

Baptist Bugle

September 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris - Pastor Steve Larson

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Pastor's Ponderings –

Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians chapter 5:15-17, *“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* Paul writes earlier in the chapter in verses 1-2, *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”*

We are called, as Christians, to walk wisely. To not walk in foolishness, but to walk in understanding, specifically, knowing and understanding what God's will is. In such evil days, God knows how walking in this way protects us. We know we need to be protected out in the world, but what about protection in the church? The schemes of the enemy are crafted and deceitful. And certainly that is the case in the church as the devil seeks to divide and separate believers from each other, and from the Lord. It's no wonder Paul reminds us to walk wisely. Ephesians 4:14-16 reminds us that Christ is the truth, and the Holy Spirit who guides the church is the Spirit of truth. Paul writes, *“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”* John 14:6, Jesus Christ is the truth! *“Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”* John 16:13, The Holy Spirit who guides the church is the Spirit of truth. *“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak, and He will disclose to you what is to come.”* We don't want to be carried about by every wind of doctrine, we know that, but at the same time let's not be filled with fear either. Sometimes I think we distance ourselves from a teaching, or a type of worship music, or a way of worshiping, just because of what someone else said; *“Well I heard that so and so believes”* or, *“Well I heard that this preacher says.....”* or, *“Well, I heard that this worship leader said and believes I'm sure not going to listen to their music anymore.”* And we don't know if what that other person told us is even true. Sometimes, in the church, we fragment ourselves so quickly and often that there's not much left of the body of Christ. We cut off our right arm because we're afraid of the way our thumb looks. We think we'll be safe if we *“Circle the Wagons”* with our own little group

and try and make it through life. Look gang, there is no perfect church, there is no perfect pastor and there is no little bubble that we are called to live in within the body of Christ. I get it, and I absolutely agree, if it doesn't line up with the Word of God, then we don't embrace it as truth. If it doesn't always align itself with the truth of God's Holy Word, we don't embrace it as Truth, because God's Word is Truth. No I don't want to embrace every spirit, but let us be willing to do as John instructs his readers in 1 John 4:1, "*Test each spirit to see whether they are from God*", not just write them off based on what someone else said they heard about them. I saw a conversation the other day between several people discussing a contemporary Christian artist and his music. They were in agreement that no one should listen to, or sing his music because he grew up in the Catholic Church. They felt like if you listened to his music, you would be adhering to the doctrines and the teachings of the Catholic Church. I am familiar with this artist and his music and it's solid. It's scripturally sound. Don't misunderstand me, I don't agree with all the doctrines of the Catholic Church, and I don't have the time or the wherewithal to express how much it breaks my heart to see how many people it is leading astray. I pray for them that their eyes will be opened to the truth. But, just because someone grew up in the Catholic Church, that doesn't mean their music is heresy. For Heaven's sakes man, test the spirits!

It's all the more reason we must be filled with, and led by the Holy Spirit. In order that the Spirit of Truth can lead us into all truth. Who knows what truth is better than the Spirit of Truth.

You know, way back when there was another young man who disregarded Truth before he ever met Him. Can I show you? "*The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to Him, 'Follow Me'*. Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see'" John 1:43-46

Let us walk wise, and seek to understand what the will of the Lord is. In the church and outside the church. But be encouraged, we are not called to do this in our own strength. The Spirit of Truth who is the Holy Spirit will guide us, and will guide the church into all truth. If we will submit to Him. "*Those who live in accordance with the Spirit, have their minds set on what the Spirit desires,*" Romans 8:5b

Blessings to you my friends, let us walk worthy.

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

Will begin studying "*Embracing a Forever Kind of Purpose for our Seasons of Life*"
in September



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

Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

All women are invited to come

Will begin studying "*The Armor of God*" by Priscilla Shirer on Sept. 4th

Please contact Colette Kirby at 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, September 1
4:30 pm

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



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 at 815-942-0812

Boards to Meet on Tuesday, Sept. 10

5:30 pm - Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm - Board of Trustees

6:30 pm - Board of Diaconates

Important

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Sunday, September 1

At both the early and late services, on Sunday, September 1st, there will be a special meeting. This meeting requires a congregational vote for resurfacing the west parking lot. The Trustees are looking at a bid from "D" Construction for an estimated cost of \$6,790.20. The meeting has been posted on the bulletin board by the library.



