

With love from your FBC Staff



Merry  
Christmas!

# Merry Christmas

MAY THIS CHRISTMAS MAKE YOUR HEART FEEL WARMTH AND THE PEACE THAT COMES FROM KNOWING JESUS CHRIST.



She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ~ Matthew 1:21

It’s amazing. Sometimes I can hardly believe it. I shouldn’t be surprised, but I am. I can’t help it. I see new faces every week. The church is full. Last week there was a family that came in a little after the service had started and I was looking around for some empty seats, and wasn’t sure where they were going to sit. They found seats. Maybe someone was saving a spot for them. More people have been attending the 8am service too. It seems like people really understand that we have to make room so we can keep growing. As we approach Christmas there are two things to remember. Christmas is about the Gospel. I know that seems obvious, but the truth is that in all the business and celebration, it’s easy to forget that the birth of Jesus was 100% about salvation. God’s plan of saving people from their sins had finally arrived. The savior had been expected and prophesied from the moment sin was introduced into the world. Genesis records God declaring that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. This is referred to as the protoevangelium, or the first declaration of the Gospel. When Jesus was born it was the fulfillment of thousands of years of hopeful expectation.

There is another thing we remember during the Christmas season, which is making room. The story of Jesus’s birth is framed by “no more room” and “making room in a stable”. A very humble beginning for the king and creator of the universe who is born not only to save humanity, but to be the Lord and Judge of all creation for eternity. But room was made and a beautiful story is retold every year in its honor. We need to make room. We need to make room for others. We need to make room for faith. Making room for others may be as simple as being patient when traffic gets busy and lines get long. It may be inviting someone to church, or, when others have guests at church to happily sit somewhere different (or attend a different service). Making room for faith is an effort to keep Christ as the center and reason for the season. It might include a church service, even when family pressures make it easier to skip. Or it may include spending some time in the Bible and prayer before digging into a meal or opening presents. The holiday season will come and go like a blur. But they will be so much more meaningful and memorable if we keep Jesus at the center of it.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Luke



**Total Giving Through  
11/19/23:  
\$623,529.39**

**Giving Needed To Meet  
2023 Budget To Date:  
\$580,094.21**

**Other Income-\$72,155.13  
(Insurance for roof replacement)**

# KIDS CLUB MINISTRY

**FREE** *Holly Days*  
Friday, Dec. 1st 5:30-7pm  
108 N. College Ave. Aledo-Old Wagner Pharmacy

Kids & Teens can:  
Decorate a Treat &  
Make a Ginger Bread Craft  
PLUS.....  
Family/Friend Photo Op

Co-Sponsored  
by  
ROE #33  
First Baptist  
Family Ministry,  
Aledo, IL



**Dec. 10th: Kids Worship** sings during the 10:15 “Come Home for Christmas” church-wide celebration. Kids can wear Christmas attire. Regular SS classes at 9am. Teachers will take SS classes upstairs. Kids will sit with parents after they sing. \*For kids not in Sunday School, please take them to the front of the sanctuary by 10:05am.

**Dec. 17th:** The kid’s Sunday School classes will celebrate Christmas with a “Happy Birthday, Jesus!” Party from 9-10am.

**Dec. 24th: One combined church service at 9am.** No 8am service, SS classes, or 10:15am service. **Nursery & the Younger Kids Worship Class (Ages 3-1st Gr.) will be offered.** Kids Worship will be dismissed after the second song.

**Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 7pm.** The nursery will be available for parents to use with a televised service.

**Dec. 31st:** Regular SS classes at 9am. Kids will enjoy a fun **Movie Day in Kids Worship & they are invited to wear their PJs.** ~ Mollie

*Happy Birthday Jesus Party*

KID'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES  
SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH  
9-10AM



*Come Home for Christmas*

Sunday, December 10th  
10:15am Worship Service

\*The kids worship kiddos will be singing.



