

HELLO *March*



Pastor Search Update

Exciting days are ahead at FBC! We are grateful for how the Lord is guiding our church during this season and look forward to welcoming Pastor Steven Stern as he candidates in view of a call with us on Sunday, March 1st. This will be a special morning as he shares God's Word and we seek the Lord's direction together.

You're also invited to a Meet & Greet Open House on Friday, February 27th from 6–8pm in Fellowship Hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with Pastor Steven and his wife, Chelsea and get to know them in a relaxed setting.

The complete letter from the FBC Search Committee, sent via e-mail on Feb. 19th, can be found on pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter. It lists all the important details you need to know!

Most importantly, please be in prayer – for Pastor Steven and his family, for our church family, and for clear unity and wisdom as we follow where God is leading.

Exciting things are happening at FBC!



Pastor Steven & Chelsea Stern

Friday, February 27 – Meet & Greet

6:00–8:00pm at FBC in the Fellowship Hall.

This will be an informal, open house-style meet and greet—come and go as you please. Light refreshments will be served. We warmly encourage you to come and take this opportunity to personally meet Pastor Steven & Chelsea and welcome them. No RSVP is needed.

Sunday, March 1 – Pastor Steven Candidating

****One Combined Service at 10:15am**

Pastor Steven Stern will be preaching in view of a call on Sunday, March 1. Please note that we will have one combined worship service at 10:15am only **(there will not be an 8:00am service on March 1).**

Sunday School will be offered as usual at 9:00am.



2026 Tithes & Offering - Year to date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$87,675.00**

Current Expense Giving - **\$85,041.19**

Building Fund Designations - **\$11,780.67**

Deacon Fund Designations - **\$2,469.96**

Total Giving - **\$99,291.82**



February 19th, 2026

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

We are grateful to share an important update from the Pastor Search Committee. Over the past several months, Vanderbloemen Church Staffing has been actively reviewing candidates on our behalf—screening resumes, conducting initial interviews, and checking references as part of their thorough process. Throughout this time, the FBC Search Committee has continued to spend significant time in prayer and discussion together, seeking the Lord’s direction for our church. We have consistently asked God for unity, clarity, and wisdom—and we are thankful for how He has faithfully guided each step.

The FBC Search Committee met with Pastor Steven Stern for an initial interview via Zoom on Thursday, February 12th. It was a great meeting that gave us the opportunity to hear his heart for ministry and ask important questions. As a result of that conversation, Pastor Steven, his wife Chelsea, and one of their children visited Aledo and First Baptist Church from February 13th–15th so they could get a feel for our community and church family. It was a very positive visit for Pastor Steven and his family, and we are grateful for the encouraging time we shared together. Because of this, we are moving forward in the process.

After much prayer and careful consideration, we are pleased to introduce Pastor Steven Stern as a candidate to preach in view of a call.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, February 27 – Meet & Greet

6:00–8:00pm at FBC in the Fellowship Hall

This will be an informal, open house-style meet and greet—come and go as you please. Light refreshments will be served. We warmly encourage you to come and take this opportunity to personally meet Pastor Steven and welcome him. No RSVP is needed.

Sunday, March 1 – Pastor Steven Candidating – One Combined Service at 10:15am

Pastor Steven Stern will be preaching in view of a call on Sunday, March 1. Please note that we will have one combined worship service at 10:15am only (there will not be an 8:00am service on March 1). Sunday School will be offered as usual at 9:00am. During the 10:15am service, children in 2nd–5th grade will remain upstairs in the worship service with their families. Childcare will be provided for nursery age through 1st grade.

Following the March 1st service, a **Special Business Meeting** will be held at 11:40am for the purpose of voting on Pastor Stern as our next Senior Pastor. Church members ages 15 and older are eligible to vote and are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Please plan to join us at 10:15am as we gather for this significant day in the life of our church family!

Voting Information:

Voting will be open to all official members of First Baptist Church. (Per our church bylaws, members must be at least 15 years of age and in good standing to vote.) Ballots will be distributed at the conclusion of the service and collected during the Special Business Meeting.

(Continued)

We encourage you to be in prayer in the days ahead—for Pastor Steven and his family, for our church, and for the Lord's continued guidance and unity.

