

Baptist Bugle



January 2021

First Baptist Church of Morris

Pastor - Steve Larson

Youth Director - Leslie Meloun

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Pastor's Ponderings -

So what's left? As we come to the end of 2020, what's left? Well, let me encourage you today. The things that are left are the things that never left. © I'm sorry, I couldn't resist. In other words, as we close out 2020, what remains is what we never lost in the first place. It may feel like the end of a horrible year, but it's not. Shall I elaborate? God has not changed, He is still very much in control of all things. We have not lost God, nor is God lost; He knows exactly what He's doing. His Word is still as true as it's always been. He is still completely faithful. He has not revamped His promises; they're still the same. His grace is still sufficient. His love still runs as deep as it always has. He is still calling sinners to repentance. The blood of Jesus still cleanses from ALL sin. And His mercy still reaches you wherever you are. The things that remain are the things that cannot be taken away from us. God is AS faithful in the middle of a pandemic and an uncertain future, as He is in any other time in our lives, or throughout history.

But things are definitely being shaken, so that what remains is what is true. I point you to Hebrews 12:27; "The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken - that is, created things - so that what cannot be shaken may remain." God is doing the shaking; in our lives, our churches, our country, and in the world. He is doing this so that what remains is of Him, and honors Him. Verse 28 speaks to this very thing; "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe." I firmly believe what 2020 has been about is choosing. Not pandemics, not elections, not masks vs no masks, not shelter in place orders, not good politicians vs bad politicians, not open the churches vs close the churches. Oh these are all things we've dealt with in the last ten months, to be sure. But I believe there has been a greater issue underlining this time in our lives. I think because there is a holy

shaking taking place, we are being forced to decide where we're going to place our trust and our hope, and therefore, where we are going to find our peace. God is forcing us into a place where we have to choose. And that is indeed a shaking. He is preparing His church to meet Him. God is not interested in a half-hearted bride. He has no time for a lukewarm church. Seems to me the Bible talks about that somewhere - (Revelation 3:16).

You can choose peace or you can choose fear, but you can't have both. You can be led of the Lord, or you can be led by the news media, but you can't have both. You can be angry and resentful, or you can have joy in the Lord, but you can't have both. You see, God in His grace, wants very much for us to let go of the things that hinder, and the sin that so easily entangles. That's what this time of shaking is for. You have to choose; either "the peace that passes all understanding that will keep your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus our Lord," from Philippians 4:7. Or, "everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles," from Hebrews 12:1. Let's fix our eyes on Jesus as we enter 2021.

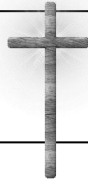
I believe we are living in a "John 21" time. In other words, "A miraculous catch of fish" Spiritually speaking, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that would bring so many people into the Kingdom in these last days. God wants us to be a part of that. But we won't be, if our eyes are fixed on the wrong things. We will miss what God is doing. I don't want to miss it. I want to be a part of it. I believe we are also living in a "Luke 12" time. In other words, "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning," verse 35.

To be ready for what God is doing, to be ready for His return; this is our call.
A very blessed New Year in 2021 to each of you. Love you all.

God is in control.

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

Have been studying "*Man Alive*" by Patrick Morley
Transforming your 7 primal needs into a powerful spiritual life
All men are invited to join us!
Please contact Stan Motter

Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

- **Will resume meeting at a later date to be determined -**
All women are invited to come
Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625

Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

- **Will resume meeting at a later date to be determined -**
All women are invited to come
Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527

Single Moms' Group

Every other Wednesday Evening at 6:00 pm (*new time for now*)

If you are a single mom or know of one who would
enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!
Please contact Kristi Larson



Congregational Prayer

Sunday, January 3

4:30 pm

(Subject to cancellation)

Boards to Meet on Tuesday, Jan. 26

3:00 pm – New Board of Diaconates

5:30 pm – New Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm – New Board of Trustees



ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Please save the date for the Church's Annual Business Meeting

Posted on the bulletin board near the Library -
Report of the Nominating Committee
Proposed 2021 Budget

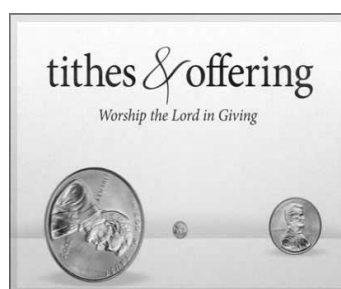
UNIFIED GIVING

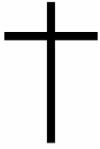
<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
December	\$25,720.00	\$24,288.00

“The Monthly Amt. Received includes offertory that has been mailed in.”

