



What I learned on Sabbatical

There were three big lessons I learned this summer from the sabbatical. They can be summed up with the words: appreciation, encouragement, and enjoyment.

Appreciation: As a pastor I have one great benefit, and one great burden. The Benefit is that my job/calling enables me to spend massive amounts of time with the Lord in prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers. Not only am I able to do this, I am expected to. In the same way, I have a tremendous sense of moral accountability because of my leadership role. In other words, my role as a pastor helps keep me walking closely with the Lord. The Burden of ministry is the relentless spiritual battle that is inseparable from the weight of responsibility of leading people to deeper faith in Christ. During the sabbatical, I was learning about connecting with the Lord without an agenda. In some ways it was like being a new Christian. I was still motivated to spend time with God every day, but in a different way than I had for years. I appreciate, more than ever, how much discipline and dedication it requires to maintain a growing relationship with Christ, especially for those who aren't paid to do so.

Encouragement: I was most encouraged by the health and strength of our church. The sabbatical was always going to be a testing time for the church. I knew it was a potential risk to step away for three months, but I also believed two things: 1- I needed it, and 2- the church needed it. I needed to disengage from the stress of pastoring. But, just as important, the church needed to experience the reality that we really are healthy and capable of doing great ministry with or without the Dunns. We are so encouraged to see how well the church did without us.

Enjoyment: Last of all, I was reminded of something important. Ministry should be enjoyable. Each Sunday we would attend a different church, and it was great simply to show up, enjoy the morning and leave refreshed. Sometimes I take my job so seriously that I forget to enjoy the fact that I get paid to serve the Lord and bless people. So, I've been enjoying what I do, even though I still take it seriously... The Lord showed me that preaching/teaching is His way of keeping me desperately close to Him, but that I also need to have fun with it.

One last thing... When I say that I am encouraged by the health of our church, there was something specific that happened that proved it to me. We had a town hall meeting at the end of July to discuss the building plans/options. Everyone I've talked to said how good that meeting was. The outcome of the meeting was a real sense of unity and purpose for FBC's future. The building committee felt there was a clear directive to pursue a building plan that included a sanctuary and children's ministry area on the new property as the first stage of development with future expansion for youth, offices, adult classrooms, and a fellowship hall to be considered for future stages. It has been exciting to see how God is moving through this process. Keep praying as we keep seeking God's will for what He has planned for us. Big things are coming!

In Christ,

Luke



**Total Giving Through
8/27/23:
\$531,424.32**

**Giving Needed To Meet
2023 Budget To Date:
\$431,985.05**

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. New friends are welcome anytime!



KIDS WORSHIP

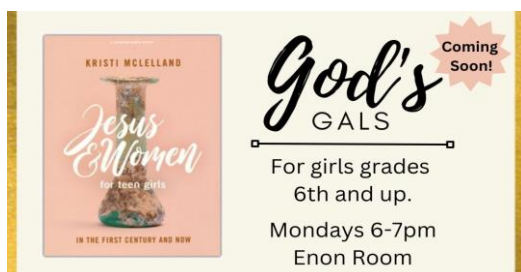
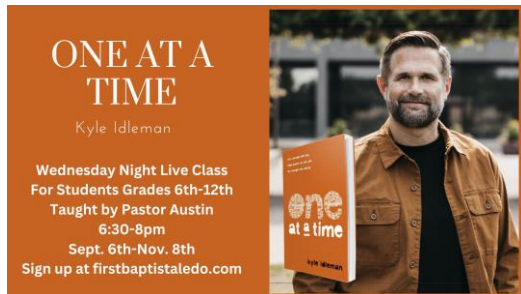
**STARTING SUNDAY, SEPT., 3RD
DURING 10:15AM WORSHIP:**

Miss Mollie's Class: Now offered to
2nd-5th graders in the youth room.

Miss Denise's Class: Now offered to
3 Years Old-1st Grade in the Fellowship Hall.

Refuge Student Ministry

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY



High School Refuge-High School students will meet Sunday, Sept. 3rd, doors open at 5:30pm Refuge starts at 6pm. Then, **beginning Sept. 10th**, we'll be combining with the Jr. High on Sunday nights from 6-8pm.

