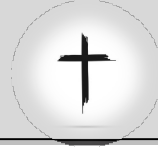


Church News

JULY/AUGUST 2026

Email: fbmorris1650@gmail.com

Website: www.fbchurch.org



Address: 1650 West US Route 6

Phone: 815-942-0812

Pastor's Ponderings ...

"All things being equal..." We've all used that phrase at one point or another. But is it always a fair statement; is it always a true statement? Are all things always equal? Of course we would have to say no, all things are not always equal. Sometimes they are. All people are created equal. Our country's Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Bible is always true. The ground is always level at the foot of the cross. All people are invited equally to come to Jesus. And as long as we are in these days of grace, there is always room for one more in the kingdom of God. Here on earth anyway, gravity always works, I'm pretty sure. You can't breathe without air, if your heart stops you're dead, you need food and water to live, and it's never fun to empty out the diaper pail. Whether you like it or not, these are all absolutes. Some things are always true, but not all things are true. (And just because someone believes it, that doesn't make it true). And on the flip side, just because less and less people believe the Bible, that doesn't make it less true. Truth is not leaking out of the Bible over time like a slow leak in a balloon just because less and less people believe it. So what do we do when the truth of God's Word is being replaced by falsehoods, lies and misconceptions? For example, when you hear someone say, "There are many ways to get to heaven," is that a true statement? Do all roads lead to the same place? Or when someone says, "It doesn't matter what you believe, it's all the same God." Now I understand that many times when a person says these things, they are trying to be kind and not hurt someone's feelings. But is it kind to let someone believe a lie? Is it wise to allow someone to rest in a false hope because of a misconception they have about Spiritual things? I suppose it's one thing to see someone with a mosquito on their arm and not say anything, but most of us would probably try to swish it away. How much worse to remain silent when someone is believing a lie about spiritual issues that may very well affect where they will spend eternity. Or what about the person who believes they will get to Heaven because of their good works, and because they are a good person? We who know the Word must stand on the Word. And as Paul says to the Ephesians in chapter 4:15, *"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the*

Head, into Christ.” It’s always good to remember that if what’s being said doesn’t agree with the Word of God, then don’t believe it. When someone says that all roads lead to Heaven, we must remember what Jesus said in John 14:6, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me.”* And speak the truth in love. When someone says, “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you’re a good person.” We must remember what Peter said before the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:12, *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”* And speak the truth in love. When someone declares with false hope, “You get to heaven by your good works.” We must remember the words of Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 2:8-9, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”* And speak the truth in love. We must be mindful of the fact that where people will spend eternity has everything to do with what they believe, and where they place their hope while they are on this earth. These are the days of God’s grace, and God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But a very real part of our calling as Christians in these days of grace is to know the Word, to stand on the Word, to remain in the Word, and to speak the Word, which is the truth, in love. Is it worth letting someone remain in false hope of where they will spend eternity? Is it really love to not speak the truth in love?

We stand together, looking for His soon 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

Are studying *"Demolishing Doubt-Discovering
How Your Deepest Questions Can Lead to Life Giving Faith"*

by Cliffe Knechtle and Stuart Knechtle

All men are invited to join us!

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

Ladies Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

Are studying the *Book of Acts/Relying on the Power of the Spirit*

By Elizabeth George

Join us as we explore the true power that comes from allowing
the Holy Spirit to refine us as believers for God's purposes!

Come join us!

Kim Enlow at 815-931-2533

Ladies Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

We will begin studying a series called

"Developing a Servant's Heart" on July 8

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;4-7 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



Boards to Meet on Tuesday, July 14 & August 11

10:00am – Board of Deacons

5:30pm – Board of Christian Ed

5:30pm – Board of Trustees

Congregational Prayer Gathering
Sunday, July 5 & August 2
6:00pm



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

LORD, please forgive me. I am not perfect; I am a sinner.
Sometimes I forget to pray, at times I forget to thank You,
sometimes I lose my temper. I know You see every little
thing I do. But thank You for always giving me another day
to start anew. My LORD, please do not leave me;
You are my everything.