Church Mortgage Balance as of December 27, 2020 Paid in Full

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!





Children's Church

Each Sunday - during the 10:15am church service

We have started having Children's Church again!!

Pre-K thru 3rd Grade will meet during the Sunday Service
in the old Adult Sunday School classroom

Masks are optional

Masks are available, if desired

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

Sunday School Matters...

Faith Generations

Multigenerational Bible Study

Begins January 10, 2021

9:00 am

Sanctuary

We are so excited to try a new learning experience at First Baptist Church!

Traditional Sunday School will look a little different starting January 10, 2021. All ages will meet together in the sanctuary at 9:00 am with Jeff and Claudette Swiggett. The exception is a new Post-High School class that will meet with Rick Enlow. This format will continue through the end of May. Please do not be afraid to bring your little ones because of their age! We would like parents to accompany their children in this group learning experience.

You may come with or without a mask. It is your option. We ask that you practice good social distancing! Please join in on the learning and discussion no matter what age!

The "C" word has caused a lot of disruption in our churches lately, but at the same time has created an opportunity to think outside the box regarding Bible study. We are really excited about trying this out. Please invite a friend, family-member, neighbor or even a co-worker to join us. There has never been a greater need to equip all ages with sound teaching of God's word. Let's do it together!

Prayerfully yours,

Mary Motter

Kay Hemmersbach





Jesus Loves the Little Children



Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus died for all the children
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus died for all the children of the world.

To my Church Family -

Thank you all so very much for your thoughtfulness throughout the year, and especially at Christmas! Bucky and I are so blessed to be a part of this church family. Praying this coming year will bring blessings to all of you!

Love in Christ, Chris Phillips 

Dear First Baptist Church of Morris,
Thank you for the lovely "Basket of Love" you sent me. It was such a wonderful surprise that someone was thinking of me as I found out some bad news. All the gifts in the basket were so meaningful and they made me feel so special, as I saw what each one meant.

I have a long road ahead of me, but thank you for the love and support as I go through it. Thank you so much.

Love, Lyn Marx

Our Deepest Sympathy to Maris Kerr's family. Maris went home to be with Jesus in December, she was very loved by her church family and her humor will be greatly missed!

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

OUR YOUTH OUTREACH



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...

****NOT MEETING TOGETHER RIGHT NOW***

Sunday, January 3

Awana Leaders
will deliver a bag to each
child's home between
4:00 - 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 17

Awana Leaders
will deliver a bag to each
child's home between
4:00 - 5:00 pm

Inside Bag –
Lesson
Craft
Snack

Questions –
call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson



Youth Group
Ages 5th – 12th Grade

Sunday, January 10
6:00pm
Meet at Church

Friday, January 15
6:00pm – 12:00am
Half-Nighter
at the Church

Sunday, January 24
6:00pm
Meet at Church

Questions –
Call Leslie Meloun



WHAT: Live Nativity - "Oh! Come Let Us Adore Him!"

WHEN: December 11 & 12

THANK YOU to everyone that volunteered for this event! It was well received, with a total of 490 cars between the two nights! Considering the rain, and being our first Live Nativity, it was a great turnout! We collected donations of \$186.00, as well as canned goods, to give to WE CARE food pantry.

Looking forward to next year!

So many blessings were received by all.....



CONTINUING TO MOVE FORWARD...

