



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ALEDO, ILLINOIS



Pastor's Perspective

July 2026

Dear Church Family, July is a special time in America. As a nation, we are celebrating the Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Although no nation is perfect, it's amazing to look back to see how God has used the United States of America for good: defeating tyranny, spreading economic opportunity, and modeling a generosity that is unrivalled. As the founders put ink to paper, their names on the Declaration were either a death sentence or a birth certificate. They believed so strongly in liberty, freedom, and their vision of what America could become that they risked everything.

Many of the most prominent Founding Fathers ended up embodying the closing words of the Declaration: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor." In practice, they were saying to God and each other that they would die for this cause, sacrifice their material possessions, and put their reputations, legacies, and trustworthiness on the line.

In our finest moments as Americans, vision and sacrifice have been at the foundation. Nathan Hale, as he prepared to be hanged for espionage against the British Empire during the Revolutionary War, declared, "I only regret that I have one life to lose for my country." We can trace the cord of sacrifice from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, from Emancipation to World Wars, and from the Civil Rights Movement to reaching for new frontiers of outer space.

There is something profound about going all-in on something. Jesus agreed. In the letter to the Church of Laodicea, Jesus tells them, "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:16). As John wrote this down, he knew that to the north of Laodicea was Hierapolis, famous for their healing and relaxing hot springs. Hot made a difference. To the south was Colossae, famous for their pure, cold mountain water that could quench thirst. Cold mattered. The one thing that was ineffective was being lukewarm.

As we gather for cookouts, festivals, fireworks, and drone shows this July, let us thank God for His many blessings upon our nation. While the gospel is far bigger than America, we can be grateful for the ways God has used our country throughout history to advance freedom, truth, and opportunity around the world.

More importantly, let the 250th birthday of our nation remind us of an even greater calling. The founders pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Christ pledged far more. He gave His life for sinners, surrendered the riches of heaven, and endured the shame of the cross so that we might become children of God. He did not remain distant from us. Through the incarnation, He took on our humanity. Through the cross, He bore the penalty for our rebellion. Through the resurrection, He opened the way home to God.

The lesson of Laodicea is that lukewarm faith changes nothing. Christ calls us to go all-in. Here at First Baptist Church, all-in means being a spiritual hospital for hurting people. All-in, we are a spiritual home for the community. All-in, we are a spiritual hub for the called. All-in, we cultivate a heart of humility before God and others.

May the faithfulness and sacrifice of those who have gone before us inspire us to greater faithfulness today. May God bless America, and may He bless the work of His Church, His bride, His body, and His light in the world for generations to come.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven Stern

2026 Tithes & Offering - Year to date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$333,138.52**

Current Expense Giving - **\$360,125.07**

Building Fund Designations - **\$27,343.67**

Deacon Fund Designations - **\$4,929.46**

Total Giving - **\$392,398.20**

Average Attendance - June 2026

8am - 88

10:15am - 306



DISCOVER FBC

2 Sunday Sessions
July 19 & 26 @ 9:10am
Classroom #12-Lower Level
With Pastor Steven Stern

*Discover more
about First
Baptist & where
you fit in!



DESIGNED FOR NEW ATTENDERS
& THOSE CONSIDERING
MEMBERSHIP @ FBC

Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com



Discover FBC Class !

This is a two-week class designed to help you understand who we are and how you can connect at FBC Aledo. Whether you're new or still exploring, you'll learn about our mission, beliefs, ministries, and next steps for growing in your faith. Join Pastor Steven Stern Sun., July 19th & Sun., July 26th from 9:10-10AM in Lower Level Room #12, this class is a great step toward getting connected and finding your place in the life of our church.

Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com

Praise In The Park

FAMILY FEST '26

Sunday, August 30th - 10am-2pm

Aledo Central Park

Free Admission - Open to the Public

WORSHIP | LUNCH | MUSIC |
INFLATABLES | GAMES

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
ALEDO, ILLINOIS





**2026
SUMMER
Camp**

SPRING VALLEY BIBLE CAMP
2858 180th St, Muscatine, IA

K-2nd Grade Kids Day Camp June 30-July 2	5th/6th Grade July 5-10	7th/8th Grade July 12-17
9th-12th Grade July 19-24	3rd/4th Grade July 26-29	

FBC will pay half of the Spring Valley Bible Camp fees for regular attenders of FBC.
Register Online www.firstbaptistaledo.com

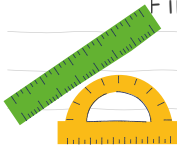



**FREE
SCHOOL
SUPPLY
SHOP**

**Sat., August 1st
10:00am - 11:30am**

Pre-K - 12th Grades.
No need to sign up
First Come First Served

First Baptist Church Aledo
800 NE 6th Ave, Aledo, IL

Rain Forest Falls VBS Was an Incredible Week!

