



## Pastor's Perspective

Well, this will be my final newsletter for FBC. If my math is right, it will be nearly 300 articles I have written in the 18 years that I've been here. Some of you are doing the math and think I'm overestimating, but you may not remember that for several years we published 2 newsletters a month. When I was called to FBC George W. Bush was president. It's interesting to think that our country has had 5 presidents, but the church has had only one senior pastor in that amount of time. Even more interesting to think that FBC has only had three pastors in the past 60 years! God has been good to FBC and God has been good to us. We've been blessed here. We've seen a lot of changes, God has been mightily at work, and many people have been impacted by the ministry we were able to do together. Mollie and I have often talked about how strange it is to see kids attending Kid's Club whose mom or dad was once a kid who attended Kid's Club. We were blessed to be able to serve the Lord together under one roof.

We learned a lot. Every lesson I learned from success and failure I hope to take with me into our new calling. FBC took a chance on me 18 years ago. I was just 30 years old and had only led a small church of little more than 50 people for a few years when FBC called me. We were just starting our family and didn't even have 5 years of full-time experience at that point. When we moved to Aledo we had a car breakdown on the way, and when we got to Aledo we were hit by an ice storm that knocked out the power for 3 days. People joked that it was a bad omen, but I was never worried. I knew God called us to Aledo and I knew He had good things in store for us. We went through some hard things along the way, but God always brought us through. We're more seasoned now, but still just as excited to see what God can do. We are praying for FBC and the amazing things God will do in your next season. Pray for us too. I hope and pray our next season in ministry will be even more fruitful than our last. Thank you for so many good years. We will miss you all.

In Christ, Pastor Luke

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## 2025 Giving

Giving Needed to Meet 2025 Budget YTD - **\$ 191,722.24**

Current Expense Giving YTD - **\$199,114.75**

Building Fund Designations YTD - **\$126,596.08**

Deacon Fund Designations YTD - **\$1,743.00**

**Total YTD Giving - \$ 327,453.83**





GOOD  
BYE!

*It's hard to say goodbye...* As you know, Mrs. Mollie and her family have been called to a new church. May 11<sup>th</sup> will be her last Sunday serving in the FBC Kids Ministry. We are so very thankful for all the many ways she has poured into each child and family who attend our programs. She will be greatly missed. ❤️ Please join us on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the Sanctuary for the "Great Goodbye" Reception where we will be celebrating all the things the Lord has done in and through the Dunn family. More information about the event can be found within this newsletter.

We know change can be scary and confusing, so I want to walk you through what to expect in the coming weeks. My name is Denise Bowker and I will be the Interim Kids Ministry Director. I have been serving in the FBC Kids Ministry for over 10 years, so I am familiar with the programs we have all grown to love and anticipate. My goal is to keep offering great programs like VBS and Kids Club plus other engaging events that point kiddos and their families to Jesus. Although I have big shoes to fill, I look forward to leading the Kids Ministry and continuing to serve our FBC family and community.

The last two Sundays in May, Life Action will be here and leading the Kids' Sunday School and Kids Worship time. Those two weeks you'll check-in & pick-up kiddos downstairs, like normal, but with a member of the Life Action Team. Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, I will be teaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class with Stew Klink. All other Kids' Sunday School teachers are staying the same.

Nancy McMeekan will lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Kids Worship; I will continue to lead the Pre-K - 1<sup>st</sup> grade Kids Worship.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Interim Kid Min Director: Denise Bowker  
Cell: (309) 270-1883  
denise@firstbaptistaledo.com  
Church: (309) 582-7812



The winners of the Boys vs. Girls Food Wars are the BOYS and they're celebrating on Sunday, May 4th from 3-5pm at the Aledo YMCA. All participants must sign-up by Saturday, May 3rd to attend.

Check-in is inside the community room between 3-3:15pm. Pick-up is 4:50-5pm in the community room. This party is for all boy Kids Clubbers, Sunday Kids Worship boys, & their friends. Pre-k through 1st grade kiddos must have an adult stay & supervise them. The 2nd-5th grade kiddos may be checked in & dropped off.

\*All parents are welcome to stay. \*\*The pool will not be open for our party. Feel free to contact Mollie Dunn with questions at 309-371-6962.