For those who would like to preview one of Pastor Steven's sermons here is link or a QR code to a message titled "The Image of God-More Than Conquerors"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TJg9ZbDOZM>



Below is a brief overview of Pastor Steven's background:

Education

- Doctor of Ministry in Ministry Leadership – Liberty University
- Master of Divinity – Lincoln Christian University
- Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration – Augustana College
- Associate in Science – Black Hawk College

Professional Experience

- Senior Pastor – New Hope Christian Church, Bartlett, TN
- Senior Pastor – Walnut Grove Christian Church, Arcola, IL
- Pastor – Franklin Christian Church, Franklin, IL
- Ordained in 2012 by Milan Christian Church
- Church Internship – Elkhart Christian Church, Elkhart, IL
- Assistant Manager – Walgreens, Clinton, IL

Steven has also been actively involved in community ministry. He is the founder of God Will Make A Way Ministries, an organization focused on helping unify churches to provide adoption grants to Christian families.

Family

Steven and Chelsea have been married for just over 16 years and are raising four great kids: Valeri, Samuel, Adriana, and Dulce. Adoption is a big part of their family's story. They adopted Samuel in 2013 and later welcomed their daughters, an international sibling group from Colombia, in 2018. Life in their home is busy, loud, and full of laughter. They love movie nights, hiking adventures, crafts at the kitchen table, wrestling in the living room, traveling when they can, and trying fun foods from around the world. With six people under one roof, there is never a dull moment, and they would not have it any other way.

We encourage everyone to be in prayer as the Lord continues to guide First Baptist Church through this important season.

Thank you for your faithful prayers, patience, and encouragement throughout this process. We look forward to what the Lord has in store for First Baptist Church.

In Christ,

Steve Struble - Chair

Crystal Clark, Jon Gochee, Mick Louck, Ron Moffitt, Jon Ricke & Beth Whitenack
The FBC Pastor Search Committee

KIDS CLUB

Winter Session

Kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us on March 4th & March 11th from 6:30-8:00pm for our last two sessions of Kids Club this winter. We're still collecting non-perishable items for our **Mission Project** to donate to the Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry and the FBC Blessing Box. We're also throwing a "**Glow With Generosity**" party on March 11th to celebrate the support for our Mission Project! Kids are encouraged to wear white or neon colors that will pop under the blacklights. There's still time for kids to recite their **Bible Memory verses** to win a prize!

- Pre-K - 1st Grade: "Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever." Psalm 145:2 ESV
- 2nd - 5th Grade: "v1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. v2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. v3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable." Psalm 145:1-3 ESV

2026
SUMMER
Camp

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

K-2nd Grade
Kids Day Camp
June 29, 30, July 1

5th/6th Grade
July 5-10

3rd/4th Grade
July 26-29

sign-ups coming soon...



Kids Music Special Sunday, March 29th

Kids will be singing two songs at the beginning of the 10:15am Service on Palm Sunday. Please check-in all kiddos downstairs before 10:10am.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

CANDY COLLECTION

FOR OUR FAMILY EASTER EVENT

DONATIONS OF SMALL EGG-SIZE CANDY
DROP OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
BEFORE TUE., MAR. 24TH

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

FAMILY EASTER EVENT

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

AT 10:00 AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ALEDO
800 NE 6TH AVE

DOORS OPEN AT 9:40AM

DONUTS, STORY TIME, &
EGG HUNT



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).

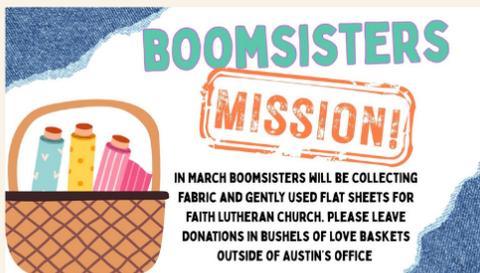
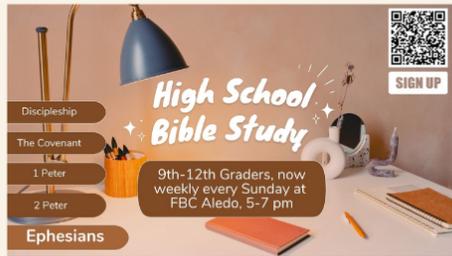
High School Bible Study!-We are studying the book of Ephesians so that we can be strengthened and deeply rooted as we learn to fulfill the purpose and calling GOD has given. We meet every Sunday from 5-7 pm in the church basement. Dinner is provided.

