

Baptist Bugle

March 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris ~ Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 ~ Morris, Illinois

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Pastor's Ponderings –

Do you ever wonder what God is thinking? I think we all do once in a while. We wonder what He's thinking when something awful happens in the world. We wonder what He thinks of us. When something bad happens in our life we wonder if God made that happen because He's mad at us, or is He punishing us, or is He getting back at us for some reason. That's the way people operate, but not God. He really doesn't need to 'get back at us'. He does many times want to teach us something, and that can be through discipline and correction. And to be sure punishment will come if we refuse to repent as He calls us to repent and follow Him in obedience. But the flat tire on the way to work, or the morning coffee spilled on the laptop is probably not God's way of 'getting back at you' for your lack of whatever it is that you think God is mad at you for. Many times we can get caught up in this mindset that 'God is really mad at me', and with His heavy-handed fist, or hammer as some tend to think, He's always looking for ways to bring it down on our head in order to smash us like a bug. Now let's be clear, the Bible says very plainly, "*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord...as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.*" *Isaiah 55:8-9* But God is not all about coming down on you with His bug thumb in order to squash you flat.

We understand that we cannot know the mind of God. We aren't going to know what God is thinking. But we can know enough about the heart and the mind of God to know He loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives. *Isaiah 55:7* tells us to "*turn to the Lord because He will have mercy on us, and to turn to our God because He will freely pardon.*" *Isaiah 55:6* instructs us to "*seek the Lord while He may be found and to call upon Him while He is near.*" Why are we invited to do this? Because God promises that when we do, He will freely pardon us and have mercy on us. Does that not give us some very clear vision into what God is thinking? *Isaiah 55:1* is very clear, it says, "*Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.*" God's heart is one of invitation and tremendous giving, especially to those who cannot afford it. God thinks of you in terms of love, grace and mercy. In other words, God loves to pardon sinners and set them free.

As we prepare for Easter this year, so many people need to know that God is thinking about them. Is there someone that needs to be introduced to the inviting heart of God? Be praying for them. They need to know how much God loves them, and that He sent His son to die on the cross to save them and set them free. They need to have the opportunity to hear the Gospel and be introduced to the One who loves them with such full extension of grace and love and mercy that His Son stretched out His arms on the Cross of Calvary, shedding His precious blood for all. In so doing Jesus said, "I love you this much."

Together in this ministry with you...of calling people to Christ, that they might see the heart of One who loves them. We invite them to come to Him and receive freely and fully.

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

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, March 3rd

5:00 pm



Come gather together for prayer and praise!

March

So how do we grow spiritually? We grow through the study of God's Word. We will never grow in grace and in the knowledge of God until the Bible becomes part of our lives every day.

We grow through prayer. We grow as well through our fellowship with other believers. Finally, we grow by witnessing. Just as exercise makes us physically stronger, exercising our faith by sharing it with others makes us spiritually stronger. Are you sharing the story of His love with others?

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 3:18



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.

Area I Youth Board Meeting

Saturday, March 2

8:00am - 3:00pm

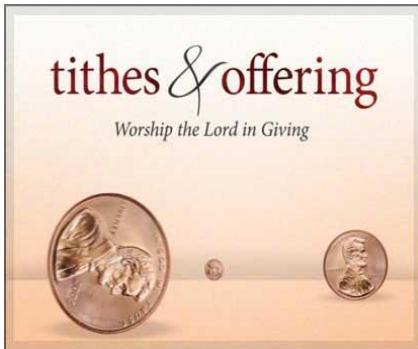
First Baptist Church

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
February (4 Sundays)	\$25,720.00	\$22,930.87

Church Mortgage Balance as of February 24, 2019 \$183,059.00

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



This past year \$770.00 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

Just to let you know, Judy Needham has taken over the SOWL Food Ministry!
Thank you Colette for filling in!

Please call the Judy if you are in need of meals following surgery or are ill at
815-922-1034.

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.

Sometimes you have to let go of the picture
of what you thought life would be like
and learn to find joy in
the story you are actually living





Boards to Meet on Tuesday, March 12th

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm – Board of Trustees

6:30 pm – Board of Diaconates

Our Deepest Sympathies to the family of Tammi Hamilton. Tammi went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 19. Our thoughts and prayers are with Drew and Kayla Hamilton and their families.

The following note was received –

Dear Friends at First Baptist Church,
Thank you for coming to my Retirement Party and for all the cards!
Matthew Spangler



“A Night with the Stars” of First Baptist Church

- What:** A fund raiser for the youth of the church, while helping members of the church to complete small tasks for a starting bid of \$5.00. The youth will host a night starting with an auction, followed by fellowship and fun!
- When:** April 13th at 4:00pm ~ ?
- Where:** First Baptist Church of Morris
- Who is invited:** EVERYONE!

We will have finger foods, appetizers and desserts for tips, also

Donation cards will be available prior to the auction
Any questions, contact Leslie Meloun



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!