## PROMOTION SUNDAY

Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School classes will have their promotion party in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. The following kiddos will be promoting to the next class: those going in to K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Students going in to 6<sup>th</sup> grade can stay with us for the party and then Mrs. Denise will take them into the Jr. High Sunday School Class with Pastor Austin.

Kids Worship kiddos going into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will promote into the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom with Mrs. Nancy. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduates may continue to attend Kids Worship through Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>.

## LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FUN

Come pick up a FREE popsicle and summer fun bag! Be on the look out for the Church bus at the following locations. Homeschool and private school Kiddos are invited to join us. We can't wait to see you there!

<b>Tue., May 20th</b> 11am - 12pm Joy Park 106 E Main St, Joy	<b>Tue., May 20th</b> 3pm - 4pm Joy Park 106 E Main St, Joy
<b>Tue., May 27th</b> 10am - 11am New Boston Ball Diamond 208 Jefferson St, New Boston	<b>Tue., May 27th</b> 2pm - 3pm North Side Park 308 NW 9 <sup>th</sup> St, Aledo

## COME AND JOIN US

# SUMMER CAMP

### Spring Valley Bible Camp

We have camp options for all grades. Get more info & register at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com).

**2025**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



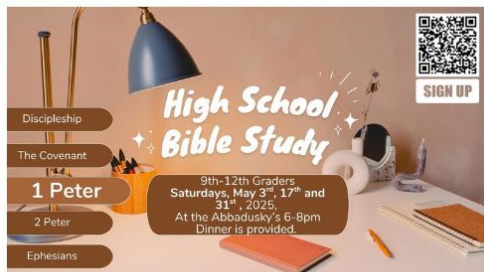
### TRUE NORTH

June 23rd - 27th  
3 years old - 5th grade  
Sign up online at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)



Trusting Jesus in a Wild World





# REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY

**Refuge at the Y!**-All 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students join us at the YMCA in Aledo for the Refuge youth group! Games, small groups, snacks, and more will be provided on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm (check-in) to 8:00 pm (pick-up). No Refuge May 21st, Life Action will be at our church, so please join us that evening!

**God's Gals-Girls in 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades** are invited to join us on Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room. The new study is "Graffiti: Learning to See the Art in Ourselves" by Erin Davis and will begin May 5th. Sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com).

**High School Bible Study**- Attention high schoolers, join us on May 3rd and 17th at 6pm as we study 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. Please be sure to bring your Bible. Dinner is provided and free to attend. This study meets at Nick & Justina Abbadusky's home-408 NE 12<sup>th</sup> St., Aledo.

**High school Mission Trip**-Students who have completed 9th- 12th grade are invited to join us this summer for our Week of Hope mission trip, June 13th-20th in Cincinnati, Ohio. Cost is \$300 per student. We will first be visiting the Ark on June 14th, and then June 15th- 20th, we are working with Group Mission Trips to serve the communities in Cincinnati. Please sign up online and fill out all forms by June 1st. Eight student spots are available; a deposit is required to reserve your spot. There will be a mandatory fundraiser on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. And a meeting on June 3rd that each student is required to attend.

**Jr.High Camp**- At Spring Valley Camp in Muscatine for students going into 6th-8th grade! 6th grade will be July 6th-11th and 7th-8th grade is July 13th-18th. Pastor Austin will be joining the 7th-8th graders at camp! Spring Valley Camp is a smaller, local, traditional camp. \*Parents are responsible for getting their camper to and from camp. To register, visit [www.springvalleycamp.org](http://www.springvalleycamp.org), pick a camp week, and register online. \*Please indicate that FBC will pay 50% of your child's camp fee. This discount can only be used for FBC families and regular FBC program attendees of Refuge. You're not finished! Make sure to register on the church's website underneath "FBC Camper Sign-up for Hidden Acres Camp & Spring Valley Camp Summer 2025" so your child is signed up with us and so we know to pay half of your camper's fee.

**Mission Trip Fundraiser** - On May 30th and 31st, Kady Hofer and the Refuge Mission Trip Team will be hosting a church basement sale. As you spring clean your closets, cupboards, basement, attic, or garage, please consider donating your unwanted items to the sale. We will be sharing drop-off dates in upcoming announcements. We thank you for your support! Questions: contact Kady Hofer or Rhonda McKinley.

