



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

Pastor's Perspective

*Dear Church Family, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in *The Cost of Discipleship*, "Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." Bonhoeffer wrote those words in the midst of Nazi Germany and a theological battle over "cheap grace." Following Jesus, he understood, cannot be reduced to receiving forgiveness without actually becoming a disciple.*

One of the defining marks of Jesus is that He embraces tensions that make us start to twitch. He is perfectly loving and perfectly truthful. He is fully God and fully man. As a church, FBC has to embrace a similar tension in discipleship. We must be a congregation that exists for those who aren't here yet, while also calling those who are here to grow deeper. That means providing onramps for people who are just beginning their journey with Jesus, helping them hear the gospel, recognize their sinfulness, and through repentance and faith discover a new identity in Christ. At the same time, we need pathways for those who have been walking with Jesus for years, helping them move from knowing about Jesus to becoming more like Jesus.

Thankfully, we live in a time when we have unprecedented access to biblical resources, theological training, and practical tools. But discipleship isn't simply about learning more. It is about putting what we know into practice. Take evangelism, for example. One of my hopes is that sharing our faith becomes normal, natural, and part of our daily lives as we surrender them to God. Like anything else, it takes practice. Talk with people who have different worldviews, listen to their objections, and learn to articulate what you believe and why you believe it. Peter calls us to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us. Gospel Coach is one resource that can help us practice these conversations, but the goal isn't another study. The goal is to become disciples who naturally talk about Jesus and help others take a step toward Him.

I often think about the church as a classroom, but one where the goal isn't simply to learn. The goal is to become. Discipleship means meeting people where they are and walking with them toward ever-increasing Christlikeness. We aren't trying to create a program for every possible need, but we do want to provide opportunities for everyone to take their next step. If you're new in the faith, we have our Discover Class, ROOTED small groups, and excellent Sunday School offerings to help you build a foundation. But if you've been walking with Jesus for a long time, perhaps the question is different: Who are you helping grow? We must be careful that our desire for more information doesn't become an intellectual shield that keeps us from actively obeying Jesus. It's easy to get bigger heads without engaging our hands and hearts. The Pharisees had a huge knowledge bank, but were bankrupt when it came to faith, hope, and love.

Perhaps your next step isn't another class, but pouring into someone else. Invite someone to meet for ten weeks as part of Walking as Jesus Walks. Mentor someone. Jesus' definition of an advanced disciple isn't simply someone who knows more, but someone who obeys Him and helps others do the same. He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." Discipleship is not a program or simply another piece of information to memorize. It is a way of life, lived out in classrooms, around tables, over coffee, in homes, and in the messy middle of everyday life. At FBC, our goal is to become more like Jesus and help others become more like Jesus. Wherever you are in your journey, there is a next step. Let's take it together.

*In Christ,
Pastor Steven*

2026 Tithes & Offering - Year to date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$435,642.68**

Current Expense Giving - **\$476,906.30**

Building Fund Designations - **\$34,539.67**

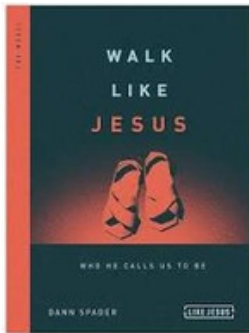
Deacon Fund Designations- **\$5,039.46**

Total Giving - **\$516,485.43**

Average Attendance - August 2026

8am - 90

10:15am - 303



Walk Like Jesus

Who he calls us to be

By Dann Spader

Walk Like Jesus: A Journey of Discipleship

What does it really mean to walk like Jesus? Following Christ is more than simply attending church or learning about what Jesus did—it's learning to live the way He lived, love the way He loved, and invest in others the way He invested in His disciples.

Walk Like Jesus, a discipleship study by Dann Spader, is designed to help us do just that. This practical, Scripture-centered study takes us through the life of Jesus and focuses on the patterns He modeled as He lived out His mission. As we study how Jesus related to God, served others, shared the Gospel, and invested deeply in people, we are challenged to consider what it looks like to follow His example in our own everyday lives.

This study isn't just about gaining more biblical knowledge—it's about becoming more like Jesus and learning to make disciples who can do the same. Whether you are newer in your faith or have been following Christ for many years, Walk Like Jesus offers an opportunity to grow deeper in your relationship with Christ and become more intentional about living out His calling.

Want to Go Through It With Someone?

If you would like to work through Walk Like Jesus one-on-one with another person, we would love to help make that happen! Books are available in the church office for anyone who would like to participate. The book costs \$10, but you do not have to pay for it. We simply want to make the study accessible to everyone. If you would like to contribute the \$10 toward the cost of your book, you are certainly welcome to do so.

