

# Church News

MAY 2026

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## Pastor's Ponderings ...

*"Oh for the faith that does not make haste, but waits patiently for the Lord, waits for the explanation that shall come in the end, at the revelation of Jesus Christ!"*

*"Streams in the Desert" by Mrs. Chas. E. Cowman, Cowman Publication 1949*

We as Christians have a hard time waiting. We have trouble waiting for answers, we struggle to wait for God's perfect timing, we find it hard to wait for God's deliverance. We're just not very good at waiting. Psalm 37:7 reminds us, *"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him."* No matter how many times God's Word reminds us to wait for the Lord, our tendency seems to be to run ahead. We seem to, well more times than not, possess this inherent "quality" of thinking we know best, or know better than God does. Yikes! Scary.

We saw this played out sometime ago when predictions were made as to the day of Christ's return. According to some predictions, Jesus would return on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> (2017). That was to be the date of the Rapture. It was a part of something called "The Heavenly Sign 2017" by Pastor Steven Sewell. He went on to predict that the seven years of Tribulation would begin on or around the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. And then there was the book some years back entitled, "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be In 1988". It was written by Edgar CV. Whisenant. He was a former NASA engineer and Bible student who predicted the Rapture would occur in 1988, sometime between September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup>. He went on to explain in the book why ROSH-HASH-ANA 1988 must be the time of the Church's Rapture. Do you know his book sold over four million copies? He wrote several more books after this one, they however did not meet with the same level of enthusiasm.

Let's be clear; my objective is not to make fun of anyone, or mock anybody. If anything, it breaks my heart to see these kinds of things happen in the Church. I'm concerned that these predictions just cause people to dismiss the fact that Jesus is returning. Or at the very least, minimize the urgency of His return. But it is important that we stand up and speak the truth. God's Word makes it so very clear that no one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return, only God knows. *Matthew 24:36*. We know Christ is returning soon, the signs of the times bear this out. And with every passing day, His return gets one day closer. But

here's the question; are we ready, I mean really ready for Christ's return? The question is not can we figure out what day He's returning. The question is, do we stand ready to meet the Lord, at any time, day or night, 24/7? Do we live every day in a constant state of readiness?

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.  
Do not be wise in your own eyes;” Proverbs 3:5-7a*

*“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”  
Proverbs 4:23*

Standing with you, as we wait for the Lord's sure and certain return,  
*Pastor Steve*

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women's Prayer Group  
Wednesdays at 10:00am

### Men of Action

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

We are studying the *Book of James*

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

We are studying 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, May 12  
 10:00am - Board of Deacons  
 5:30pm - Board of Christian Ed  
 5:30pm - Board of Trustees

Congregational Prayer  
 Sunday, May 3  
 6:00pm



*"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him."*  
 Psalm 145:18

**"Be kind to each other,  
 tenderhearted,  
 forgiving one another,  
 just as God through Christ has forgiven you."  
 Ephesians 4:32 NLT**

### UNIFIED GIVING

God promises His blessing on the giver: *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"*

[\(2 Corinthians 9:6-7\)](#).

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt Received</u>
Total Given thru April 19	\$25,720.00	\$23,145.00

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





## Awana Club

*"Because Kids Matter to God"*

**First Baptist Church**

**Age 4 thru 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

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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

### May 3

Bring Your Favorite Stuffed Animal

### May 17

Regular Meeting

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### 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"*

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God...shall guard your hearts.”*

Philippians 4:6-7

## May Birthdays ....

1 Chris Day, Ardele Willis  
2 Faye Chisler, Debbie Kusters, Brista Johnson  
6 Ken Stulgis  
7 Ben Paulson  
9 Julie Applegate, Brittany Johnson  
10 Kay Hemmersbach  
11 Tim Wilkinson  
13 Sue Hoaglund  
16 Jacie Punke  
18 Mary Motter  
20 Dorothy Bricker  
22 Amelia Hiney, Paul Warrick  
25 Cindy West  
26 Mike Meloun  
27 Andrew Meloun  
29 Bob Hill  
31 Mike Gallagher, Hazel Maylum