**Promotion Sunday** - Sunday, June 1st, students in 5th grade can be promoted to Jr. High Sunday school with pastor Austin in the back Refuge room, they will start out that day in the fellowship hall with Mrs. Denise. 8th grade may be promoted to Mrs. Kim's high school class and will start in the Berean room that day. These students are also invited to join us on Wednesday nights, starting June 4th, for Refuge. Seniors can stay in Refuge until August 3rd.





**J.O.Y. Circle**  
**will be selling**  
**Pork Chops**  
**May 3rd from 11am-1pm**  
**At Mercer Market.**



**Proceeds benefit local families at Christmas**



**FBC**  
**MEN'S**  
**MINISTRY**



## Revive Our Hearts - True Woman '25

Buy Your Ticket & Reserve Your room for the True Woman '25! The True Woman Conference hosted by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth will be held Oct. 2nd-4th, 2025 in Indianapolis, IN. If interested in attending, please purchase your conference ticket yourself at <http://www.reviveourhearts.com>. Tickets are \$209. After you purchase your ticket, sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com) for lodging so we know to hold a shared hotel room for you. The Women's Ministry covers your hotel cost. You are responsible for food and transportation costs. Questions, see Crystal Clark or e-mail her at [crystal\\_clear\\_ann@yahoo.com](mailto:crystal_clear_ann@yahoo.com).







Dear Church Family, as we recently learned, Pastor Luke, Mollie, Maddie & Lucy have been called to a new church in Pennsylvania. While we are all so very sad to have learned this news, we are also rejoicing in their faithful tenure at FBC and the wonderful legacy that they have left here. We will be celebrating all the things that Lord has done in and through the Dunn family during the "Great Goodbye" Reception which will be **Sunday, May 11th** at 9am in the FBC Sanctuary.

We will be serving coffee and donuts and gathering in the sanctuary to fondly remember the Dunns, thank them for their ministry and wish them well on their way to their new town and church family. In preparation for this day, we ask that you all, young and old, consider sharing a card of prayer and encouragement, a note sharing a story of how they may have impacted your faith walk, or a letter sharing a memorable moment from their time at FBC. If you would prefer to leave a video message for the Dunns, please e-mail the church office at [fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net](mailto:fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net) and we will send you a link to share your video. Finally, if the Lord is placing it on your heart, we will be collecting a Love Offering for the Dunns. You may give your Love Offering via cash or a check made out directly to Luke or Mollie. All the cards, notes, letters and Love Offerings can be left in the card box located at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby. The card box is out now and will remain until their final day, which is Sunday, May 11th. There will be no Sunday School this day. Questions, see Pam Ricke. Thank you for helping us celebrate and appreciate the Dunn family!



If you have a Graduate that is not listed, please call the church office at 309-582-7812 ASAP so we can add them to our Grad recognition list!

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates

Eulea Homeschool  
Jady Ewing

Mercer County Jr. High  
Brookelyn Clark  
Grace Litwiler  
Maliyah Smith

Sherrard Jr. High  
Michael Montegna  
Robby Young

### High School Graduates

The Albertson School  
Riley Albertson

Mercer County High School  
Lucy Dunn

Muscatine High School  
Kira Holler

### College Graduates

Sean Klink – University of Maryland-Doctorate of Musical Arts

Mollie Dunn  
PHD in Clinical  
Biblical Counseling

### Graduation Recognition Sunday at FBC is May 11th at 10:15am



Do you have a 2025 8th Grade, High School or College Graduate in your family who isn't on our above list of Graduates?

If so, call the church office at 309-582-7812 no later than May 2<sup>nd</sup> so we can add them to the list.

Graduation Recognition Sunday at FBC is Sunday, May 11th during the 10:15am service.

## You are Invited!







## Life Action is Coming to FBC May 18th -25th!

**Hey FBC Family, we've got some exciting news!**

FBC is hosting a Life Action Summit at our church! Designed for the entire church family, the Life Action Summit provides a one-of-a-kind experience of reconnecting with God and transforming relationships. This will be a unique time where everyone will be able to take a pause from serving to be fully engaged and encouraged by this event, from the youngest in our church family to our most senior members. There is no cost to attend the Life Action Summit Events.

