



Pastor's Perspective

Dear Church Family,

There seems to be a lot of debate in our society about what prayer really is and how it works. For politicians, “thoughts and prayers” after a tragedy often feel like a cliché, a space-filler in a statement. For others, listening to prayers can feel like watching a sugared-up child with an unlimited budget at Kids-R-Us lay out their ultimate wish-list.

Now that I am a month into my role at First Baptist Church Aledo, I’m reminded again that my only hope, as a leader, pastor, husband, father, and follower of Christ, is being connected to the Ultimate Leader, Great Shepherd, Husband of the Bride, and Father of Nations. Prayer, far beyond an afterthought or cosmic gift-card, is our home base of hope, truth, and love.

One of the most famous prayers in Scripture, after the Lord’s Prayer, is in John 17, commonly called the High Priestly Prayer. At about 650 words, it takes roughly three and a half minutes to read aloud (unless you talk fast like me, in which case it could be done in 50 seconds). This is a beautiful reminder that our prayers don’t have to be impressive, long, or flowery. No bonus points are given for making everyone wait ten minutes before the meal prayer is finished.

Take a few minutes to read Jesus’ prayer aloud and let the words wash over you. What stands out to you?

For me, two things immediately come to mind:

1. Everything we need has been provided. Jesus’ prayer reminds us that power, presence, and identity have already been given to accomplish the work we have been called to do. The Father gives the Son authority to give eternal life (v. 2), people from the world (vv. 2, 6, 9, 24), work to accomplish (v. 4), words (v. 8), His name (vv. 11–12), and glory (vv.22, 24). Then the Son gives believers eternal life (v. 2), the Father’s words (vv. 8, 14), the Father’s name (vv. 6, 22), and glory (v. 22). In other words, we are fully equipped for the work we are called to do.

2. You are not alone. In a world that can feel exposing and isolating, the High Priestly Prayer reminds us of “indwelling.” Notice verses 21–26: the Father is in the Son, the Son is in the Father, believers are in the Father and the Son, and the Son is in believers. God’s presence surrounds and sustains us. If we are in Christ, we are never truly alone. We can surrender to God, rest in His presence, rejoice in His work, and give thanks for His power.

This month, I encourage you to take advantage of the brevity and power of Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer. Say it each morning to start your day. I think you will quickly discover that these three minutes may be some of the best minutes of your day.

In Christ,
Pastor Steven Stern



2026 Tithes & Offering - Year to date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$217,821.34**

Current Expense Giving - **\$233,891.03**

Building Fund Designations - **\$21,423.67**

Deacon Fund Designations - **\$4,679.46**

Total Giving - **\$259,994.16**

DISCOVER FBC

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

2 Sunday Sessions
June 7 & 14 @ 9:10am
Classroom #12-Lower Level
Taught by Pastor Steven Stern



Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com



Discover FBC is a two-week assimilation experience designed to help you clearly understand who we are and where you fit within the life of FBC Aledo. Whether you are brand new or still exploring, this class will guide you through the heart and direction of our church.

As one quote puts it, "Life should be a series of daring adventures launched from a secure base." Our hope is that FBC Aledo becomes that secure base for you, a place where you are grounded in truth, connected in community, and sent out to live boldly for Christ.

Over two sessions, you will explore our mission, vision, and cultural statements that shape our congregation. You will meet our team, learn how we operate, gain insights into our ministries, and find opportunities available for you and your family. We will also walk through our essential beliefs, highlight the missions we support, and provide clear next steps for growing as a disciple of Jesus, including what it means to pursue membership.

More than just information, Discover FBC is designed to be a meaningful step in your spiritual journey. It serves as a way station where you can discern alignment with our church's DNA and move forward with confidence and purpose.

This Session will be taught by Pastor Steven Stern and happens on June 7th & June 14th from 9:10-10:00am. We will meet in the Lower Level Room #12. First classroom down the hallway on the left.

Class size limited to 12 attendees. We'd love for you to sign up today so we can have everything ready for you at firstbaptistaledo.com.

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

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FUN

Be on the look out for the First Baptist Church bus at the following locations for some last day of school fun!

Tue., May 26th
9am

New Boston Ball Diamond
208 Jefferson St, New Boston

Wed., May 27th
2pm - 3pm

North Side Park
308 NW 9th St, Aledo



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22nd - 26th

9:00 - 11:30am

3 years old - 5th grade

Sign up online at
firstbaptistaledo.com



**RAINFOREST
FALLS**

Exploring the Nature of God

ALOHA!

