



*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."
– Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)*

On Sunday February 4th we are planning "Vision Sunday." It is, in many ways, the beginning and the end of a long process. It's the end or at least the culmination of many years of discernment, meetings, prayers, discussions, and plans of the FBC building committee. We've run into so many roadblocks over the years it would take a long time to even explain. There have been plans upon plans upon plans to expand our building, most of which seemed like a good solution, but never quite the right solution. Personally, it has been very frustrating, discouraging, and at times it has made me question my own leadership ability. Two years ago something changed. By God's goodness, grace and flawless timing FBC was able to purchase some much-needed land. It is separated from our current location only by the width of 7th Avenue. From that point on we have been reconsidering everything. As a result, the building project began to look at a bigger picture. What does the future of FBC look like on a 13.5-acre campus (3.5 acres of our current location plus 10 acres across the street)? On Vision Sunday we will present what we believe that picture looks like. Which means that Vision Sunday is the beginning of another long process.

We will begin laying out in detail the plans, asking lots of questions, answering those questions, raising money, and eventually seek a commitment from our church body. We will undergo a feasibility study that will help us determine if we have the financial ability to do the project and the support necessary to see it through. By the beginning of the summer, sometime in mid-June, we should be ready to vote. After that, the work begins.

I shared a passage from Proverbs, "where there is no vision the people perish..." that is the King James Version translation. It is typically used to promote church visions. Or, in most cases, misused to promote the idea that we need to come up with a vision that people will get excited about. The literal translation of that passage is closer to "where there is no (biblical, prophetic) revelation, the people cast off restraint (become disobedient and rebellious), but blessed is he who keeps the law (follows God's Word). The point that the Proverb is making is much more closely related to Psalm 119... "God's Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path (when we follow it, we don't stumble)." I've never been good at promoting man-made visions. I don't know what the future holds or what it's going to look like. What I do know is that when we honor God and follow His Word, He is pleased and pours out His blessing. I also believe that FBC has a unique role and opportunity in spreading the Gospel to Mercer County. And I believe that we need more space to be able to reach more people. Our responsibility is to follow and teach God's Word. We continue to do that with the focus on reaching every heart in Mercer County for Christ. We are here to see lost people saved, and saved people grow. So, we are focused on outreach. We want to be present and active in our community so that everyone possible will know that they can find a home at FBC. The mission never ends. I hope we always need more space no matter what kind of building we build. There are too many people in Mercer County who need the Lord for us to think that we've done enough. Our goal is nothing earthly. Our goal is to hear "well done good and faithful servant."

We're on our way.

In Christ, Pastor Luke



Total Giving Through 1/21/24
\$29,084.25

Building Fund Designations
\$4,945.00

Giving Needed To Meet
2024 Budget Through 1/21/24
\$39,525.63

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 \$700 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!

What's Happening at Kids Club In February?



Kid's Sunday School Classes VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Sunday, February 11th 9-10am

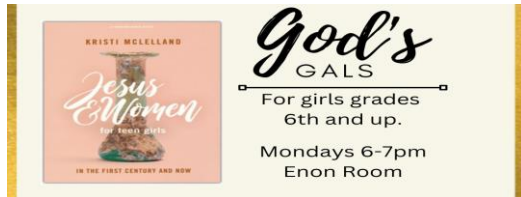
Bring 15 unaddressed Valentines for you classmates & teachers *Optional*



Refuge Student Ministry



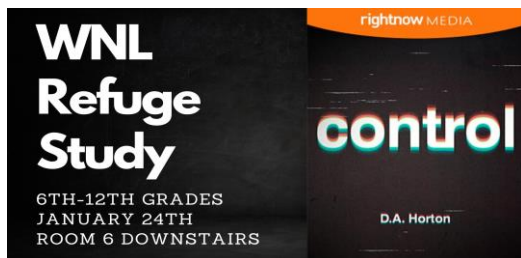
Refuge Student Ministry-Refuge is for students grades 6th-12th, and we meet on Sundays from 6-8pm.



God's Gals-Girls in 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. If you're new, join the group at firstbaptistaledo.com.



Boom Sisters Event- All 6th-12th grader girls invite your mom, grandma, aunt or any adult your choosing to join us February 10th 10am-2pm for our card making event! Each person will make a valentine and then we will work on making birthday cards for the Women's Ministry to send to the ladies of our church. All supplies will be provided and no experience is necessary. Please bring a sack lunch and you and a drink to eat for lunch. Sign up online today!



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-March 20th! We are starting a new series taught by D.A. Horton on *Control*, do we have it? Should we want it?



