



## Buildings, and Space, and Vision and all that Stuff

*"Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life." – Apostle Peter (paraphrase)*

Where are we going? Jesus had told His disciples that following Him required some very demanding commitments and a leap of faith. He said they had to eat His flesh and drink His blood. Obviously, that was a disturbing image for them to wrap their minds around. He later said His words were Spirit and they were Life. He didn't mean to imply cannibalism, but rather life and eternal life was inseparable from receiving Him as Lord and Savior. This is the nature of the Gospel. It is Good News, but it is exclusively found only in Christ. I am convinced that our church has been blessed and continues to thrive because we have been unafraid to be unwavering in sharing the Gospel. That doesn't mean we don't need to invest in kid's ministry or youth ministry or missions or serving our community or discipleship or all the other things we do in ministry. All those things are the method of communicating the message. But if we do all those things, and lose sight of the transforming power of God's Word, they simply wouldn't be effective. So, what do we do?

Our building committee is working hard to discern and craft a proposal that will enable FBC to continue to grow for many, many years. I mentioned last month that there was a consensus that the new building should be built on the 10 acres we acquired by a clear miracle of God. That proposal will be presented soon. It is no secret that it includes a sanctuary and a kids area as the first phase.

In the mean-time, we can't wait another year or two for a building. In order to continue to grow we need to do something different

on Sunday mornings. There are many options. I have suggested a couple that could be considered. One was to offer a third service. As we've talked about this option, it usually finds resistance because of how much more pressure it would put on all the staff and volunteers. Another option that has potential is to adjust our Sunday morning schedule. One of the hindrances to our growth is that most young families won't come to the early service because a) it's too early, and b) there is no kids programming at 8am. It is being suggested that we move 8am service to 9am and move 10:15am to 10:30am.

The schedule would be: 9am worship and Sunday School, 10:30am worship. We would also offer a couple adult studies at 8am. There are some details we need to work on, but the hope is that there would be a greater potential for the services to be more evenly distributed, which gives room for both to grow. This is a significant change to our church life. In the 16+ years I've been the pastor we have never made a significant change to our Sunday morning schedule. Part of the reason is that 1) having two services gives us the ability to reach more people and 2) we believe Sunday school is still an effective program. What is clear to me is that there are many more people we need to reach in our community. It is increasingly clear that our church has to think more about what sacrifices we might need to make to reach our community. In the end, I am convinced that the fields are ripe for harvest, but we need to make room for it.

In Christ,  
Pastor Luke



**Total Giving Through  
9/24/23:  
\$576,154.43**

**Giving Needed To Meet  
2023 Budget To Date:  
\$481,354.77**



# KIDS CLUB MINISTRY



Kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us for the Fall '23 & Winter/Spring '24 session of Kids Club at FBC, Aledo, IL on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:05pm from Sept. 6th-Nov. 8th & Jan. 24th-March 20th.

What is Kids Club? It's a bunch of fun, that's what it is! In the fall, kids will learn about "The Lord's Prayer" with our special theme being "Pirates who Pray." In the winter/spring session, kids will learn about "Jesus as Savior" from Gospel Project. We have so much fun playing games, engaging in Bible activities, eating yummy snacks, and making new friends. Get more info and register at [www.firstbaptistaledo.com](http://www.firstbaptistaledo.com). New friends are welcome anytime!



Fun for the whole family!!

## Family Talk & Donuts:

Sun., Oct. 29th 9-9:45am

FBC Sanctuary

Topic - Testimony Sunday!

All ages are invited to grab a donut & join us in the sanctuary for Family Talk & Donuts! Come hear how God is working in the lives of our church family!

\*Nursery will be provided. \*\*No SS classes.



\*The kids worship kiddos will be singing.  
Practice starts Oct. 1st.



