



# Baptist Bugle

July 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris ~ Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 ~ Morris, Illinois

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## Pastor's Ponderings –

Why do you think it is that there is such a lack of leadership today? And maybe, more specifically, a reluctance to lead as God lays out leadership. It's a real reluctance to follow Christ's example of leadership. We have an extreme desire to be popular and accepted. We can't offend anyone with what we do, say, believe in, or stand for. What if Jesus would have taken that approach to leadership?! YIKES!!! Christians are told they can't stand up for Jesus; they can't use His name when they pray. They're not allowed to stand against anything, regardless of what God's Word says about it. We're told that as Christians, we must discard our convictions and embrace whatever we're told to embrace. But at the same time, we're told that a Christian is qualified simply as someone who lives in America. Wait, What?!! How is it that the same people that say Christians are hateful and intolerant, can also say that a Christian is simply anyone who's an American? Oh well, what do you expect from worldly wisdom. Meanwhile, Christians have become conditioned to be afraid to stand on Biblical principles and speak the name of Jesus in public for fear of who it may offend.

And what is it that we are so afraid of when we read Scriptures such as this; *“He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful”*. 1 Corinthians 1:8-9.

I really think a lot of the problem is that we have somehow convinced ourselves that we have to bring something to the table when it comes to leadership. Nothing could be further from the truth. If we would stop and think about it, we'd realize that we can't bring anything, we have nothing to offer. In order to lead as God lays out leadership, we must first lay it all down, die to self, and let God lead us. I think so many times the reason we're so afraid to stand for Christ, and/or stand on what the Bible says, is really because we are trying to lead in our own strength, or maybe more aptly put...we're trying to lead ourselves. You realize don't you, that you and I were never, ever meant to lead anything without first following Jesus with our whole heart. Leadership is great, and God calls us to lead, but never until we have first surrendered our heart and life to Jesus Christ and follow Him fully. Standing up for Christ, and standing on His Word, (and therefore leading), is only possible as God first equips us to do so. We must surrender to Christ.

Leadership really comes down to ‘the cost of discipleship’. There is a very real cost to being a disciple of Jesus Christ. And sadly, very few are willing to pay that cost for discipleship, and our country is showing the result of it. A lot of people want to lead, but not as many want to truly follow Christ. A lot of people want to call themselves a Christian, but all too few are truly willing to lay it all down for the cost of discipleship. Paul tells Titus, “*You however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine*”. “*In everything, set them an example by doing what is good*”. Why? Why teach? Why lead? Why count the cost, and be a disciple of Jesus Christ? Why lay it all down for Him? Because as Paul tells Titus, “*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people*”. Jesus loves people, He wants them to know Him. We are to be the example of Christ’s love, in order that they would know how much Jesus loves them.

**“Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow”.**

**Jesus paid it all, for all of us!**

*Pastor Steve*

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

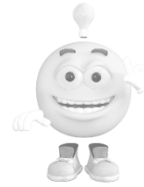


Women of Prayer  
Tuesdays at 2:00 pm

## Men of Action

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm  
All men are invited to come!

**NO Men of Action to meet on Tuesday, July 16th**



## Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm  
Beginning new study on July 10 *"Who is the Holy Spirit?"*  
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Helen Brehm  
815-942-6625

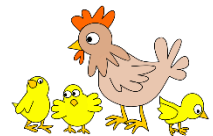
## Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
All women are invited to come  
Studying "Letters to the Church" by Francis Chan  
Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527  
**NO Evening Bible Study on Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**



## 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!



**Important**

*There will be*  
**NO COMMUNION July 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*Communion will be given on*  
**July 14<sup>th</sup> this month!**

## Congregational Prayer

Sunday, July 7  
5:00 pm



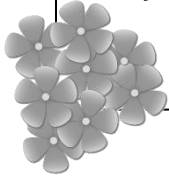
Come gather together for prayer and praise!  
We will be meeting in the old Adult Sunday School Room

Boards to Meet on Tuesday, July 9

5:30 pm - Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm - Board of Trustees

6:30 pm - Board of Diaconates



*"When God gives you a new beginning,  
don't repeat the old mistakes."*

Fellowship Breakfast Hour

June 2 - August 11

9:15-10:30am



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



*Nursing Homes*

*Friday, July 5*

*1 - 3:00pm*

*Park Pointe Assisted Living  
The Gardens at Part Pointe  
Regency Care*

*We will be singing and  
bringing God's message  
to the residents*

*All are invited to join in!*



*One Kind Word  
can change someone's  
ENTIRE Day*

SEMI-ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

The Semi-Annual Church Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All reports will be presented orally with the exception of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer, as they will hand out written reports. All who consider First Baptist their church home are encouraged to attend and become updated and informed on what's happening in the life of the church.

