

Church News



SEPTEMBER 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings ...

The story is told of a little boy that was growing up in a very nice home in a quiet neighborhood. He lived there with his mom and dad. He had it good. He even had his Aunt and Uncle that lived right next door. He had a vivid imagination, he was very creative, and he loved adventures of every kind.

Well, as life would have it, one day the little boy was bored. And when boredom teams up with curiosity in a little boy, look out. He found a can of black paint and a paint brush in the garage. And then he had a great idea! He began to paint...on the driveway. A great big black X. It took up the whole driveway. And well, "it had to be big, because if a helicopter was going to land, it had to be able to see where to land from way up high in the sky." He had seen this in a movie, which the helicopter always lands on the X. He was so thorough. He even went over it twice to make sure it was nice and big and bright. He was so proud of himself, he didn't even spill any paint. He stood back to admire his work. And then he sat down on the lawn to wait for the helicopter to land. He was sure they'd land on his driveway, because, well, because he had the best X ever!

About that time, his dad got home from work. And as he turned to pull into the driveway, he stopped cold. The little boy could see the look of horror on his dad's face, and he knew in an instant what he had done was wrong. He wasn't trying to do anything wrong, he was just trying to help the helicopters have a place to land. But now, seeing the look on his dad's face, he felt awful. He burst into tears, and went running into the house, and up to his room. Well, his dad pulled into the driveway as best he could, being very careful not to drive on the new, freshly painted "heliport". He gave himself a couple minutes and then went up to talk to his son. The little boy lay on his bed, crying. His dad sat down on the bed next to his little boy and said to him, "it's ok son, it's ok, I'll fix it". A little while later after the little boy had pulled himself together, he looked out his upstairs window to see his dad on his hands and knees with a brush and a bucket of soapy water scrubbing the driveway. And to his amazement the big black X was gone. He couldn't believe it, it was completely gone! He had to tell someone! So he ran downstairs and ran next door to tell his uncle. He was so excited that when he tried to tell his uncle the only words that would come out

were, “I made a big mess!” “Oh”, said his uncle, “well did ya clean it up?” “No”, said the little boy, “I wasn’t strong enough, but my dad was, he cleaned it all up!”

Isn’t that just exactly how it is with us?! We get ourselves into such a mess. So much so that we can’t fix it, we’re not strong enough. We don’t even know where to start. But our Heavenly Father does, and our Heavenly Father is strong enough. He knows **exactly** how to fix the mess.

Romans 5:8 says, *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”.*

Whatever mess you may find yourself in the middle of today, whatever seems too overwhelming for you, **our Heavenly Father knows the way through it. Our Heavenly Father is strong enough, He can fix it. He can clean it up and remove the mess.**

Keeping your eyes on Jesus,
Pastor Steve



*“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.
But if anybody does sin, we have One who speaks to the Father in
our defense, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the
atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for
the sins of the whole world.”*

I John 2:1-2

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

Are studying a series called
"Developing a Servant's Heart"

by Charles F. Stanley

We hope you will join us!

Colette Kirby at 815-954-9527

Single Moms Support Group

Thursdays at 6:00 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

*"I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me...
for when I am weak, then I am strong."* 2 Corinthians 12:9-10



Boards to Meet on Tuesday, September 8

10:00am – Board of Deacons

5:30pm – Board of Christian Ed

5:30pm – Board of Trustees

Congregational Prayer Gathering
Sunday, September 6
6:00pm



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



Wholeness from God’s perspective is to be complete; to know with deep assurance that we are loved by God with an everlasting, infinite, and unconditional love;...to claim God’s promises that we are victors through Christ Jesus over every negative situation and circumstance; and to be able to stand up to the enemy of our souls regardless of what the devil may throw at us. Wholeness is the work that God does in us with a twofold purpose: that we might be sound in spirit, mind, and emotions; and that we might influence others to accept God’s love, forgiveness, and plan.