MOBILE MEALS

September 16 - 30

Pick up at Morris Hospital Lobby
11:25 am

Our church family is once again responsible for delivering Mobile Meals in the area.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer at the church.

If you have never delivered Mobile Meals before and have questions, please contact the church office at 815-942-0812.

Grab a friend to go with you!!



Senior Luncheon

September 19

12:00 - 1:30pm

All seniors are invited to a luncheon at the church on Thursday, Sept. 19!

Lots of fun and fellowship!



Congratulations!!

*Drew & Kayla Hamilton
on the birth of
Elijah Michael
born August 15, 2019
at 7:45pm*

*Grandparents are
Mark and Gayle Conrod*

Feed My Starving Children
Saturday, November 2
Save the date!



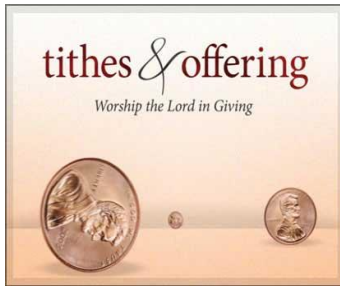
We will once again be volunteering at the "Feed My Starving Children" facility in Aurora. This is the 6th year we have gone and it is an amazing day of packing meals to feed the children around the world! *Watch for the sign-up sheet in the foyer!*

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
August	\$25,720.00	\$26,762.00

Church Mortgage Balance as of August 25, 2019 \$137,926.02

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



This past year \$10,905.00 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.

Custodian Needed

We at First Baptist Church are in need of a Custodian. If you are a husband/wife team or an individual looking for some part-time income, this would be a great job for you. If you would like to hear more about this opportunity, you can talk to a Trustee or you can call the church office at 815-942-0812.

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.





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 Kara Hill
6th – 8th Grade – Teacher Diane Gagliardo
9th – 12th Grade – Teacher Mary Motter
Adults – Teachers Jeff and Claudette Swiggett

“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” Proverbs 22:6



Awana Club
First Baptist Church
Ages 4 yrs. to 8th grade

We are very excited to have started an Awana Club here at **First Baptist Church!** Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd 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 mtgs. this month...
Awana will meet on September 15th and 29th!

Sept. 29 – wrap up Cornfest w/ popcorn & movie!



Youth Group
Ages 5th – 12th Grade

Sunday, Sept. 8
6:00pm
Dinner and a Movie
at church

Sunday, Sept. 22
6:00pm
Youth Group

Any questions, contact
Leslie Meloun



**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

**The most precious jewels
you'll ever have around
your neck are the arms
of your children**



September Birthdays

3 Alex Adair, Sawyer Shannon
4 Erin Taylor, Cindy Henderson
7 Jerry Marx, Denise Ellis
9 Mary Hill, Ramon Diaz, Logan Hill
10 Ethan Duvick
11 Kristi Larson, Regan Zierman, Jim Goebel, Alan Love
12 Ken Carlson, Avery Edwards, Ethan Scott
14 Harmony Alford, Samuel Audette
15 Zachary Chapman, Landen Lutz
16 Jack Wilkinson, Tiffany Larsen
17 Kaylynn Clausen
19 Kim Malone, Joshua VandenBos, Orla Johnson
21 Darlene Howen, Wyatt Schultz
24 Mitzi Welch, Beverly Berry, John Callahan, Donna Livingston
27 Sandra Hardesty
30 Johnny Calcote



*Happiness is letting go of what you think your life is supposed to
look like and **celebrating** it for everything that it is!*

September Anniversaries

5 Bob and Lisa Cottingim
8 Joshua and Tanya Downey
11 Harry and Debbie Kosters
12 Jerry and Cathy Planeta
14 Jim and Kara Paulson
19 Rich and Annette Allen
23 Joe and Jennifer Gonnam, Landy and Marie Walker
24 Terry and Diane Wakeman



