

Church News

November 2024

First Baptist Church

Pastor - Steve Larson

1650 West US Route 6 - Morris, Illinois

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Pastor's Ponderings –

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials." 1 Peter 1:3-6

At the end of the day, no matter what the day has thrown at us, we still have Jesus. In very simple terms, this is what Peter is saying in these verses of the opening chapter in his first letter to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor. He's not saying it to be trite or flippant. He's declaring it because it's true. At the end of the day, it's the most important truth of the day, regardless of what else the day has held. We tend to want to annualize things. Maybe we tend to over annualize things. Don't misunderstand; it's not wrong to annualize whatever it is we're going through. But at the end of the day it is important to remember that we still have Jesus. Regardless of whether or not we have everything figured out. The pain, the trial, the struggle may still be there. But when all is said and done, what rises to the top is the fact that we still have Jesus. And He is holding for us an inheritance that will never be taken away from us. Because of His great mercy, He has given us new birth and new life in Him that will never be taken away from us.

In less than a week we will hold a National Election to determine who will be the next President of the United States. Senators, House Representatives and the White House will all look different than it does now. On November 6th, some will be rejoicing and others will be crying and wringing their hands. But at the end of the day, God will still be on the Throne, and we will still have Jesus. It is so important that we keep that truth in the forefront of our hearts and minds. Jesus is still very much in control. When we are saved, by grace through faith in Christ alone, we are held and we are kept in Christ, by Christ, for Christ for an inheritance that can never fade, spoil or be taken from us. It

is kept for us in heaven by the God of the universe that will never fail or break His promises. He is faithful to complete what He has begun and put into motion.

Rest in our Heavenly Father, rest in The Savior. *“And God in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it, because you are trusting Him. It will be yours in that coming last day for all to see. So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here.”* 1 Peter 1:5-6 TLB

Our future is sure and certain in Christ.

Pastor Steve



Thank You...

During this Pastor Appreciation month you have overwhelmed us with cards, gifts and such kind words. Thank you. It is truly a blessing for us to be with you, and we are so thankful for you. May God bless you. During this month of November and Thanksgiving, our church family is one of the things that we are most thankful for.

Thank you again, we love you.

Pastor Steve and Kristi

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Ladies Prayer Group
Wednesdays at 10:00am

Men's Group

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm
We are studying the series "Unoffendable"
by Brant Hansen
All men are invited to join us!
Questions?? - contact Stan Motter at 815-545-7441

Ladies Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

We will be challenging ourselves to living faithfully in view of Christ's coming!
We are studying *1 and 2 Thessalonians*,
and will continue our journey through Paul's writings...



Would love to have you join us as we apply the Bible to our lives!
Kim Enlow at 815-931-2533

Ladies Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

We are studying a series called "When You Pray",
which is a look at Six Prayers in the Bible.

We hope you will join us!
Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527



Single Moms Support Group

Meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday Evenings 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 at 815-942-0812

*"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message
is heard through the word of Christ."*

Romans 10:17



Boards to Meet on Tuesday, Nov. 12

5:30pm - Board of Christian Ed.

5:30pm - Board of Deacons

5:30pm - Board of Trustees



Our ultimate aim in life is not to be healthy,
wealthy, prosperous, or problem free.
Our ultimate aim in life is to bring glory to God.
Anne Graham Lotz

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt Received</u>
Received for September	\$25,720.00	\$32,494.00
Received for October (so far)	\$25,720.00	\$22,762.00

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!

College Care Packages

Once again we will be sending "Care Boxes" to our college students to let them know we are praying for them as they finish their semester.

Please choose one or more items from the board in the foyer and return them to the church by November 10 .

Thank you so much for helping with this ministry.

Any questions, you may contact Colette Kirby.





Awana Club

"Because Kids Matter to God"

First Baptist Church

Ages 4 yrs.thru 7th grade

Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday
of each month at **4:00 - 5:15pm**

You may register by calling the
church office @ 815-942-0812

November 3 - Awana meets at church
"Wear Your Costume"

November 17 - Awana meets at church

Questions -

call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson
We are looking forward to seeing you!



One of your goals as a parent is to work yourself out of a job. Someday your children will leave home - and a major part of your responsibility is to prepare them for that day. From learning to brush their teeth and tie their shoes to helping with their homework and teaching them to make wise decisions, your goal is to prepare them for the day when you won't be there.



