



“Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ~ John 17:11

People may be curious about what happened at our last business meeting. We had said that we would discuss possible changes to our Sunday morning worship schedule in the October meeting. Everything we’ve been working on, from the 10 acres of land we purchased, to the building committee working on plans for additional space, and making changes to our worship schedule are all intended to do one thing... reach Mercer County with the Gospel. By the grace of God we keep seeing new faces in our church each week, baptisms each month, new members added each quarterly business meeting, and it’s amazing! But, if we’re going to keep seeing this happen, we have to make room. This is why the building committee is working so hard to present plans as soon as possible. In the meantime, we need to do what we can with the space that we have.

Although some of us thought that adjusting our service times might help alleviate some space issues, it became apparent that the sacrifice was too much and the result too uncertain, so we decided to set that idea aside. What we are planning to do in

the new year is to expand Kids Worship to the entire 10:15am Sunday service. This gives us 60-70 additional seats. The downside is that kids don’t get to worship with their families, and the church doesn’t get to see how many kids God has blessed us with each week. Our hope is that with a new sanctuary in the foreseeable future, there would be plenty of space for family worship. What’s so exciting is that we have such good problems to deal with. Trying to keep up with God’s blessing is a good problem. I’m even more excited that there is such a spirit of unity. We have plenty of challenges to overcome, but we are unified in our hearts and minds. The Bible said that unity in the church is by the name of Jesus. He is our leader and our focus and our purpose. We take our direction from Him. Keep praying. Pray for more people to come to Christ and come to church. Pray for the building committee. Pray for unity. Pray for the leaders and volunteers to stay focused and energized. Pray for God’s Spirit to move in Mercer County. Pray for the funds needed to do what we need to do. Pray for God to show you what part He has for you in everything He’s doing at First Baptist.

In Christ,

Pastor Luke



**Total Giving Through
10/22/23:
\$619,047.76**

**Giving Needed To Meet
2023 Budget To Date:
\$530,724.49**

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 Club Treasure Chest Shop (Last Night)
We're ending the fall session with pirates treasure on the last night, Nov. 8th. Kids & crew are also invited to dress like a pirate & get their pics taken!

K-5th grade kiddos will get to spend their Bible Memory coins at our Treasure Chest Shop and Pre-k will go home with treasure boxes.

New friends are welcome to join & will get "coins" to spend at the shop. Questions, see Children's Pastor Mollie Dunn.



**Come Home
For Christmas!
Sunday, Dec. 10th**

The Kids Worship kiddos will be singing during the 10:15am service on Sunday, Dec. 10th.

Practice has started and will continue each week through Dec. 3rd. We hope you will join us for this special Christmas service.

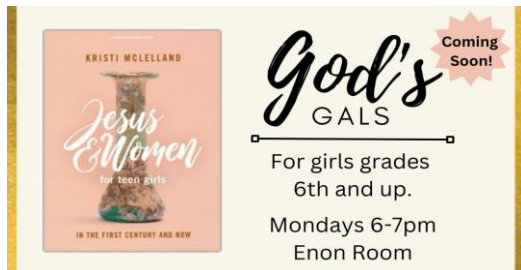
Refuge Student Ministry



Refuge is Now Combined! - Jr. High and High School students meet together on Sunday Nights for Refuge from 6-8pm. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Austin. Each Sunday following the 10:15am service we appreciate help stacking the chairs in the sanctuary in preparation for Refuge.



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 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

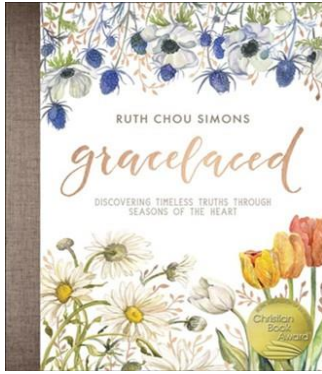


Wednesday Night Live Refuge Study - Students 6th-12th grades are invited to join Pastor Austin for a study called "Heart of God." We meet downstairs in the Women's Sunday School Classroom Wednesday nights through Nov. 8th from 6:30-8pm. Jump in any time! Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.