Jr. High Refuge on Wednesday nights is now complete! Beginning Sept. 6th, Jr. High & High School Students are invited to a combined Wednesday Night Live study called One At A Time taught by Pastor Austin. Wednesday Night Live runs Sept. 6th-Nov. 8th each Wednesday from 6:30-8pm. Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

BIG NEWS! Refuge Is Combining!

Refuge is Combining Services! - Starting Sunday, Sept. 10th, Jr. High and High School students will be combining services for Refuge on Sunday nights from 6-8pm. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Austin.

Boom Sisters – Girls 6th grade and up, please join us in September for a card-making event. We will be making birthday cards for the Women's Ministry to send out to the ladies of the church. Bring your grandma, mom, sister, or friend with you to help make cards. It will be a fun day of fellowship and crafting. Join us Saturday, September 9th from 10am - 2pm. Bring a sack lunch along with you. All crafting supplies will be provided but if you have items you want to share feel free to bring them. Contact Rhonda McKinley at 309-235-5054 or Britni Ewing at 309-224-4184 with questions.

Refuge Fall Retreat-All students grades 6th-12th are invited to join us at Camp Summit in New Windsor on Saturday, September 16th, for our One Day Fall Retreat! We will have zip-line, canoeing, basketball, GAGA ball, Carpet ball, worship and two sessions in scripture! **Cost:** Early Bird Registration (by Sept. 1st) is \$20 paid at the time of registration; this includes meals, drinks, and activities. Registrations after September 1st will cost \$30. T-shirts are being pre-ordered and will be distributed in the order of registration, so register early! Sign up today at firstbaptistaledo.com.

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 wrapping up a study soon called True Princess and then we'll be starting a new study called Jesus & Women. Join at any time. If you're new, join at firstbaptistaledo.com

Flourish Women's Ministry



J.O.Y. Circle

Meets Tuesday,
Sept. 26th 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, Sept. 26th 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!

Greeting Card Ministry

Do you have card making supplies just sitting around not getting used? Would you enjoy making cards to share with others? Talk to Britni Ewing about helping with the card ministry!

Also, beginning Sept. 10th there will be cards to pick up at the Welcome Center to send to all the School District Staff. Please take a packet of cards to pray over and write an encouraging note of appreciation. Cards need to be returned to the church by Oct. 1st to be delivered.



Wednesday Night Live Women's Studies

ABIDE

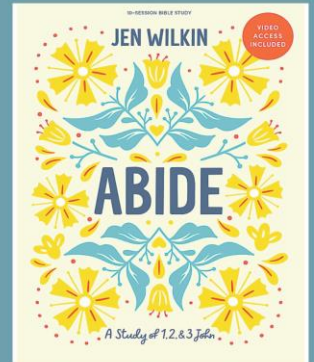
STUDY OF 1, 2 & 3 JOHN
Jen Wilken

Wednesday Night Live Class
Women's Study

Taught by Kim Sheese
6:30-8pm

Sept. 6th-Nov. 8th

Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com



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



Held at Life Action Camp-Buchanan, MI

JOURNEY Mother/Daughter Retreat Sept. 15th-17th

Recommended for
daughters age 7-13.

Cost is \$100 per Mom

\$50 per daughter

Deadline to register Sept. 1st



THRIVE Women's Retreat

October 20th-22nd

Cost is \$100 per person.

Deadline to register Oct. 6th

JOURNEY Mother/Daughter Retreat at Life Action Camp in Buchanan Michigan is September 15th-17th. This is a super-fun and impactful weekend to spend quality time learning from God's Word and growing together! This is recommended for daughters age 7-13. Please register with the church, then housing and transportation will be coordinated by Crystal Clark. Deadline for registration is September 1st. Cost is \$100 per Mom and \$50 per Daughter.

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 6th. Cost is \$100 per woman.

Wed 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 from Sept. 6th through Nov. 8th each Wednesday night from 6:30-8pm.