But, what about their spiritual foundations? Have they learned from you what it means to walk with Christ every day? Have you taught them to pray, and to love the Bible and live by its truths? Have you encouraged them to give their lives to Jesus Christ?

*"Impress them [the commandments] on your children.
Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road,
when you lie down and when you get up."*

Deuteronomy 6:7



*Draw strength from other believers.
We need to hear His Word as it is preached and taught.*

November Birthdays

2 Ryan West, Axton Valdivia
3 Joshua Downey, Duane McComas, Becky Pichon
4 Colin Zierman, Gary Brian, Jerry Brian
6 Dominyk Zavala
7 Rick Shouse
9 Ray Burnside
10 Kevin Groll
17 Judy Kuntz
19 Gabriel Shouse
24 Stan Motter
25 Virginia Edmundson
29 Ed Krug
30 Palin Goebel, Taylor Marx



November Anniversaries

4 Bucky and Chris Phillips
7 Stan and Mary Motter
23 Dan and Laurie Wilkinson
30 Mike and Kim Bricker

November

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IN NEED OF PRAYER?

First Baptist Church has a wonderful team of prayer warriors who are willing to lift your requests to our heavenly Father.

Colette Kirby leads this ministry,
and you can email your prayer needs to her at –

colette.kirby@comcast.net
or text 815-954-9527



“For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
2 Corinthians 12:10

Our Deepest Sympathy and Love to the family of **Vickie Bloomfield**. Vickie went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, October 16. Prayers for comfort for her family are much needed at this time.

Area I Youth Fall Lock-in November 8 – 9, 2024

7 pm – 7 am

6th – 12th Grade

Cost: \$10.00



First Baptist Church/Marengo

320 E. Washington St.

Marengo, IL 60152



We will start and end our night at FBC Marengo. We have reserved space at *Glo-Bowl Fun Center* from 8pm – 11pm. Pizza will be provided and we will take care of bowling/arcade fees as well. Students should NOT bring sleeping bags, pillows, etc. Each church should provide a leader to stay and a snack to share!

Students are NOT allowed to drive themselves to the Lock-In.

All participants need to be picked up or driven home by an adult leader who has had enough sleep to safely drive!

Area I Youth Coordinator: Cassie Buhlig/816-813-4925



Advent Season is coming up.....

December 1 – December 22
December 24 (Christmas Eve)

If you would like to take a reading for the
Early or Late Worship Service

Please contact the church office before November 17
or you can use the sign-up sheet on table in the foyer



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

**Friday, December 6
4 – 8 pm**

North and South Door at Wal-Mart

**We will be ringing bells for “We Care” again this year!
This is such a great ministry annnnnnnnd a chance to give
weary shoppers a smile! Watch for a sign-up sheet.
Any questions, you may contact the church office.**

**Moody Bible Institute
CANDLELIGHT CAROLS**

“Hope is Born”

**Saturday, December 7 at 1:00 pm
Tickets are \$25/per adult
\$13/per child (13-17 & college age)**

**Torrey-Gray Auditorium
820 N. LaSalle Blvd., Chicago, IL 60610**

Sign-up sheet is in the foyer



“Live Nativity” Meeting
Monday, November 4
6:00 PM

This will be our first meeting for this year’s “Live Nativity”.
All who are interested in helping, wearing a costume,
helping with food for participants, etc., please attend.

Any questions, please contact Stan Motter

	“Live Nativity” Event Friday – December 13 Saturday – December 14 5:30 – 8:30 pm	
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Ladies’ Christmas Breakfast & Gift Exchange



Saturday, December 14
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

All ladies of our congregation are invited to a
Christmas Breakfast & Gift Exchange to be held at the church!

There will be singing of Christmas songs, games,
followed by a Christmas Devotion.

This will be a wonderful time of fellowship and laughter with each other!

You’re welcome to bring a dish to share, if you wish,
and a small gift to exchange (under \$15)

Watch for the sign-up sheet on the foyer table.
Any questions, please contact the church office.

Christmas Poinsettias Order

We are taking orders for poinsettias for the sanctuary. They will arrive the week prior to Christmas and you may take them home the following Sunday after Christmas. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 10th.



6" – 5-6 flowers \$12.35

6.5" – 6-7 flowers \$15.25

6.5" – 7-9 flowers \$19.20

Please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate, along with your payment, or drop off in the office.