Sunday Morning Worship Service begins at 8:00am

Please bring your mask and Bible (masks are required for this service)

Offering plate will be available

Practice social distancing with chairs (if not family)

There will be NO singing, Videos only

Sunday morning Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship Service begins at 10:15 am

Offering plate will be available

Sunday Morning Children's Church during worship service

Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building

The Church will continue to be sanitized regularly

Unfortunately, NO Nursery is available at this time

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1, ESV

January Birthdays

1 Harrison Wilkinson
4 Garret Johnson, Leslie Meloun
5 Keith Hiney, Wendell Baggett
8 John Sanders
10 Drew Hamilton
11 Gary Bounds
12 Richard Allen, Sophia Day, Stephen Motter
14 Juanita Malone, Colton Nissen
15 Teresa Chapman
16 Bob Cottingim
18 Walt Mayden
23 Kim Bricker, Sandi Hawk
24 Julia Hiney, Mark Vaksdal, Leroy Durbin, Paula Misk
26 David Ritke, Helen Ritke
27 Todd Hoaglund, Aaron Nissen
30 Ella Walker, Kay Durbin, Aycen Taylor
31 Marie Taylor



January Anniversaries

8 Jim and Amanda Hitchcock
28 Bob and Virginia Edmundson

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!

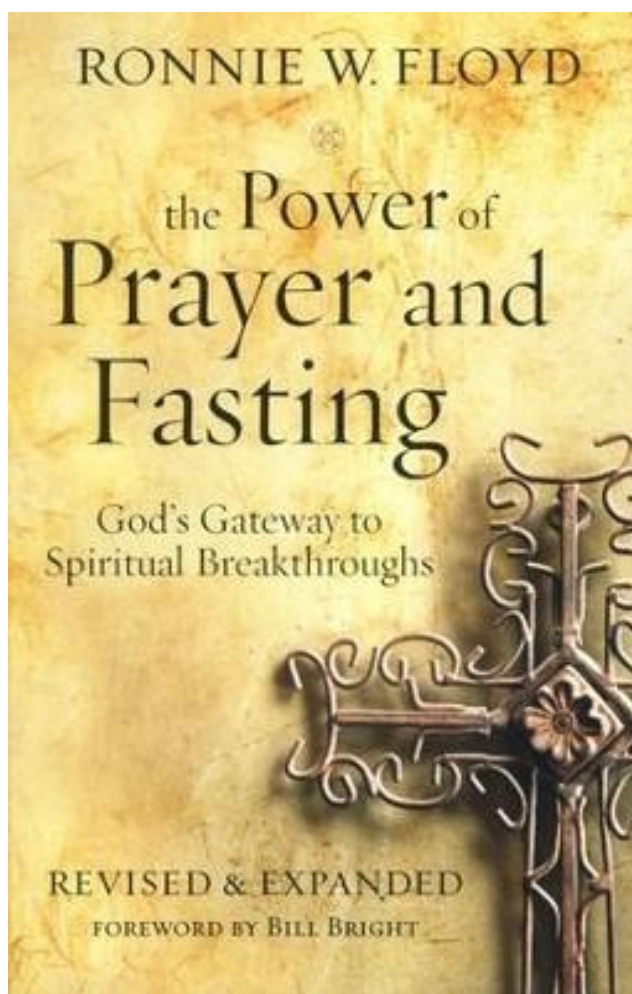
The Power of Prayer and Fasting *by Ronnie W. Floyd*

The hand-in-hand spiritual discipline of prayer and fasting is not a gimmick or a spiritual fad, although its neglect in recent decades makes it a new discovery for many Christians. Instead, as author Ronnie Floyd explains, prayer and fasting is a Scripture-ordained act of obedience – a means of humbling ourselves before God, drawing closer to Him, and making room for Him to speak and act in our lives.

This newly revised and updated edition of "The Power of Prayer and Fasting" offers fascinating firsthand stories of the difference prayer and fasting has made in Floyd's life and others, compelling explanations of how this discipline works in a Christian's life, practical guidance for those who have never fasted before, and finally a stirring call to revival.

Pray to God? Sure! But fasting?
Sharing compelling real-life experiences,
the host of *Ronnie Floyd Winners* shows how
these two disciplines *together* have changed lives!
In this updated edition, you'll learn how to renew
your spiritual walk with simple, practical plans
for a one-, 3-, 7-, or 40-day fast.

Includes a new chapter about church-wide
participation. 240 pages, softcover from B&H.



ALSO IN THE KID'S LIBRARY SECTION.....

Go on Five exciting adventures with a real life dinosaur researcher!! He also shares his passion for the Gospel and creation! (All ages)

ABC'S OF GOD'S PLAN (3DVD's)

Beginning with creation all the way through God's plan of salvation and His finished work in our world!!