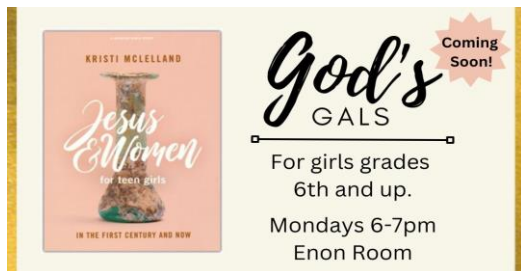
# Refuge Student Ministry



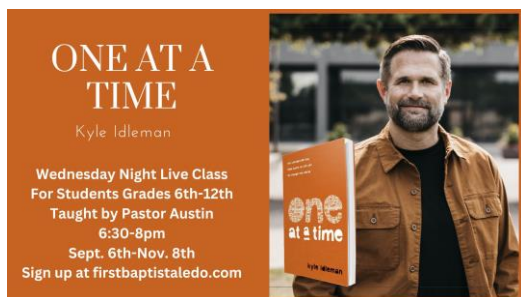
**Refuge is Now Combined!** - Jr. High and High School students meet together on Sunday Nights for Refuge from 6-8pm. Please note, we will not be meeting Sunday, Oct. 1st. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Austin.



**Youth Band!**-Students! If you play an instrument or are interested in learning how to dive deeper into worship, we would love for you to be a part of the youth band. If you are interested, please sign up online today!



**Refuge Girls' Study** - Girls 6th-12th grades are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room for God's Gals Small Group Study. We will be wrapping up the study called True Princess and begin a new study called Jesus & Women on Oct. 16th. If you're new, join the group at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



**Wednesday Night Live Refuge Study** - Students 6th-12th grades are invited to join Pastor Austin for a study called "One At A Time." We meet downstairs in the Women's Sunday School Classroom Wednesday nights through Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm. Jump in any time! Sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com).



**Boom Sisters** is for girls in grades 6th and up and is all about friendship, learning and creating. We typically meet the second Saturday of every month from 10-11:30am. In October, we'll be meeting on Saturday, Oct. 14th from 10-11:30am. If you're new, join the group at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



**MCHS Homecoming Parade!** - The Mercer County Homecoming Parade is Thur., Oct. 5th. FBC will have an entry with our church bus and we need MORE walkers to distribute candy. Meet at FBC at 5:15pm. We will carpool to our line up location. Please sign-up on our website.

# Flourish Women's Ministry



FLOURISH Women's Ministry Event: Better Together will be held Sat., Nov. 11th from 9am-Noon at FBC. Please join us for a time of growing together in God's Word and worship. Snacks will be provided, but childcare will not be offered at this event. Sign up for this FREE event will run Oct. 8th-Oct 29th. Visit [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com) for details and sign up.

## A LITTLE PUMPKIN IS ON THE WAY!

Please join us for a Baby Sprinkle honoring  
*Brittney Kelly*

Saturday, October 28th at 10am  
at First Baptist Church Aledo  
RSVP to Denise Bowker  
at (309) 270-1883  
Registered at [BabyList.com](http://BabyList.com)



## Join us for J.O.Y. Circle!

All ladies are invited to the Joy Circle Gathering on Tuesday, Oct. 24th 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!

## Wednesday Night Live Women's Studies

### ABIDE

STUDY OF 1, 2 & 3 JOHN  
Jen Wilken

Wednesday Night Live Class

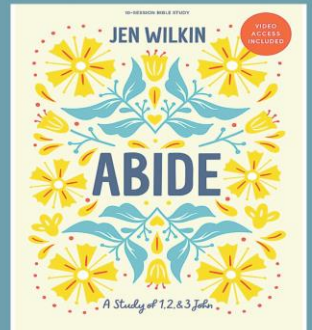
Women's Study

Taught by Kim Sheese

6:30-8pm

Sept. 6th-Nov. 8th

Sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



## Wednesday Night Live Class



Women's  
Verse By Verse Study of  
Matthew

In Home Study at  
Laurie Louck's Home

Taught by Sheri Olson

6:30-8pm

Sept. 6th-Nov. 8th

Sign up at  
[firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



**THRIVE Women's Retreat**  
Held at Life Action Camp-Buchanan, MI  
October 20th-22nd  
Cost is \$100 per person  
Deadline to register Oct. 6th  
[firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)

**THRIVE Women's Retreat** at Life Action Camp in Buchanan, Michigan is October 20th-22nd. Are you ready to be refreshed by the Truth of God in your life and spend some amazing time with your sisters in Christ? Then make plans to join us at THRIVE! Please register on the church website, then housing and transportation will be coordinated. Deadline for registration is October 6<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$100 per woman.



