

# Baptist Bugle

May 2021

First Baptist Church of Morris

Pastor - Steve Larson

Youth Director - Leslie Meloun

1650 West Route 6 - Morris, Illinois

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## Pastor's Ponderings -

As we move into May and find April in our rearview mirror, it's a good opportunity to look at some of the lessons we find in the Easter account. And certainly the main one, the most obvious and most important one, the one we focus on is the fact Jesus rose from the dead. We are most thankful for this truth, and what this means for us. But there are other applications and lessons for us to consider in the Word of God with regards to the Easter account.

How much of what God is doing do we miss? Because we already have our minds made up as to what we think God "should" be doing. Look at the two on the road to Emmaus. In Luke 24:13-35. They had their minds all made up as to what Jesus had come to do, and who Jesus was supposed to be. Therefore, they completely missed who Jesus was. They had lost sight of the fact that God had a plan, and that He was capable to carry it out. Why? Because it didn't match the plan they had predetermined in their minds of who Jesus was supposed to be, and what He was supposed to be doing. When we predetermine how we think something should go, or we get our hearts set on how God should do something, and then it doesn't go that way, we become discouraged and take our eyes off the Lord. The two on the road to Emmaus; verse 21, "but we had hoped that He was the one." Totally lost sight of what God was doing, and therefore, seemingly, had given up. Because what God was doing did not line up with what they thought God "should" be doing. We can become so focused on our disappointments, our frustrations, our problems, our losses, our fears, that we take our eyes off of the Lord. Funny things happen to us when our reality doesn't match God's reality. Here these two are, on the road to Emmaus, walking and talking to the risen Lord Jesus, and they don't even recognize Him. They're missing the greatest event in all of history; Jesus Christ has risen from the dead! Plus they're going in the wrong direction. In their discouragement and their preconceived ideas of who they believed Jesus was going to be, they're going in the wrong direction, thus shutting themselves off from where the fellowship is; back in Jerusalem with the other

believers. The strength, the encouragement, and the fellowship was back in Jerusalem with the other believers. So I ask the question of us; how often do we miss what God is doing? How often do we miss God's plan in our lives, or even stop looking for His plan, because we stop believing He knows what He's doing. Sometimes we forget, all too quickly, that God is still in control. And that He can handle it, all of it, all the time. We can trust Him with our lives.

Charles Spurgeon said, "You are not asked to trust in a dead Jesus, but in one who, though He died for our sins, has risen again for our justification." We need to embrace the fact that God's ways are not always our ways. But, He does most certainly know what He's doing.

There is the possibility, is there not, that as much as we say we believe God has a plan, we struggle to trust it. God's plan is better than our plan. God knows what's best. He has my best in mind. His ways are not always my ways. His ways are higher than my ways. But when it comes right down to it, we have trouble trusting what we say we believe, and what we say we know to be true. Right? I think that's why God uses interruptions so often in our lives. He wants to get our attention. He challenges us to trust Him for what we say we believe Him for. Jesus interrupted the two on the road to Emmaus to grab their attention. And aren't you glad He did. He interrupted their discouragement, their hopelessness, and their preconceived notions about who Jesus was. He interrupted the eleven as they sat in their room filled with fear and doors locked that first Easter evening. He walked right through the walls. Discouragement, fear, anger, hopelessness, guilt, and all the other things the disciples were feeling that first East weekend, needed to be interrupted in order that they could see the truth. Jesus wanted them to see and know and believe and trust the truth. So He met them right where they were. In order that they might believe and trust Him.

It's easy to become frustrated when God interrupts our plans. But He has a better plan. And sometimes His interruptions are His way of teaching us things, or protecting us from things, or just getting our attention in order to redirect our focus back towards Him. God knows what He's doing. All the time. We can trust Him.

