



"The apostles returned to Jesus and told Him all that they had done and taught. And He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.""
~ Mark 6:30-31a

As most people know by now, Mollie and I have been blessed with the opportunity to take a sabbatical beginning in May. We are looking forward to getting away and taking some time off and unplugging from ministry responsibilities for a few months. It's a strange thing. Since we were 22 and 23 years old we've been working in ministry. I've never looked at it as a "job". It's a calling and a way of life and there isn't anything else I would rather do. For some people it may be hard to understand why a sabbatical would be necessary. All I can say is that it's not physical rest that is needed, I know many people work much harder jobs than we do. It's the weight of ministry that requires some relief. There is a spiritual taxation that accumulates which pastors experience that is hard to comprehend. It's a sense of responsibility that what is being done is not only important but has eternal significance. That what is said has to be accurate because we represent not ourselves, but the Lord and we are accountable to Him. The sense that there are 500-600 people connected to the ministry of FBC that we feel a certain responsibility for their spiritual well-being. I am not complaining. I am overwhelmed with gratitude that God would call me to do such wonderful work.

The need for a sabbatical is not just a reprieve from the weight of ministry, but also a readjustment spiritually. At some point it is important to spend time with God as a Christian and not as a pastor. Being a pastor drives me closer to God, and I appreciate that, but it's also a good thing to remember that I am a Christian first, a husband and father, and somewhere down the list, yes, I'm a pastor. Sometimes the pastor identity gets too high on the list. It's going to be interesting. This is new to me. In a lot of ways this is kind of an experiment. Regardless, I'm confident in a couple things. One, we will be refreshed and ready when August comes. And two, the church is in good hands. There are so many people who love FBC and are invested in the people who call our church home that I have no worries. The staff, the leaders, and the volunteers are more than ready and able to do everything needed to have a great summer reaching Mercer County with the gospel. In the meantime, you'll be seeing the Dunns here or there, and we look forward to being back together in August.

In Christ,

Pastor Luke



**Total Giving Through
4/23/23:
\$238,585.94**

**Giving Needed To Meet
2023 Budget To Date:
\$209,821.31**

KIDS CLUB MINISTRY

First Baptist Church, Aledo
Spring/Summer 2023

Kid Min News

A Note From Mollie...

Hi Families! As many of you already know, Pastor Luke & I will be out of the office on sabbatical for three months (May 1st - July 30th). Jackie Burns will be the parent camp coordinator for church camp, Nadine Coulter will be the Kid's Sunday School contact, and Denise Bowker will be the director for VBS. Kady Hofer is also hosting and promoting several fun summer opportunities, which are enclosed in this newsletter that I hope you'll be able to attend & enjoy.

During our break Pastor Luke & I plan to go on a few trips, enjoy staying home & tackling some house projects, visiting family, and attending a pastor's retreat. Thank you to our church family and those who are filling in for us so that we can take this time off. We truly appreciate this opportunity and look forward to being back with you the first week of August.

Save-the-date Events

Sunday School Promotion Sunday: Kids will be celebrating the school year by having a party during Sunday School on May 28th. Those who are going into 1st grade, 3rd grade, and 6th grade will start attending their new classes on June 4th.

Praise-in-the-Park: Mark your calendar for August 27th for another fun time at Central Park including worship, music, food, & lots of fun for the whole family. More details will be announced soon.

Kids Club: All kids ages 3-5th grade are invited to join us for Kids Club on Wednesdays this fall from 6:30-8:10pm starting September 6th through November 15th. Registration will open up this August.

Kids Min Pastor: Mollie Dunn
Cell: 309.371.6962
Email: mollieadunn@yahoo.com

Love you all,

Mollie



Hey Kids! Join Us at FBC For VBS! June 19th - June 22nd

We're super excited to offer a free, 4-day Vacation Bible School the week of June 19th-22nd from 9:00-11:30am. Kids ages 3 to going into 5th grade are invited to join us for an out-of-this-world adventure! Kids will enjoy Stellar Bible Adventures, All-Star Games, Galactic Snacks, KidVid Cinema, and an Imagination Station; all while discovering what it means to shine Jesus' light!