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.

Spring Break Hat Trick-3 days of fun for all students on spring break! Tuesday, March 17th, is game night for all 6th-8th-grade students at the FBC Aledo. Wednesday, March 18th, is worship night at the YMCA. Thursday, March 19th, is firepit night for all 9th-12th-grade students at FBC Aledo. All three days are 6-8 pm, and there's no need to sign up, just show up!

Boomsisters Mission-In March, Boomsisters will be collecting fabric and gently used flat sheets (all sizes) to bless the Faith Lutheran Church quilters that we partner with each spring and fall. Please leave your donations in the Bushels of Love baskets located outside of Austin's office. Questions? See Rhonda McKinley.

Boomsisters-6th-12th-grade girls are invited on March 21st in the Enon room at 10 am -12:30 pm for some March Madness.





A Women's Equipping Conference from
FOCAL POINT MINISTRIES *Join Us!*

Saturday, April 18, 2026
8:30am-4:00pm
 Calvary Church • Moline, IL 61265

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
 SHAUNTI FELDHAHN
 MILLICENT SEDRA

A one-day conference for women (13 years and older) featuring inspiring keynote speakers, breakout seminars uniquely designed for women, and Christ-centered worship.

Iron Sharpens Iron
 February 2018

The FBC Women's Ministry will be taking a group! Cost \$20
 Sign Up At firstbaptistaledo.com

Women's Iron Sharpens Iron Conference-All ladies 13 years old and up are invited to attend the Women's Iron Sharpens Iron Conference held at Calvary Church in Moline Saturday, April 18 from 8:30am-4pm. The cost to register is \$20 and First Baptist Women's Ministry will cover the rest of this one-day event, which includes a boxed lunch. Join us for a great time of Biblical teaching, encouragement and fellowship with one another! Please register at firstbaptistaledo.com by March 22rd. This Conference sells out quickly so the earlier you register, the better.



Ladies, we are reading through the entire Bible using a unique plan.
 Sunday - Epistle, Monday - The Law, Tuesday - History, Wednesday - Psalms,
 Thursday - Poetry, Friday - Prophecy, and Saturday - The Gospels.

When we meet, we will discuss connections, God's attributes, and ways God has been speaking to your heart to apply what you are learning.
 This class is taught by Britni Ewing.

We meet Thursdays from 3:30-5:30pm on the main level of the church in the room across from the Enon Room. Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com

Tuesdays with Jesus
 Women's Study

LUKE
 Gut-Level Compassion
 2pm - Enon Room
 Taught by Rhonda McKinley
 Jump in anytime! More details at firstbaptistaledo.com

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE • STREAMING VIDEO
 LISA HARPER

Bible Study for women taught by Rhonda McKinley. We meet Tuesday afternoons at 2pm on the Upper Level in the Enon Room.
 Current Study: "Luke: Gut-Level Compassion" by Lisa Harper

Many of us believe we aren't good enough to meet other people's expectations. Maybe you can't wrap words around why, but lurking beneath the surface of the carefully curated facade you present in public, it's there.

The great news woven throughout the Gospel according to Luke is that perfection is not a prerequisite for a deep and personal relationship with Jesus. In fact, this riveting account reveals that Jesus is especially fond of ragamuffins in need of a safe place to lean in and linger! Join Lisa Harper in this Bible study of a literary masterpiece that doesn't celebrate the elite, but embraces the outliers, outcasts, and overlooked! Jump in any time!