In this journey with you,

*Pastor Steve* ✝



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women of Prayer  
Tuesdays at 2:00 pm

Men in Action  
Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm  
Have begun studying "*Finishing Strong*" by *Steve Farrar*  
All men are invited to join us!  
Please contact Stan Motter

Women's Afternoon Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 1:00 pm  
Are studying the "Book of Mark; *Becoming a Servant*"  
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625

Women's Evening Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm  
Are studying the *Jennifer Rothschild's study, "Take Courage"*  
*a study on the book of Haggai*  
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  
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

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."      **Philippians 2:3-4**

Boards to Meet on Tuesday, May 12

3:00 pm -Board of Diaconates

4:00 pm -Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm -Board of Trustees



**UNIFIED GIVING**

Month

Monthly Amt. Needed

Monthly Amt. Received

April

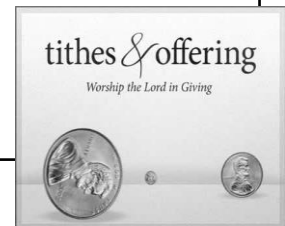
\$25,720.00

\$

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

**Church Mortgage is Paid in Full!**

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



**Electronic Offerings**

It has been brought to the attention of the Trustee Board that some parishioners would like to use electronic means for their weekly/monthly offering. With electronic payments, there are always fees incurred of approximately 3%. We are trying to get an idea of how many would use this service if it was offered.

Please indicate below your interest in electric offerings and place in the offering plate, or return to the church office.

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Would you be interested in using electronic payment for your weekly/monthly offering?

\_\_\_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_\_\_ YES, with the understanding that processing fees will be deducted from my offering



## Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 16, 2021

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11

We will recognize all our graduates at both services on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.  
If we have inadvertently left out a graduate, please let the office know:

College – Zach Chapman/North Central College of Illinois  
Gabriel Shouse/State Technical College of Missouri

High School – Palin Goebel

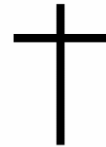
Junior High – Ashlyn Punke, Donovan Smith



### Children’s Church

Each Sunday - during Worship Service

Pre-K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will meet from 10:30-11:15am  
in the Library classroom  
Masks are available, if desired



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



We have a new custodian –  
Carla O’Brien!



Also, a big “thank you” to Monica Zavala  
for your hard work. Good luck  
in your new position at Arby’s!



**NEIGHBORHOOD FEST  
AUGUST 7, 2021  
11am – 4pm**



**This is our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Neighborhood Fest!**

Activities for all ages!  
We will need volunteers in several different areas -  
Food  
Gaga Ball  
Face Painting  
Inflatable Water Slide  
Etc.

Our first meeting is Tuesday, May 4 6:00pm  
—  
Anyone interested in volunteering, please attend this meeting

If you are willing to help with this outreach, a sign-up sheet is available in the foyer.  
Any questions, please contact the church office



**COFFEE CUP MINISTRY.....**

*This ministry is 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 the month. 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. 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*



# OUR YOUTH OUTREACH



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

We are very excited to have 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 **4:00 – 5:15pm** You may register by calling the Church office @ 815-942-0812  
Registration is required

**Awana Club mtgs. this month...**

**Sunday, May 2**  
**Meet at church**  
**4:00 - 5:15 pm**

**Sunday, May 16**  
**Meet at church**  
**4:00 - 5:15 pm**

Questions –  
call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson

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We will be set up a little differently right now to allow for social distancing, and the children will need to wear masks while indoors. Our activity time will be outside weather permitting, so in order to meet during daylight hours, we're planning on beginning at 4:00 and going til 5:15.

We are looking forward to seeing you!