Please clear your calendars May 18-25<sup>th</sup> as we will have week night worship events for the whole family at 6:30pm and Sunday nights at 6pm. Ladies are invited to the Ladies' Luncheon on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30am & we'll have Home Life Cafe for everyone on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm.



**Ladies Luncheon**, join us Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30am-1pm in FBC's Fellowship Hall. We will have lunch and fellowship followed by a special message from the Life Action women's ministry. Free to attend. A nursery will be available. For those with home-schooled children, you may bring them and a Life Action Team Member will monitor them in a room designated as a Study Hall. A sack lunch needs to be brought for the home-schooled and nursery age children. During registration, please include all children that will be coming with you and make sure your medical notes are updated to include any food allergies. Sign up at [firstbaptistaledo.com](http://firstbaptistaledo.com)

**The Home Life Cafe** is set in a relaxed atmosphere and designed for **all** adults – singles, newlyweds, parents, grandparents, single parents – the discussions we have will provide you with practical tools for experiencing God in every relationship in your home. The sign up for this event will be through the Life Action Team once they arrive.



### How Can You Help?

We need vehicles for the team to drive while they are here during the Summit, call or text Pastor Austin Shields at 817-630-5522.

### 24 Hour Prayer Vigil

The Life Action team visit is quickly approaching. One of the best ways we can prepare our hearts and minds is to spend time in prayer. FBC will host a prayer night on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Plan to join us as we seek the Lord for Revival and ask Him to move in mighty ways during our time with Life Action. Nursery will be provided. In addition, a 24-hour prayer vigil will kick off at the close of the prayer night. Please plan to sign up at the Welcome desk for a 15 minute (or longer) time slot to pause and pray wherever you are for God's will to be done during this crucial week in the life of our church.





# Rhubarb Fest!

Hey church family, we will be selling pie by the slice at this year's Aledo Rhubarb Fest on Friday, June 6th to help fund two approaching activities for our youth and young adults. We have a few high schoolers that will be leaving for a Mission trip June 13th-20th, 2025 in Ohio, and we have a small group of young adults that will be attending a conference in January 2026. We are asking for your help in a variety of ways:



**Rhubarb growers** - If you have been blessed with a rhubarb crop this year and would like to share, we are asking for at least 35 – 1 gallon size bags filled with cut (1" pieces) and washed rhubarb. Please bring the fresh (not frozen) Rhubarb to the church between May 29th-June 1st, and place it in the basement refrigerator. If you have the rhubarb and would like someone else to harvest it for you, then just let us know!

**Seasoned Rhubarb Pie Makers** – We are looking for 3 seasoned rhubarb pie makers to impart their wisdom of rhubarb pie making to some of our youth on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, and possibly Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be using premade Amish crusts this year but need your skills to teach us how to make and assemble these pies. Those with an Oven – We are looking for volunteers within our church to pick up pies throughout the day on Wednesday June 4th, and possibly Thursday, June 5th to bake them. It will take about an hour to an hour and half for two pies. Free smells are included!

**Packaging Partners** – We would love to have a few volunteers on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to help with cutting and packaging the pie slices. Laughter and wonderful conversation will be included.

**Everyone** – Please lift all our high schoolers and young adults in prayer. We are praying that each group will continue to seek God and His will for their lives, to be encouraged and strengthened in their walks, and to be filled with His light and wisdom so they can continue to point others to Christ.

“Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints” Ephesians 6:18 (CSB)

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Justina Abbadusky at 563-506-8891 or [JustinaAbbadusky@gmail.com](mailto:JustinaAbbadusky@gmail.com). We appreciate all your help and support!

Thank you 

Thank you church family for your continued support of the Aledo Food Pantry collection. Also, thank you for helping us with items for the birthday bags to benefit pantry families.

A special thank you to John and Sherry Huffstutler for faithfully transporting all the items for us.

You're the best! Boomsisters

## Hygiene Drive

The Mercer County Health Department is hosting a Hygiene Drive for local schools. Donations can be brought to FBC by May 23<sup>rd</sup> and we will deliver them to the MC Health Department.

### Items needed include...

Shampoo and conditioner, Soap and body wash, Toothpaste and toothbrushes, Mouthwash and dental floss, Combs and brushes, Feminine hygiene products, Deodorant, Waterless shampoo and conditioner.

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

**PHONE: 309.582.7812**  
**E-MAIL: FBCALEDO2@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](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.**