Name -----

6" - 5-6 flowers

6.5" - 6-7 flowers

6.5" - 7-9 flowers

Quantity _____

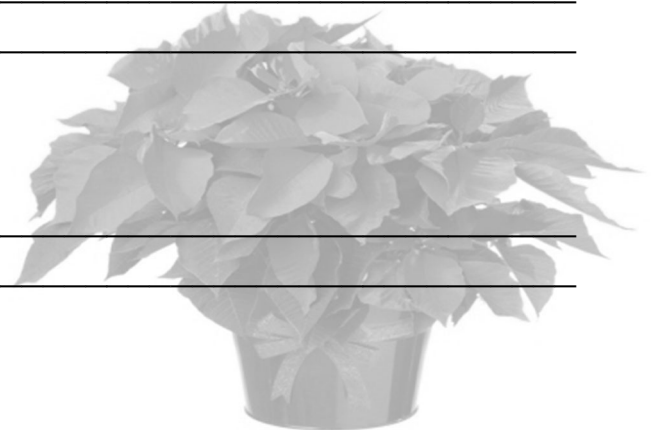
Quantity _____

Quantity _____

Total payment _____

In memory of

In celebration of







PLEASE JOIN US.....

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 8:00am

We offer a staffed Nursery

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 10:30 am

Sunday Morning Kid's Church (Pre-K and up)

during this Worship Service

We offer a staffed Nursery



Kid's Church

Every Sunday morning during the 10:30 am Worship Service

Meets in our Library ... Sue Cheng (ages 4 yrs to 1st grade), Kristi Larson (ages 2nd to 5th grade) and Lisa Vaksdal (sub). This class offers a Bible lesson, craft and snack for the kids during the worship service. It gives the parents a chance to listen to the message and also the kids to receive a message as well. If your kids are too young for this class, we have a staffed Nursery that you may take them to at the same time. Kids are brought back to their parents before the main worship service is concluded. Come check us out!

Adult Bible Study

Sunday 9:15 am

Meets in the Sanctuary.....Jeff & Claudette Swiggett

Looking forward to seeing you!



"Look to the LORD and His strength, seek His face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15 - 10:15 am

Pre-K thru 1st Grade ... Lisa Vaksdal

2nd thru 5th Grade ... Jen Goebel

Jr. High ... Mary Motter

High School ... Cathy Planeta



"Pray continually" 1 Thessalonians 5:17



Feed My Starving Children
November 9, 2024
11:45 am – 1:15 pm

We will be volunteering again at the
“Feed My Starving Children” facility in Aurora.

This is the 11th year we will have gone, and it is
an amazing day of packing meals to
feed children around the world!

Any questions, contact Jen Goebel or the church office.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Gift-filled Shoeboxes
October 6 – November 17

Praise the Lord for the opportunity to bring great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children through gift-filled shoeboxes. Ask God to prepare their young hearts to respond to His love through these simple treasures.

We, as a church family, are once again participating in filling shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child. Our “Shoebox Team” – Jen Goebel, Heather Shouse, Kay Hemmersbach and Carla O'Brien have ordered plenty of shoeboxes, which will be available at the church on Sunday, October 6. You may take as many as you would like to fill. There is a pamphlet in the box that tells you “How to Pack a Shoebox”. You also have the opportunity to put a donation of \$10.00 in the envelope for the postage it takes to ship the box, as well as labels showing it is for a boy or girl. Deadline for returning your filled boxes will be Sunday, November 3. If you would rather just donate money toward filling a box, please give your donation to one of the “Shoebox Team” or the church office, and they will purchase and pack a shoebox for you! Last year we delivered **176** shoeboxes to the distribution center!

“The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.” Psalm 145:18



GOOD NEWS CLUB

Ages 5 – 12 years old

Every Thursday at Saratoga School
January 23, 2025 – April 17, 2025

2:45 – 4:00 pm

The Good News Club team is looking for helpers. We will be meeting at Saratoga School every Thursday from 2:45 – 4:00 pm, January 23, 2025 – April 17, 2025.

We have a....

- Bible Story
- Verse memory game
- Singing
- Missionary story

at each meeting and pray many children come to know Jesus.

If you have any questions, you may contact Kristi Larson at 815-370-2395.

Jesus welcomed the children who flocked around Him:
*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”* (Matthew 19:14).
Their openness, their enthusiasm, their trust – all these delighted Jesus.
A young child may not understand everything about God – but he or
she can understand something. A young child understands love,
and also understands what it means to obey someone. Don’t ignore
the children God brings across your path, but by your words and by
your example tell them about Jesus.