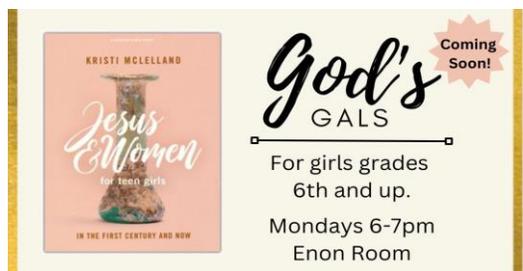
# Refuge Student Ministry



**Refuge is Now Combined!** Refuge is for students grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, and we meet on Sundays from 6-8pm. We need help stacking chairs in the sanctuary each Sunday following the 10:15am service. NO REFUGE December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, Merry Christmas!



**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 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room for God's Gals Small Group Study. We recently began a new study called Jesus & Women and you're welcome to jump in any time. If you're new, join the group at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



**Boom Sisters** – No Boom Sisters in December. We'll see you in 2024!

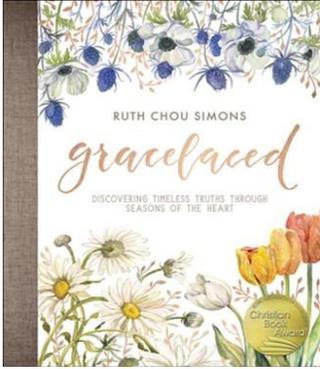


**It's a Christmas Party!**-6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are all invited to join us for our youth group Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm! Music, games, snacks, White elephant and an ugly Christmas sweater competition! So bring a white elephant gift not exceeding \$10 and wear the craziest and most outlandish Christmas sweater! Door open at 5:30pm.



**Wednesday Night Live Refuge Study Winter/Spring Session** Students 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join Pastor Austin for a study during the Winter/Spring Session. We will meet downstairs in the Women's Sunday School Classroom Wednesday nights from Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>-March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm. Study details and sign up will be coming soon.

# Flourish Women's Ministry



## “Gracelaced” Flourish Women's 2024 Small Group Study

### 2024 Women's Flourish Small Group Program

Are you ready to deepen your relationship with Christ, while also growing in community with others?

Registration is now open and will run through December 10th for the 2024 Women's Small Groups. Small groups will be going through GraceLaced: Discovering Timeless Truths through Seasons of the Heart starting in January, which encourages women in any circumstance to become deeply rooted in God's faithful promises. All ladies need to register at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com), even if you have been in the program before. Small groups will decide when, where and how often they meet, though our recommendation is at least once a month. Please register online at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com), and your group leader will be in contact with you in January.

For questions, please see program coordinators Peggy Johnson and Crystal Clark.

### Wednesday Night Live New Session of WNL runs from Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup> Class details coming soon.

What is Wednesday Night Live? WNL is a series of classes & programs for the whole family held at First Baptist. The Winter/Spring Session of Wednesday Night Live will begin on January 24<sup>th</sup>-March 20<sup>th</sup>.

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. Class details and registration coming soon!

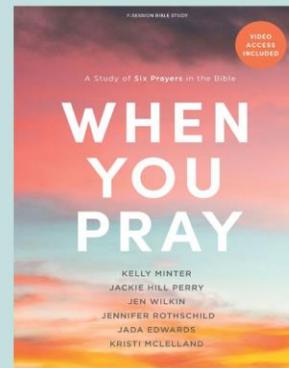
## Women's Bible Study Classes



Women's Verse By Verse Study of Matthew, Taught by Sheri Olson on Tuesdays from 10-11:30am at Sheri's home-720 SW 2nd Ave. Aleido and on Wednesdays at Laurie Louck's home-612 NE 2nd Ave. Aleido from 6:30-8pm.

Women's Study of Daniel, Taught by Renee Diesch on Tuesdays from Noon-1:30pm at Sheri Olson's home-720 SW 2nd Ave. Aleido.

These are ongoing studies, jump in any time.  
Sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



## Women's Tuesdays with Jesus Study

### WHEN YOU PRAY

Ongoing Study  
Tuesdays at 2pm  
Lead by Rhonda McKinley  
Enon Room  
Sign up online at  
[firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)

## Scenes from the Women's Flourish Conference 2023



# Christmas At FBC



## Making Christmas merrier for local Nursing Home Residents

We know that you wait all year for the chance to help us out! Help out with what you may be asking? Here is the answer...it is time for the annual collection of gifts from some of the area churches for the residents of Mercer Manor and Aledo Rehab and Health Care Center!

