst living set apart from the world. Come join us and invite your friends on May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>! Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to attend FUSE! If you have any further questions please contact the church or email Austin at [austin@firstbaptistaledo.com](mailto:austin@firstbaptistaledo.com)



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

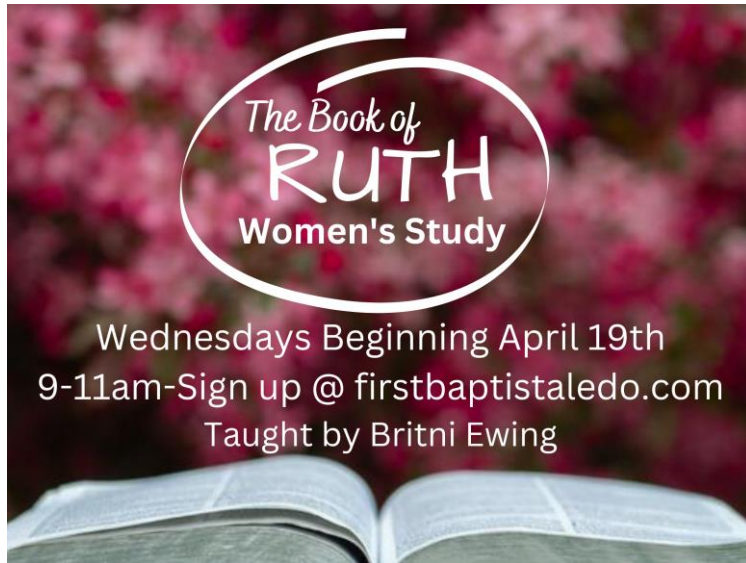


**CIY MIX** –MIX is for students who will have completed grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. This year we are headed to Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana July 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$180 per student. Please sign up on our church website or in the Church App by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



# Flourish Women's Ministry

## New Women's Study Begins April 19<sup>th</sup>



Ladies, please join us for the Book of Ruth Bible Study! Who is the true Redeemer? Come find out in this verse by verse study of the Book of Ruth! Taught by Britni Ewing. We will meet Wednesday mornings beginning April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am in the Lower Level in the Berean Room (room behind the kitchen).

Sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://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](http://firstbaptistaledo.com). We will meet on Sundays in the Lower Enon Room.

Video 1 Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 3:30-4:30

Video 2 Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> View at home ~ Easter

Video 3 Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 3:30-4:30

Video 4 Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:30-4:30

Video 5 Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 3:30-4:30

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

Video 6 Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> - 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/](http://www.lifeactioncamp.com/thrive-womens-retreat/)



### JOURNEY Mother/Daughter Retreat at Life Action Camp - April 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

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/](http://www.lifeactioncamp.com/mother-daughter-retreat/) and sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://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](http://firstbaptistaledo.com), then housing and transportation will be coordinated. Deadline for registration is April 9<sup>th</sup> for THRIVE and April 16<sup>th</sup> for JOURNEY. More information and sign up available at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com).



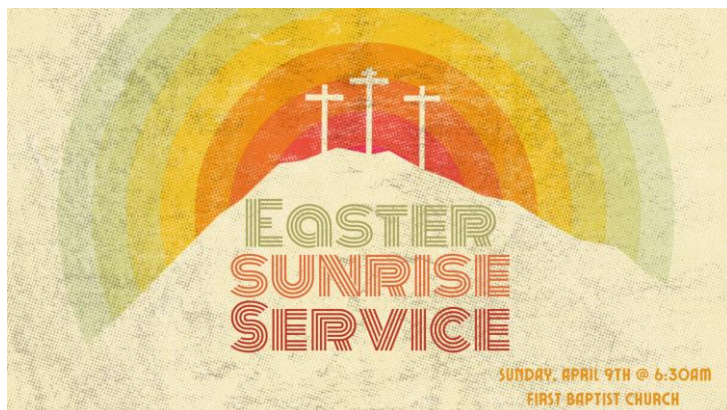
# Celebrate Easter at FBC!



**April 9<sup>th</sup> – Join us for Easter Services** at 8am & 10:15am when Pastor Luke will be sharing a special Easter message. Please be in prayer about who you might invite to church for Easter!



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



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



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



**April 7<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday** – Family Easter Event 9:30am-11am at Central Park in Aledo. See all the details at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com). No RSVP required.



