



2024



“Behold, I make all things new.” ~ Revelation 21:5

A new year. They seem to come faster and faster. However, fast they seem to come, it’s a good time to evaluate. We look back over the previous year and we see what happened. The good and the bad. What were the accomplishments that we are proud of, and what are some things we wish we had done better, and what happened that was out of our control? In January we will have our annual church meeting, which includes reports from all the boards and ministries. It’s a good process. It forces us to look back over the previous year and think about it. Was it successful? If so, how? If not, why not? And it helps us to think about the upcoming year. What are our hopes, dreams and goals for 2024? Are we going to do the same thing we did in 2023 or something different? How do we improve upon what we’ve been doing? At First Baptist we are always looking for ways to do things better than we did before, but we are also careful not to change things too much if they are working. It’s intentional, incremental adjustments. By doing that we are able to hold on to the past (loosely) while keeping an eye on the future. Not only is this a strategy that God has blessed for FBC’s ministry, it is the way He works in our lives individually. God radically changes our lives when we accept Christ as Lord and Savior, but the process of sanctification (spiritual maturity) is a lifelong step by step journey. Even the process of salvation is like this. In Romans it says it this way: “Everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. How will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they

to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:13-15. There are great things in store for 2024. The reason we exist is to see two things happen in Mercer County. To see lost people saved, and saved people grow. It’s a process that is ongoing. We will never be done with it until Jesus returns. As we continue to be faithful to that mission, and as God continues to bless us, lead us and fill us with His Spirit, the church will continue to grow. As that happens, new needs will arise. We are working on meeting those needs with a building plan. I can’t stress this enough. The building is and always has been and always will be simply a facility. A facility is exactly what it sounds like, it facilitates the ministry to do and be what God wants it to do and be. More space means more opportunity to reach more people. Our vision is to reach every heart in Mercer County for Christ. In the upcoming weeks and months, a lot of decisions will be made by FBC and a lot of those decisions will come with a lot of commitments. In all of these things we are seeking the Lord’s leading. Our intention is simple. Discover what God’s will is, and do it. In the upcoming year, I’m excited to see what God will do. He’s been so faithful to FBC in the past, I know He’s got wonderful plans for our future.

In Christ,
Pastor Luke



**Total Giving Through
12/17/23: \$619,999.20**

**Giving Needed To Meet
2023 Budget To Date:
\$641,806.36**

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

Building Fund Designations - \$198,106.03

KIDS CLUB MINISTRY



Winter/Spring '24 Kids Club Details

Kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us for the Winter/Spring '24 session of Kids Club at FBC, Aledo, IL on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:05pm from Jan. 24th-March 20th. ***If your kiddo has already registered for this school year and attended in the fall, they do not need to register again.** Is your kiddo joining us for the first time this school year? Register at www.firstbaptistaledo.com for the this session. New friends can join us anytime!

What's Kids Club?

It's a bunch of fun, that's what it is! This 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.

Service Project Goals:

School Supply Shop: Kids Clubbers & their families will be encouraged to raise \$1,000 for the FBC School Supply Give Away in July '24. Every year, this shop blesses over 100 students in Mercer County with backpacks & school supplies. Kids will earn a super cool Candy Land Party & Sweet Shop on the very last night (March 20th) for reaching their goal. Let's do this!! Thanks for your help!

KIDS CHECK-IN



Hey Parents!

Here are a few changes happening January 7th!

1. The Kids Check-in is moving to the Fellowship Hall downstairs for Sunday School & Kids Worship. Parents need to bring kids to check-in to get their pick-up tag. *Kids need a parent/older sibling to check-in.
 2. (Change) Sunday School Check-in will start at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. Early arrivals will need to stay with parents until check-in begins. All kid's classes will gather & sing in the FH before going to class. *No pick-up afterward. SS teachers will take students directly to Kids Worship at 10:05.
 3. Kids Worship will be offered the entire 10:15am service. Kids attending Kids Worship, will check-in downstairs with a parent/older sibling and go directly to Kids Worship.
- Thanks for sharing your kids with us! ~Mollie