If you're ready to take a step deeper in your walk with Christ, we encourage you to pick up a book and find someone to walk through this discipleship journey with you. Let's not just learn about Jesus—let's learn to walk like Jesus.



Wednesday Night Live Classes & Programs- Wednesday Night Live returns for our Fall Session September 16–November 4, 2026, meeting each Wednesday from 6:30–8:00 PM at First Baptist Church. It's a great opportunity for the whole family to grow in faith and connect with others. Adults can choose from four different Bible studies and discipleship classes (class details found below), while Kids Club is available for children ages 3 through 5th grade, Refuge Student Ministry meets at the Aledo YMCA for students in 6th–12th grade, and nursery care is provided for babies through age 2. **It's all free to attend!** Join us as we learn, grow, and do life together! Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

No More Perfect Marriages by Mark & Jill Savage - Led by Pastor Seth & Denise Bowker

No More Perfect Marriages is about having the right expectations and growing in love. Mark and Jill guide couples in the fundamentals of growing a healthy marriage, sharing how they came back from infidelity and restored intimacy to their marriage. Guard against the seven "slow fades" that threaten every marriage, and get tools and tips for cultivating a stronger connection with your spouse.

Men's Bible Study on the Book of James - Led by Troy Riddell

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 16, join us for a verse-by-verse study through the Book of James. Together we'll discover practical, biblical wisdom for living out our faith with perseverance, humility, and wholehearted obedience to Christ. Men of all ages are invited to meet each Wednesday at 6:30pm.

Rooted-Connect With God, The Church, Your Purpose - Led by Pastor Steven Stern

Rooted is a small-group experience that helps build an Acts 2 discipleship culture—connecting people with God, the church, and their purpose. Rooted is not meant to be a one-time Bible study curriculum that churches try and then leave behind. The Rooted experience establishes rhythms—patterns of life with God, with one another, with people in our communities—that continue long after the season ends. These rhythms were the practices of the early church, and today they are the core of Rooted. Every Rooted journey is anchored in seven foundational rhythms—the everyday practices that shape how we follow and reflect Christ. The 7 foundational Rhythms of Rooted are: Daily Devotion, Prayer, Repentance, Serve the Community, Sacrificial Generosity, Share Your Story & Worship.

Women's Study on Philippians - Fighting With Faith - Led by Karyn Smith

Fighting with Faith is a verse-by-verse study of Philippians that explores the blessings of our union with Christ. Discover how the gospel equips you to live with true joy, endurance, unity, and contentment, standing firm in Christ through every trial. Learn to anchor your life in the finished work of Jesus and find everything you need in Him.



Prayer at the Pole

Parents and Students are invited to pray with us at the flag pole on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:45 am:

Apollo Elementary

(Meet at the flag pole in front of the school, Pastor Steven is leading prayer)

New Boston Elementary

(Meet at large tree on Jefferson St. side, Chelsea is leading prayer)



Calling all kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade: You are invited to join us every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00pm at First Baptist Church for worship, Bible, games, snacks, and more fun! Please register on the church app, church website, or scan the QR code.



This session we are challenging you to memorize all the books in the Old Testament by learning hand motions along with a song 'The Old Testament Bop' by GreatWorshipSongsTV on Youtube.



Kids Club Music Special

Nov. 8th at 8:00am service



Our Mission Project for this session is collecting items and cash donations to fill **100** Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. On our last night, Wednesday, November 4th, we will celebrate the amazing items we've collected by packing them into shoeboxes and praying over them.



Interested in volunteering in Kids Ministry?

Is God weighing on your heart to serve?
Please text 'serve' to (309)240-4706 for more information.

"And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'"

Luke 10:2 ESV



REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY

"...My God in whom I take Refuge..." Psalm 18:2
STUDENTS 6TH-12TH GRADE

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS

6:00-8:00 PM

at the YMCA in Aledo

Refuge at the YMCA is back!-All 6th-12th-grade students, join us back at the YMCA in Aledo for the Refuge Youth Group on Wednesday nights! Games, snacks, and more will be provided on Wednesdays from 6 pm (check-in) to 8 pm (pick-up).

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

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.

JEN WILKEN
ABIDE
Begins Aug. 24th
NEW STUDY
Abide by Jen Wilken
For girls grades 6th and up
Mondays 6-7pm
Enon Room

God's Gals-Girls 6th-12th grades are invited to join us on Mondays from 6-7 pm in the Enon Room. We just began a new study called Abide by Jen Wilken. Jump in any time! We will not meet Monday, Sept. 7th as it is Labor Day.

come to me
matthew 11:28
SEE YOU AT THE POLE
GLOBAL DAY OF STUDENT PRAYER
sept 23

See You at the Pole-All students will meet at their school's flag poles on September 23rd at 7:30 am for prayer! We want to encourage homeschool students to come as well! This is a nationwide event that is student-led and allows them to pray over their schools, teachers, and administration.

