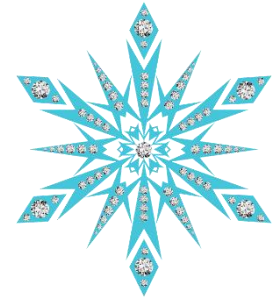


# Baptist Bugle



January 2020

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)

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## Pastor's Ponderings –

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”* Colossians 2:6-7 and vs. 9-10

As you look back over 2019, what do you think of, what comes to your mind? Are you glad to see the year in your rear-view mirror? Maybe you find yourself saying, “I’m glad it’s over, I’m wiping the slate clean, and starting fresh with the New Year..2020 has got to be better.” Some of us have lost loved ones this past year, and that in itself made 2019 a very difficult year.

Through it all however, as you look back, I hope that you can see growth. And what I’m thinking of specifically, is spiritual growth in your life. Through the journey of this last year, in spite of the journey, and because of it, do you see growth: Do you see where God has taught you things in what you’ve gone through? What’s our goal, or at least, what should be our goal as we come to the end of another year? That we have been strengthened in our faith. That we have been built up in Christ, and more deeply rooted in Him.

As we look forward to the New Year, I hope you look forward to the New Year, let us set our hearts on the things above. That’s where real hope is. We have no idea what 2020 will hold, but we know where our hope is... our hope is in the Lord. So whatever this New Year holds, we know we have a sure and certain hope.

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”* Colossians 3:1-4

Let’s anticipate, expectantly, this coming New Year. Let’s look for ways, and pray for spiritual growth in our lives that we would become more and more like Christ.

A very happy and blessed New Year to each of you,

*Pastor Steve*

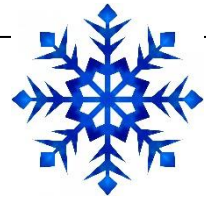
# OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



**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

We will start the new year on January 8<sup>th</sup>

Are now studying "*Book of James-Growing in the Christian Life*"

All women are invited to come

Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625



## **Women's Evening Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

We will start the new year on January 8<sup>th</sup>

Are studying "*The Armor of God*" by Priscilla Shirer

All women are invited to come

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, January 5

4:30 pm

Come gather together for prayer and praise!

We will be meeting in the old Adult Sunday School Room

## **NEW Boards to Meet on Tuesday, Jan. 21**

5:30 pm - Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm - Board of Trustees

6:30 pm - Board of Diaconates

*Thank You..Thank You!*

On behalf of Kristi and myself, thank you to each one of you for your cards and gifts during the Holiday Season. We are so blessed by your love and your kindness. We are so thankful for your fellowship, and blessed to be ministering with you at First Baptist.

As we enter the New Year, we look forward to seeing what God is going to do in our midst.

Blessings to you all. Thank you, and a very Happy New Year!

*Pastor Steve and Kristi*



*A note of thanks.....*

the performance of "Christmas Stories of the Savior." I couldn't have been more grateful for your support in the process. The gift of story says a lot to our churches. The Christmas Story all unfolds the more we dig into it.

Thank you readers for all your time and efforts to provide the laughter and sincerity of the story. Singers and role characters, thank you for the everchanging fun and activities that glorified God as we practiced for this season's performance.

Supporting roles; Chris, Erica, Cheryle, Christy and Brista, Colleen and Colette, and parents. My month was filled by your goodness. When it all came down to it, your helping hands and supporting prayers.... you all had me covered.

This event was hope-filled and so rewarding because of you!

*Paula Misk*

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you all for the cards and gifts during Christmas. I am so blessed to have all of your love and thoughtfulness!

I love you all very much and am looking forward to another year of fellowship and friendship!

In Christ's Love,

*Chris*



**Annual Church Business Meeting  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00pm**

Please save the date for the Church's Annual Business Meeting  
The report of the Nominating Committee and the  
Proposed 2020 Budget have been posted on the bulletin board  
near the Library

## Good News Club

Good News Club began Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will finish Thursday, April 30, 2020. Club is held every Thursday during the time period that school is in session a full day, 2:45-4:00pm.

We are excited to see what God has planned for this school year and appreciate the prayers of our "Family of Faith" as God brings the kids! It's our fervent hope and prayer that many will come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and that they will be little missionaries in their homes, neighborhoods and school.