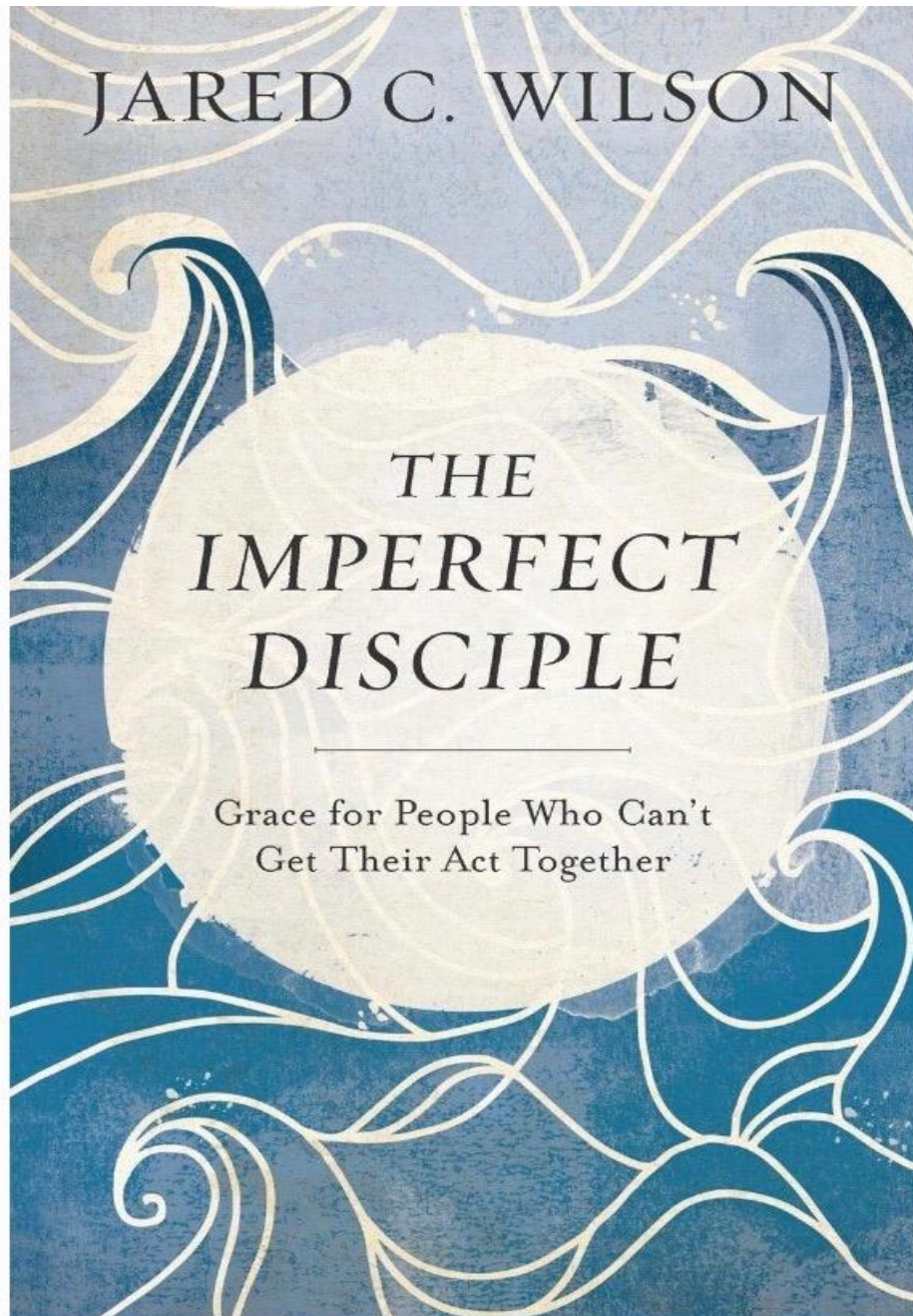
CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY!

