

Baptist Bugle



February 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris ~ Pastor Steve Larson

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Pastor's Ponderings –

Jonah 1:1, *“The word of the Lord came to Jonah.”* Question for you: What do you do when the word of the Lord comes to you? In other words, when God speaks to you, what do you do? When He has something He wants you to know, or do, or something He wants you to say, how do you respond? What about when God has somewhere He wants you to go, and you know you heard God speak. You know that God is speaking, you know it in your heart. What do you do?

Jonah ran away from the Lord when he heard the Lord speak to him. He went in the opposite direction, intentionally trying to get as far away from God as was physically possible. Well, that's not very smart, nor is it the least bit possible. We cannot run from God, He's everywhere. There is no where we can go that God is not there. Psalm 139:7-8 tells us, *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.”* But Jonah tried, he thought he could run from God.

Hebrews 4:13 says, *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”* Jeremiah 23:24 reminds us, *“Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him? Declares the Lord. Do I not fill the heavens and the earth? Declares the Lord.”*

Jonah ran and hid from God, he did not want to listen to the Lord when God spoke to him. Somehow Jonah thought it better to go in the opposite direction of God's plan. I wonder sometimes if Jonah really thought he could hide from God, or if maybe he was just looking for a place where he would not be able to hear God's voice calling him. Either way, his thinking was flawed. Maybe he was mad at God, that God was calling him to go to Nineveh and preach against it. Maybe he feared for his life in going into the Assyrian empire and preach in their capitol city. Maybe it was all of the above. But true as true, after lying in the belly of a good size fish for 72 hours, Jonah had a change of heart. He became willing to go and do as God had called him to do in the first place. Notice how, *“The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time...Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh.”* Jonah 3:1-3.

Funny how 3 days of really bad accommodations can redirect our vision and our motivation, in order to help us see that doing things God's way, in God's time, is always best.

How is it with you today? Are you in line with God's call on your life? Maybe you're not hiding in the bottom of a boat, but are you listening to God? Are you letting Him tell you who He wants you to be? Do you listen to His plan for your life? It sounds like such a simple thing, but will you allow me to be so direct. Are you listening for God's voice? He wants to speak to us, but we must be willing to listen. Yes, we can run from God, but we cannot hide from Him. If we try, we may not like where we end up. We may not like how God gets our attention. How much better that we would listen to God's voice and heed His call, (the first time). His ways are best. God promises His Holy Spirit will be with us, to lead us and guide us, to speak to us and teach us. We are not alone. May we be a people for God, listening to His voice, and walking in His directives.

God's ways are best,

Pastor Steve

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women of Prayer
Tuesdays at 2:00 pm



Men of Action
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm
All men are invited to come!
Beginning new study “The Bible Walk Through” with Roger Safranek

Women’s Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

New Study - “*Living in God’s Will*” *Book of Ruth*

All women are invited to come
Please contact Helen Brehm
815-942-6625



Women’s Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Have you ever wondered how all the passages in the Bible fit together?
Join us for this new study to see how the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
connects into a seamless thread.

New Study - “*Seamless*”
By Angie Smith

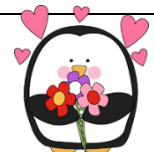
All women are invited to come
Please contact Colette Kirby
815-942-9527



Single Moms’ Group

Every Other Wednesday Evening at 5:30 pm

If you are a single mom or know of one who would
enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!



Congregational Prayer

Sunday, February 3rd

5:00 pm



Come gather together for prayer and praise!

Great Rivers Region – Area 1 Youth One Day Event Blackhawk Baptist Camp

All students in grades 6 – age 21 are invited to a youth get together at Blackhawk Baptist Camp on *February 2 from 1:00 – 4:00.*
The cost is *\$15 per student/\$30 per family.*

We have a great day planned with

- Indoor games (video, board, and card)
Lunch, pop and snacks
- Outdoor games (snow or no snow)
- A hike through the woods

Participants need to bring slippers for when they take off their boots inside.
Only those who are dressed appropriately for outdoor games will be allowed to participate in outside activities.

If you have any questions, please see Colleen Miller.



Awana Club
Registration February 3 @ 6 – 7 pm
First Baptist Church
Ages 4 yrs. to 8th grade

We are very excited to be starting up an Awana Club here at First Baptist Church!
Awana Club will be held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in the evening
Youth Group will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the evening
You can also pre-register by calling the church office @ 815-942-0812
Registration is required so we can order the materials needed –
Awana Club's first mtg. will be on Sunday, February 17th from 6-7:15

CPR Class Certification/Re-Certification

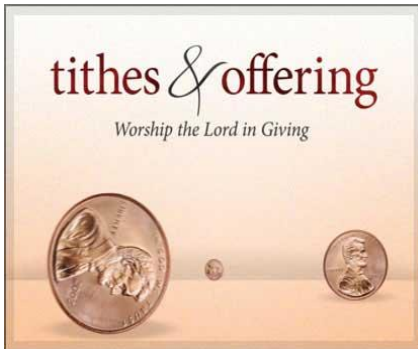
Anyone interested in taking a "Friends & Family" class please contact Leslie Meloun.
Leslie is offering a class for any age that is interested.

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
January (4 Sundays)	\$25,720.00	\$20,762.00

Church Mortgage Balance as of January 27, 2019 \$190,179.08

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



This past year \$650.00 has been given to be applied to the 'principal only'! Anyone wishing to contribute toward lowering the principal should write 'apply to principal only' on their check. For accounting purposes, it would be appreciated if you would write a separate check if giving for 'principal only', rather than including it in your regular giving check. Thank you!