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 November, we'll be meeting on Saturday, Nov. 11th from 10-11:30am. If you're new, join the group at firstbaptistaledo.com

Flourish Women's Ministry



“Gracelaced” Flourish Women's 2024 Small Group Study

2024 Women's Small Group Program

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

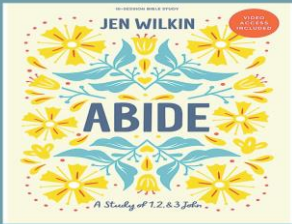
Registration will open November 11th and run through December 10th for the 2024 Women's Small Groups. Small groups will be going through GraceLaced: Discovering Timeless Truths through Seasons of the Heart starting in January, which encourages women in any circumstance to become deeply rooted in God's faithful promises. All ladies need to register, 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, and your group leader will be in contact with you in January.

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




Reminder to those who registered for the FBC Women's Better Together Flourish Conference. The Conference will be held Sat., Nov. 11th from 9am-Noon at FBC. We look forward to a time of growing together in God's Word and worship. Registration and light refreshments begin at 8:30am and the program begins at 9am. Childcare will not be offered at this event. We look forward to seeing you in the sanctuary.

Wednesday Night Live Women's Studies Current Studies Below End Nov. 8th



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

New Session of WNL begins Jan. 24th - March 20th
Class details coming soon.



All ladies are invited to join us Tuesday, Nov. 28th for the JOY Circle Christmas Party. This Christmas gathering is the final event for J.O.Y. Circle for 2023. J.O.Y. Circle will gather at 6pm at Joe's Trattoria in Aledo. We will order from the menu. Please bring a paper product for the food pantry as well as a \$5 gift exchange.

There will be no J.O.Y. Circle in December, January, or February. J.O.Y. Circle will pick back up on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm in March and continue on through 2024. Merry Christmas to the ladies of J.O.Y. Circle!

Thanksgiving Meal/Volunteers Needed



**Thursday, November 23rd
starting at 11:00am**



Three Options to Receive Your Free Meal

Pick-up at FBC. Delivered to your home. Dine In at the Senior Center.

RSVP Required. Call 309-582-7812 or visit FirstBaptistAledo.com

Thanksgiving Meal - First Baptist Church Aledo is once again sponsoring free Thanksgiving meals on Thursday, Nov. 23rd to our community.

We will offer meal pick up at FBC from 11:00-11:30am, delivery to those who are homebound starting at 11:00am, and dine-in at the Senior Center (137 W Main St, Aledo) with doors opening at 11:00am. Please RSVP early to get your meal reservations. RSVP by calling the Church office at (309)582-7812 or by going to our website (firstbaptistaledo.com) and clicking on Signups.



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.

Wednesday Night Live Wrapping UP Soon!


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 under the GROUPS tab. The Winter/Spring Session of Wednesday Night Live will begin on January 24th-March 20th.



Save the Date! 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. Save the date and watch for sign up which is coming soon.



**Church Council
Meeting**
Tuesday, Nov. 14th
7pm

**Special Church
Business Meeting**
Sunday, Nov. 19th
11:45am

FBC Men's Ministry/Helping Hands/Nursing Home Gifts



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 Jason Snyder or Barry Cooper or call the church office at 309-582-7812 for donation details.



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.



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 will soon be 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!

A tote and empty boxes that are labeled **NURSING HOME GIFTS** will be placed in the church lobby starting **Sun., November 19th**. 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!

If you want to get started shopping, here is a suggested gift list: 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 between **Sunday, Nov. 19th and 10am on Tuesday, Dec. 19th**.

More Upcoming Events



Operation Christmas Child

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

You may pick up an empty OCC shoebox with instructions in the church lobby! Return your filled box by Sunday, Nov. 12th 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.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Everyone is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Service held at College Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Nov 19th at 6 PM. CAPC is located at 501 S. College Ave. Aledo, IL.



PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL

We as the Church are called to stand in support of Israel. We think you'll agree that it is needed more than ever right now. As part of that support, our church will be open to pray on Saturday mornings in November. Doors will open from 9:00 to 11:00 for you to come and go as you wish. Please consider spending at least a few moments to bring Israel before the Lord in prayer on one of these Saturdays. A guide of suggested areas to pray over will be provided. ~ FBC Prayer Team

"You will arise and have compassion on Jerusalem, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come." Psalms 102:13



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.



Raised to New Life! Baptism Sunday is Nov. 26th

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 is Sunday is Nov. 26th.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH AVE.
ALEDO, IL 61231

PHONE: 309.582.7812
E-MAIL: FBCALED02@FRONTIERNET.NET
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALED0.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.***

FREE Thanksgiving Meals

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starting at 11:00am



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3. Dine In at the Senior Center.

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