What an amazing week God gave us at Rain Forest Falls Vacation Bible School! We were blessed to welcome an average of 107 children each day as they learned that God is always with us, knows everything, has the power to do anything, is in charge of everything, and is stronger than anything.

Each day was packed with energetic worship, engaging Bible lessons, games, crafts, snacks, and plenty of laughter. More importantly, it was a week of building friendships and sharing the love of Jesus.

One of the week's highlights was our missions project. The kids generously raised \$2,009.97 for the FBC School Supply Shop, which will take place on Saturday, August 1st at FBC from 10-11:30am. Through this outreach, our church provides free school supplies to anyone who stops by, helping families in our community prepare for the new school year while sharing the love of Christ in a practical way.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our 56+ incredible volunteers who gave their time, talents, and hearts to make this week possible. From decorating and registration to teaching, leading music, serving snacks, and caring for kids, every volunteer played an important role in pointing children to Christ.

We praise God for all He accomplished during this special week and are thankful for everyone who prayed, served, donated, and supported this ministry. To God be the glory!





Women's Better Together Gathering

All ladies are invited to a simple evening of connection and encouragement on Wednesday, July 1st at FBC from 6:30-8:30pm in the Refuge Room #25 (downstairs). This month, hear from special guests from the One Eighty Women's home in Davenport sharing stories of victory over addiction and how to help partner with them. No sign-up needed. No snacks—just meaningful conversation. We can't wait to connect with you!



Jump in the Tuesdays with Jesus Women's Study anytime. The current study is *Becoming Like Jesus* by Matt Chandler. This encouraging study explores how spiritual transformation happens as we follow Christ daily and allow God to shape our hearts, minds, and lives to reflect Jesus more fully. The group meets Tuesdays at 2pm in the Enon Room #9 and is led by Rhonda McKinley. Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com or just show up!



All ladies are invited to the J.O.Y. Circle on Tuesday, July 28th at 7:00 PM in the Enon Room. Come enjoy an evening of fun, meaningful fellowship, and an encouraging devotion. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women, build friendships, and be spiritually refreshed. Whether you've attended before or are coming for the first time, you are warmly welcomed—we'd love to see you there!



Women's Thrive Retreat

Thrive, a women's retreat happening Oct. 2-4 at Life Action Camp in Buchanan, MI. Thrive is a weekend of encouragement, worship, fellowship, fun, and great food designed to help women grow closer to Jesus. If you're interested, register online at firstbaptistaledo.com. Cost is \$150 and includes lodging, conference sessions, and meals. Spots are limited, deadline to register is August 1st. Questions, see Karyn Smith or Crystal Clark.

REFUGE IN THE FIELD

SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR ALL REFUGE STUDENT SERVICES

WEDNESDAYS: 6/10, 6/17, 7/1, 7/8, 7/22, 7/29

6-8 PM AT FBC ALEDO

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY

Refuge at the YMCA HAS MOVED! In June and July, we are having "Refuge in the Field" at the church!

Refuge in the Field - All students, 6th- 12th grade, on Wednesdays: July 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th. Refuge will be held at FBC Aledo (800 NE 6th Ave, Aledo) from 6-8 pm! We will be having games, a fire pit, devotions, and summer FUN.

High School Bible Study! We are studying the book of Ephesians so that we can be strengthened and deeply rooted as we learn to fulfill the purpose and calling GOD has given. We meet Sundays from 5-7 pm in the church basement. Dinner is provided.

Ultimate Frisbee (Rescheduled Date is July 2nd)-All students 6th-12th grades and adults are invited to join us here at FBC to play ultimate frisbee Thursday, July 2nd, from 2-4 pm. No need to sign up just show up.

God's Gals - Girls 6th-12th grades are invited to join us on Mondays from 6-7 pm in the Enon Room. Current Study: Jude. Contending for the faith.