VBS Service Project: The crews will be encouraged to raise \$1,600 for FBC's School Supply Shop at the end of July. Checks may be made payable to FBC with "School Shop" in the memo. Kids can bring their donations to the front of the stage after check-in.

Family Pool Party (Friday, June 23rd from 5:00-7:30pm): We're ending our Stellar VBS week with a family pool party on Friday, June 23rd from 5:00-7:30pm at the Aledo Public Pool! We will have hot dogs, chips, and treats. This event is free and open to all ages. Please let us know on your registration if your family is attending. Friends are welcome.

"MERCOCO FAMILY SUMMER FUN"

www.facebook.com/groups/mercofamilysummerfun/

Play group dates below, but there are SO many more family dates and activities on our Facebook page!

May 24- End of School Party @ Fenton Park, 2:30-4:30
May 30- Joy Playground
June 6 - Edwards River Library Magic Show 10:30 am
June 13- Seaton Park
June 20- Fenton Park
June 23- Family Swim Night @ Aledo Pool 5-7:30pm
June 27- Monmouth Splashpad

9-11 AM
(unless marked differently)

All families (with kids of all ages) are welcome to attend these, moms/dads/grandparents or sitters, too. Just make sure you have an adult who will stay to play with your kids!

RAIN OR SHINE, COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE!
BYO SNACKS/SUNBLOCK/SWIM GEAR FOR SPLASHPAD DATES

FREE

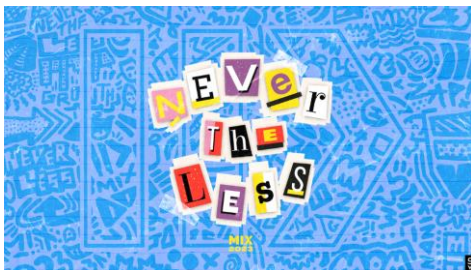


WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH, 2:30-4:30PM
@ FENTON PARK PAVILLION
(BY ALEDO SWIMMING POOL)

All families are invited to help us celebrate the start of summer break with the First Baptist Church "Ice Cream Truck," balloon animal creations and something fun for ALL ages!

Refuge Student Ministry

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY



Refuge Student Ministry News

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 meet on Mother's Day, 5/14, on MerCo's Graduation, 5/21, Father's Day, 6/18.

Jr. High Refuge - Junior High students (6th-8th grade) meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm, doors open at 6:15pm. Jr. High Refuge will not have any Wednesday meetings in the month of June.

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 – Girls in grades 6th and up are invited to join us for a sleepover at the Church from 6:00pm on Fri., May 12th through Noon on Sat., May 13th. We'll have dinner, games, a movie, breakfast, and an art project. Please bring a pillow and sleeping bag for yourself and a dessert or snack to share.

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.

FUSE - FUSE is all of Refuge coming together to worship the Lord! We will be going through a series on unification of Christ while being set apart from the world, centered around 1 Corinthians 1:10. The dates are May 28th, June 11th and August 13th from 6-8pm. Doors open at 5:30pm. 6th-12th grades are all welcome! No need to sign up just come and invite your friends!

Bold Brothers - Boys in grades 6th and up are invited to join us on Saturday, June 24th from 8:45am-12:30pm. We will be heading out to the Korns Farm for a farm tour with animals, gardens, bees, timber walk, and more! Lunch is provided. Drop off and pick up at the church.

Rhubarb Fest - Hey students, here's a fun, hands on project that we'd love your help with! The FBC students are selling pie by the slice again this year at Rhubarb Fest on Friday, June 2nd. We need Pie Bakers and Packagers on Thursday, June 1st. We need a couple people willing to help with setup on Friday morning June 2nd. We will also be needing sellers on Friday at the Festival (June 2nd). We are planning on working in shifts and will need a couple volunteers to help with clean up. Remember many hands make light work! Thank you in advance! Volunteers or questions contact Austin Shields (817)-630-5522 or austins Shields95@gmail.com.

Flourish Women's Ministry



J.O.Y. Circle

Meets Tuesday
May 23rd at
7pm in the
Enon Room.

All ladies are
welcome to
attend.

Join us for J.O.Y. Circle!

All ladies are invited to the Joy Circle Gathering on Tuesday, May 23rd at 7pm in the Enon Room.