Nursery & Kid's Ministry Volunteer First Aid Training

Sunday, January 14th
11:45am-1:30pm

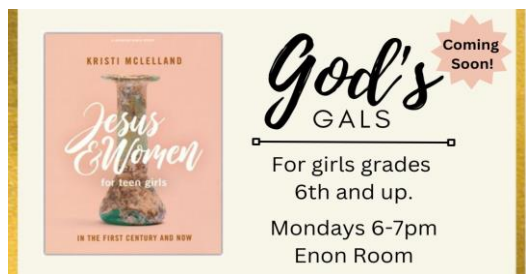
For all Jr. & Adult volunteers who are currently serving in the nursery & kids ministry. Pizza & drinks will be provided. Please register in advance.



Refuge Student Ministry



Refuge - Refuge is for students grades 6th-12th, Sundays from 6-8pm. Refuge is back on our regular schedule on Sunday January 7th. See you there!



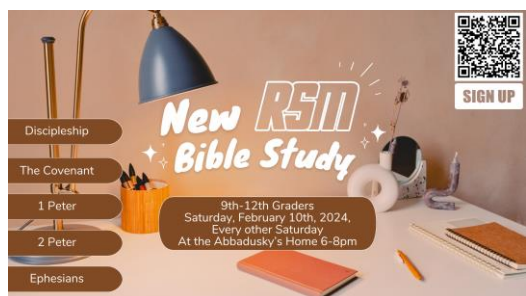
Refuge Girls' Study - Girls 6th-12th grades are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room for God's Gals Small Group Study. Our current study is called Jesus & Women and you're welcome to jump in any time. If you're new, join the group at firstbaptistaledo.com.



Boom Sisters OVERNIGHT - All girls 6th- 12th grade are invited to join us for an overnight sleepover at the church. January 19-20th, Starting at 6:00pm and ending 12:00pm on the following day. Come for fun, food, crafts and more! Bring a snack to share.



WNL - Student from 6th-12th grade, need somewhere to go on Wednesday nights? Come hang out downstairs in the women's small group room starting January 24th! We are starting a new series taught by D.A. Horton on *Control*, do we have it? Should we want it?

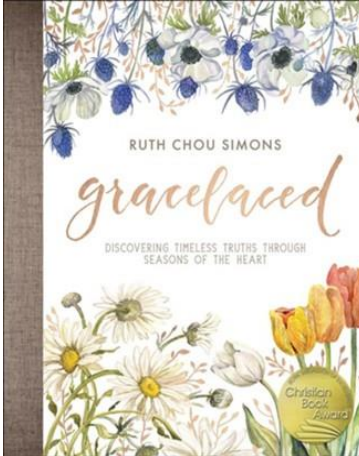


New Bible Study - Hey High Schoolers! We are introducing a new Bible study class starting on Saturday, February 10th, 2024. We will be diving into the Bible so we can continue to be grounded in GOD's truth and growing in His love, while also learning what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. In this class we will start with a review of the Covenant and then transition into studying 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Ephesians. We will meet every other Saturday night, 6pm-8pm at Justina Abbadusky's home and dinner will be provided. There is no cost to attend so go online and sign-up today!



Refuge Super Bowl Party - On February 11th we are having our refuge Super Bowl party! Starting at 6:00-8:00pm, we will be watching the big game, eating food, playing games and having a great time! All students are invited to come, no sign up just show up.

Flourish Women's Ministry



“Gracelaced” Flourish Women’s 2024 Small Group Study

2024 Women's Flourish Small Group Program

For those ladies who signed up, small groups will be going through GraceLaced: Discovering Timeless Truths through Seasons of the Heart starting in January. This study encourages women in any circumstance to become deeply rooted in God's faithful promises. Group leaders will be contacting the women who signed up soon. Small groups will then decide when, where and how often they meet, though our recommendation is at least once a month.

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

Wednesday Night Live New Session of WNL runs from Jan. 24th – March 20th

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 24th-March 20th.

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.