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 August 16	\$25,720.00	\$18,782.00

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



Awana Club

"Because Kids Matter to God"

**First Baptist Church
Age Preschool thru 5th grade**

Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday
of each month at **5:00 – 6:15pm**
You may register by calling the
church office @ 815-942-0812

September 20
Meet at church

We are looking for any individuals interested in
leading games, teaching or bringing snacks!

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



3:16 Youth Group

3:16 Youth Group is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday
of each month from **5:00 – 6:15pm**
Grades 6th – 8th

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

We are looking for any individuals interested in helping with games,
teaching or bringing snacks to 3:16 Group!

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

"Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God." Psalm 143:10

September Birthdays

6 Jerry Nelson
7 Annette Allen, Dianne Steinbach
9 Mary Hill
10 Ethan Duvick
11 Kristi Larson, Regan Zierman, Jim Goebel, Alan Love, Pete Butler
13 Marty Myre
14 Harmony Alford
15 Dave Misek
16 Jack Wilkinson, Layne Taylor
17 Kaylynn Clausen, Amara Taylor
19 Orla Johnson
24 Donna Livingston
28 Tammy Binion

September Anniversaries....

1 Jerry and Joy Nelson
5 Bob and Lisa Cottingim
8 Joshua and Tanya Downey
10 Rich and Annette Allen
11 Harry and Debbie Kusters
12 Jerry and Cathy Planeta
14 Jim and Kara Paulson
15 Steven and Jessica Stirratt
20 Bob and Lisa Cook
23 Landy and Marie Walker

HELLO
September



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 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 - beginning September 13

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.



Adopt-A-Highway Saturday, September 19

Fall is around the corner and with it comes time to clean up our section of Saratoga Road from Route 6 to Old Stage Road.

We will meet at the church at **8:00am** to pick up our supplies.

Please put your name on the signup sheet in the foyer
if you plan to help.

You need to bring your own gloves.

We will supply safety vests and bags.

Hope to see you there!

Questions, call church office 815-942-0812.



AS OUR CHILDREN GO BACK TO SCHOOL...

...my prayer for children going back to school is that God would help our kids be who HE has created them to be, in any and all circumstances, whether they're near to us or far away.

Also remember **Romans 8:26**: *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*

This verse has come to mind so many times in the last few years. When I don't even know what to ask the Father, He hears the cry of my heart.

To all the moms preparing for back to school and the challenges it may bring: Take heart!

Our children belong to the Almighty, and His faithfulness endures through all generations. **Praise be to God!**

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

"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



FALL SENIOR LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
12 – 1:30 PM

Save the Date!
More information
to follow in the bulletin!

"Oh that I could bottle fall
And make the magic last
Too rapidly the colors fade
The leaves depart too fast
But then, the winter snows will come
And afterward, the green
And so I'll treasure every step
And each breath in-between."

Laura Jaworski



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FALL WORD SEARCH

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

ACORN

FOOTBALL

NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER

APPLES

HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER

SUNFLOWER

AUTUMN

HARVEST

PUMPKIN

SWEATER

CANDY

HAYRIDE

RAKE

THANKSGIVING

CIDER

LEAVES

SCARECROW

TURKEY

YAY!..... FALL IS ON IT'S WAY! 🍁🍁🍁

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

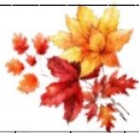
September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7pm Men of Action	2 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Worship Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	3 6pm Single Moms	4	5
6 Communion 6pm Congregational Prayer Gathering	7 Office Closed	8 10am Deacon Bd. 5:30pm CE Bd. & Trustees Bd. 7pm Men of Action	9 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Worship Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9:15am Youth Sunday School begins 	14 Office Closed	15 7pm Men of Action	16 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Worship Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	17 6pm Single Moms	18	19 8am Adopt-a-Hwy.
20 5-6:15pm AWANA 5-6:15pm "3:16" Youth Group	21 Office Closed	22 Autumn Begins 7pm Men of Action	23 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Worship Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	24	25	26
27	28 Office Closed	29 7pm Men of Action	30 10am Women's Prayer Group 1pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Worship Team Practice 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study			

Name: _____

Date: _____



AUTUMN FESTIVAL



Crossword