**\*\*Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.**

**ALL REPORTS FOR THE SEMI-ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MTG. NEED TO BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICE BY JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>! PLEASE....**

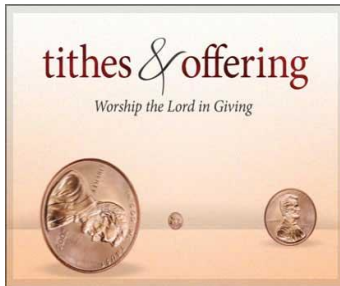


# UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
June	\$25,720.00	\$21,656.35

Church Mortgage Balance as of June 23, 2019 \$152,171.53

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



This past year \$5,600.00 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.

## Notes received.....

To all of our faithful Friends at First Baptist Church,  
We are so very grateful for friends like you at this time of sorrow, for your prayers and kind thoughts of sympathy that we can cling to for comfort and strength.

With love to you all from our hearts to yours,  
Gary, Char, Ron & Larry Orndorff



## 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.

*"God promises to make something good out of the storms that bring devastation to your life."*

Romans 8:28



**REMEMBER** there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL during the summer months!



**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

**There will be NO Awana Club mtgs.**

**this month...**

**Awana will meet again on**

**August 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>!**



**Youth Group**

Sunday, July 14

1-6pm

Youth Cookout

First Baptist Church,

Aurora

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 Saturday, July 27

10:30am - 4:30pm

Canoe Trip

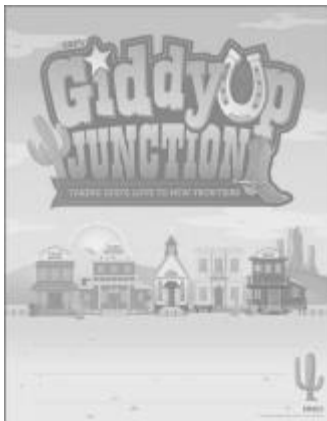
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 Sunday, July 28

6:00pm

Youth Group

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 Any questions, contact

Leslie Meloun



**VBS**

(Vacation Bible School)

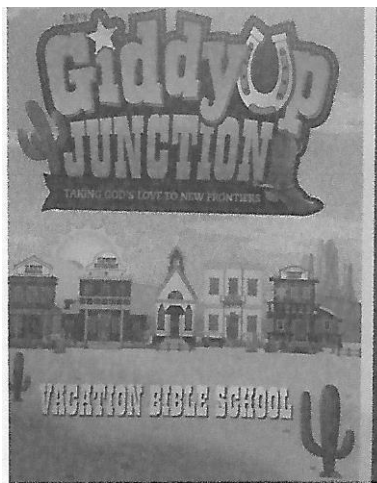
July 22-26

5:30 – 8:00pm

Ages 3 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



## JOIN US!

**WHO!** - You!! And your friends - anyone ages 3 years old - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**WHAT?** - **VBS** - join us for games, crafts, singing, great food, fun and God's Word!

**WHEN?** - July 22- 26 at 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (a meal will be provided at 5:30 p.m. each night)

**WHERE?** - First Baptist Church  
1650 W.Route 6, Morris

**HOW?** – Pre-register by calling the church office at 815-942-0812 or email the church at [fbmorris@csky.net](mailto:fbmorris@csky.net)

## **July Birthdays**

- 1 Marilou Warrick, Jim Downey, Cesar Diaz
- 2 Mike Bricker, Anja Carlson
- 3 Barry Summers, Bob Schwiesow, Brenda Wright
- 4 Joy Audette
- 5 Myah Hitchcock, Avah Hitchcock
- 7 Bonnie Joneson, Marla Malone, Fiona Godke, Sandra Foster, Anna VandenBos
- 8 Carol Adair
- 9 Jeff Swiggett, Carson Shannon, Harry Kosters
- 10 Marilyn Thrawl, Marta Nelson
- 11 Joah Beal
- 12 Kristen Day, Rowan Carlson, Hunter Buberle
- 13 Diane Gagliardo, Kevin Coyle
- 15 Hunter Herman, Tyler Downey
- 16 Cheryle Larson
- 18 Bridget Schwalm
- 19 Addison Shannon, Evelyn VandenBos
- 20 David Webster
- 23 Bill Burden, George Kresse
- 24 Jacob Paulson
- 25 Conor Durkee
- 27 Cheryl Johnson, Ronda Clark
- 30 Todd Schultz
- 31 Jerry Hunter, Mary Antonides, Kailey Hemmersbach



HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!

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## **July Anniversaries**

- 3 Jim and Bev Swiggett
- 6 Mark and Gayle Conrod
- 20 Gene and Dorothy Bricker
- 23 Larry and Tana Snyder
- 24 David and Bonnie Webster
- 27 Doug and Colette McCaleb
- 29 Keith and Nancy Hiney



*Happy  
Anniversary!*





Pictorial Directory  
September 11-14, 2019



Lifetouch Photography will once again be taking pictures for our  
First Baptist Church Pictorial Directory.

Watch for more details as September gets closer!



*There is a time for everything...  
A time to be silent and a time to  
speak.” Ecclesiastes 3:1,7*

When we are hurting, we value the presence of a friend who will just listen. But when someone we know is hurting, we often are tempted to do anything but listen – chattering away and giving unwanted advice to them, instead of letting them share their burden with us.