**Sign ups** will be starting soon for the 2024 Women's FLOURISH Small Groups! The FLOURISH Women's Ministry of FBC exists to connect women to Christ and to one another in community. More details to come!



# Pastor's Appreciation Month/Thanksgiving



## Pastor Appreciation Month

**The dictionary defines a Pastor** as “A minister in charge of a church or a person having spiritual care of a number of persons.” - I recently pulled a Power Church report for our First Baptist Church congregation which gave me a count of the number of active members and active non-members who regularly participate in church worship or weekly programs at FBC. You might be as surprised as I was to learn that, although our average weekly Sunday attendance number is around 345 people, the total number of active people at FBC is over 600! The responsibility our pastoral staff has to shepherd over 600 souls is one they take very seriously. They have over 600 people who know them and may call upon them in times of celebration, disappointment, family struggles, grief, sickness or despair. It is a mighty task to shepherd a flock this size but with God all things are possible! I am so grateful, and I know you are too, to be able to call on our caring group of pastors when we need them most. Knowing they will humbly serve and minister to us in whatever life situation may happen is a blessing to us all!

Nationally, October is officially designated as Pastor Appreciation Month. We are so blessed to have wonderful pastors! Although they prefer not to be in the spotlight as they faithfully serve and lead us, let's take time to let them know how much we love and appreciate them! I ask you to join me in praying for our pastors, not just in the month of October but all year long. I know they greatly appreciate it! Also, if you would like to show your appreciation for Pastor Luke & Mollie, Pastor Seth and Denise & Pastor Austin, we will have a greeting card collection box at the Welcome Desk for the whole month of October where you can drop off a card of encouragement to our pastors. Let me know if you have questions. Thanks for helping pray and appreciate the FBC Pastors! Sincerely, Pam Ricke - Administrative Assistant



## Thanksgiving Community Meal Volunteers

First Baptist Church will again be serving a free community Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 23rd. We are looking for volunteers to serve as Set Up Crew, Food Servers, Food Delivery, and Clean Up Crew. Please sign up on our website or in the Church App before Nov. 20th.



Dear First Baptist Church, We would like to express our sincere gratitude at all the love, support and prayers poured out on our family during the loss of Michael. We appreciate all that was done in order to have his visitation and funeral at FBC as well. Thank you for everything! ~ The Clark Family

## Happening Now! Wednesday Night Live

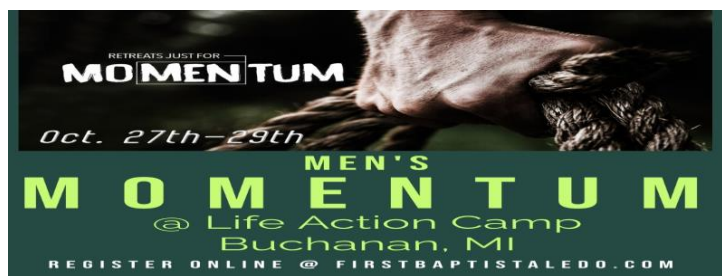
What is Wednesday Night Live? WNL is a series of classes & programs for the whole family held at First Baptist. The Fall session of WNL runs through Nov. 8th each Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm.

All classes and programs are free to attend and open to the public so invite your friends to join us! We offer classes for adults, Kids Club for kids 3 years old through 5th grade and a Refuge Student study for 6th-12th grades as well as a nursery for 0-2 year olds. Join online at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com) under the GROUPS tab.