## 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  
29 Dave and Christi Punke



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> grade), Kristi Larson (2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Swiggett  
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.  
3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ... Jen Goebel  
Jr. High ..... Mary Motter  
High School .....Cathy 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

# 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](mailto: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.



*“for everyone born of God overcomes  
the world. This is the victory that has  
overcome the world – even our faith.”*

1 John 5:4

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If you will begin every day with a declaration of victory over the specific giants in your life, you will experience victory. Begin tomorrow morning on your knees. Think through the temptations you will face, the pressure you will feel, and the rejection you are likely to encounter. Item by item, thank God for the victory. Remember that at the cross Christ paid the price not only for your sin but for your victory.... “Christ has already dealt with this, and I have already claimed His power, I can handle it through Him.”



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
THURSDAY, MAY 7  
12:00 PM**

Please be in prayer for our nation!

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**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

**Saturday, May 9**

**11:30 – 1:45pm**

**Meet at the Church at 9:45am**

Any questions, please contact Jen Goebel

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**Graduate Recognition Sunday**

**May 17, 2026** (revised date)

**10:30am Worship Service**

**Anyone graduating from Jr. High, High School or College  
please contact the church office before May 8<sup>th</sup>, we would  
like to celebrate your achievements with you!**

*“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:16*



## Vacation Bible School 2026

June 21 - 25

5:00 - 7:30 pm

Ages Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

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### Top o' the Mornin' to Ya'

At *Emerald Crossing*, children will journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. Along the way, they'll meet the shepherd-king David and the ultimate Shepherd-King, Jesus Christ.

In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids will learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. They'll discover there is a God who cares for them!

Day 1 – Lost to Found

Day 2 – Wrong Path to Right Path

Day 3 – Fearful to Peaceful

Day 4 – Grumbling to Grateful

Day 5 – Shaky to Sure

#### Mission Moment with Children's Hunger Fund

Every quarter your kids give can provide a meal – and the opportunity to hear the gospel – to a hungry child!



Please call the church office  
if you have any questions

815-942-0812



## *Rooted Bible Study*

Begins May 4, 2026

6:30pm – 7:30pm

If you are interested in joining this class, just add your name to the sign-up sheet in the foyer.



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## Memorial Sunday

May 24, 2026

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 20.