ALL CROSSED UP
FALL RETREAT
Luke 9:23
Date: Saturday, October 10th, 2026
Where: Spring Valley Bible Camp in Muscatine
Sign-up Deadline: October 4th, 2026
Cost: Early Registration (until 8/13) \$25
Normal registration (after 8/13) \$35
Must Sign-up Online!
SIGN UP

Fall Retreat-All students are welcome to join us on Sat., October 10th for an all-day event at Spring Valley Camp In Muscatine, IA! Check-in and breakfast will be at the church at 6:45am. Jr. High will be back to the church at 9:00pm. High schoolers will be home around 10:00pm. **Early Bird cost is \$25 before September 13th**; normal registration cost after September 13th will be \$35 (T-shirt included!). We will be having Worship, Archery Tag, Zip Line, Board Games, Kayaks, Disc golf, carpet ball, tether ball, fishing, GAGA Ball, Basketball, and 9-Square In the Air! Sign up online today at Firstbaptistaledo.com!



First Baptist Aledo Women's Flourish Event

Saturday, Nov. 7th - 9am - Noon

Save the Date!

Join us for a special time of growing together in God's Word and worship with guest musician Delayna Sneed and speaker Crystal Clark.

- Delicious brunch provided
- FREE Event
- No childcare available
- Sign-up coming soon@firstbaptistaledo.com



The Gospel Of John Begins Sept. 3rd
Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm Enon Room
Taught by Britni Ewing

Women's Through the Word Bible Study

Come study God's Word with us! Women's Through the Word Bible Study has picked back up, and we'd love for you to join us! Beginning Thursday, September 3, we'll meet from 3:30-5:30 PM in the Enon Room for a verse-by-verse study through the Gospel of John, led by Britni Ewing.

Whether you've been studying the Bible for years or are just getting started, everyone is welcome!

Come grow deeper in God's Word and enjoy fellowship with other women along the way. We'd love to have you join us!



THRIVE
Women's Retreat
@ Life Action Camp
Oct. 2nd-4th

Informational Meeting for
those who signed up to go!

Sunday, Sept. 20th
Following the 10:15am service
Enon Room #9

Questions, see Karyn Smith or
Crystal Clark

Meeting for Thrive!

Calling all ladies who have signed up for Thrive at Life Action Camp! We're looking forward to gathering together and getting ready for this special weekend!

Please join Karyn Smith on Sunday, September 20, immediately following the 10:00 AM service in the Enon Room. This will be a time to connect, go over details, and prepare our hearts for all that God has in store for us at Thrive.

We're excited to share this experience together and can't wait to see you there!



**J.O.Y.
Circle**

Meets
Sept. 22nd @
7pm in the
Enon Room.

All ladies are
welcome to
attend.

Thank you

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, food and gift cards this past 6 months. We have the most loving and giving church family!

God Bless You, Vivian Kopp

FBC MEN'S MINISTRY



Photo Credit - Life Action Ministries

RETREATS JUST FOR —
MOMENTUM
October 23-25, 2026
MEN'S MOMENTUM
@ Life Action Camp
Buchanan, MI
EARLY BIRD SIGN UP
BY Sept. 20th, 2026
Cost \$150/\$225
Sign up at Firstbaptistaledo.com!

Men's Momentum Retreat is October 23rd-25th in Buchanan, Michigan at Life Action Camp

Life demands a lot from men—providing, leading, protecting, and staying grounded when everything around you feels chaotic. Momentum is a weekend built to help you get your footing back, reconnect with God, and strengthen the kind of leadership your family and community need from you. This retreat combines solid biblical teaching, powerful worship, and real conversations with men who understand what you're walking through. It's a space to drop the pressure, be honest, and let God refuel your strength. You'll share great meals, laugh hard, enjoy activities that bring guys together, and head home with a clearer sense of purpose. Momentum is designed to challenge your faith, sharpen your character, and encourage you to lead with deliberate, Christ-centered action. Note: This retreat is designed for men ages 16 and older. Come reset, recharge, and regain momentum for the road ahead.

The cost for Momentum this year is \$225 per person which includes the conference, accommodations, and meals at the retreat. **Early Bird Registration before Sept. 20th is \$150** with the FBC Men's Ministry paying the balance. When you register by Sept. 20th at firstbaptistaledo.com there will be two payment options \$150 and \$225, choose the best option for you.

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.