It's Promotion Sunday!

Say goodbye to your old class and *hello* to your new one!

Pre-K - 5th grade Sunday School classes will have their promotion party in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 7th. Students going in to Kindergarten and 2nd Grade will be moving up to new classes. Students going into 6th grade can join us for the beginning of the party and then Miss Cora will take them into the Youth Sunday School Class with Pastor Austin.

Kids Worship kiddos going into 2nd grade will promote into the 2nd - 5th grade classroom with Mrs. Nancy during the 10:15 am service. They will check-in and stay downstairs for the beginning of Kids Worship and then Miss Cora will take them to Mrs. Nancy's class. After June 7th, these kiddos will check-in and go back upstairs to worship with their parents until they are dismissed before the message. Our 5th grade graduates may continue to attend Kids Worship through Aug. 9th.



Women's Better Together Gathering - All ladies are invited to a simple evening of connection and encouragement on Wednesday, May 6 at FBC from 6:30-8:30pm in the Refuge Room #25 (downstairs). Hear from women sharing their faith journeys and enjoy time to connect with others. No sign-up needed. No snacks—just meaningful conversation. We can't wait to connect with you!

**J.O.Y. Circle
will be selling
Pork Chops
May 2nd - 10:30am-1pm
@ Mercer Market.**



Proceeds benefit local families at Christmas

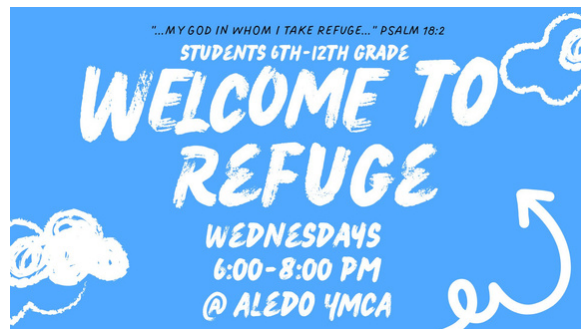
The Ladies of the J.O.Y. Circle invite you to join them for a Pork Chop Fundraiser at Mercer Market on Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

This special event is an opportunity to enjoy a great meal while supporting a meaningful cause, as all proceeds will go toward helping local families in need during the Christmas season.

Your participation makes a difference—come out, and be part of blessing others in our community.

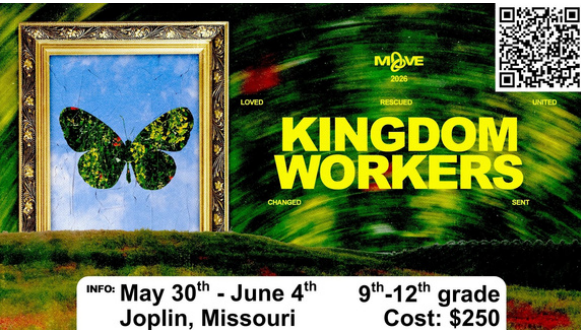


All ladies are invited to the J.O.Y. Circle on Tuesday, May 26th at 7:00 PM in the Enon Room. Come enjoy an evening of fun, meaningful fellowship, and an encouraging devotion. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women, build friendships, and be spiritually refreshed. Whether you've attended before or are coming for the first time, you are warmly welcomed—we'd love to see you there!



REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY

Refuge at the YMCA-All 6th-12th-grade students join us 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). In June and July, we will be having Refuge at the Church for "Refuge in the Field."



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 every Sunday from 5-7 pm in the church basement. Dinner is provided.



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.

Boomsisters - All 6th-12th-grade girls are invited to the "Run to Jesus" event on Saturday, May 16th, from 10 am to 1 pm. Lunch will be provided. There will be a scripture-based hat contest! Please contact Rhonda McKinley for details and sign up online.

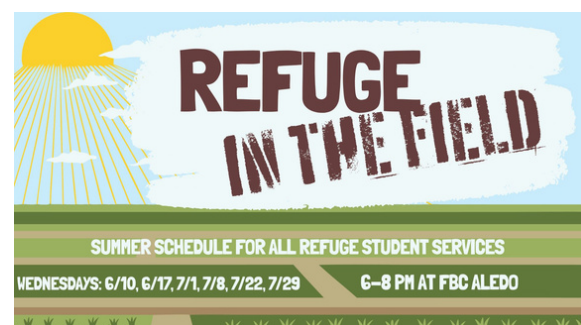


CIY MOVE-CIY MOVE is May 30th-June 4th at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO. MOVE is intended for students who will have completed grades 8th - 12th. The cost is \$250 per student. Sign up online by May 9th.