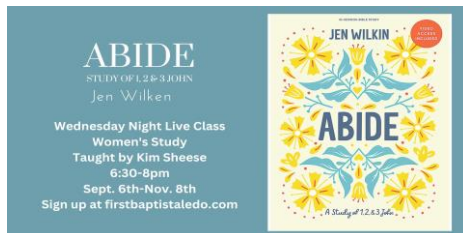
All classes and programs are free to attend and open to the public so invite your friends to join us! Along with these adult classes, we offer Kids Club for kids 3 years old through 5th grade and 1 Refuge Student study for 6th-12th grades as well as a nursery for 0-2 year olds. Join online at firstbaptistaledo.com under the GROUPS tab.



Cultural Questions and Timeless Truths - Taught by Pastor Luke and open to everyone. This is a topical study covering issues like: Evolution, Gender Identity, Sexuality, Mental Health, Anxiety, Witchcraft and Satanism, Aliens, Ghosts and more...



Sacred Marriage – Taught by Pastor Seth & Denise - Join Pastor Seth and Denise for the Gary Thomas study Sacred Marriage. What if God designed marriage to make you holy instead of happy? What if your relationship isn't as much about you and your spouse as it is about you and God? In Sacred Marriage, best-selling author Gary Thomas uncovers the ways that your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God and with each other. Transform a tired marriage into a relationship filled with awe and respect.



A Women's Study—Abide—A Study of 1st, 2nd & 3rd John by Jen Wilken - Taught by Kim Sheese during WNL. How can we hold onto assurance of our faith? How can we discern the truth from a lie? How can we know God loves us? In this Bible study on the letters of 1, 2, and 3, John, Jen Wilkin helps you see how two thousand years later, his words call to Christians in similar challenges to recall a great salvation and to abide in the truth.



In Home 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

Refuge Study - We will have 1 Refuge student study for 6th-12th grades. Students are invited to join Pastor Austin during Wednesday Night Life for this "One At A Time" study by Kyle Idleman. Nobody grows up dreaming of waking up, going to work, heading home, watching Netflix, scrolling through social media, and then doing it all over again the next day until their last breath. We all want to be used to change the world. Come to this study and learn how to change the world "One at a time." Join online at firstbaptistaledo.com.



Kids Club for kids 3 years old through 5th grade - What's 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." We have a great time playing games, engaging in Bible activities, eating yummy snacks, and making new friends. We're also offering a Nursery (0-2 year olds) for adults who are volunteering or taking classes. Register kiddos attending nursery or Kids Club on the Kids Club registration link at www.firstbaptistaledo.com. Contact Mollie Dunn (309)371-6962 with questions.



FBC Men's Ministry/Helping Hands/Homecoming



Men's Momentum at Life Action Camp! Oct. 27th-29th - Buchanan, MI

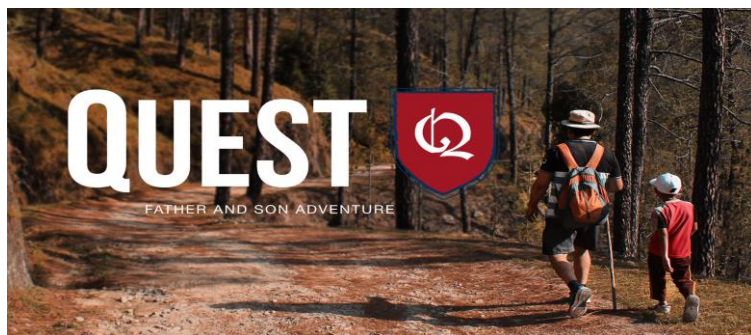
Food, fellowship, and spiritual recharging mark this men's time together at Men's Momentum at Life Action Camp. Men are challenged and encouraged to lead their families with deliberate action, resisting the role of passive onlooker.

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. 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 Kevin Ricke or Troy Riddell.



Helping Hands – Save the Date! Our Fall Helping Hands is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th from 7:30am-Noon. Applications will be going out in the next couple weeks. Volunteer sign up is coming at the end of the month.