Amen



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 June 21	\$25,720.00	\$16,839.00

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



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

July

No Awana Club in July

August 2

Meet at the church

August 16

Meet at the church

Questions -

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



**"GOD IN HEAVEN HEAR MY PRAYER,
KEEP ME IN THY LOVING CARE.
BE MY GUIDE IN ALL I DO.
BLESS ALL THOSE
WHO LOVE ME TOO."
AMEN**



MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, July 18

4:00 pm

From the songs of his mother's heart to the whispers of a faithful God, David's story begins in quiet devotion. When the giant Goliath rises to terrorize a nation, a young shepherd armed with only a sling, a few stones, and unshakable faith steps forward. Pursued by power and driven by purpose, his journey tests the limits of loyalty, love, and courage—culminating in a battle not just for a crown, but for the soul of a kingdom.

**This movie night is sponsored by our Christian Education Bd.
Snacks will be provided.
All are invited to attend!**



“Whoever keeps His word, truly the love God is perfected in Him.”

I John 2:5

July Birthdays

1 Marilou Warrick, Jim Downey
2 Mike Bricker
5 Myah Hitchcock, Avah Hitchcock
7 Bonnie Joneson
9 Harry Kusters
10 Marta Nelson
13 Diane Gagliardo
15 Hunter Herman, Tyler Downey
16 Cheryle Larson, Carley Steiner
18 Bridget Schwalm
23 Ralph Binion
24 Jacob Paulson
27 Cheryl Johnson, Ronda Clark
31 Jerry Hunter



July Anniversaries....

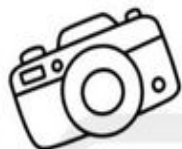
3 Jim and Bev Swiggett
6 Mark and Gayle Conrod
21 David and Rhonda Nold
29 Keith and Nancy Hiney



Name : _____ Date : _____



WORD SEARCH



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



SANDCASTLE
BEACH
CAMP
SUNNY
COCONUT

FLIP FLOPS
FLOWERS
LEMONADE
POOL
SUNGLASSES

VACATION
WATERMELON
SUMMER
KITE
SWIM

HOLIDAY
BOAT
BUGS
ICE CREAM
PICNIC



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!

NO Adult Bible Study in July

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

NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING THE SUMMER



Sunday 9:15 am

Pre-K thru 2nd Grade

3rd thru 5th Grade

Jr. High

High School

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
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.

*“If anyone has a complaint against another;
even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”*

Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness means that we are willing to let go of the pain we feel, and give it to God. We are willing to place every hurt and injustice into the hands of God and trust Him to heal our hearts and deal with those who have wounded us. **We must always forgive.** There is never any situation in which unforgiveness can be justified before God. Forgiveness does not mean that we deny our injuries... It does mean that we must release that person from our own judgment and let go of any bitterness.



Summer Breakfast Fellowship Hour

Sunday Mornings 9:15 – 10:15 am

May 31 – September 6

What to Bring?

Volunteer's choice

Church will furnish drinks

2 people volunteering together is great and also easier!

Need suggestions?

Fresh Fruit

Breakfast Pizza (from Casey's)

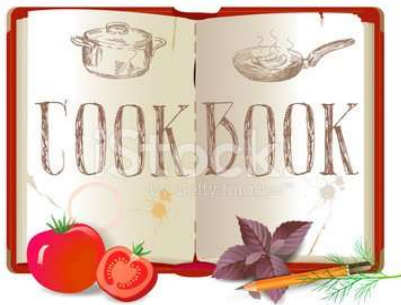
Breakfast Casserole

Donuts, Muffins

Etc. Etc.



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



Cookbook 2026

Deadline for Submitting Recipes July 31st

We are putting together a cookbook of favorite recipes from our church family, and we need your help! It will only be a success if everyone contributes.

Please share a few of your favorite or most-requested recipes by submitting them on the *“Recipe Collection Sheets”* available on the table in the church foyer. You may turn your recipes into the church office.

