

Church News

MARCH 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings ...

As the early church began in the book of Acts, there is a message that comes through loud and clear from the very first chapters. That being; **“Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**

There is the promise that, **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**
Acts 2:21

And; **“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”** Acts 4:12

And; **“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”** Acts 3:19

The message also comes with a sobering reminder, **“Anyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off from among His people.”** Acts 3:23

The message is very clear, and those who spoke it, did so with such clarity and conviction. People like Peter and John were authentic in their message. Why? Because they were faithful to the truth of God's Word. They were confident in the Word of God because they spent much time in it. They had a certainty in the Holy Spirit's equipping, and the Holy Spirit was constantly affirming in them that God's Word was always truth, as Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would do. (John 14:26, John 15:26 and John 16:13). This is why we see Peter and John speak with such conviction as they would call people to Christ; they knew Jesus, and they knew that He alone was the Way and the Truth and the Life. This message would see many people converted to Christ, becoming new creations, as the Holy Spirit would bring conviction to their hearts, revealing to them their need for a Savior.

Is there anything in Your life that keeps you from speaking the message of the Gospel? When our mind, heart and life get convoluted with the things of this world, it affects our convictions. Our communion with Christ is stymied. Where is your walk with the Lord hindered? Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you, spend time in prayer seeking the Lord, asking Him where you need clarity in your relationship with Him. From 1 Timothy 1:15, **“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the World to save sinners.”** May this be our message to a very troubled world, because the time is short.

Pastor Steve

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women's Prayer Group
Wednesdays at 10:00am

Men's Group

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm

We are currently studying the series *"How (not) to Read the Bible"*
by Dan Kimball

All men are invited to join us!

Questions?? - contact Stan Motter at 815-545-7441



Ladies Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

Will begin studying the *Book of James* on February 18th.

Join us as we learn to apply biblical Christian wisdom to our daily lives,
while enjoying the special bonding and fellowship we have together!

Come join us!

Kim Enlow at 815-931-2533

Ladies Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Will begin a series called

"Relying on the Holy Spirit" ...Discover Who He is and How He Works

by Charles F. Stanley

We hope you will join us!

Colette Kirby at 815-954-9527



Single Moms Support Group

Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month

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



New Boards to Meet on Tuesday, March 10
 10:00am – Board of Deacons
 5:30pm - Board of Christian Ed
 5:30pm -Board of Trustees



Congregational Prayer
 Sunday, March 1
 6:00 pm

Come gather together for prayer and praise!

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

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt Received</u>
Total Given for February	\$25,720.00	\$26,547.05

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



DON'T FORGET
 TO TURN
 YOUR CLOCKS
 FORWARD
 1 HR.
 ON MARCH 7TH



Awana Club

"Because Kids Matter to God"

First Baptist Church

Age 4 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

March 1

Regular meeting

March 15

Bring a Friend

March 29

Easter Hunt

Questions -

Call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson

We are looking forward to seeing you!



*"Lord, give my child a discerning spirit to know right from wrong,
wisdom to benefit their life,
and convictions to stand strong in their peer groups,
leading rather than following".*

Simple prayer for kids, *"Thank you, God, for this day, for my family, and for
keeping me safe. Help me be good and love others. Amen,"* or a bedtime version
saying, *"Thank you for loving me, please keep me safe tonight and help me
have good dreams. Amen"*

"I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands."

Isaiah 49:15-16

March Birthdays ...

2 Sondra Rankin

6 Paul Livingston

11 Laurie Wilkinson

12 Jim Paulson

13 Lynn Cox, Brian Gagliardo, Joe Hemmersbach

15 Jan Kresse, Bucky Phillips

20 Sarah Vershay

21 Peggy Laing

24 Jane Battersby

25 Matt Spangler

26 Gretchen Goebel

28 Chris Zierman

30 Kayla Hamilton, James Sellers

31 Doris Lanning, John O'Brien

March Anniversaries...

2 Bob and Mary Hill

7 Tracey and Alicia Steffes

12 Marty and Shirley Myre

17 Keith and Jennifer Smith

19 John and Carla O'Brien



PLEASE JOIN US.....

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 8:00 am
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 (age 4 to 1st grade), Kristi Larson (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.... Claudette Swiggert
Looking forward to seeing you!