Father Son Quest Event Sept. 29th- Oct. 1st

Life Action Camp- Buchanan, MI

Father Son Quest Event - Sep. 29th - Oct. 1st at Life Action Camp in Buchanan, MI! Quest is a fun filled weekend for dads and their sons - These father-and-son adventure weekends feature outdoor events jam-packed with activities designed to help dads and sons reconnect. You will make memories that last a lifetime. Spiritual principles are embedded into activities and athletic events to equip fathers and sons for the journey ahead. Sons should be at least 6 years old. Cost is \$100 per dad and \$50 per son. Deadline to register & last payment due Sep. 15th. Please register with the church, then housing and transportation will be coordinated.



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 walkers to distribute candy.

Walkers with strollers are welcome! Please sign up on our website or in the Church App before Sept 17th if you want to purchase a t-shirt.

More Upcoming Events/Building Update

REVELATION

15 week video series by Dr. Bob Laurent
Begins Sept. 3rd - 6-8pm - Enon Room
Facilitated by Ron Moffitt
Sign Up online at firstbaptistaledo.com

Ron Moffitt will be facilitating a class on the book of Revelation beginning September 3rd. In this 15-week series we will watch a video teaching from Dr. Bob Laurent (Teaching pastor at Granger Community Church, retired professor of Bible/Theology from Bethel University) and have a short time of discussion following the teaching. Class is 6-8pm on Sunday nights in the Enon Room. Join at firstbaptistaledo.com.

FBC Building Committee Update

In response to the overwhelming support of the congregation at the last town hall meeting, the building committee has recommended that FBC terminate our lease agreement, and no longer plant crops on the future building site. The church council voted unanimously to approve the recommendation. FBC will no longer be receiving \$3,000 annually for rent on the new property. It is our hope and desire to begin to prepare the property for ministry use. It was also recommended that a capital campaign committee be formed to begin raising money in earnest for the new building. Designations for the building fund are welcome and encouraged.



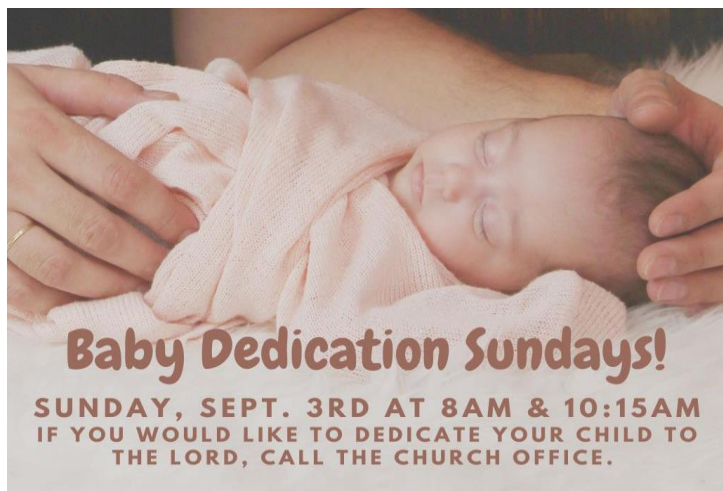
Raised to New Life! Baptism Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 24th

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 Sept. 24th.



New Sunday School topic begins Sept. 1st

Ron Moffitt's Forward For Christ Sunday School Class will be finishing up the book of Revelation in the next few weeks. Then, beginning Sept. 1st they will be starting a new study on the Book of Mark. This class meets on Sundays at 9am on the main level in the Enon Room, just down the hallway from the sanctuary. The Forward For Christ Class is open to all adults and you can jump in any time. No need to sign up.



Tour the Holy Land in 2024!

There is nowhere else on earth we could go that makes the Bible come alive like Israel. From the Sea of Galilee to the Temple Mount and so many places in between, we will explore places where our Lord Jesus walked and lived. You are invited to join Pastor Luke and Rick McGough Oct. 30th – Nov. 8th, 2024 as they lead our group on this 10-day tour. If you'd like to learn more about this trip to Israel and how to join, you can get a full itinerary and registration at the welcome desk.

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 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.
- 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.***



The Blessing Box Ministry

If you're not familiar, the Blessing Box is a mini food pantry that is located outside in our north parking lot. 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."