Staff for the 2019-2020 school year –  
Carol Adair, Kara Paulson, Kristi Larson, Kay Hemmersbach,  
Helen Brehm, Bella Aguilar and Paula Misek

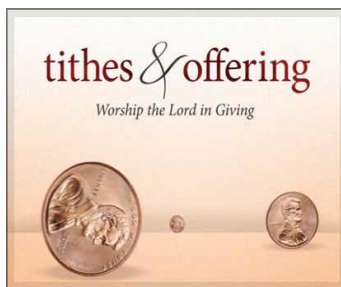


## UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
December	\$25,720.00	\$34,070.00

Church Mortgage Balance as of December 29, 2019 \$101,963.31

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



This past year \$17,545 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.



## JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Sunday mornings  
9:30 am – 10:30 am

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Nursery – 3 years and under  
Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Teacher Lisa Vaksdal  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Teacher Kara Hill  
6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Teacher Diane Gagliardo  
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Teachers Mark and Gayle Conrod  
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 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 mtgs. this month...**  
**Awana will meet on January 5 and 19!**



**Youth Group**  
**Ages 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Sunday, Jan. 12  
6:00pm

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Saturday, Jan. 18  
5:30pm  
Game Nite  
Youth serves  
Breakfast for Dinner

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Sunday, Jan. 26  
6:00pm

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Questions –  
Call Leslie Meloun

Dear Members of our church.  
Thank you for volunteering your time to teach Sunday School and to run activities like Blackhawk Camp, Youth Group and Awana.

*Youth Groups*

Friends become couriers of grace, conduits of heaven's grace.  
Those of us who need much grace come to treasure good friends.

Max Lucado

## Birthdays

1 Harrison Wilkinson  
4 Garret Johnson, Leslie Meloun  
5 Keith Hiney, Wendell Baggett  
6 Jim Walcott  
7 Annette Allen  
8 Jaden Gonnam, John Sanders  
10 Bob Edwards, Drew Hamilton  
11 Gary Bounds  
12 Richard Allen, Sophia Day, Stephen Motter  
14 Juanita Malone, Colton Nissen  
15 Teresa Chapman  
16 Bob Cottingim  
18 Cathy Godke, Walt Mayden  
20 Ondine Allen  
23 Kim Bricker, Sandi Hawk  
24 Julia Hiney, Parker Rieland, Mark Vaksdal, Leroy Durbin, Paula Misek  
26 David Ritke, Helen Ritke, Avery Walker  
27 Samantha Welch, Todd Hoaglund, Aaron Nissen  
30 Ella Walker, Kay Durbin, Aycen Taylor  
31 Erin Burch, Marie Taylor

## Anniversaries

8 Jim and Amanda Hitchcock  
28 Bob and Virginia Edmundson



January



## ***Game Night***

***January 18***

***5:30pm***

*What better way to put some fun "In the Bleak Midwinter" than by having a Game Night!*

*The Youth Group will be serving breakfast for dinner at 5:30pm*

*followed by games, fun and fellowship*

*All donations will go to the Youth Group*

*Hope to see you there!!*



## **Christmas Brunch**

**We had a wonderful time at the Christmas Brunch held at  
Tim and Julie Applegate's home**

**in December! Thank you Julie for sharing your beautiful home  
with us, as well as all the women that furnished the delicious food!**

**(There wasn't a single calorie in any of it!)**

**The gift exchange, as expected, brought out the  
"little stinker" in all of us as well as lots of laughter!**

Thank you God,  
for the roof over my head,  
a bed to sleep in,  
food on my table, and  
shoes on my feet.

Forgive me if I ever  
start to complain  
and forget my  
great blessings.

*Amen*



### New Year's Resolution

There are two reasons why it can be good to make resolutions at the beginning of a new year. First, it forces us to look at ourselves – to be honest about our failures and our need to change. The exercise of examining ourselves – with God's help – and seeing where we fall short is important.

Second, making a list of resolutions can turn us to God. If we are honest, we know we fall far short of being what we ought to be – and because of that, we need God's forgiveness. We'll also realize that we can't live the way we should in our own strength. We need God's help.

*"Give careful thought to your ways."  
Haggai 1:5*

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“Though I fall,

I will rise again.

Thou I sit in

darkness, the Lord

will be my light.”

Micah 7:8

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## I DECLARE

I am grateful for who  
God is in my life and for  
what He's done.

I will not take for  
granted the favor He has  
blessed me with.

I will look at  
what is right and not  
what is wrong.

I will thank Him for  
what I have and  
not complain about  
what I don't have.

I will see each day as a  
Gift from God.

My heart will overflow  
with praise and gratitude for  
all His goodness.

*This is my declaration  
for 2020*

*-anonymous-*