LOVE IS BREWING

Join us for coffee and pastries

Please join us for a Wedding Shower honoring

SIDNEY QUAM

SATURDAY | MARCH 7TH | 10AM

First Baptist Church, Aledo IL

Sidney and Dylan are registered at Amazon.com

FBC MEN'S MINISTRY



Men's Momentum Retreat-April 17th-19th Buchanan, MI at Life Action Camp

What is Momentum? Food, fellowship, and spiritual recharging mark these men's times together. Be challenged in your Christian walk and encouraged to lead your family with deliberate action. This retreat is for men ages 16 and older. The cost is \$225 per person which includes the conference, accommodations, and meals at the retreat. **Early Bird Registration before March 17th is \$150** with the FBC Men's Ministry paying the balance. When you register online by March 17th at firstbaptistaledo.com there will be two payment options \$150 and \$225, choose the best option for you.



RETREATS JUST FOR
MOMENTUM
April 17-19
MEN'S MOMENTUM
@ Life Action Camp
Buchanan, MI
EARLY BIRD SIGN UP
BY MARCH 16!
Cost \$150/\$225
Sign up at FirstBaptistAledo.com

Tentative Momentum Schedule

Friday:

9:00AM - Leave Aledo Friday Morning
4:00-6:00 PM Arrival and Check-In
6:00-7:00 PM Supper
7:30 PM Session 1
Fellowship and Snacks

Saturday:

8:30-9:30 AM Breakfast (come and go)
10:00 AM Session 2
11:30 AM Optional break-out sessions
12:30-1:30 PM Lunch
1:30-5:30 PM Free time / Recreational options,
including:
- Escape Rooms
- Canoes/Kayaks
- Coffee and Canvas (or similar)
- Snack Shop Games (Ping-Pong, Pool, Air Hockey,
Foosball)
- Lawn Games
- Optional Offsite Activities
5:30-6:30 PM Supper
7:00 PM Session 3
Activities and Snacks

Sunday:

8:30-9:30 AM Breakfast (come and go)
10:00 AM Session 4
11:30 AM Check-Out



Men's Iron Sharpens Iron Conference

Saturday, March 14th 8:30am-4pm at Heritage Church in Rock Island. Equipping Seminars for men ages 13 and up. FBC is not coordinating a group this year, but it's a great conference and you may purchase your ticket at focalpointministries.net.

Easter Is Sunday, April 5th



This Easter, we would love for you to join us at First Baptist as we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus.

Easter is more than a date on the calendar—it's a reminder that hope is alive. No matter what this past year has held for you, the resurrection of Christ assures us that light overcomes darkness, life triumphs over death, and God's love has the final word. If you're searching for hope, encouragement, or simply a place to belong, we invite you to come and experience Easter with us.

We will gather for Easter worship on Sunday, April 5th at 8:00am and 10:15am, and there's a place for you at either service. Come as you are. Bring your questions, bring your family, and bring a friend.

Whether you attend church regularly or haven't been in a long time, you are welcome here.

Let's celebrate together the good news that changes everything. We can't wait to see you this Easter at First Baptist Aledo!



Events Surrounding Easter



Kids Music Special

Sunday, March 29th

Kids will be singing two songs at the beginning of the 10:15am Service on Palm Sunday. Please check-in all kiddos downstairs before 10:10am.

Details coming soon!
Passover Seder Meal

Easter Lily

Honor the memory of a loved one on Easter with an Easter Lily in the Sanctuary.

Cost \$11

Sign up on the Connect Card by March 15th.
Leave at the Welcome Desk.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A FAMILY EASTER EVENT

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD
AT 10:00 AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ALEDO
800 NE 6TH AVE
DOORS OPEN AT 9:40AM

DONUTS, STORY TIME, & EGG HUNT

WE NEED YOUR HELP! CANDY COLLECTION

FOR OUR FAMILY EASTER EVENT

DONATIONS OF SMALL EGG-SIZE CANDY
DROP OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE
BEFORE TUE., MAR. 24TH

Join Us for Wednesday Night Live!

Wednesday Night Live (WNL)

Feb. 4–Mar. 11 | Wednesdays | 6:30–8:00 pm

Wednesday Night Live is a welcoming midweek gathering for the whole family to grow in faith and build meaningful connections. Classes are free, open to the public, and you're welcome to join at any point.

Adult Classes

Men's Bible Study

- Led by Troy Riddell, this men's study walks verse by verse through the Bible helping participants better understand who Jesus is and how His truth applies to everyday life. No prior knowledge needed—jump in anytime.