J.O.Y. Circle is a gathering of the women for a time of fellowship and learning as well as helping with families in need throughout the year.

J.O.Y. Circle is for women of all ages. No need to RSVP to J.O.Y. Circle, just show up!



Rhubarb Pie Bake!

At rhubarb fest June 2nd

What we need

- 30- 1 gallon sized bags full of cut and washed (not frozen) brought to the church May 28th-31st
- Youth students baking and packaging on June 1st
- Couple of people willing to transport, set up and help sell pie on June 2nd

Rhubarb & Volunteers Needed!

The First Baptist Church is selling pie by the slice again this year at Rhubarb Fest on Friday, June 2nd and we need your help. We are asking for 30 - 1 gallon size bags of cut and washed rhubarb, cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ "inch pieces. Please bring the fresh (not frozen) Rhubarb to the church between May. 28th-31st. It can be put in the basement refrigerators.

We will also be needing Pie Bakers and Packagers on Thursday, June 1st. We need a couple people willing to help with setup and transport of the pies and supplies on Friday morning June 2nd. We will also be needing sellers on Friday at the Festival (June 2nd). We are planning on working in shifts and will need a couple volunteers to help with clean up and transport of supplies back to the church. Remember many hands make light work! Thank you in advance! Volunteers or questions contact Austin Shields (817)-630-5522 or austinshields95@gmail.com.



J.O.Y. Circle Pork Chop Lunch Fundraiser-J.O.Y. Circle will be selling pork chops Saturday, May 6th from 11am-1pm at Mercer Market. Come support J.O.Y. Circle and eat a delicious pork chop!

FBC 2023 Graduates!

Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

8th Grade Graduates

Mercer County Jr. High

Rebecca Hainline, Emily Hessman, Laney Johnson,
Tyce Litwiler, Grady Norton, Aaliyah Powell,
Caleb Quam & Aidan Thomas

Bowker Private School

Natalie Bowker

Ignite Christian Academy

Reiley Burns

L'Abris Academy

Kane Loving

Sonlight Academy Homeschool

Logan Swift

High School Graduates

Mercer County High School Graduates

Olivia Abbadusky, Leila Arias, Maddie Dunn,
Josh Johnson, Jack Kelly, Kaleb Loving,
Braxton Mai, Drew Norton, Connor Thomas,
Cora Whitenack & Blair Wilkerson

Liberty University Online Academy

Ashley Gochee

Rockridge High School

Alaina Carter

College Graduates

Cassidy Freeman-Olivet Nazarene University

Rebecca Hess-*University of Illinois*

Jesse Snyder, DMD-*SIU School of Dental Medicine*

Does your family have a Graduate that is not on our list? If someone from your family is graduating from 8th grade, High School or College, call the office ASAP at 309-582-7812 so we can add them to the Graduate Recognition list. Graduation Recognition Sunday is May 28th during the 10:15am service.



You Are Invited!

Graduation Party for Braxton Mai. Join us Saturday, May 20th from 12:00-3pm at First Baptist in Fellowship Hall. RSVP to Ashley Reick at 641-840-2706 by May 12th.

Graduation Party for Leila Arias. You are invited to Leila's graduation party at Troy & Tish Riddell's home 1086-92nd Ave., Joy on Saturday, May 20th from 1-3:30pm.

Graduation Party for Joshua Johnson. Let's celebrate the graduation of Josh on Saturday, May 20th at 3pm at the VFW-106 SW 3rd Ave. Aledo.

Graduation Party for Olivia Abbadusky. Join us Saturday, May 20th at 5pm at our house - 408 NE 12th St, Aledo. If raining, then it will be moved to the Aledo Fire Department.

Graduation Party – Come celebrate Rebecca Hess on Saturday, May 20th from 6-8pm at Oakview Country Club. Rebecca is graduating from the University of Illinois.

Graduation Party for Jack Kelly. Our church family is invited to celebrate Jack's graduation from MCHS on Sunday, May 21st from 3-7pm at Oakview Country Club.

Graduation Party for Blair Wilkerson. Let's celebrate the graduation of Blair on Sunday, May 21st from 4:30-7:30pm at FBC in Fellowship Hall.