Couples are invited to join us Saturday, Oct. 14th from 1-5pm in the Fellowship Hall for a fun afternoon of playing games. Please bring your favorite card/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.

# FBC Men's Ministry/Helping Hands/Homecoming



## Men's Momentum at Life Action Camp! Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> - Buchanan, MI

Food, fellowship, and spiritual recharging mark this men's time together at Men's Momentum at Life Action Camp. 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 in Buchanan, MI. We will leave FBC Friday morning and return Sunday evening. Cost is \$100 which includes the conference, accommodations, and meals at the retreat. The actual cost for Momentum is \$150, so if you can pay the full amount it helps with the Men's Ministry budget. Tom Harmon is the speaker and spaces will fill up quickly.

Sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com). Housing and transportation will be coordinated after registration. This retreat is designed for men ages 16 and older. For more information about Momentum, please visit the Life Action Camp website or contact Troy Riddell.



**Helping Hands** - We are excited to lend a helping hand to members of our church family and community on Saturday, November 4th from 7:30am-12:00pm.

We are in need of adult and youth volunteers to do various tasks from raking leaves to changing light bulbs. Please sign up on our website or in the Church App before November 1st so we can organize our crews.



## Merco Homecoming Parade

The 2023 Mercer County Homecoming Parade is Thursday, October 5th. First Baptist Church Aledo will have an entry with our church bus and we're looking for MORE walkers to distribute candy.

Meet at First Baptist Church Aledo at 5:15pm so we can carpool to our parade line up location. Please sign-up on our website or in the Church App.



## The Blessing Box Ministry

If you're not familiar, the Blessing Box is a mini food pantry that is located outside in the north parking lot at FBC. People in need can stop 24/7 to take items they need. The Blessing Box is currently being used very heavily so we can use many donations to keep it full. Thanks for considering bringing an item to help keep the Blessing Box full. Items can be left in the pink tote in the church lobby marked "Blessing Box."



# More Upcoming Events



## Operation Christmas Child Kicks Off Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>!

Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world.

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 8th, you may pick up an empty OCC shoebox with instructions in the church lobby! Return your filled box by Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> along with \$7 for shipping cost (check made payable to FBC with "OCC" in the memo). The Women's Ministry team pays the remainder of the shipping cost. The FBC Jr. High Sunday School is coordinating the OCC project again this year! Questions, see OCC Coordinators Pam or Kevin Ricke.



## OCC Collection Week

First Baptist Church Aledo is excited to be a Collection Site for the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child. We are honored to be a place where individuals, churches and organizations can bring all the shoeboxes that they have filled. National Collection Week is November 13th - 20th. We are looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of this event; set-up, tear-down, and collection of boxes. If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up on our website or in the Church App.



Memorial Service

*Brenda Anderson*

The family of  
Brenda (Moreland) Anderson  
invites you to a Memorial Service to  
celebrate Brenda's life.

Friday, October 13th at 6PM  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
800 NE 6th Ave. Aledo, IL

Refreshments and snacks to  
follow in Fellowship Hall.



Church Council  
Meeting  
Tuesday, Oct. 10th  
7pm

Quarterly Church  
Business Meeting  
Sunday, Oct. 15th  
following the  
10:15am Service.

FAMILY DAY ON  
**Castor's Farm**  
Sunday, Oct. 22  
4-6pm



**Family Day on the Farm**-All ages are invited to this church-wide event on Sunday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> at Castor's Farm (1536 135th Ave., Aledo) from 4-6pm. It's a wiener roast so please bring hotdogs & buns for your family, a dish to share, and your lawn chairs. Drinks will be provided.



## Raised to New Life! Baptism Sunday is Oct. 22nd

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. The next Baptism Sunday is Oct. 22nd.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
800 NE 6<sup>TH</sup> AVE.  
ALEDO, IL 61231

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

PRE-SORTED STANDARD  
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ALEDO, IL 61231

# Stay Connected!

- We offer 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.***



***October is Pastor Appreciation  
Month! Join us in praying for our  
Pastors.***