Beginning Sept. 16th we'll be going verse-by-verse through the Book of James — join us @6:30pm every Wednesday.

A graphic for Men's Bible Study. It features the text "MEN'S BIBLE STUDY" in large, white, serif font. Below it, in a smaller font, is "The Book Of James Begins Sept. 16th!". At the bottom, it says "Wednesdays 6:30-8pm", "Lower Enon Room #16", and "Facilitated By Troy Riddell". There is a logo for "FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH" on the left side of the graphic.

MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY
The Book Of James Begins Sept. 16th!
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Wednesdays 6:30-8pm
Lower Enon Room #16
Facilitated By Troy Riddell

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!





PRAYERS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST



Saturday, September 19th, the FBC prayer team is hosting a time in the church sanctuary to pray for our nation, specifically the Middle East conflict.

The church will be open from 8am to noon. We'll have prayer prompts on the screen in the sanctuary to use if you want.

This is not a program but a time to come and go as your time permits. We know you can pray wherever you are, but there's something powerful about praying with "boots on the ground" at our church. We hope you'll consider it.



Operation Christmas Child Kids Off @ FBC Sunday, Oct. 18th

Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Beginning Sunday, Oct. 18th you may pick up an empty OCC shoebox with instructions in the church lobby! Return filled boxes by Sun., Nov. 15th along with \$7 for shipping (check payable to Samaritan's Purse). The FBC Women's Ministry pays the remainder of the shipping cost. Thanks for being a blessing to children around the world!



Thank you to all who celebrated my 95 1/2 Birthday Party.

It was a very special day full of many blessings.

God isn't only good, he's great!

Janice Duncan



GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

**Thursday, November 12th •
6:30 PM • First Baptist Aledo
Led by Joe & Kathy Olson**

For many people, the holiday season is a time of joy and celebration—but when you're grieving the loss of someone you love, Thanksgiving and Christmas can be especially difficult. Familiar traditions, family gatherings, music, and memories can bring a deep sense of sadness and loneliness.

That's why First Baptist Church is hosting GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays, a special one-night event designed to help those who are grieving prepare for and navigate the holiday season. Led by Joe and Kathy Olson, this encouraging evening will provide a safe and caring environment where you can find understanding from others who know what it's like to experience loss. You'll receive practical help for dealing with difficult emotions, navigating holiday traditions and gatherings, and finding healthy ways to remember and honor your loved one.

The evening includes a helpful video featuring grief experts and people who have experienced loss, along with time for discussion and reflection. Participants will also receive practical resources, Scripture, and encouragement to help navigate the weeks ahead.

Most importantly, you don't have to walk through the holidays alone. Whether your loss is recent or happened years ago, this evening offers an opportunity to find comfort, hope, and encouragement as you move through the holiday season. Join us Thursday, November 12, at 6:30 PM at First Baptist Church. It's free to attend and open to the public. If you or someone you know is facing the holidays after the loss of a loved one, we would love to have you join us. Please sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

MERCO MOMCO

A COMMUNITY FOR MOMS IN
EVERY SEASON OF MOTHERHOOD
TO CONNECT, GROW, AND BE KNOWN.

M

THURSDAYS

2ND AND 4TH OF THE MONTH
9:00-10:30AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH AVE.
ALED0, IL 61231

friendship • speakers • food • fellowship

FALL 2026: 8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/29, 11/12, 12/10

BEYOND THURSDAYS

- Mom's Nights Out
- Play Dates
- Community Service
- Holiday Parties

"You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of his household."

EPHESIANS 2:19

because motherhood is better with

GOOD COMPANY

MerCo MomCo Has Moved!

MerCo MomCo is now meeting here at FBC. MomCo is a Christian community for moms in every season to connect, grow, and be known!

Our next meeting is Thursday, Sept. 10th, 9:00 to 10:30am in the Refuge Room (basement). Check-in begins at 8:45am. Moms of all ages and stages of life are welcome. Any questions see Peggy Johnson and Kailyn McCutchen.

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



Baptism
SUNDAY

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



Helping
HANDS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



SATURDAY, OCT. 31ST

CHECK IN AT 7:30AM IN THE CHURCH FOYER
RETURN AT 12:00PM FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
SIGN UP TODAY AT FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM



Good News!

We've Launched 8:00 AM Kids Worship & Nursery!

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.

Here's How 8am Kids Worship Works:

- All children ages 3 years old through 5th grade check in at the Nursery before the 8:00 AM service.

Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade begin the service sitting with their parents and will be dismissed after the first song for Kids Worship.

- A nursery is 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.

As always, we continue to offer Kids Worship & Nursery at our 10:15am service. Select the service that works best for your family!

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.

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 8am & 10:15am services 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.