You'll find the books in the "Check Out What's New" section,
located on the top shelf next to the book return basket.

HAPPY READING!

"If you're perfect and know all the Sunday School answers...this book isn't for you".

This book is for the weary, the people who screw up, those who are wondering if it's safe to say what they're really thinking. Wilson frees readers from the self-doubt and even the misplaced self-confidence they may feel as they walk with Jesus down the often difficult road of life. The result is a faith that weathers storms, lifts burdens and goes forth to make more imperfect disciples.





Pictorial Directory

September 11 2-9pm
 September 12 2-9pm
 September 13 2-9pm
 September 14 10-5pm



Lifetouch Photography will once again be taking pictures for our
2019 First Baptist Church Pictorial Directory.

You do NOT have to be a member to participate in the directory,
 you need only attend here.

This directory is a great way to “put a name and face” together!
 Click on this link to sign up on our website or on our church Facebook page
<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b00j567c/>
 or you can sign up on Sunday mornings after each service,
 or call the church office during the week at 815-942-0812.

Any questions, please call the church office.



Life has a way of testing our anchors and tempting us to drift. Nevertheless, if our anchors are correctly placed in the rock of our Redeemer, they will hold no matter the force of the wind, the strength of the tide, or the height of the waves.

Dieter F. Uchtdorf



Shirley Love will not always be available to take pictures at all our church events. She has asked that anyone attending these events take a few pictures and send them to her cell phone 815-514-3477.

We will be putting them in the new pictorial directory activity pages, as well as on the bulletin boards after Shirley scrapbooks them.

If you have any questions, please call Shirley.

5th Annual Neighborhood Fest

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 5th Annual Neighborhood Fest! What a great day! We had many visitors to our church that day, and I am so thankful to everyone who helped with the activities, the food, the set-up and clean-up, making and delivering invitations, donating money and making our guests feel welcome. I appreciate our First Baptist Church family!

Thanks - Colleen

The family of **Beth Marie Carlson** would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, messages, encouragement, support and love shown her throughout her journey.

We know she is right where she wanted to be, but it does not make our loss easier.

Her faithfulness carried her through her struggles; what more could we ask for.

Thank you,
from the bottom of our hearts.



Our Deepest Sympathy—

To the family of Beth Carlson.
Beth passed away on
Sunday morning, August 4.
Our thoughts and prayers
are with Gerry and their family.



A Note of Thanks.....

A huge thank you to all who had a hand in the preparation and serving of food for Beth's funeral luncheon, everything was delicious!
Your hard work is very much appreciated.

The family of Beth Marie Carlson

*"He heals the wounds of
every shattered heart"*



-Psalm 147:3

Grief never ends...

but it changes.

It's a passage,
not a place to stay.

Grief is not a sign
of weakness,

nor a lack of faith...

It is the price of

Love.

Author unknown

"He will be our peace."

Micah 5:5



Word Search

S	J	V	K	G	M	M	E	G	T	G	J	S	C	I	R	T	E	M	T	V	Y	V	L	Z
Z	P	I	B	Z	Q	F	B	W	I	D	M	S	J	P	H	A	H	L	I	S	B	G	B	P
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I	E	I	V	O	P	M	W	S	K	B	D	A	T	G	A	K	G	S	C	F	U	G	T	D
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R	C	I	R	T	V	O	L	U	M	E	B	H	A	W	K	E	F	R	C	I	Y	V	F	L
M	I	W	F	U	I	X	N	O	Y	W	W	V	O	Y	C	S	R	L	U	S	N	T	V	F
G	D	C	W	T	T	D	R	D	S	Z	E	F	Z	T	P	N	I	S	R	U	M	O	D	T

Aggregation

Business Intelligence

Dashboards

Database

Real Time

Transperancy

Visualitzation

Algorithm

Charts

Data

Metrics

Tables

Variety

Volume

Analytic

Cloud

Data Collection

Query

TeamQualityPro

Velocity

