Church News

NOVEMBER 2026

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Pastor's Ponderings …

"I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (From Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter, verses 50-57)

Paul writes again in his first letter to the Thessalonians in the fourth chapter verses 13-18, *"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words."*

There are a lot of things about death that we don't understand. We are quite often troubled, confused and usually saddened by death. We fear death, and so often lose sight of the eternal perspective. But Paul gives us that proper perspective in these two passages of Scripture. When someone dies we tend to focus on the fact that their struggle is over, there is no more pain or suffering. And all of that is most certainly true. But there is a much greater struggle that the person will never have to deal with again. They will forever more be free from the struggle with sin. They have forever been set free from the battle of

sin, once they enter heaven's eternal home. Sin absolutely wages war on th body, mind and spirit. Its ravaging effects on each one of us is brutal…sin destroys. And yet for those who are trusting in Christ, when we leave this world and this broken sinful body behind to enter eternity, we will never have to struggle with sin again. Have you ever pondered what it would be like to have even one day with absolutely no sin in your life? We can't even begin to fathom what that would be like, and yet when we get to heaven, that is indeed what it will be for all of eternity. Sin will be gone forever. Yes, all sickness and pain and suffering will be gone too, and we praise God for that. But, much more importantly, sin will forever more be wiped away.

"When we all get to Heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be?
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout for victory!"



Do not lose hope; for we have so much to look forward to in Christ. AMEN!

Blessings to you,
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 finishing a study on
"The Lord's Prayer"
We will be taking the month of December off,
see you on January 5th!
All men are invited to join us!
Questions?? - contact Stan Motter at 815-545-7441

Ladies Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm
Have begun a new study on the ***Book of Judges/Ruth***
By Elizabeth George
As we allow the Holy Spirit to refine us for God's purposes, we are learning to trust God's ability and faithfulness to use our lives today in extraordinary ways!
Come join us for sharing and fellowship!
Kim Enlow at 815-931-2533

Ladies Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Will be starting a series called
"Joshua: Every Good Promised Fulfilled" *on November 11*
by Jen Wilkin
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 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, Nov. 10th
5:30pm - Board of Christian Ed
5:30pm –Board of Trustees
Board Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17th
10:00am – Board of Deacons

Congregational Prayer Gathering
Sunday, Nov. 8
6:30pm



Come together for prayer and praise!



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).

Month	Monthly Amt. Needed	Monthly Amt Received
Total Given thru Oct. 18	$25,720.00	$21,979.00

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



November 1
Meet at church
November 15
Meet at church

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

We begin AWANA Club with a game, then Bible truths and a verse, more game time and a snack. This group focuses on memorizing God's word to equip children to live their lives honoring God and successfully fulfilling the purpose God, their creator, has for their lives.

We focus on equipping the children to apply God's word to their life and build relationships with one another that build them up in their faith and bring the joy to their lives that God intends. The children also earn points for learning verses and get to pick out prizes at the end of the school year as a reward. God rewards those who earnestly seek Him, so we have fun rewarding the children too.

Any Questions –
Call Kristi Larson
We are looking forward to seeing you!



3:16 Youth Group

1st and 3rd Sunday of each month
November 1st and 15th
5:00 – 6:15pm
Junior High Grades 6th – 8th

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

**We have a new Youth Group here at First Baptist called "3:16"!
We will be meeting the same time that Awana will meet,
just in a separate place in the church.**

**"3:16" will be grounded on the promises and truth that come from
John 3:16 and 2 Timothy 3:16, as well as the rest of the Bible.
As we study the Bible and learn how to listen to God's direction for living
our lives, we'll read, discuss and share things that come up in our daily lives.**

**"3:16" will not be a lot of sitting and listening, but more interaction with each
other as we discover truths about living a Christian life.
We'll also have games and snacks.**

**Please join us and spread the word to your friends that are Junior High age.
We meet twice a month, usually the 1st and 3rd Sunday, and our time will be
5:00 – 6:15pm.**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!!

Any Questions –
Call Cheryl Johnson
We are looking forward to seeing you!

John 3:16

***"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***

2 Timothy 3:16

***"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness."***

"He Himself is our peace."
Ephesians 2:14

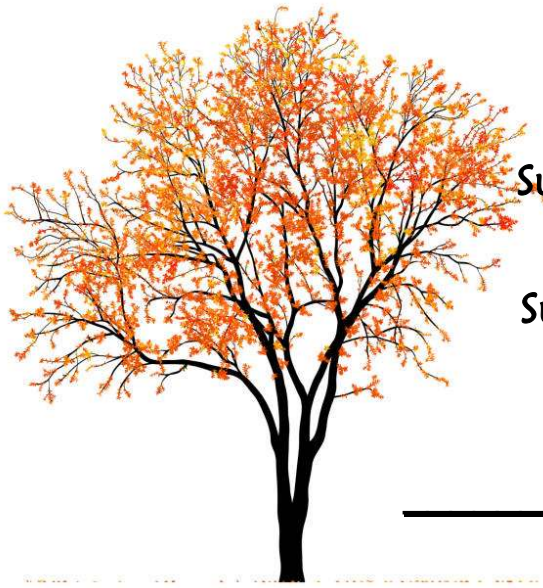
November Birthdays ....