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



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

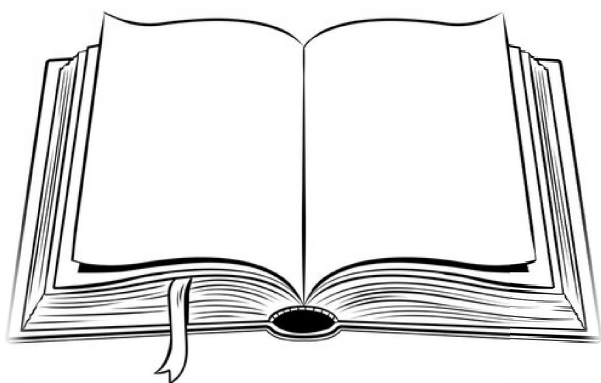
Sunday 9:15 am

Pre-K thru 2nd Grade Jen Goebel, sub.
3rd thru 5th Grade ... Jen Goebel
Jr. High Mary Motter
High SchoolCathy Planeta

Take all your anxieties to Calvary. Stand in the shadow of God's crucified Son. Now ask your questions. "Is Jesus on my side?" Look at the wound in His. "Will He stay with me?" Having given the supreme and costliest gift, is there anything else He wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?

Romans 8:32

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2026



The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling

“Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable He told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet -

*“I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation.”
Matthew 13:34-35*

Each year, as we gather around the sacred work of the America for Christ Offering, we reaffirm our shared commitment to bringing the Gospel to life in tangible, transformative ways across our communities. For 2026, our theme – “The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling” calls us to honor one of the most enduring practices of our faith: the telling and passing on of God’s stories across generations.

In Matthew 13:34-35, we encounter Jesus – our Teacher and Storyteller – speaking in parables to reveal eternal truth. His use of storytelling reflects the divine pattern of revelation: stories that transmit wisdom, preserve identity, and invite new generations to encounter and experience the goodness of God. As Jesus shared what had been “hidden from the foundation of the world,” so too must we steward the sacred stories entrusted to us, ensuring their continuity across generations.

In this season, we are reminded that wisdom is not the possession of one age group alone. It is a divine gift meant to be shared. Elders pass down faith, youth bring fresh insights, and communities weave their voices into a greater narrative. Together, we learn to tell a more profound and uplifting story of hope, grace and renewal in the Spirit of Christ.

I invite you and your congregation to join us once again as generous partners in the 2026 America for Christ Offering. Your gifts proclaim and embody the Gospel in life-giving ways by helping us to strengthen the bonds between generations, empower faithful storytellers, nurture hope, and build bridges that carry God’s truth into the future.

Together, let us continue the story.

Please give today! | www.abhms.org/afc



Spring Senior Luncheon
Thursday, March 26
12:00 – 1:30pm

Program –
Presentation by
Health Department Senior Services
“This is what we offer....”

Looking forward to seeing all of you!

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



*“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”* John 15:7

The dearest treasure of your life - second only to your relationship with Jesus Christ - is a close friend. A friend loves you unconditionally, catches you when you fall, believes in the best for you and encourages the best in you, understands your deepest concerns, applauds your successes and shares your pain, offers you constructive criticism in times of error, and feels sorrow for you in times of pain or rejection. A genuine friend is a gift of God's mercy to you.

Sunday Worship Services
 8:00am Early Service
 9:15am Adult Sunday School
 9:15am Youth Sunday School
 10:30am Late Service
 10:30am Kid's Church

March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 4-5:15pm AWANA 6pm Congregational Prayer	Office Closed	7pm Men of Action	10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	6:30pm Single Moms		7 Don't Forget to Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour 
8	Office Closed	10am Deacon Bd. 5:30pm CE Bd. 5:30pm Trustees Bd. 7pm Men of Action	11 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	12	13	14
15 4-5:15pm AWANA America for Christ Off.	Office Closed	7pm Men of Action	18 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	19 6:30pm Single Moms	20 Spring Begins 	21
22 America for Christ Off.	Office Closed	7pm Men of Action	25 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	26 12-1:30pm Senior Luncheon	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 1-5:15pm AWANA America for Christ Off.	Office Closed	7pm Men of Action		<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0ffe0; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><i>"Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You." Psalm 143:8</i></p> </div>		



WORD SEARCH

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

APRIL
 BEE
 BIRD
 BLOOM
 BLOSSOM

BUD
 BUTTERFLY
 CATERPILLAR
 FLOWER
 GARDEN

GRASS
 MARCH
 MAY
 NEST
 PLANT

PUDDLE
 RAIN
 SPROUT
 SUNSHINE
 UMBRELLA

EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026

Worship Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 2026

NO Worship Service

Good Friday – April 3, 2026

Worship Service at 7:00 pm w/Communion

“7 Last Words from the Cross”

Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026

Worship Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Easter Breakfast

9:15 – 10:15 am

(hosted by Men of Action)

Please join us!

Any questions please contact church office at 815-942-0812

On that first Easter morning, something happened that had never happened before in the history of the human race – and would never happen again: someone came back from the dead, never to die again...

Jesus' resurrection also tells us that there is life beyond the grave. This world is not all there is; when we die, we continue to live – either in the place of utter darkness the Bible calls Hell or in the place of endless joy the Bible calls Heaven. And now Jesus has opened the way to Heaven for us, by His death and resurrection. Because Jesus rose from the dead, death has been defeated and Heaven awaits us.

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

John 11:25-26

Crossword puzzle