Awana Club
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
at **6:00 – 7:15pm**

You can register by calling the church office @ 815-942-0812
Registration is required so we can order the materials needed –

Awana Club's mtgs. this month will be on Sunday, March 3 and 17

"Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22:6



March Birthdays

- 1 Bonnie Glerup
- 2 Sondra Rankin
- 3 Max Aitkenhead, Tiffany Clark, Elizabeth Johnson, Earlene Stulgis, Katie Whalen
- 6 Paul Livingston
- 9 Sam Motter
- 11 Laurie Wilkinson
- 12 David Findlay, Jim Paulson
- 13 Lynn Cox, Brian Gagliardo, Joe Hemmersbach
- 14 Seth Larson
- 15 Jan Kresse, Bucky Phillips, Dan Scott
- 18 Tana Snyder
- 19 Jay Gonnam, Kaitlyn Kokemiller
- 20 Mike Matuszewski
- 21 Donna Binion, Peggy Laing
- 22 Kelli Diaz
- 24 Jane Battersby
- 25 Matt Spangler
- 26 Gretchen Goebel, Shannon Motter
- 28 Melanie Cunningham, Chris Zierman
- 30 Kayla Hamilton, James Sellers
- 31 Doris Lanning, John O'Brien, Alyssa Schultz

March Anniversaries

- 2 Bob and Mary Hill
- 7 Tracey and Alicia Steffes
- 12 Marty and Shirley Myre
- 15 Jeff and Claudette Swiggett
- 16 Chris and Erin Lutz, Terry and Mary Warrick
- 17 Emmett and Bonnie Joneson
- 19 John and Carla O'Brien
- 21 Keith and Jennifer Smith
- 24 Michael and Tiffany Clark



Books of the Bible

Old and New Testament

LYRMMXNICCTXKRSOMAHFKMWYGMICAHTR
 VLRRJRRTKAOXIHICALAMTKT1KHEMDTKTS
 L XKRTKDZYGLDMNNJQRQTZRSDTNYKZGE
 LKGM LDWYMGOJZMGXTDHABLAJOEMGRT
 REVELATIONOASKGNHTMQNF LMMMSTMS
 SBREVORPCJWNHSSNHOJ1R1NFTUF IITA
 PHILIPP IANSXOAIZR2RBNTFRHHERTSI
 TYHCTRCTMKLNLRLATTTRTBHWDCFHLL2S
 MPVAHEBREWMAKEHNZPKNEBPASTNLRE
 HHRWNNHXVHSSHETVSR LJSVNTNK1PRL
 AAKMMORBZ2AANSULUKEEVSH2PAIPKNC
 BIGLLKJRPLIISANMKEDLPAESGIVEKOC
 AMWTDYOEXRHAAYIRCUDMVLXAVTHTLME
 KENNGMTNAALGJSXHJNBGROOMRACEYOZ
 KHQJAEHHIOALMBITTYVTBNDUJLYRLL1
 UEHNRRNCMNGFRNMTVKNTCQUIERAKFZOC
 KNSFNEEIQXJXZPNHBDITLASLJGMTTSH
 MHTLZRAATJBNCENHMWVRCNLGQKTEBFR
 TVFNENXCQFKRBDQALJNLOS RHZSQSOO
 XTYJSLTTSNAIHTN IROC1FCMLENWLHGN
 ZFZRTFN SHBHDHNM DLZTMNN2LSZSHLNI
 RRBQRUTHWJONNTZAS MVKMMCNJEREDOC
 YBYESTHERLSLKENBUFLTTIAKGNIWBSL
 SREBMUNDKPEKPNZOTMHFNINDRKQEKQE
 SGNIK2YMTVAHOJM JINRO SXUHEWTHXJS
 KLA KPFTCIDAM1RODTLRENJRZORKTXXR
 GNVVRKTTMNEKKECFRHHKHNEXTJNTPLD
 JRHPBBIRILIGLLTKCPVOCJHJR2AMFM
 KVSJMCTA INXMM LX2EKMBJLWONONMLVV
 VROYUNHHGVYHTOMIT1BK3TQNBDRVHL
 MBJSQKPSTLAMENTATI ONSWBTL LXNZXR