Women’s WNL Study for Winter/Spring Session - We invite all ladies to join us as we study verse by verse through God's word. We are currently studying in the book of Matthew and you can jump in any time.. Please bring your Bible, a notebook, and a pencil. If you would like more information, feel free to contact class teacher Sheri Olson at sheri.olson@yahoo.com.

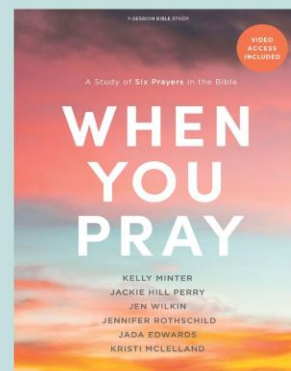
Women’s Bible Study Classes



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. Aleo and on Wednesdays beginning Jan. 24th at First Baptist 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. Aleo.

These are ongoing studies, jump in any time. Sign up at firstbaptistaleo.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
firstbaptistaleo.com

A Women's Equipping Conference from
FOCAL POINT
MINISTRIES
Be Refreshed . Be Renewed . Be Rejuvenated

A one-day equipping conference for women (13 years and older) featuring:

- Inspiring keynote speakers
- 16 breakout seminars uniquely designed for women
- Christ-centered worship

Saturday, April 13, 2024 • 8:30am-4:00pm
Calvary Church • 4700 53rd St. • Moline, IL 61265

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ALISA CHILDERS RACHEL LOVINGOOD

Iron Sharpens Iron
Proverbs 27:17

SIGN UP COMING SOON AT FIRSTBAPTISTALEO.COM
More Info at FocalPointMinistries.net

Mission Trip/Grief Share/Annual Meeting

**El Salvador Mission Trip
Tentatively April 13-19th, 2024**



**Info meeting January 17th at 6:30pm.
Let Luke or Mollie know if you have interest**

Mission Opportunity

FBC will be sponsoring a short-term mission trip to El Salvador in April. Space is limited, so please let Pastor Luke or Mollie know if you are interested. The dates are tentatively April 13th-19th, 2024.

Passports are required, so if you are interested and don't have a passport, you will need to apply soon. If interested, join us for an informational meeting on Wed., Jan. 17th at 6:30pm in the Enon Room.



Thank you very much to everyone who donated to the Nursing Home Christmas Gift project again this year! We know that your generous donations of gifts are definitely appreciated.

This is a community wide event, so we would also like to thank the following churches: Hamlet-Perryton Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Catherine's of Aledo and St. Anthony's of Matherville Catholic Churches. We would also like to thank Sheri Olson, Sherry Huffstutler, Carol Hill, Nancy McMeekan, Lynda Castor, and Austin Shields for their help in sorting, boxing, loading and delivering the gifts! Thanks to Pastor Seth for driving the bus for us too, and Pam for all her help with all of the odds and ends! This important ministry goes smoothly and quickly when people are willing to serve and volunteer to help us out. Thanks again! Linus and Cathy Griswold

Grief Share®

**GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
THURSDAYS FROM 6-8PM - JAN. 25TH-APRIL 18TH**

Hosted at First Baptist Church Aledo
Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com or
Call the church office at 309-582-7812 to register



We will begin a new session of the Grief Share Class in January at First Baptist. This class is open to everyone. Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. This 13 week class is taught by Joe and Kathy Olson and will be held Thursday beginning, Jan. 25th-April 18th from 6-8pm at FBC in the Enon Room. Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

**The FBC Building Fund is
accepting donations.**

**If you'd like to help fund
the vision of the future,
please consider giving a
special gift in any
amount to FBC with
"Building Fund" in the
memo. Thank you!**



**CHURCH BUSINESS
meeting**
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Church Council
Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 16th
7pm**

**Annual Church
Business Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 21st
following the
10:15am Service.**

FBC Men's Ministry/Prayer Meetings For Everyone

Men's Ministry Kicks Off 2024!

The Men's Ministry has begun planning for the 2024 event calendar. There are three events already scheduled that you may want to add to your calendar. On February 9th there will be a bags tournament at the church, more details to follow.