New High School Bible Study-We are introducing a new Bible study class starting on Sat., Feb. 10th. We will be diving into the Bible so we can continue to be grounded in GOD's truth and growing in His love. We will review 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. Free to attend sign-up today at firstbaptistaledo.com!



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.



Refuge Winter outing! - February 17th all students are invited to join us at the BettPlex to bowl, play games at the arcade and laser tag!! We will be leaving the church at 12:00pm and getting back to the church at 6:00pm. Sign ups are online and are due by February 8th! The cost is \$30 for each student, lunch will be provided!

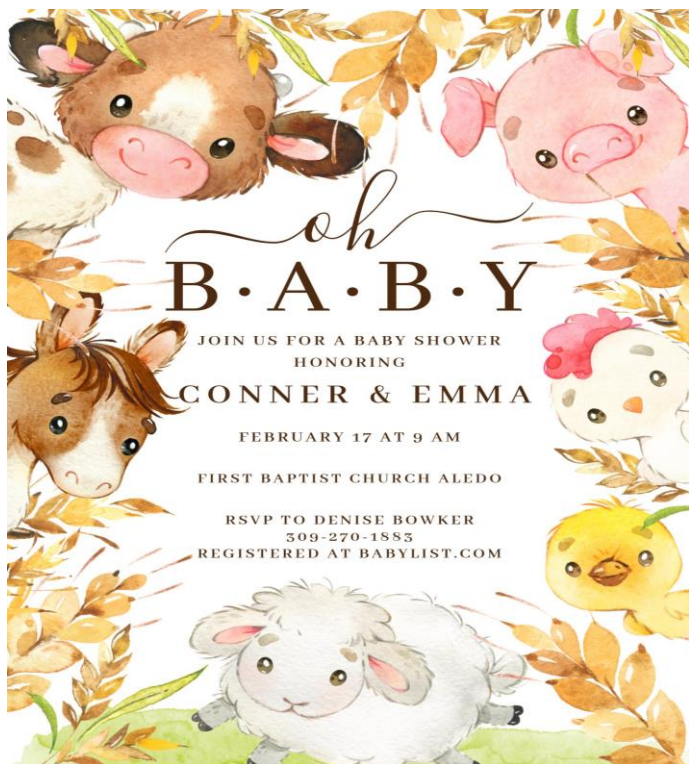
Flourish Women's Ministry

Wednesday Night Live Jan. 24th – March 20th

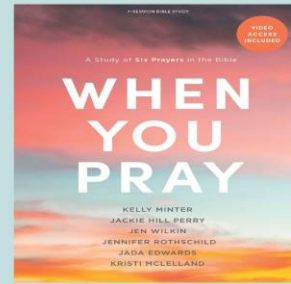
What is Wednesday Night Live? WNL is a series of classes & programs for the whole family held at First Baptist. The Winter/Spring Session of Wednesday Night Live will begin on January 24th-March 20th.

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. This class is meeting in the Lower Enon Room/Room #4.



Baby Christian is on the way!!!! Please join us on Saturday, February 17th at 9am in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Conner and Emma Christians's coming blessing! Men and kiddos are welcome! Please RSVP to Denise Bowker (309-270-1883). They are registered at BabyList.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

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. Aledo and now on Wednesdays FBC 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. Aledo.

Women's In-Home Wednesday Bible Study-Britni Ewing is hosting a verse-by-verse study of 1 Peter at her home. The class will be on Wednesdays at 1pm beginning March 6th. Handouts provided, bring your Bible and a notebook! Contact Britni 309-224-4184 for more details or directions to her home outside of Seaton.

These are ongoing studies, jump in any time.
Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.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 FIRSTBAPTISTALED.COM
More Info at FocalPointMinistries.net

WOMEN'S PIZZA & BAGS TOURNAMENT NIGHT

Friday, March 1st
5:30pm
Save The Date!



Vision & Input Sunday/Church Events



VISION SUNDAY
Sunday, February 4th
8am & 10:15am

Come see the vision for the future of First Baptist.

First Baptist Aledo exists to see lost people saved and saved people grow.

Vision Sunday-The reason First Baptist exists is to see two things happen in Mercer County. To see lost people saved, and saved people grow. Join us at either the 8am or 10:15am service when we will be hosting Vision Sunday as part of our morning worship services. Vision Sunday will be an opportunity to share with the church family many details about the potential building project as well as details about the fund raising component of the project. Topics to be presented include: What was the process? What is the project? Why this project & why now? How much does it cost? How will we pay for it? We hope you will plan to attend 1 of the 2 services so you can get a vision of the future for First Baptist Aledo.