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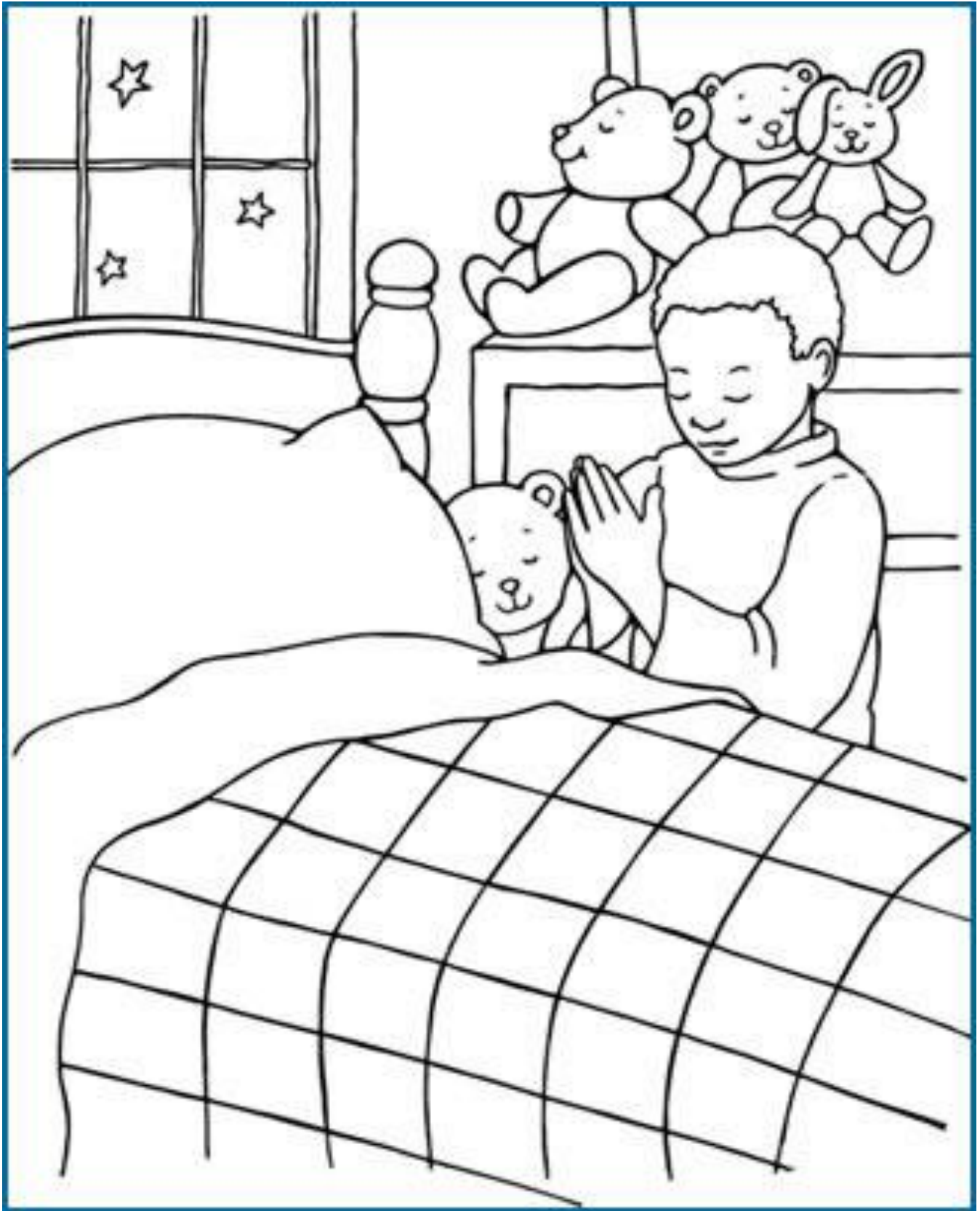
1 Chronicles
 1 Corinthians
 1 John
 1 Kings
 1 Peter
 1 Samuel
 1 Thessalonians
 1 Timothy
 2 Chronicles
 2 Corinthians
 2 John
 2 Kings
 2 Peter
 2 Samuel

2 Thessalonians
 2 Timothy
 3 John
 Acts
 Amos
 Colossians
 Daniel
 Deuteronomy
 Ecclesiastes
 Ephesians
 Esther
 Exodus
 Ezekiel
 Ezra

Galatians
 Genesis
 Habakkuk
 Haggai
 Hebrews
 Hosea
 Isaiah
 James
 Jeremiah
 Job
 Joel
 John
 Jonah
 Joshua

Jude
 Judges
 Lamentations
 Leviticus
 Luke
 Malachi
 Mark
 Matthew
 Micah
 Nahum
 Nehemiah
 Numbers
 Obadiah
 Philemon

Philippians
 Proverbs
 Psalms
 Revelation
 Romans
 Ruth
 Song of Solomon
 Titus
 Zechariah
 Zephaniah



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."

Proverbs 3:5

IT'S A
Baby Shower



Baby Girl Lawrence

for

March 9 at 11:00 am

date & time

First Baptist Church

place

Sarah's Family/815-370-2395

hosted by/rsvp

Target & Amazon

registered at



PLEASE JOIN US
FOR

A Bridal Shower

in honor of

MORGAN

Kussey

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 AT 11:00 AM

First Baptist Church

1650 W. Rt. 6
MORRIS, IL

RSVP TO 815-735-0588
BY March 6, 2019

*Morgan is registered at
Bed Bath & Beyond and Menards*