March 2nd we will have a group attending Iron Sharpens Iron at Coram Deo Church in Davenport, IA. The keynote speakers are; **Rev. Dr. Don Davis** is the Executive Director of the Urban Ministry Institute and Sr. vice president of Church Resources for World Impact. and **Dr. Chris Harper** (aka Harp) is passionate about biblical manhood, and often speaks on topics such as a man's identity in Christ, the trouble and trials that threaten men, and the importance of being a gospel-centered husband and father. ISI is a one-day event. We will carpool to Davenport and return around 5pm that evening. Registration opens in January. Cost, including lunch, for early bird registration (by Feb. 18th) is \$59 for adults and \$43 for students ages 13-22.

Then, on July 20th, our annual Men's Rooted Conference is scheduled with Tom Harmon as our guest speaker. Tom draws upon his 11 years as a State Patrol Officer and as a college athlete to illustrate God's work in his life. In 1984, he sensed God's call to preach, resigned from the state police, pastored a small church for four years, and then became a full-time itinerant preacher. Tom has led numerous Momentum weekends at Life Action Camp in Buchanan, MI.

Also, please 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 services. It's a great time for fellowship and accountability. Men 13 years and older are welcome.

FOCAL POINT MINISTRIES
PRESENTS
IRON SHARPENS IRON
EXCEPT FOR A HEART SINGING HALLELUJAH HALLELUJAH

2024 MEN'S CONFERENCE
EQUIPPING SEMINARS SPECIFIC TO MEN OF ALL AGES 13+

KEYNOTESPEAKERS
Don Davis
Chris Harper

Coram Deo Church
Davenport, IA
March 2nd
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Early Bird Cost \$59-Adults
Early Bird Cost \$43-Students
Register Deadline Feb. 18th!

More info @ FocalPointMinistries.net | Register at Firstbaptistaledo.com

MEN'S Breakfast

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 PRAYER TEAM INVITES EVERYONE TO SUNDAY PRAYER NIGHTS AT FBC BEGINNING JAN. 7TH EACH SUNDAY AT 5PM

Wed Night Live

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!



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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.

The Doctrines That Divide By Erwin Lutzer - Taught by Steve Struble and open to everyone. Christian doctrine is a vital part of the gospel message, but certain doctrinal beliefs have divided the church for centuries. Lutzer examines various controversies that exist within the broad spectrum of Christianity, presenting the historical background of the issue and the biblical understanding of the doctrine. Chapters include "Predestination or Free Will?" "Justification by Faith" and more.

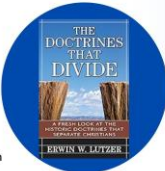
Believer Basics – Taught by Pastor Seth Bowker and open to everyone. Whether you're a long time Christian, a new believer or somewhere in between, it's always good to refresh our faith. The class is called "Believer Basics" and will cover Foundations of the Faith - Prayer, Baptism, Salvation and Why Church.

Women's Verse by Verse Study through the Bible - Taught by Sheri Olson at First Baptist During WNL. We invite all ladies to join us as we study verse by verse through God's word. We are currently studying in the book of Matthew and you can jump in any time. Please bring your Bible, a notebook, and a pencil. If you would like more information, feel free to contact class teacher Sheri Olson at sheri.olson@yahoo.com. Join online at firstbaptistaledo.com

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General Study
Doctrines That Divide



Taught by Steve Struble

General Study
Believer Basics



Taught by Pastor Seth Bowker

Women's Study
Matthew - Verse By Verse



Taught by Sheri Olson

WNL
Refuge Study
6TH-12TH GRADES
JANUARY 24TH
ROOM 6 DOWNSTAIRS

rightnow MEDIA
control
D.A. Horton

Kids Club
Wednesdays 6:30-8:05pm
Jan. 24th-March 20th



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH 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.
- 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 FBC PRAYER TEAM
INVITES EVERYONE TO
SUNDAY PRAYER NIGHTS
AT FBC
BEGINNING JAN. 7TH
EACH SUNDAY AT 5PM

