

# Baptist Bugle

May 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris ~ Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 ~ Morris, Illinois

Phone: 815-942-0812 ~ FAX: 815-942-2763 [fbmorris@csky.net](mailto:fbmorris@csky.net) ~ [www.fbmorris.org](http://www.fbmorris.org)

## Pastor's Ponderings –

*“I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (From Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter, verses 50-57)*

Paul writes again in his first letter to the Thessalonians in the fourth chapter verses 13-18, *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

There are a lot of things about death that we don’t understand. We are quite often troubled, confused and usually saddened by death. We fear death, and so often lose sight of the eternal perspective. But Paul gives us that proper perspective in these two passages of Scripture. When someone dies we tend to focus on the fact that their struggle is over, there is no more pain or suffering. And all of that is most certainly true. But there is a much greater struggle that the person will never have to deal with again. They will forever more be free from the struggle with sin. They have forever been set free from the battle of sin, once they enter heaven’s eternal home. Sin absolutely wages war on the body, mind and spirit. Its ravaging effects on each one of us is brutal....sin destroys. And yet for those who are trusting in Christ, when we leave this world and this broken sinful body behind to enter eternity, we will never

have to struggle with sin again. Have you ever pondered what it would be like to have even one day with absolutely no sin in your life? We can't even begin to fathom what that would be like, and yet when we get to heaven, that is indeed what it will be for all of eternity. Sin will be gone forever. Yes, all sickness and pain and suffering will be gone too, and we praise God for that. But, much more importantly, sin will forever more be wiped away.

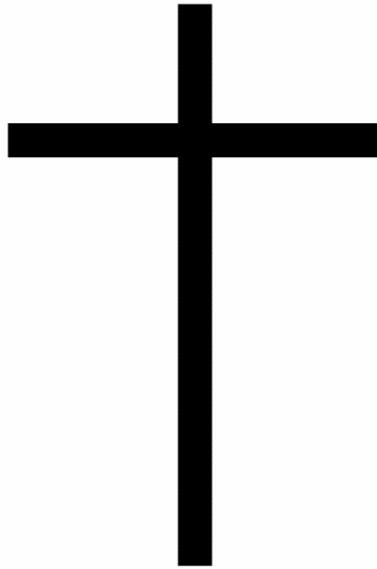
“When we all get to Heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be?  
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout for victory!”



Do not lose hope; for we have so much to look forward to in Christ. AMEN!

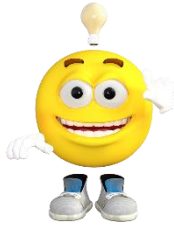
Blessings to you,

*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!

### Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm  
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Helen Brehm  
815-942-6625



### Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
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!



“Keep asking, and it will be given to you.  
Keep searching, and you will find.  
Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.  
For everyone who asks receives,  
and the one who searches finds,  
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

## Congregational Prayer

Sunday, May 5

5:00 pm

Come gather together for prayer and praise!



### Boards to Meet on Tuesday, May 14

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm – Board of Trustees

6:30 pm – Board of Diaconates

### **MOBILE MEALS**

**Thank you so much to all who volunteered their time delivering Mobile Meals in April!**



### Fellowship Breakfast Hour

June 2 – August 11

9:15-10:30

A Continental Breakfast will be served each Sunday

A sign-up sheet is available on the foyer table

Church will provide cereal, jelly, milk and juice

### **CPR Class**

#### Certification/Re-Certification

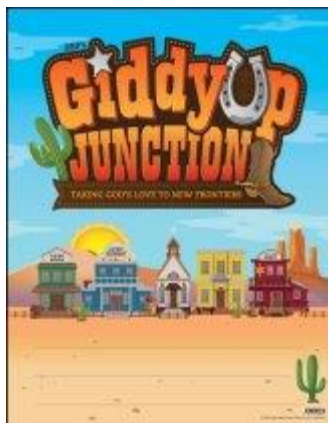
Anyone interested in taking a

“Friends & Family” class

please contact Leslie Meloun.

Leslie is offering a class for any

age that is interested.



## **VBS**

(Vacation Bible School)

July 22-26

5:30 – 8:00pm

Ages 4 yrs. thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Our theme this year is “**GiddyUp Junction**”

Any questions please call the church office at 815-942-0812

*“Each of you should look not only to your own interests,  
but also to the interests of others.”*

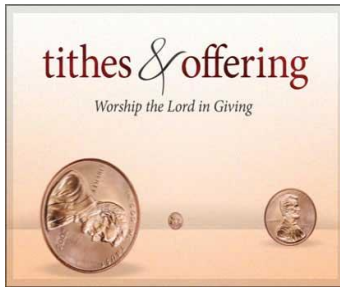
Philippians 2:4

## UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
April (4 Sundays)	\$25,720.00	\$21,605.00

Church Mortgage Balance as of April 28, 2019 \$167,122.42

*Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!*



This past year \$3,645.00 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!

## 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.

## Feed My Starving Children

**Saturday, May 11**

**11:30-1:30pm and 2:00-4:00pm**

We will once again be volunteering at the "Feed My Starving Children" facility in Aurora.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year we have gone and it is an amazing day of packing meals to feed children around the world!

*A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer*





## Join Us For Sunday School

Sunday mornings  
9:30 am – 10:30 am

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



Youth Group

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

6:00 pm

Details of Events will be posted as they are scheduled!



Awana Club  
First Baptist Church  
Ages 4 yrs. to 8<sup>th</sup> grade

We are very excited to have started an Awana Club here at **First Baptist Church!**

Awana Club is held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at **6:00 – 7:15pm**

You may register by calling the church office @ 815-942-0812

Registration is required

Awana Club's mtg. this month will be on Sunday, May 5 and May 19



Let's "Go Fly a Kite"!