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.



Youth Band - All 6th-12th, practice every other Tuesday 4:30-6:00 pm @FBC Aledo, must sign up online, first practice is May 26th.



Refuge in the Field - All students 6th-12th grade, on Wednesdays; June 10th, 17th, July 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th. Refuge will be held at FBC Aledo (800 NE 6th Ave, Aledo) from 6:00-8:00 pm! We will be having games, a fire pit, devotions, and summer FUN.

FBC MEN'S MINISTRY



ROOted
MEN'S

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

Speaker: Pastor Chris Rogers
Edgewood Baptist Church

T-Shirt Available for \$15
Free to attend! Lunch Provided!
Sign Up @firstbaptistaledo.com



FBC Rooted Men's Conference

Men, make plans now to join us on Saturday, July 18th from 8:00 AM–2:00 PM at First Baptist Aledo for a powerful day of growth and encouragement.

This conference is open to men ages 13 and up and is designed to help you become more deeply rooted in Christ and grounded in His Word. We're excited to welcome Pastor Chris Rogers from Edgewood Baptist Church as our guest speaker.

The day will include meaningful worship, biblical teaching, authentic fellowship, and plenty of encouragement—plus breakfast and lunch are provided!

This is a free event, so invite a friend and sign up today. Rooted T-shirts are available for a pre-order of \$15. Don't miss this opportunity to be strengthened in your faith and connected with other men.

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.



MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

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

Join us in the Lower Enon Room #16
@6:30pm every Wednesday

Men's Sunday Morning Breakfast!

Start your Sunday with good food and great conversation at our Men's Breakfast! We meet every Sunday at 7:00am in the lower-level Refuge Room #25 to enjoy a free breakfast and take a closer look at the previous week's sermon. It's a relaxed, encouraging time to reflect, ask questions, and grow together in God's Word. Come hungry—and bring a friend!



Come & Enjoy!
**FBC MEN'S
BREAKFAST**
Food | Fellowship | Faith

7am
EVERY SUNDAY
DOWNSTAIRS
REFUGE ROOM

1830 Ministry | New Church Office Hours



**1830 Ministry
Passion '27
Conference**
Feb. 5-6, 2027
Atlanta, GA
Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Estimated cost \$900 (Includes conference ticket, flight, and hotel), subject to change.

A \$50 deposit is required

Registration closes May 3rd at firstbaptistaledo.com

Sign up now to be part of this powerful weekend!

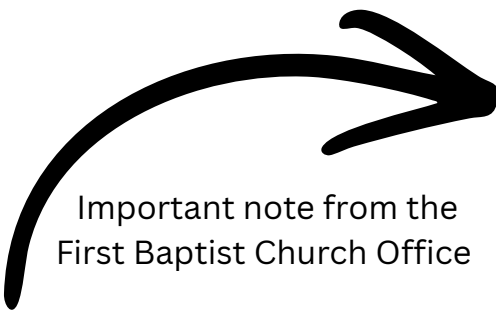
Questions see Lauryn Russell or text the 1830 Ministry Message Service at 309-316-7528



FBC 1830 Ministry will be attending the Passion 2027 Conference in Atlanta, GA, February 5–6, 2027 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The estimated total cost is \$900 (including conference ticket, flight, and hotel), though this may change based on rates and fundraising efforts. A \$50 deposit is required to secure your spot, with a payment schedule available through the end of the year. Please note: participation in fundraisers is required for all attendees. Sign up now to be part of this powerful weekend—registration closes May 3rd at firstbaptistaledo.com. Questions see Lauryn Russell or text the 1830 Ministry Message Service at 309-316-7528.

We have launched a new ministry called 1830 Ministry It's a new meetup just for college-age young adults (ages 18-30) — a place for friendship, encouragement, and meaningful conversation.

Whether you're in school, working, or figuring out what's next, you're welcome here! **For details or to get involved, email Lauryn Russell at russellsceasar14@gmail.com or use the 1830 Ministry Text Message Service at 309-316-7528**



Important note from the First Baptist Church Office



**Please Note
New Church Office Hours
Beginning June 1st**

**Tuesdays-Thursdays 9am-4:30pm
Fridays 9am-Noon
Mondays by Appointment
Call 309-582-7812**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ALEDO, ILLINOIS





CHURCH POTLUCK!