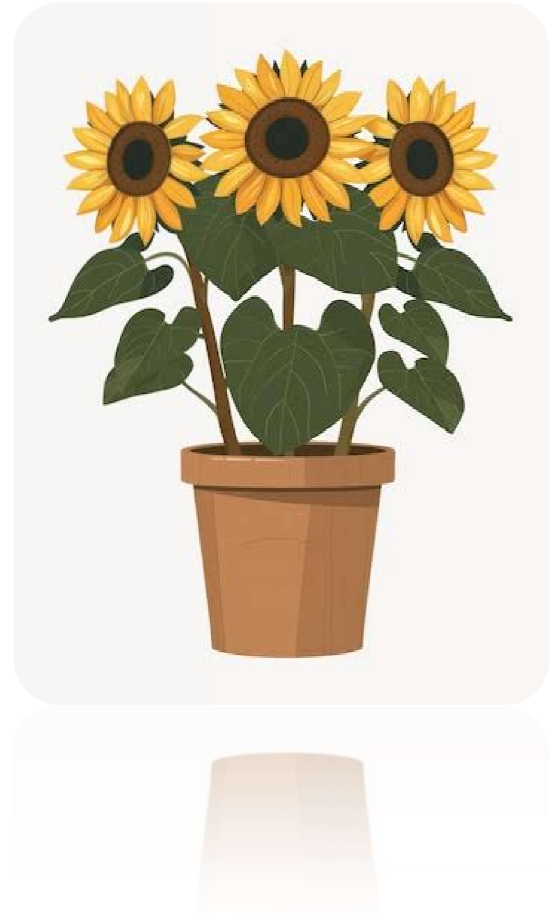
Please see -
Deb Gonnamm, Shirley Myre or
Merv & Sharon Visser
if you have any questions



"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." Isaiah 30: 15

August Birthdays

1 Kyle Schwalm, Theresa Baggett, Elane Ward
3 Melanie Zierman
4 Greg Larson, Bob West
5 Kim Enlow, Brayden Maylum
6 Herman Wisslead
7 Lisa Cook, Kaden Linn, Ginger Hoaglund
8 Denise Rylander
9 Bill Brown, Amanda Hitchcock, Landy Walker
10 Heather Wolsfeld
11 Rodney Clark
13 Lisa Vaksdal
14 Meganne Johnson
15 Elijah Hamilton
16 Beverly Swiggett
22 Marlene Burnside
23 Jon Lanning
24 Ed Robertson, Donovan Smith
29 Judy Needham, Don Wolsfeld
30 Nancy Hiney
31 Joy Nelson



August Anniversaries....

1 Rick and Kim Enlow
6 Pastor Steve and Kristi Larson
11 Joe and Kay Hemmersbach, Chris and Melanie Zierman
26 Todd and Ginger Hoaglund





Semi-Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 14

7:00pm

- Oral reports will be presented by the Pastor, Boards, & various ministries
- Written reports will be presented by Church Treasurer, Financial Secretaries & Deacon Bd. Treasurer

Please try to attend...
Refreshments will be served prior to the meeting.

RALLY DAY & TEACHER APPRECIATION

Sunday, August 23

10:30 am Worship Service

Fall Sunday School Begins on September 6 @ 9:15am

"The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."

James 3:17-18 NIV

Sunday Worship Services
 8:00am Early Service
 NO Adult Sunday School in July
 NO Youth Sunday School/Summer
 10:30am Late Service
 10:30am Kid's Church

July 2026

Summer Fellowship Breakfast
 May 31—September 6
 9:15-10:15am
 Each Sunday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No AWANA Club In July			1 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	2 6:30pm Single Moms	3	4
5 Communion 6pm Congregational Prayer Gathering	6 6:30pm Rooted Class Office Closed	7 7pm Men of Action	8 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	9	10	11
12	13 6:30pm LAST Rooted Class	14 10am Deacon Bd. NO CE Bd. or Trustees Bd. 7pm Semi-Annual Mtg.	15 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	16 6:30pm Single Moms	17	18 4pm Movie Night "David-Angel"
19	20 Office Closed	21 7:00pm Men of Action	22 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	23	24	25
26	27 Office Closed	28 7pm Men of Action	29 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	30	31	

Sunday Worship Services
 8:00am Early Service
 Adult Sunday School
 NO Youth Sunday School/Summer
 10:30am Late Service
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August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer Fellowship Breakfast May 31—September 6 9:15-10:15am Each Sunday			10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study			1
	2 Communion 6pm Congregational Prayer Gathering	3 Office Closed	4 7pm Men of Action	5 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	6 6:30pm Single Moms	8
	9	10 Office Closed	11 10am Deacon Bd. 5:30pm CE Bd. & Trustees Bd. 7pm Men's Group	12 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	13	15
	16	17 Office Closed	18 7pm Men of Action	19 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	20 6:30pm Single Moms	22
	23 RALLY DAY 30	24 Office Closed 31 Office Closed	25 7pm Men of Action	26 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	27	29