There are boxes that are labeled **NURSING HOME GIFTS** are in the church lobby. We will be collecting unwrapped gifts until **10am Tuesday, December 19th.**

Cathy and Linus Griswold are coordinating this effort and would love for you to donate gifts. Your help would also be appreciated for sorting and packing the gifts on Tuesday, **December 19th at 10am** in the church lobby. If you have any questions, please call or text Cathy or Linus at (309)737-5444 or call the church office at 582-7812. Thank you so much for your help with this project!

Both nursing homes are so appreciative of the gifts! **Gift suggestions include:** Small fleece blankets, dressy scarves, lotion, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, aftershave, stamps, stationary, diabetic socks, slipper socks with grips, small stuffed animals, adult coloring books with markers, metal tins of cookies, sugar free candy, chocolate candy, costume jewelry, cube boxes of Kleenex, Christmas wrapping paper, tape, and tags. Bring gifts anytime through **10am on Tuesday, Dec. 19th.**



We will be placing Poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas "In Memory Of" loved ones. Sign up on today's Connect Card or call the church office 309-582-7812 no later than Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Cost is \$10. Checks can be made payable to FBC with Poinsettia in the memo.



## Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

On Saturday, Dec. 16th from 9am-7pm FBC has the opportunity to provide bell ringers for the Salvation Army Kettle at the Aledo Walmart. There are ten - 1 hour slots that need to be filled. Stop by the Welcome Desk or call the church office at 309-582-7812 to sign up.

# FBC Men's Ministry/Car Ministry/Thank You



**What: Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**

**Where: Every Sunday at 7am at FBC in Fellowship Hall**

**Cost: FREE!**

**Who: All men are invited to attend.**

**No need to RSVP, just show up hungry!**

**Questions: See Luke Dunn, Seth Bowker or Kevin Ricke**

The FBC Men's Ministry has concluded their event calendar for 2023. Keep a look out for opportunities to further your Christian growth and relationships in 2024. Remember that we host a Men's Breakfast every Sunday morning beginning at 7am. We have breakfast then follow up with questions on the previous week's sermon. We do dismiss in time for 8am service. It's a great time for fellowship and accountability. It is free to attend and men 13 years and older are welcome. Please note that there will be no Men's Breakfast on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.  
~ Sincerely, Kevin Ricke – Men's Ministry Chair

## FBC Men's Car Ministry

Have a car you'd like to donate?  
Call the Church Office for donation details.



Did you know the FBC Men's Ministry has a Car Ministry? Did you know they will accept almost anything in terms of a vehicle? Thinking of getting rid of a car? Keep this ministry in mind and contact the church office at 309-582-7812 for donation details.

## FBC CHURCH SECURITY TEAM



**MEETING**

SUNDAY, DEC. 3RD AT 11:30AM – ENON ROOM  
THIS IS FOR CURRENT SECURITY TEAM &  
PEOPLE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE.  
QUESTIONS SEE COREY SMITH

## Thank You

A very huge Thank You does not seem enough for the group that came to my home and did everything I had on my list that needed done. Again, thank you First Baptist Church. Betty Dowd

Seth, Please thank everyone who came to my home and worked so hard to trim my bushes to look so beautiful! I so enjoyed seeing all the little ones working so hard to do their "jobs" – their hard efforts sure made me smile. I appreciate that all those from your church take their own time to help others! It's wonderful to see people still come together to help others! Thank you for remembering me! Sue Ewers

I want to thank Seth & the Helping Hands crews for all they did Saturday. You did for other what we can't do for ourselves. You took time out of your busy lives to help us. May God bless each and everyone of you. Again, Thank you! Patsy Bewley

Your work in my yard gave my heart and mind tremendous peace and joy. The gift of candy, my favorites, that I haven't had in years, made me cry. Praying for God's amazing blessings for all of you! Barb Milburn

Thank all of you for your prayers & meals during my dad's illness I appreciate your love. Sister In Christ, Patti Thompson

To all at First Baptist Church! Thank you for your donation it is a tremendous help to our family! Please keep the prayers coming as we need all the prayer warriors! Thanks! The Minteers

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

PHONE: 309.582.7812  
E-MAIL: FBCALEDO2@FRONTIERNET.NET  
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALED.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](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.***