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

### First Baptist Church Memorial Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please direct this gift to:

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


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

**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

# May 2026

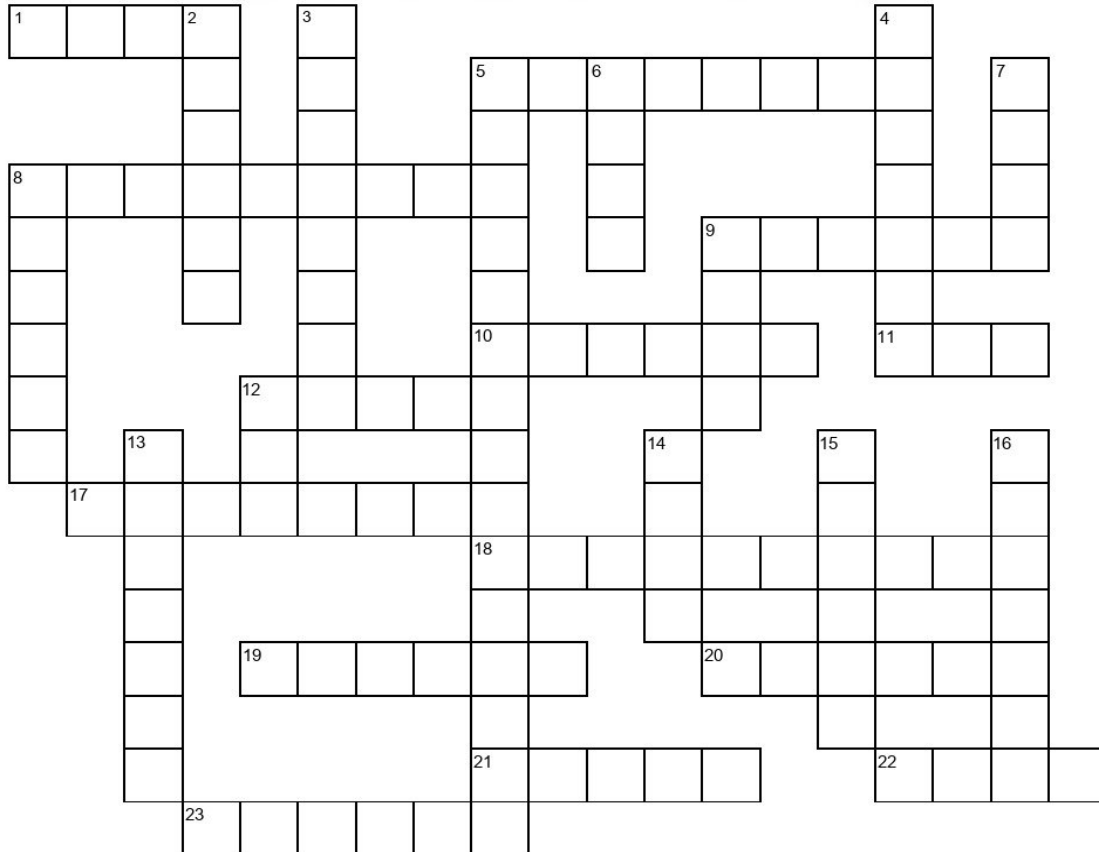


**Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday**

		<i>"Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him."</i> Psalm 2:12				1	2
		<b>3 Communion</b> 4-5:15pm AWANA 6pm Congregational Prayer	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Rooted Class  Office Closed	<b>5</b> 7pm Men of Action	<b>6</b> 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Single Moms	8
<b>10 Mother's Day</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Rooted Class  Office Closed	<b>12</b> 10am Deacon Bd. 5:30pm CE Bd. 5:30pm Trustees Bd. 7pm Men of Action	<b>13</b> 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	14	15	16	
<b>17 Graduate Sunday</b> 4-5:15pm AWANA	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Rooted Class  Office Closed	<b>19</b> 7pm Men of Action	<b>20</b> 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Single Moms	22	23	
<b>24 Memorial Sunday</b>  <b>31 Camp Sunday</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30pm Rooted Class  Office Closed	<b>26</b> 7pm Men of Action	<b>27</b> 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	28	29	30	



# crossword puzzle



- WORD BANK:**
- APRIL FOOLS
  - BEEES
  - BLOOM
  - BLUE
  - BREEZE
  - BUTTERFLY
  - CHICKS
  - CLOUDS
  - DAFFODIL
  - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
  - EASTER
  - FLOWERS
  - FROG
  - GARDEN
  - GRASS
  - KITE
  - LADYBUGS
  - MARCH
  - MAY
  - NEST
  - PASTELS
  - PICNIC
  - PUDDLE
  - RAIN
  - RAINBOW
  - SUN
  - UMBRELLA

**ACROSS:**

1. Toy that flies in the wind, attached to a string.
5. Yellow spring flower.
8. Winged insect that emerges from a chrysalis.
9. A gentle wind.
10. A place where people grow flowers or vegetables.
11. Star that provides light and warmth.
12. The first month of spring.
17. Lucky red beetles with black dots.
18. Holiday when people pull pranks and make jokes.
19. A meal you have outside on the grass.
20. Small pool of water.
21. A green lawn covering.
22. Home for birds.
23. A name for baby birds.