Sunday, May 5

2:00 pm

The Men of Action are holding an afternoon

of kite flying on the church lawn -

So bring your kite and have a great time

It's a fun activity for all ages!!

# MIDDLE GROUP

Ages 20-50

We are looking for someone willing to take over the Middle Group, they meet once every quarter or so.

If anyone is interested, please contact the church office at 815-942-0812.

## Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 19, 2019

We will recognize all our graduates at both services on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. If we have inadvertently left out a graduate, please let the office know.

College - Ben Paulson, Rebecca Ellis

High School - Zita Goebel, Jenna Emmons, Mason Chapman, Olivia Schultz,  
Grace Alford, Gina Misek

Junior High - Avah Hitchcock, Myah Hitchcock, Peyton Chapman, Peighton Murphy,  
Clare Beeler, Drew Larsen, Chris Crow, Dylan Aguilar, Lauren Emmons



### Memorial Sunday

May 26, 2019

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one or friend, please use the Memorial Cards located on the table in the foyer. You may place your gift and card in the offering plate or turn into the church office by Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.



### National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2

5-7pm

Courthouse Lawn

Please note the time change this year and be in prayer for our nation! Any questions, please call the church office.

*"Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved."*

*Ephesians 2:4-5*

## May Birthdays

- 1 Chris Day, Ardele Willis
- 2 Bob Coleman, Faye Chisler, Debbie Kosters
- 6 Ken Stulgis
- 7 John Camp, Ben Paulson
- 8 Paige Elizabeth Baker
- 9 Julie Applegate
- 10 Kay Hemmersbach
- 11 Tim Wilkinson
- 12 Sophia Diaz, Jordan Ogg
- 13 Alberta Larson
- 14 Paul Carlson, Kelly Mote
- 15 Doug McCaleb, Adelyn VandenBos, Tiffany Day, Elizabeth Wehr
- 16 Jacie Punke, Linda Shannon
- 18 Mary Motter
- 19 Bethany Graman
- 20 Dorothy Bricker
- 21 Hannah Leiter, Bonnie Webster
- 22 Amelia Hiney, Russ Kearney, Paul Warrick
- 23 Shirley Sater
- 25 Brady Bowen, Sandra Chismarick, Cindy West
- 26 Michael Meloun
- 27 Andrew Meloun, Debbie Polanshek
- 29 Bob Hill
- 31 Ryder Kein



*Felicity Mae*  
*Born April 23, 2019*  
to Ben & Sarah Lawrence

Maternal Grandparents  
Steve & Kristi Larson  
Maternal Great Grandma  
Alberta Larson

**Congratulations!!!!**

## May Anniversaries

- 3 Mark and Lisa Vaksdal
- 5 Abel and Megan Valdivia
- 6 Jay and Faye Chisler, Rich and Kelly Mote
- 19 Joe and Debbie Doyle
- 23 Dorsey and Lori Foster
- 24 Jim and Jennifer Goebel
- 25 Ken and Earlene Stulgis
- 29 Dave and Christi Punke
- 30 John and Mary Camp





# *A Mother's Love*

*by Helen Steiner Rice*

A Mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain...  
It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away...  
It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters  
even though the heart is breaking...  
It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty  
of the rarest, brightest gems...  
It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret  
like the mysteries of creation...  
A many splendored miracle  
man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.

*With Love,*

*Happy Mother's Day*

**Our Deepest Sympathy** to the family of Verna Purdue. Verna passed away on Sunday, April 14. Our love and prayers go out to her family.

### **A Note From.....**

A big heartfelt thank you to all our friends at First Baptist for all the kind acts and congratulatory wishes for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

God bless you all,

Jim and Brenda Downey

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I would like to thank the ladies of the First Baptist Church of Morris for all the time and thought in creating great, healthy meals for the St. Vincent Table; held every Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church in Morris.

These ladies not only make balanced meals, but create friendships with our weekly guests. Along with the other area churches and organizations in Morris, 1,647 meals were served organizations in 2018.

God bless and thank you again,

Pat Hexdall

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### May Basket Day

Springtime is often associated with occasions like [Mother's Day](#) and [Easter](#), but back in the day, the season used to get its very own unique and romantic holiday called May Day, or May Basket Day. Back in the 19th and 20th centuries, people rang in the first of May with a particularly charming and elegant tradition. They would take all the flowers that they had gathered at the end of April's showers, arrange them in pretty paper along with [some gifts](#) and candies, and then hang them on the doors of friends and neighbors as a way of welcoming them into warmer weather, according to a report by [NPR](#). It was also a special way of letting a romantic prospect know that you cared for her, as boys would often hang baskets on the doorknobs of the ladies they fancied, knocking on their doors before bolting away. If the lady in question caught the gentleman leaving the basket, she was then tasked with chasing him down in an effort to steal a kiss. But as charming as this all sounds, the custom could also lead to some awkward scenarios. The Taunton, MA *Gazette* reported in 1889 that one unfortunate fellow walked a mile and a half to present his May basket to his potential sweetheart, only to find that a basket was already there from another man, according to [WBUR News](#). While there were the occasional romantic disappointments, it was mostly a day of celebrating. In fact, the way that Louisa May Alcott describes the day in her children's book, *Jack and Jill*, it almost sounds like Christmas:

*"Such a twanging of bells and rapping of knockers; such a scampering of feet in the dark; such droll collisions as boys came racing round corners, or girls ran into one another's arms as they crept up and down steps on the sly; such laughing, whistling, flying about of flowers and friendly feeling—it was almost a pity that May-day did not come oftener."*