SOWL Food

Looking for a volunteer willing to fill the need of organizing people and food for those that require a few meals brought to them while recovering from surgery or illness.

Please call the church office if you are interested, 815-942-0812.

JEWEL-OSCO FRESH DONATION

Jewel-Osco continues to donate fresh food each Sunday morning.

The donated fresh food is that which is dated and must be used.

We have a great need for volunteers to go to Jewel at 11am on Sunday mornings to pick up the food and bring it back to the church. If you are able to serve in this capacity once a month or so, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board near the library.

If you have any questions, please see Deb Ritke, our coordinator.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die".

John 11:25-26





Boards to Meet on Tuesday, February 12th

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm – Board of Trustees

6:30 pm – Board of Diaconates

The following notes were received –

Dear First Baptist Church,

Merry Christmas and a late Happy New Year! Thank you for all the care packages you have sent the past couple years and for the Christmas gift. We greatly appreciate all that you do for the troops and the endless support!

Much appreciated,

Danielle Fuentes

Nick Cuciti

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for helping us reach youth, their families and our community for Christ! We wish you many blessing in the upcoming year!

Christian Youth Center of Morris

Dear Family of First Baptist,

We wanted to take time and thank you for supporting the youth during this transition time. Without the support of our church family, we would be lost.

First and foremost we want to thank you for believing in us. Second, we want to thank you for not giving up on us.

The youth group has been supported in many ways, which we wanted to say thank you! Thank you to the drivers for youth events. Thank you for the monetary donations to help support the youth. With the money donated for the progressive dinner, it paid for 10 children that night. The youth still have some of the donated money to do future activities.

Thank you to those who have organized and helped with events. Most of all we want to thank those who have put their time into us.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Your First Baptist Youth and Leslie Meloun

Church Chuckles – *Josh was trying to teach his puppy to walk alongside him by reading the Bible to him. When asked why, he said, “I’m using the healing power of prayer.”*

February Birthdays

- 1 David Alford
- 3 Jennifer Goebel
- 6 Betsy Clay, Jordyn Leigh Gonnam, Mary Warrick
- 7 Jennifer Gonnam, Hannah Hitchcock
- 9 Bob Arnsdorff
- 10 Chad Larsen
- 12 Rhonda Hall
- 13 Brinley Swiggett
- 15 Nancy Foss
- 16 Helen Brehm, Tanya Downey, Patty Graves, Terry Wakeman
- 18 Jacob Meloun, Janice Thompson
- 20 Megan Valdivia
- 21 Ben Kelly, Jennifer Smith
- 22 Rosie Beal, Deb Bounds, Bob Brown, Drew Larsen, Shirley Mills
- 26 Randal Ritke
- 28 Kiersten Clark, Maribeth Heggen



February Anniversaries

- 1 Bill and Judy Needham
- 6 Ralph and Donna Binion
- 9 Bill and Linda Burden
- 18 Bob and Kim Marx
- 24 Robert and Nancy Krug





Join Us For Sunday School

Sunday mornings
9:30 am – 10:30 am

Nursery – 3 years and under
Preschool – 2nd Grade, Teacher Lisa Vaksdal
3rd – 5th Grade, Teacher Kayla Hamilton
6th – 8th Grade, Teacher Diane Gagliardo
9th – 12th Grade, Teacher Mary Motter
Adults – Teachers, Jeff and Claudette Swiggett



Youth Group
Every 2nd and 4th Sunday
6:00 pm

Details of Events will be posted as they are scheduled!

BOUNCE 2019

CYCM and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) are sponsoring another FREE youth event @ CYCM on February 16, from 7-10pm. **BOUNCE** is a high school only event, and it has two parts. Did we mention it's free!

1. At 7:00 there is an NBA style three point shooting contest (30 balls in 60 seconds from 5 points on the 3 point arc). We have room for 40 slots (20 girls and 20 boys), and due to generous donations, we can give out an airpod, a JBL speaker, and an Amazon Echo Dot to each first, second, and third place winners respectively. It's first come, first serve, so anyone who wants to participate should email director@cycmorris.com. The competition is free to enter.
2. At 8:00 we will begin the concert portion of the event. We have two Christian hip-hop artists coming down from Wisconsin - BTM featuring his upcoming album, *WAXPOETIC* and N (Nehemiah Heckler). Any kids there by 8:00, will enter their name into a drawing to win a free airpod by the end of the night. Later in the night, we will have a devotion and/or presentation of the gospel message.

Other attractions will be a bonfire, smore's and a photo-booth.



Relay for Life Fund Raiser

Saturday, February 16th

10am – 2pm

At First Baptist Church

Teresa Chapman will be having the following vendors –

Scentsy

Mary Kay

Pampered Chef

Tupperware

Lip Sense

Paparazzi

Norwex

Color Street

and these are just to name a few! There will be raffle baskets of the products that are being sold that day. There is no charge to get in, but donations are appreciated. Teresa will have her computer set up for anyone that would like to make a donation to her “Team” or sign up to join her “Team”. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Chapman at 815-545-3181.

February

*You've heard the expression “Forgive and forget”
-but is it really possible? Perhaps someone once hurt you
very deeply – and the emotional scars still ache in your memory.
The last thing you think you could ever do is forgive and forget.*

*And yet Jesus goes even farther: He not only tells us to forgive and forget,
but to love the one who hurt us and pray for their welfare. We aren't to
erase them from our memories; we are to keep them in our prayers!*

Impossible? Yes – without God's help.

*“You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.”
But I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you”.*

Matthew 5:43-44





*"Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You.
I will praise You as long as I live".*

Psalm 63:3-4