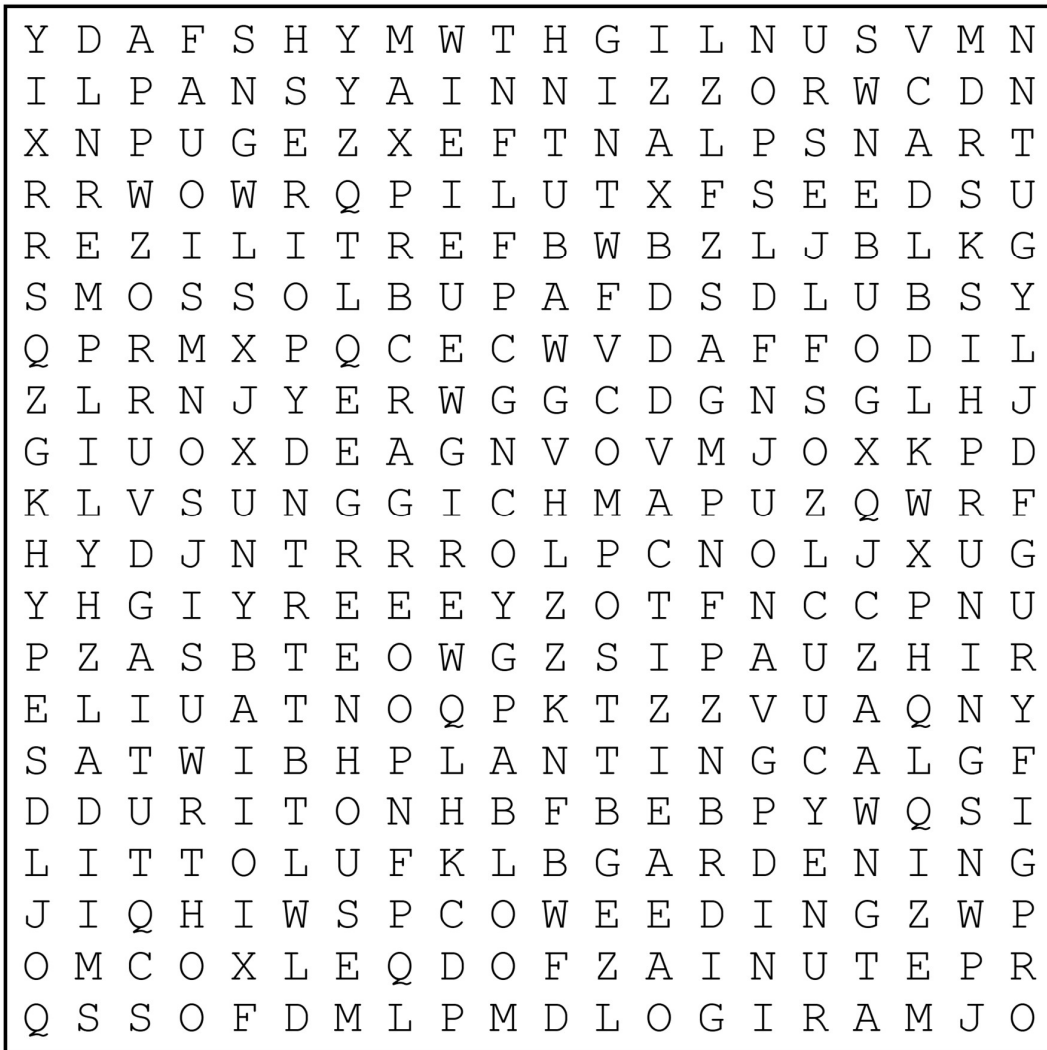
**DOWN:**

2. A spring holiday when you might hunt for eggs.
3. Item that shelters you from the rain.
4. Plants with petals.
5. What it's called when the clocks "spring forward".
6. It's what a tadpole turns into when it grows up.
7. The color of the sky.
8. Another name for flowers.
9. Insects that pollinate flowers and make honey.
12. Spring month containing Mother's Day.
13. Multi-colored arc caused when light is refracted through water droplets.
14. When water droplets fall from the sky.
15. Sometimes these hide the sun.
16. Colors that are soft and muted.

Happy Spring!



# Spring Gardening



Word list:

- |            |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| ANNUALS    | GARDENING  | PERENNIALS | SUNLIGHT   |
| BLOOM      | GREENHOUSE | PETUNIA    | TRANSPLANT |
| BLOSSOM    | HOE        | PLANTING   | TROWEL     |
| COMPOST    | LILY       | PRUNING    | TULIP      |
| DAFFODIL   | MARIGOLD   | SEEDS      | WATERING   |
| DAISY      | MULCH      | SOIL       | WEEDING    |
| FERTILIZER | PANSY      | SPROUT     | ZINNIA     |