Graduation Party for Cora Whitenack. Saturday, May 27th from 1:30-4:30pm at the Whitenack's home – 803 SW 2nd Ave. Aledo.

Graduation Party for Ashley Gochee. Saturday, June 3rd from 3-6pm at the Gochee's 2822-170th Ave. Sherrard.

Graduation Party for Maddie Dunn. You're invited to help us celebrate Maddie's High School Graduation on Sunday, July 30th at First Baptist. Pop in anytime between 2-4pm and enjoy some dessert while you visit.

FBC Men's Ministry

2023
**MEN'S ROOTED
CONFERENCE**

JULY 8, 2023
8:30AM-1:30PM
@FBC



**BILL
ALLISON**
Speaker
Cadre Missionaries



"By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another." John 13:35.



Free to Attend & FREE T-Shirt if you
sign up no later than June 10th!
Register at firstbaptistaledo.com

Annual FBC Men's Rooted Conference Saturday, July 8th

8:30am-1:30pm at First Baptist

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if
you have love for one another." John 13:35.

Men's Rooted is centered around the exploration of how
to live the "one-another" as found in John 13:35. "By
this all people will know that you are my disciples, if
you have love for one another."

What might that look like in your everyday life? Bill
Allison from Cadre Ministries will take you to the very
heart of friendships that flourish and multiply. You will
leave with the One Another Living Guide that shares
practical application pages and follow through ideas for
taking back to those where you live, work and church.
Bring your Bible and join us on Saturday July 8th, in the
FBC Sanctuary from 8:30am – 1:30 pm (includes
breakfast and lunch). This event is FREE to attend and
you will receive a FREE T-shirt if you register by June
10th. Register online at firstbaptistaledo.com

Please note: This event is designed for men ages 13 and
older.



The Power to Change – Men's Study

On Wednesday, July 19th a follow up 6 week learning
opportunity begins. Do you believe you can actually
change? Life change happens at the moment you begin a
relationship with Jesus. You have been rescued. But what
happens when daily temptations and distractions from
following Jesus leave you feeling overwhelmed and stuck
in the same discouraging patterns? This seven-week study
with Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, and Oneka McClellan
will help you understand the work of the Holy Spirit in your
life and the process of sanctification. There is no checklist
to follow, but there is a daily act of surrender to a God who
will continue to mold and shape you. The more you know
God, the more you can live like him.

Change is possible because the gospel changes everything.
Cost is free and you can register on-line. We will meet
Wednesdays in the Enon Room at 6:30pm, this 6-week
study is hosted by Kevin Ricke and begins July 19th.



FBC Men are Going to Life Action Camp for Momentum in October

Food, fellowship, and spiritual recharging mark this men's
time together. Men are challenged and encouraged to lead
their families with deliberate action, resisting the role of
passive onlooker. Please join us on October 27th - October
29th. We will leave the Church Friday morning and return
Sunday evening. The cost of this event is \$100 per person,
the true cost is \$150 both options will be available on-line.
Tom Harmon is the speaker and spaces will fill up quickly.
We will begin on-line sign-up May 1st, please visit
firstbaptistaledo.com to register. Please note: This retreat is
designed for men ages 16 and older.

More Upcoming Events



Come To The Young Adult Group!

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 May 6th & May 20th at Matt & Kerri Clark's home –507 SE 6th St. 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.



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.



Raised to New Life!

Baptism Sunday are scheduled for Sunday, July 23rd & Sunday, August 20th

If you have accepted Jesus and in a step of obedience want to be baptized, please see Pastor Seth Bowker for more information or call the church office at 309-582-7812 to set up an appointment to talk about your baptism.



Praying for the Dunns!

And, they're off! The Dunns will officially be on their Sabbathical from May 1st through July 31st. Please be in prayer for Luke, Mollie, Maddie & Lucy as they temporarily step away from their ministry to refresh, relax and enjoy time together as a family.

If you need pastoral care while the Dunns are gone, please call the church office at 309-582-7812. Pastor Seth and Pastor Austin will be available should a need arise. We are grateful to everyone, staff & volunteers, who are stepping in to help fill Luke & Mollie's ministry roles while they are away. Thanks for keeping all our pastors and our volunteers in your prayers at this time.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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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 Christ.
Love Others.
Think Biblically.***