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

Saturday, May 8  
Kite Flying  
1-3pm  
At the Church

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Sunday, May 9  
No Youth Group

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Sunday, May 23  
Potluck/Cookout  
At the Church

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Questions -  
Call Leslie Meloun

**“Jesus Christ  
is the same  
yesterday,  
today  
and forever”.**

Hebrews 13:8



**We  
were made  
for  
WORSHIP!**



## PLEASE JOIN US.....

**Sunday Morning Worship Service - 8:00am**

(masks are required for this service)

Offering plate will be available

Practice social distancing (if not family)

**Sunday Morning Worship Service - 10:15 am**

Offering plate will be available

*Sunday Morning Children's Church (preK-3 grade) during this Worship Service*

**Sunday morning Multi-Generational Bible Study - 9:00 am**

*w/ Jeff and Claudette Swiggett*

**Sunday morning Post-High Bible Study - 9:00 am**

*w/ Rick Enlow*

**\*We are not able to offer child care at this time  
If there is anyone interested in being Nursery Coordinator,  
please let the church office know.**



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### **Multi-Generational Bible Study**

**Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am**



All ages will meet in the Sanctuary. This is a new spin on Sunday school, and will be in place through May of this year. This class is taught by Jeff and Claudette Swiggett. It is family oriented, so it's a special time for families to worship together. It will be all the Sunday school classes combined, including the Sunday morning Adult class that has been meeting. Looking forward to seeing you!



### **Post-High Bible Study**

**Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am**

This class is specifically for young adults that have recently graduated from High School. The class is being taught by Rick Enlow. The class offers "questions and discussions" based on Bible scripture and world events, allowing students a vocal platform. Sound interesting? Come check it out!



*“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”*

*Jeremiah 29:13*

## May Birthdays ....

- 1 Chris Day, Ardele Willis
- 2 Bob Coleman, Faye Chisler, Debbie Kusters, Brista Johnson
- 6 Ken Stulgis, Laurie McComas
- 7 Ben Paulson
- 9 Julie Applegate
- 10 Kay Hemmersbach
- 11 Tim Wilkinson
- 13 Alberta Larson, Sue Hoaglund
- 15 Doug McCaleb, Tiffany Day
- 16 Jacie Punke, Linda Shannon
- 18 Mary Motter
- 20 Dorothy Bricker
- 22 Amelia Hiney, Dixie Lund, Paul Warrick
- 25 Sandra Chismarick, Cindy West
- 26 Mike Meloun
- 27 Andrew Meloun
- 29 Bob Hill



## May Anniversaries ....

- 1 Steve and Denise Rylander
- 3 Mark and Lisa Vaksdal, Gary and Sarah Vershay
- 5 Abel and Megan Valdivia
- 24 Jim and Jennifer Goebel
- 25 Ken and Earlene Stulgis
- 29 Dave and Christi Punke



**MAY**



# Your Daily Prayer

## A Prayer for Hard Days

By Christina Fox

*“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” James 4:8*

We all have hard days. Challenging days. Days that stretch us, sometimes beyond what we can bear. Sometimes these days appear as a series of little irritating events that build up to one terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Other days we wake up to find one huge unexpected event that lands like a bomb in our life.

Sometimes those hard days find us busy and distracted as we try to fix everything that has gone wrong. Or we get so caught up in our thoughts and feelings about our circumstances that it consumes us. Or perhaps we attempt to hide away from the struggle of the day in the hopes that if we don't think about it, maybe it will all just go away.

Instead of such responses, hard days are opportunities for us to draw near to God. They are opportunities for us to rely on Him, depend on Him, and receive more of His Grace. Such days remind us how desperate we are and how much we need our Savior.

Father in Heaven,

Help Me! I am so weary and worn down by this day. So many things are happening all at once and I don't know what to do. I am overwhelmed. It feels like I am standing in a fierce wind that is whipping and swirling around me. I can't move; the force is so strong. It may just knock me down flat. And worse of all, what if I can't get back up again?

Father, I can barely lift my eyes to You. It's all I can do to cry out for help. Please extend Your Grace to me this day. Help me to see that You are in this and that You are with me. Help me to remember that You are not surprised or taken off guard by the events of this day.

You are God alone. Your word tells me that before time began You chose me to be Yours through Your Son, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:4). You set Your love on me and made me Yours. Ephesians also says that through Christ, I have “redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His Grace” (1:7).