2 Ryan West, Axton Valdivia
3 Joshua Downey
4 Colin Zierman, Gary Brian, Jerry Brian
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

November Anniversaries....

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





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

Pre-K thru 1st Grade – Cindy Binion

2nd thru 5th 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
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.



Daylight Savings Time Starts
November 1 ……
Don't Forget to
Turn Your Clocks Back!

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." *Ephesians 4:32*

Forgiveness does not mean denying that you were hurt or that the matter was important. Rather, forgiveness means letting go and letting God. It means turning another person over to God's judgment. It means trusting God to deal with a person as God chooses, without putting yourself in the way. It doesn't make any difference if the other person asks for forgiveness or not. Forgive. Your forgiveness should not be withheld pending the other's repentance. Forgive quickly. The sooner you forgive, the sooner you can receive God's healing for any pain or sorrow you have experienced.

LIVE NATIVITY EVENT with Live Animals
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
5-8 PM

Don’t miss our 4th Annual
Live Nativity Event at –

First Baptist Church
1650 W. US Rte. 6
Morris, IL 60450

Any questions please call 815-942-0812



Ladies' Christmas Breakfast & Gift Exchange



Saturday, December 5
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)

There will be a sign-up sheet on the foyer table.
Any questions, please contact the church office.

Bring a friend…or two!



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Friday, December 5
4 – 8 pm
North and South Doors at Wal-Mart

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

DRESS WARM !!!!!



MISSION WOMEN
Fall Conference
Friday, November 6th
6 – 9 pm
Saturday, November 7th
10 am

JOIN US FOR THE MISSION WOMEN ANNUAL EVENT:
"The Wisdom of Discernment:
Practicing Restraint & Trusting God's Timing"

The Women's Ministries at Mission Bible Church in Minooka are inviting the ladies at our church, high school age and up, to attend their fall conference.
There is no admission fee, coffee will be provided.

Any questions, please contact -
Jody Shelton,
Mission Women Coordinator
Mission Bible Church
Email: missionwomen@missionbible.church
412 Wabena St.
Minooka, IL
815-467-2205



Feed My Starving Children
Sat., November 21, 2026
11:30 – 1:15 pm
Please meet at the Church at 9:45 am

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

This is the 12th year we will have gone, and it is
an amazing day/evening of packing meals to
feed children around the world!

Look for the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer.
Any questions, contact Jen Goebel or the church office.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
Gift-filled Shoeboxes
October 4 – November 9

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" have ordered plenty of shoeboxes, which were available at the church beginning **Sunday, October 4.** 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 9**. 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! The empty boxes are on a table at the back of the sanctuary. Last year we delivered **177** shoeboxes to the distribution center!

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

Name:_____ Date:_____









Thanksgiving Crossword











Across

4. People who celebrated the first Thanksgiving
6. Word that means being grateful
7. Month Thanksgiving is celebrated in the U.S.
9. People you may also gather with on Thanksgiving
10. Tart red fruit used in sauce or jelly
12. Act of cutting the turkey
15. Another name for the fall season
17. Where everyone sits to eat the Thanksgiving meal
18. Sauce made from turkey drippings
19. Things to be grateful for
22. Bird most often eaten on Thanksgiving
24. Dessert with a crust, often filled with fruit or other sweets
25. Large public event with floats & balloons, often watched on TV
26. Potatoes that are cooked & squashed for a side dish
27. Short sleep often taken after eating too much



Down

1. Main meal, usually eaten in the afternoon or evening
2. Season when Thanksgiving takes place
3. Sport often watched on Thanksgiving
4. Outer layer of a pie
5. Bread-based dish often cooked inside the turkey
8. Ship the Pilgrims traveled on
10. Yellow vegetable that's sometimes on the Thanksgiving table
11. People you gather with to celebrate
13. Type of squash, often used as a decoration
14. Time when crops are gathered
16. Sweet orange vegetable sometimes topped with marshmallows
20. Type of Americans who helped the Pilgrims
21. These fall from trees in autumn
23. Large meal shared with family & friends
24. Type of pie that's a Thanksgiving favorite

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THANKSGIVING
word search

I V P J Q H V T E H M X Y S W
R D I C N P M A E C O Q A C G
I Q M S H S T U F F I N G O A
U J D Z J N S W E S K F L R T
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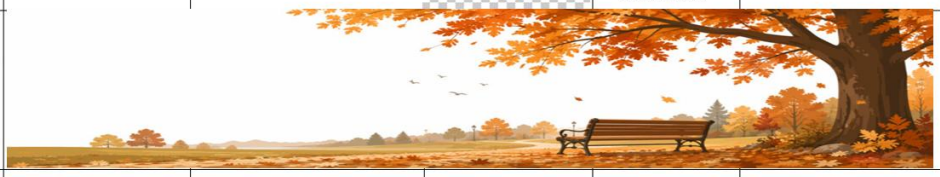
TURKEY
GOBBLE
PILGRIM
HAM
CORN
GATHER
THANKFUL
STUFFING
YAMS
FEAST
MAYFLOWER
DESSERT
PUDDING
PUMPKIN



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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

November 2026

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! 



drew &
jonathan™