THE ANSWERS BOOKS

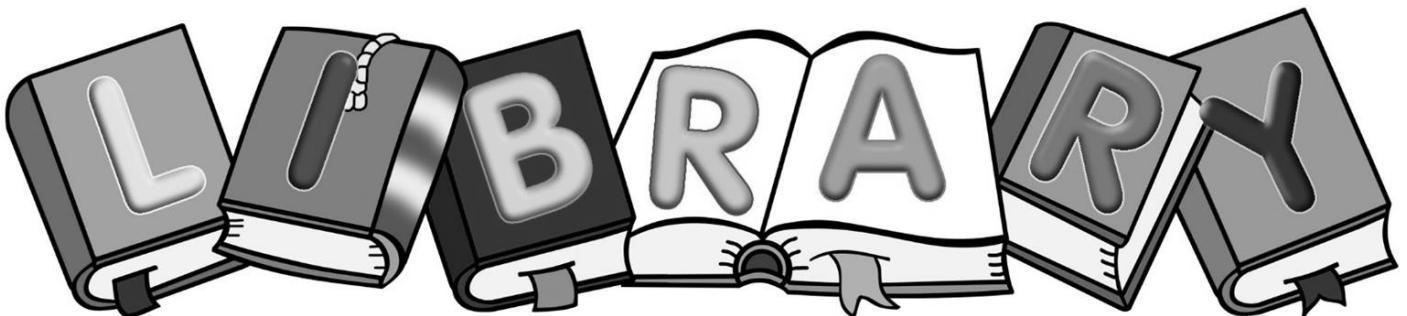
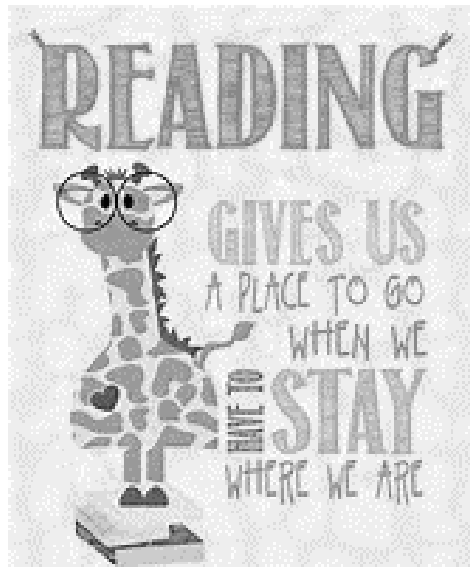
8 Books answering kids questions about God. It may answer some adult questions too!!
(Ages 5-11)

I REALLY WANT ANSWERS

3 well-illustrated, scientifically accurate, fun to read books that inspire a love for the gospel and science! (Ages 4-12)

THE DOOR OF SALVATION

Only one door to be saved from the flood and one door to personal salvation!
(Ages 4-10)





HOPE

As we start a new year, the Bible tells us there can be hope for the future.

First, there is hope of a changed person. We are incapable of ridding ourselves of the selfishness and greed that cause conflict and strife and war. Our only hope is a changed heart – and Jesus is in the business of changing hearts.

Second, there is hope of a changed world. When we know Christ, He gives us by His Spirit a new love and concern for others. Changed by Christ, we can begin to change our world.

Third, there is hope of an unchanging eternity in Heaven. This world is not all there is!

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

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 2021*

-anonymous



“Though I fall, I will rise again

Thou I sit in darkness,

The LORD will be my light.”

Micah 7:8

COFFEE CUP MINISTRY

This will be a ministry to help encourage each other right here at First Baptist Church.

- 1) You will need to bring a cup, of any kind, to the Church by the first Sunday of January. Be sure to label the bottom with your name.
- 2) Inside the cup you can put your special prayer requests, special needs or anything else you wish to have prayed for during the month of January. The cups will go on a table in the foyer.
- 3) Each of you will choose a cup. Every morning, as you drink from that cup, you can pray for the individual. On the last Sunday of the month you will return the cup to the Church table. You may add a special note for that person if you wish.

Depending on the interest shown, we would like to continue this ministry monthly.

Any questions, you may contact Leslie Meloun.