But remember: Sometimes the best thing we can do is listen quietly when a friend has a problem, letting them share their feelings and assuring them that we care, even if we don't have any answers.

When your friends are hurting, ask God to help you be an encourager and a burden-bearer.



Men's Group  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meat Cookout  
Saturday, July 20  
4pm - ??  
Chapin Park

Bring your lawn chairs and  
Join us for a fun evening!  
All ages of MEN are invited!

There is a signup sheet  
in the foyer ..  
you are welcome to bring  
meat or a side dish  
if you would like

Any questions,  
please call Stan Motter



**SHINE MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 20**  
**4:00 – 8:00 PM**  
**GOOLD PARK, MORRIS**

**FREE EVENT!**

There will be a full afternoon and evening of contemporary Christian music, as well as the headliner band, “Stars Go Dim” and “ignescent”! Also performing will be Alpha and Omega Band of Immaculate Conception Church!

There will be raffle drawings and prizes that include: Laptop, XBOX One, Apple Watch, iPad, TV, and more! For more info: [Shinemusicfest.org](http://Shinemusicfest.org)  
*(in conjunction with Liberty Arts Festival)*



**Adopt-A-Highway**  
**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 am**

**Your help is needed for this important ministry!**


**We meet at the church to pick up our supplies and then go to our designated area for highway clean-up...  
Saratoga Road from Route 6 to Old Stage Road**

**Hope to see you!**

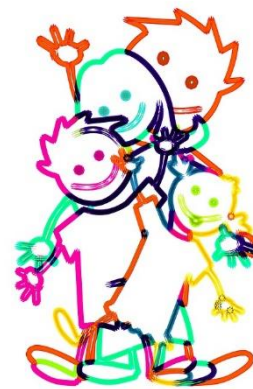


**NEIBORHOOD FEST**  
**Saturday, August 3**  
**11am – 4pm**

This is our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Neighborhood Fest!  
We will be asking for volunteers in several different areas –



- Food
- Face Painting
- Gaga Ball
- Crafts for Children
- Junior Water Fights
- Inflatable Water Slide
- Activities from T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors
- Reptiles from Coal Black Exotics
- Wood-Working Craft for Children
- Grundy County Sheriff's K-9 Unit



If you are willing to help with this outreach, please fill out a  
volunteer form available at the church.  
Any questions, please contact Colleen Miller at 815-354-4516

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**“My child, don’t reject the Lord’s discipline, and don’t  
be upset when He corrects you. For the Lord corrects  
those He loves, just as a Father corrects a child in whom He delights.”**  
**Proverbs 3:11-12**

2019 camp schedules and registration forms  
for Blackhawk Camp are available  
The church will pay ½ of each camper's fees

If students are interested in earning scholarship money to Blackhawk Camp,  
please check with Colleen Miller or Chris Phillips to find out what  
opportunities to help around the church are available



**BLACKHAWK BAPTIST CAMP 2019**  
**Celebrating 60 years!**  
4491 W. Henry Road, Oregon, IL 61061  
815-496-0732

Following is a schedule of camp dates and clean-up/work day  
June 29<sup>th</sup> – 8:30am-2:00pm\*

2<sup>nd</sup> clean-up - Grounds and cabins restored for camping season & final “spruce up”  
\*lunch will be provided

CAMP	START DATE & TIME	END DATE & TIME	COST
Jr. High Camp (grades 6-8)	July 7 <sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm	July 13 <sup>th</sup> @ 10 am	\$240
Sr. High Camp (grades 9-12)	July 14 <sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm	July 20 <sup>th</sup> @ 10 am	\$240
Arts & Drama Camp (grades 6-12)	July 21 <sup>st</sup> @ 4 pm	July 26 <sup>th</sup> @ 10 am	\$200
Slumber Party (grades K-5)	July 26 <sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm	July 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 10 am	\$25
Day Camp (grades K-5)	July 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am	July 27 <sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm	\$25
Middler Camp (grades 2-5)	July 28 <sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm	Aug 1 <sup>st</sup> @ 7 pm	\$200
Twilight Camp (grades 6-12)	August 2 <sup>nd</sup> @ 7 pm	August 4 <sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm	\$75

**Blackhawk Day Event** August 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am  
Coffee hour & lunch will be provided A day of great Fellowship & fun Activities  
ALL ages are invited to celebrate 60 years at Blackhawk Camp

**HELP the CAMP – amazonsmile**

Blackhawk Baptist Camp is now getting a percentage of purchases on Amazon Smile.  
If you have an account on Amazon you can just go on smile.amazon.com and select  
Blackhawk Baptist Camp as the charitable organization you wish to support  
at no additional cost to you.

## Independence Day



- Independence Day is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject to the monarch of Britain and were now united, free, and independent states. The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4. **Also called:** The Fourth of July
- **Celebrations:** Fireworks, family reunions, concerts, barbecues, picnics, parades, baseball games
- **Observed by:** United States



**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**