Jr. High Camp- at Spring Valley Camp in Muscatine for students going into 7th-8th grade on July 12th-17th. Pastor Austin will be joining the 7th-8th graders at camp! Spring Valley Camp is a smaller, local, traditional camp. *Parents are responsible for getting their camper to and from camp. To register, visit their website at www.springvalleycamp.org, pick a camp week, and register on the Church's website. *Please indicate that FBC will pay 50% of your child's camp fee. This discount can only be used for FBC families and regular FBC program attendees of Refuge. Make sure to register on the church's website by July 1st.

Night of Destruction-All 6th-12th graders are invited to meet up and sit with Refuge at the Night of Destruction at the Mercer County Fair on July 9th, starting at 7:00 pm. This is a must-sign-up online event, so that we can get a headcount for seats! Tickets and food are not provided.

End of Summer Party - All Students, Wednesday, July 29th at the FBC Aledo field. 6:00-8:00 pm, come for the fire pit, volleyball tournament, Ultimate frisbee, and more! Dinner is provided!



Discipleship
The Covenant
1 Peter
2 Peter
Ephesians

High School Bible Study

9th-12th Graders
weekly every Sunday at
FBC Aledo, 5-7 pm

SIGN UP



ULTIMATE FRISBEE

AT FBC ALEDO

ADULTS AND STUDENTS

Rescheduled to
THURSDAY JULY 2ND 2:00-4:00PM



2026 SUMMER Camp

SPRING VALLEY BIBLE CAMP
2858 180th St, Muscatine, IA

K-2nd Grade
Kids Day Camp
June 30-July 2

5th/6th Grade
July 5-10

7th/8th Grade
July 12-17

9th-12th Grade
July 19-24

3rd/4th Grade
July 26-29



RSM

MEET AT THE FAIR

FOR NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION!

July 9th at 7:00 pm, we will be reserving spots on the bleachers so be on the lookout on where we will be! We are not providing tickets or childcare so parents are welcome to join us! Sign up online so we have a headcount for the bleachers.



END OF SUMMER PARTY

Wednesday July 29th : At the FBC Aledo Field

6:00-8:00 PM

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED, GAGA PIT, ULTIMATE FRISBEE, VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

FBC MEN'S MINISTRY



ROOTED MEN'S

Saturday, July 18 @ FBC 8am-2pm
8-8:30am Check In|Continental Breakfast
8:30am Conference Begins

TESTIMONIES

Blake Bieri Chase Burns Josh Dixon

Speaker: Pastor Chris Rogers
Edgewood Baptist Church
T-Shirt Available for \$15
Free to attend! Lunch Provided!
Sign Up @firstbaptistaledo.com

Chris Rogers

FBC Rooted Men's Conference

FBC Rooted Men's Conference is Saturday, July 18th, from 8:00 AM–2:00 PM at FBC! Open to men ages 13 and up, this day is designed to help you grow deeper in Christ and His Word.

Pastor Chris Rogers will bring biblical teaching, and you'll also hear powerful, personal testimonies from our own FBC men—Chase Burns, Blake Bieri, and Josh Dixon. The day will include worship, encouragement, and great fellowship, plus breakfast and lunch (featuring Joe Olson's grilled ribeye sandwiches!).

The conference is free to attend. A \$15 conference t-shirt is available if ordered by July 1st. Registration for the conference remains open through July 12th at firstbaptistaledo.com. Sign up today!

Men of all ages are invited to be part of our Wednesday Night Men's Bible Study at First Baptist. This is a great opportunity to slow down midweek, open God's Word, and grow deeper in your understanding of Scripture alongside other men.

We're going verse-by-verse through the Book of Revelation—an exciting and hope-filled look at God's ultimate plan, the victory of Christ, and what it means for us today. Together, we'll take time to understand this powerful book in a clear and meaningful way. Join us in the Lower Enon Room #16 @6:30pm every Wednesday.



MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 6:30-8pm
Lower Enon Room #16
Led By Troy Riddell

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



FBC Men's Sunday Breakfast

Men, start your Sunday morning with great food, meaningful conversation, and encouragement from God's Word! Join us every Sunday at 7:00 AM for the FBC Men's Breakfast, held downstairs off the Fellowship Hall.

Each week we enjoy breakfast together and spend time discussing highlights and key takeaways from the previous Sunday's sermon. It's a great opportunity to build friendships, grow in your faith, ask questions, and encourage one another as we seek to live out God's Word.

Whether you've been attending for years or are new to FBC, we'd love to have you join us. Come hungry—for breakfast and for God's Word!

We're Launching 8am Kids Min & Nursery



Thank You for Volunteering!

We're Ready to Launch 8:00 AM Kids Ministry beginning Sunday, July 5!