*“He called a little child and had him stand among them...
and He said...” whoever humbles himself like this little child is
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 18:2-4





THANKSGIVING FOODS

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

WORD LIST

APPLE PIE
BRUSSEL SPROUTS
CASSEROLE
CHERRY PIE
COLLARD GREENS
CORNBREAD
CORNUCOPIA
CRANBERRY SAUCE

CREAMED CORN
DINNER ROLLS
DRUMSTICK
GIBLETS
GLAZED CARROTS
GRATIN
GRAVY
GREEN BEANS

HAM
MAPLE SYRUP
MULLED CIDER
PARSNIPS
PECAN PIE
POTATOES
PUMPKIN PIE

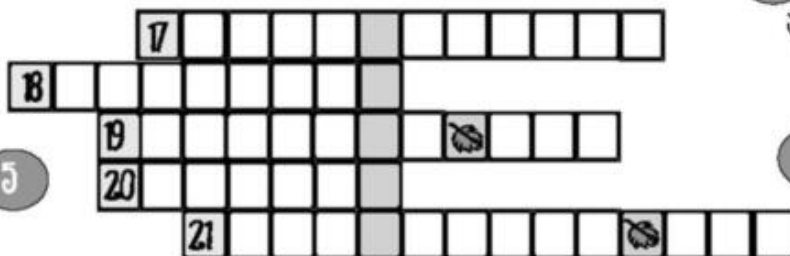
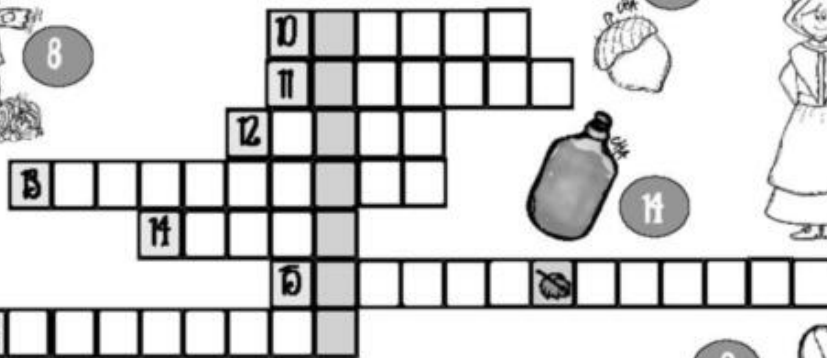
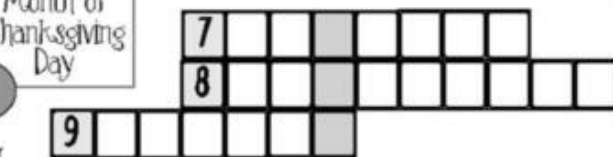
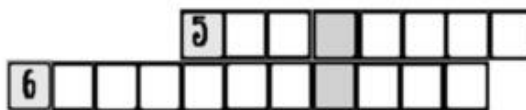
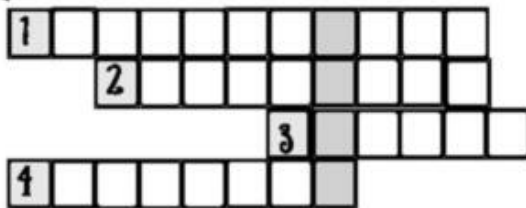
SOUP
SQUASH
STUFFING
SWEET POTATO
TURKEY
VEGETABLES
YAMS



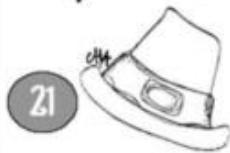
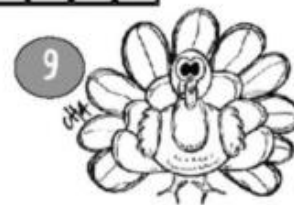
Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

Thanksgiving Day

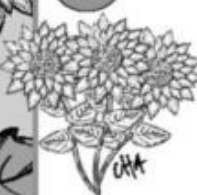
Complete the crossword to find out the question of the riddle. Then, try to solve the riddle below and colour the pictures.