INPUT FORUM SUNDAY
Sunday, February 11th
9am In Sunday School

Go to your Sunday School, or pick one and come share your input about what you learned at Vision Sunday.

If you don't regularly attend a Sunday School class, stop by the Welcome Desk at 9am and Pam can help you find a classroom to join for the discussion.

Sunday School Input Forums-On Sunday, Feb. 11th, we will be taking time during our 9am Sunday School hour to talk about the details we learned during Vision Sunday. We hope to gather input from the church family about what we heard to help us make decisions about how to best proceed with the building project. If you are a regular attender of Sunday School, simply join your class and a discussion leader will be present to facilitate this discussion. If you are not currently in Sunday School, we still want your participation so you can jump into any one of 5 adult Sunday School classes we have that day so you can participate as well. Pam will be at the Welcome Desk that morning to help direct you to a Sunday School class.



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



Baby Dedication Sunday!
SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD AT 8AM & 10:15AM
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE YOUR CHILD TO
THE LORD, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.



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



Easter
SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST

FBC Men's Ministry

What's Coming Up For The Men!

The Men's Ministry has a couple of events coming up in early February and March and an event in July that you will want to put on your calendar.

On Friday, February 2nd there will be a Men's Bags Tournament at the church. The event begins at 6pm with pizza and soda provided. You are asked to bring your favorite bag of chips or package of cookies to be shared. Bring your own partner or let us pick a partner for you. All men 13 years and older are welcome for this fun and fellowship event. On 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. Early bird registration has begun. You can sign up online. The cost is \$59 for adults and \$43 for students (13 -22 years old). Prices go up to \$79 and \$63 on February 18th. We will carpool to Davenport, leaving the Church at 7:15am and returning around 5pm that evening.

Then on July 20th, our annual 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. Watch for details and sign up coming in the spring.

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 the 8am service. It's a great time for fellowship and accountability. Men 13 years and older are welcome. If you have any questions about any upcoming events, please see Men's Ministry Chair, Kevin Ricke or Pastor Luke or Pastor Seth.



FOCAL POINT MINISTRIES PRESENTS

IRON SHARPENS IRON

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

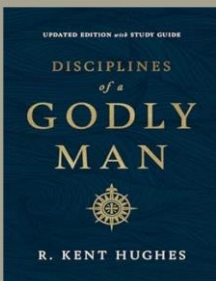


FBC MEN'S BAGS TOURNAMENT

Friday, Feb. 2nd at 6pm at FBC
For all men 13 years and up!
Pizza & Bags!
No need to sign up just show up!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6th Ave. Aledo

Men's Monday Night Study



Pastor Luke will be starting a men's small group study on Monday's beginning March 4th at 7pm. We will be studying "Disciplines of a Godly Man" by R. Kent Hughes. Sign-up is appreciated but not required at firstbaptistaledo.com

The Men's Ministry is hosting a bags tournament for men 13 years old and up. Friday, February 2nd at 6pm in the sanctuary. Double elimination style tournament. Pizza and soda will be provided. Men are encouraged to bring chips and/or cookies to share. Bring a partner if you wish, or one will be assigned to you at random. No need to sign up, just show up!

Wed Night Live

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!



General Study
Doctrines That Divide

Wednesday Night Live!

Jan 24th-March 20th - 6:30-8pm @ FBC
Classes & Programs for kids and adults!
Free Registration at firstbaptistaledo.com

Taught by Steve Struble

General Study
Believer Basics

Wednesday Night Live!

Jan 24th-March 20th - 6:30-8pm @ FBC
Classes & Programs for kids and adults!
Free Registration at firstbaptistaledo.com

Taught by Pastor Seth Bowker

Women's Study
Matthew - Verse By Verse

Wednesday Night Live!

Jan 24th-March 20th - 6:30-8pm @ FBC
Classes & Programs for kids and adults!
Free Registration at firstbaptistaledo.com

Taught by Sheri Olson

WNL
Refuge Study

6TH-12TH GRADES
JANUARY 24TH
ROOM 6 DOWNSTAIRS

control

D.A. Horton

rightnow MEDIA

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

TRASH TO TREASURE

www.firstbaptistaledo.com

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 WNL runs from Jan. 24th through March 20th 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. Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com under the Media and Events Tab and then select Sign up!

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

Refuge Student Study - We will have 1 Refuge student study for 6th-12th grades. Students are invited to join Pastor Austin during Wednesday Night Live for a study called "Control" by D.A. Horton. 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! 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. 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.

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

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

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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.
- 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.***