We are praising God for the many ways He continues to bless First Baptist Aledo. As new individuals and families join us each week, we are seeing His faithfulness and provision in exciting ways.

We also want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve in our Kids Ministry. Because of your willingness to answer God's call to serve, we are excited to launch Kids Ministry during the 8:00 AM service beginning Sunday, July 5!

Here's how it will work:

- All children will check in at the Nursery before the 8:00 AM service.
- Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade will begin the service sitting with their parents and will be dismissed after the first song for Kids Worship.
- A nursery will be available for babies through 2 years old.

We are grateful for the volunteers God has raised up and for the opportunity to help children grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus. Please join us in praying that God uses this ministry to reach families, strengthen faith, and make disciples for His glory.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing at First Baptist Aledo. We look forward to seeing how He continues to work in and through our church family.





You Are Invited!

The Mercer County Food Pantry invites First Baptist Church to their Open House on Sunday, August 30th from 1-4 pm to celebrate 15 years in their current location and to honor Sharon Lingafelter for her 35 years of service.

They also would like to thank our church for the financial support and glorious amount of food donations in 2025.

The food pantry is located
1200 S College Ave, Aledo.

MC Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

FBC is in need of 2 volunteers to assist at the Food Pantry in **July** on **July 14th** (5:30-7pm)& **July 17th** (8am-noon). Call the church office at 309-582-7812 to sign up!



You are Invited!

Laryssa Russell's family invites you to join them in celebrating Laryssa's Graduation from High School on Sunday July, 26th from 2-4pm in the sanctuary overflow at FBC!



The Schrocks Celebrating 75 Years of Marriage in August!

The church family is invited to a celebration of
Ed & Mary Schrock's
75th Wedding Anniversary.

The celebration will take place
at the Seaton Fire Department
on Sunday, August 2nd at 2pm.

Congratulations and
Happy 75th Anniversary
Ed & Mary!



🎉 FBC Praise in the Park Family Fest! 🎉

Mark your calendars and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for a fun-filled day in Aledo's Central Park on Sunday, August 30, from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM!

Enjoy outdoor worship, live music, lunch, and plenty of family-friendly activities. Kids will love the Fun Zone featuring water & bounce inflatables, 9 Square in the Air, and Joust.

(Kids, don't forget your swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen!)

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and spend the day with us.

Admission is completely free!

Please note: There will be no Sunday School or 8:00 AM service that day.

THE FBC PRAYER TEAM
INVITES EVERYONE TO
SUNDAY PRAYER NIGHTS
AT FBC IN
THE ENON ROOM #9.

COME PRAY OR
BE PRAYED FOR!

SUNDAYS AT 5PM



FBC
Quarterly
Business Meeting
July 19th
@11:40am

Church Council
Meeting.
July 14th
7pm

CHURCH BUSINESS
meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Baptism
SUNDAY

IF YOU HAVE ACCEPTED CHRIST & DESIRE TO
BE BAPTIZED, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE AT 309-582-7812 FOR BAPTISM
DETAILS.



1830 Ministry
Pool Party!

Saturday, July 11th 1-3pm

@ The Whitenack House - 803 SW 2nd Ave. Aledo

Pool Party | Pizza | Bible Devo

Everyone ages 18-30 welcome! Questions, see Lauryn Russell

1830 Ministry Pool Party! 🌊 🍕 ☀️

If you're ages 18-30, come hang out with us on
Saturday, July 11, from 1:00-3:00 PM at the
Whitenack House (803 SW 2nd Ave., Aledo)!

Enjoy an afternoon of swimming, pizza, great
friends, and a short Bible devotion. Whether
you've been coming to 1830 for a while or it's
your first event, we'd love to have you join us!

Questions? See Lauryn Russell.

Stay Connected!



Love Christ. Love Others.
Live Biblically.

•We offer worship at 8am & 10:15am. Sunday School for all ages is at 9am along with a nursery for 0-2 years old. We have Kids Worship at the 10:15am service as well as a nursery for babies 0-2 years.

•For all the details about our upcoming events and live streaming Visit FirstBaptistAledo.com.

•Listen to WRMJ 102.3 at 10:30am each Sunday.

•Download the "Church Center App" from the App Store or Google Play and choose "First Baptist Church, Aledo, IL" to easily sign up for church events, check our church calendar, give online, watch sermons and receive important church notifications.

•Find Us On Facebook.

•Call the Church Office at 309.582.7812.