Forgive me for my fears about this day. Forgive me for how I have complained and muttered about how hard this day has been. Forgive me for forgetting that You are with me. Forgive me for forgetting who I am because of what Your Son, Jesus Christ, has done. Forgive me for failing to remember the glorious truths and riches I have because of the gospel.

It is these truths that I am focusing my heart on in the midst of this hard day. I pray the words of Paul and claim them as my own that “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, that I may know Him

better. I pray also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened in order that I may know the hope to which He has called me, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.” (Ephesians 1:17-19a). NIV

Father, please hear my prayer. Grant me gospel hope in the midst of this hard day. Help me to cling to Your grace, Your wisdom, and Your strength.

Through Jesus, and because of Jesus, in His name I pray, Amen.

New Beginnings  
306 E. High St.  
Morris, IL 60450  
815-513-3964



Looking for volunteers

Open Monday – Friday  
Volunteers work 3 hour shifts

Will need to have an interview  
and present a few references

If interested, please call the above number  
and ask for Tammy

“We may speak about a place where there are no tears, no death, no fear, no night; but those are just the benefits of heaven. The beauty of heaven is seeing God”.

Max Lucado



## Deepest Sympathy –

*Donna Binion* went to be with the LORD on March 26. Please keep Ralph, Tammy and Cindy in your thoughts and prayers. May GOD bring comfort and peace to her family.

*Marie Taylor* also went to be with the LORD on March 30. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. May GOD bring comfort to her family, as well.

*“So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”*

John 16:22





# Church Bulletin Board

## VBS - July

Looking for 2 individuals to work together to coordinate Vacation Bible School this year. We are planning for July 12-16. We also need volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

## Nursery Coordinator

Looking for someone to coordinate a schedule of individuals to help in the nursery during Sunday school and Worship Services. This is a volunteer position and very important to our church ministry. If you are interested in helping in the Nursery and/or being the coordinator, please contact the church office.

## Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, May 8  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

## Neighborhood Fest

Saturday, August 7  
11am - 4 pm

## Live Nativity

Friday – Dec. 10  
Saturday – Dec. 11  
5-8 pm

### Looking for Coordinators

We are looking for someone who would be interested in coordinating either of these 2 ministries –

- SOWL Food
- Adopt-a-Highway

If you feel you might be interested and want to hear more about it, please contact the office.

### Working Together in Christ

4“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:4-8



National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 6, 2021

Please be in prayer for our nation!

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Memorial Sunday  
May 30, 2021

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one or friend,  
you may cut out the Memorial Card here  
and mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate.

Please return your card by May 16.

These names will be included  
in a special bulletin insert on Memorial Sunday.

First Baptist Church of Morris  
Memorial Card

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please direct this gift to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Building Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Fund

# Summer Breakfast Fellowship Hour

Sunday Mornings 9:00 – 10:00 am

June 6 – August 29, 2021



What to Bring???? Volunteers choice  
Church will furnish drinks  
2 families volunteering together is great and also easier!

Sign-up Sheet is on the table in the foyer.

Need suggestions? – Fresh fruit  
Breakfast Pizza (from Caseys)  
Breakfast Casserole  
Donuts, Muffins  
Etc. Etc.

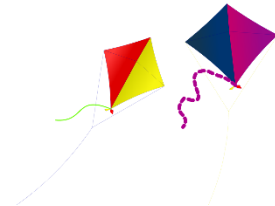
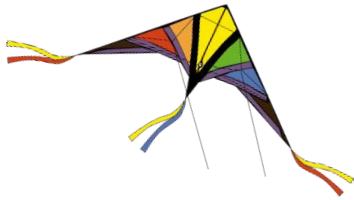
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**Youth Group is hosting “Let’s Fly a Kite”**

**Saturday, May 8, 2021**

**At the Church**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**



**Bring your own kite**  
**(Kite’s will be provided if you don’t have one)**

**Great Day for families! All ages welcome!**  
**Fun, Fun, Fun!**

**Any questions, please contact Leslie Meloun**



Remember.....  
A Church that plays together,  
stays together!!





# *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*