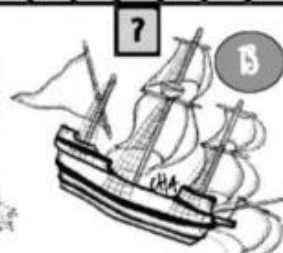
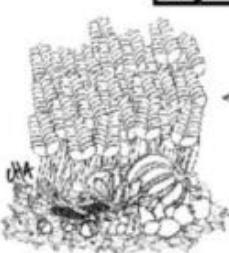
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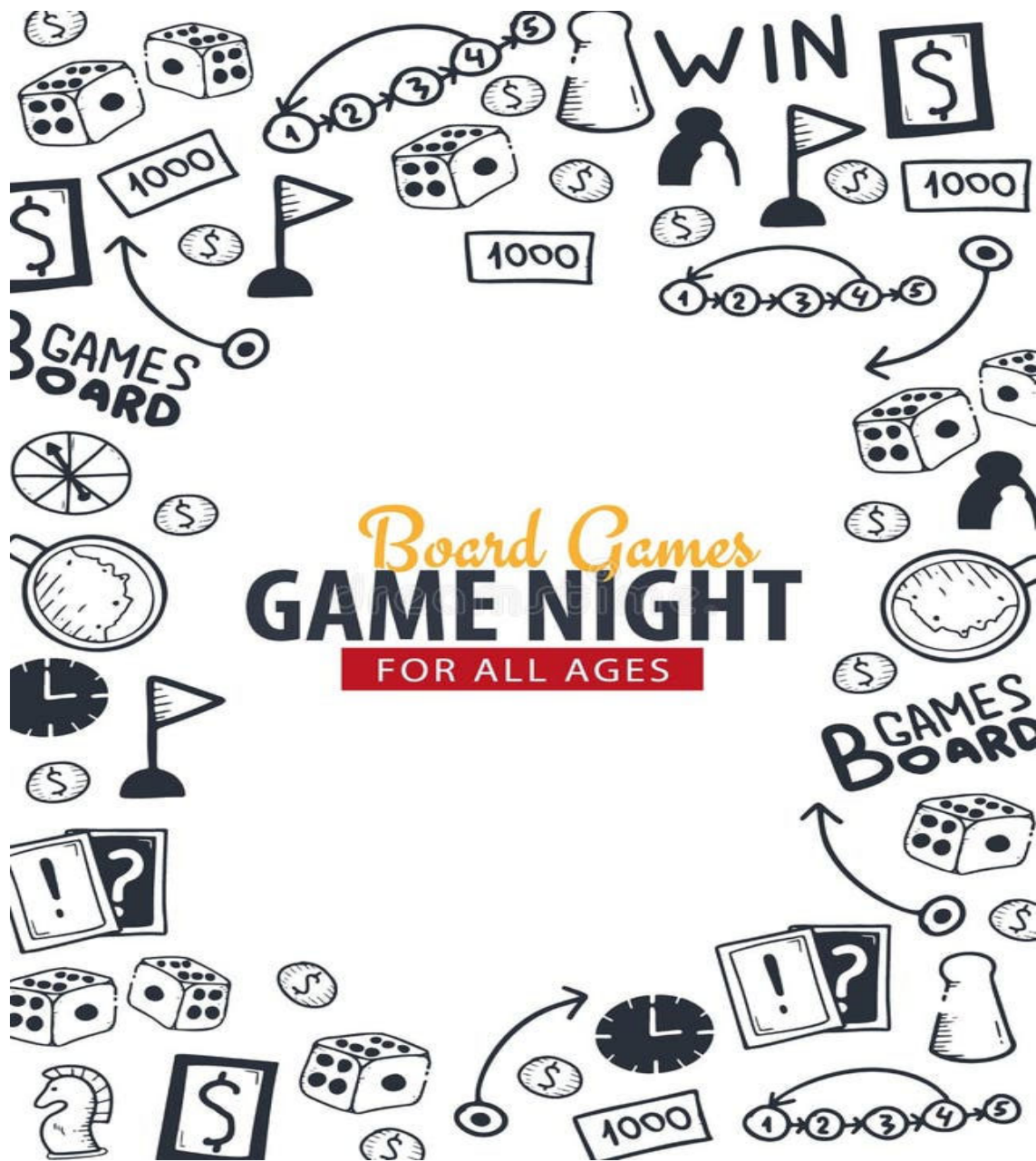
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If April showers bring May flowers,

_____?

Answer: _____



First Baptist Church
Game Night
Saturday, November 2
6 - 8 pm

Come Join the Fun!
Snacks and Drinks Provided!
Sponsored by Christian Ed. Board