**April 9<sup>th</sup> – Easter Breakfast** – Join us for a Free Easter breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://firstbaptistaledo.com) or on Sunday's Connect Card.



# Men's Ministry



**For those Pre-Registered**

**Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Event**

**Date & Time:** April 1<sup>st</sup> - 8:30AM – 4PM

**Location:** Coram Deo Bible Church, Davenport, IA

**Who:** Specific to men of all ages 13+

**Keynote Speakers:** Joe Martin & Stephen Kendrick



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 14<sup>th</sup> – April 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://firstbaptistaledo.com). Note: This retreat is designed for men ages 16 and older.

**FBC MEN'S  
ROOTED  
CONFERENCE**



**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday,  
July 8th!**

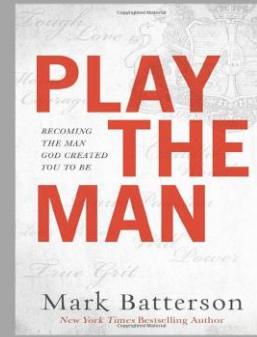
**Why Disciplemaking**

Friendships  
Matter

and How  
they Work  
in Real Life



GUEST SPEAKER  
BILL ALLISON  
CADRE MISSIONARIES



**New 4 Week Men's  
Wednesday Night Study  
Begins April 5th - 6:30-8pm  
Taught by Kevin Ricke**

**Sign up online at  
[Firstbaptistaledo.com](http://Firstbaptistaledo.com)**

## Play The Man Study-Begins April 5<sup>th</sup>

Somewhere along the way, our culture lost its definition of manhood, leaving generations of men-to-be confused about their roles, responsibilities, relationships, and the reason God made them men. It's into this "no man's land" Mark Batterson declares his mantra for manhood: play the man.

In this inspiring call to something greater, Mark Batterson helps men understand what it means to be a man of God by unveiling seven virtues of manhood. Mark shares inspiring stories of manhood, including the true story of the hero and martyr Polycarp, who first heard the voice from heaven say, "Play the man." Mark couples those stories with practical ideas about how to disciple the next generation of men. This is more than a book; it's a movement of men who will settle for nothing less than fulfilling their highest calling to be the man, the father and the disciple God has destined them to be. Play the man. Make the man. Meeting in the Enon Room at 6:30pm, this 5-week study is hosted by Kevin Ricke and begins April 5<sup>th</sup>. Register at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



## Sign! Sign! Have you seen our Sign?

Have you seen our billboard in Aledo? It went up March 20<sup>th</sup> and will be up for 4 weeks! You'll spot it on the east end of town! We hope it will invite people to check out the First Baptist's website and then hopefully join us for a church service, class, or program etc.

# More Upcoming Events



## ***Young Adult Group! NEW 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 meet on Saturdays at 7pm. Join us on April 8th & April 22nd 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 Has Concluded**

WNL is a series of classes & programs for the whole family held at First Baptist. The Winter/Spring session of WNL has concluded and will resume in the Fall of 2023. Stay tuned for class & programming details coming later this Summer.



## **Upcoming Church Meetings**

**Church Council Meeting** – The FBC Church Council will meet Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**FBC Quarterly Business Meeting**–Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> following the 10:15am Service. All are welcome.



## **Looking for Mercer County Food Pantry Volunteers!**

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

Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> – 5:30-7pm (This date is filled)

Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> – 8am-Noon (2 Spots Open)

Tuesday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – 5:30-7pm (This date is filled)

Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – 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.

## **Join Us for Family Talk and Donuts**

**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 9am**

**No Sunday School this day!**

## **FAMILY TALK & DONUTS**

**APRIL 30TH 9-9:45**

Join us in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour to hear all about the ministry of FCA in our area schools from the new area director, Andrew Hofer. Also learn about ways you can support FCA & the Hofer family.



No Sunday School classes this Sunday. Nursery will be provided.

## **Graduation Sunday**



Does your family have a 2023 Graduate? If someone from your family is graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, High School or College, call the office by April 24<sup>th</sup> at 309-582-7812 so we can add them to the Graduate Recognition list. Graduation Recognition Sunday at FBC is Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> during the 10:15am service.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
800 NE 6<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://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 Christ.  
Love Others.  
Think Biblically.**