**Sunday, May 31st
11:30am @ FBC
Fellowship Hall**

Drinks & Table Service Provided.
See Karyn Smith following
Sunday's Service to sign up.



Join us for a 5th Sunday Church Potluck!

On Sunday, May 31st at 11:30am, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a great time of food and fellowship. There will be one combined service that morning (no 8am service), followed by the meal.

Bring your favorite dish to share—homemade or store-bought, all are welcome! Not sure what to bring? Here are a few ideas:

- **Main dishes like casseroles, fried chicken, or BBQ**
- **Sides like salads, veggies, mac & cheese, or baked beans**
- **Desserts like cookies, brownies, cakes, or pies**

To help us plan, please see Karyn Smith at the Welcome Desk in the lobby following Sunday's service to sign up for your item of choice before bringing your dish. Drinks and table service will be provided, so just come ready to enjoy time together as a church family. We'd love to see everyone there!

13-Week Home Discipleship Study

What if discipleship became part of your everyday life, not just a short-term Bible study?

Jon & Kathy Gochee's Home 2822 170th Ave. Sherrard

Mondays 6:00-7:30 PM

June 8 - August 31, 2026

Open to new and seasoned believers.

Light refreshments and fellowship provided

Childcare: None provided, but children are welcome under their parent's supervision.

Led by Jon Gochee - Limited to 14 participants.

If you'd like to join us, please call Jon at 309-737-6724



Congratulations

If you have a Graduate that is not listed, please call the church office at 309-582-7812 by May 10th so we can add them to our Grad recognition list! Graduation Recognition Sunday at FBC is May 24th at 10:15am.

**8th Grade
Graduates**

- Griffin Burns
- Macy Freeman
- Kaelyn Huston
- Hallee Kammerman
- Jake Nelson
- Abigail Struble


**High School
Graduates**

- Elijah Burns
- Molly Dixon
- Tyler Fox
- Noah Johnson
- Laryssa Russell

**College
Graduate**

- Sidney Quam

You're invited to these Grad Parties!



Grad Party

NOAH JOHNSON

Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 5:00 pm
 The Johnson Home, 102 NW 8th Ave, Aledo, IL 61231
 RSVP to halejohnson1979@icloud.com

Graduate
2026

Please join us us to celebrate

Molly Dixon
 Sunday, May 17, 2026
 5:00 - 8:00
 Mercer County
 Fair Grounds
 848 170th St, Aledo, IL

Shared celebration with cousins
 Alivia Gillespie & Trace Zeitler







Ron Moffitt's Sunday School Class
New Topic begins May 3rd on Prayer
Everyone Welcome at 9am
Enon Room #9

Looking for a way to grow in your faith and connect with others? Our Adult Sunday School classes meet each Sunday at 9:00am and offer something for everyone, no matter where you are in your spiritual journey.

Beginning Sunday, May 3rd, Ron Moffitt's class will start a new study on prayer. This is a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of how to communicate with God and strengthen your daily walk. Everyone is welcome to join this class, which meets in the Enon Room #9 on the main level.

We also offer a variety of other adult classes:

- Matt Clark – Books of the Bible
- Aaron Struble – Thessalonians
- Ron Moffitt – Prayer
- Crystal Clark – Wrapping Your Life Around the One Who Matters Most
- Cindy Maynard – Verse by Verse Bible
-

Whether you're looking for in-depth Bible study, practical application, or meaningful discussion, there's a place for you. Come at 9:00am and find the class that fits you best—we'd love to have you join us!



There's something special about coming together as one church family, and we're looking forward to doing just that on the 5th Sunday in May!

On May 31st, we'll gather for one combined worship service at 10:15am as we intentionally create space to build relationships, strengthen fellowship, and enjoy being together across all services. Please note, there will be no 8:00am service that morning but we will have Sunday School as usual at 9am.

We encourage you to come a little early, greet familiar faces, and take the opportunity to meet someone new. These moments of connection are such an important part of who we are as a church. Following the service, we'll continue the fellowship with a church-wide potluck in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. We invite everyone to bring a favorite dish to share—whether it's a family recipe, a side, salad, or dessert, there's a place for it at the table! It's always a sweet time of sharing food, laughter, and community.

We hope you'll make plans to join us for this meaningful day together!

Stay Connected!



Love Christ. Love Others.
Think 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.