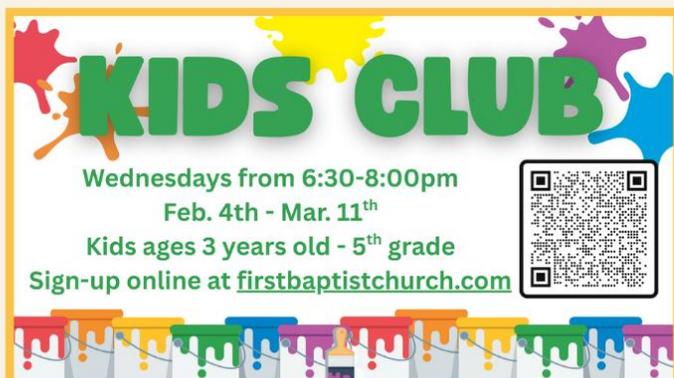
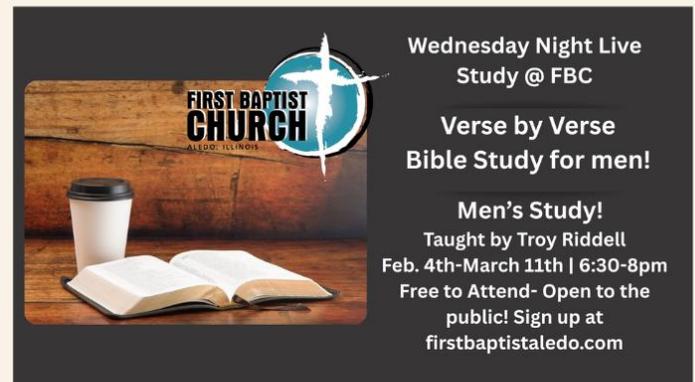
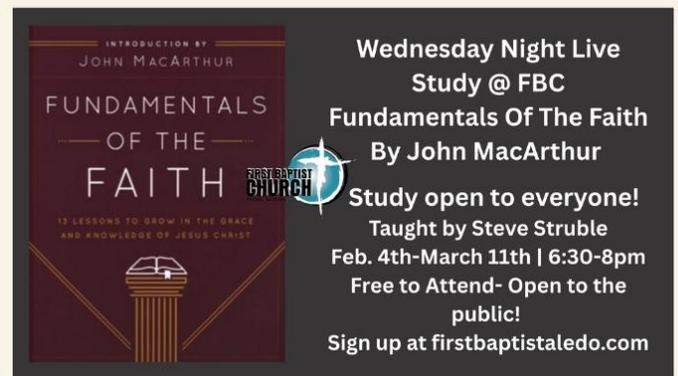
Fundamentals of the Faith (Men & Women)

- Led by Steve Struble, this study by John MacArthur explores the core beliefs of Christianity in a clear, practical way. Topics include salvation, the character of God, Scripture, prayer, and spiritual growth. Whether you're new to faith, returning to church, or wanting to strengthen your foundation, this class is a great fit.

For Kids & Students

- **Nursery** (Ages 0–2): Provided for parents attending or serving
- **Kids Club** (Ages 3–5th Grade): Check-in begins at 6:15 pm at the church
- **Refuge Student Ministry** (Grades 6–12): Meets at the Mercer County YMCA with worship, Bible teaching, games, and fun

Come as you are—there's a place for everyone at WNL! Details/Sign Up @ firstbaptistaledo.com.



Baptism | 1830 Ministry | Spring Ahead!



1830 Ministry (Formerly College-Age Ministry)

We're launching 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, contact Lauryn Russell at 309-781-3136 or russellsceasar14@gmail.com.



Mercer County Food Pantry Volunteers Needed-FBC has the opportunity to provide volunteers for the MC Food Pantry in Aledo on Tuesday, March 10th from 5:30-7pm (The Tuesday spots are filled) & Friday, March 13 from 8am-Noon. If you can volunteer (2 slots available on Friday), see Pam at the Welcome Desk or call the church office at 309-582-7812.



Daylight Savings Time Begins!!

🕒 Don't Forget to Spring Forward! 🌸

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8th! Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night so you won't be late for church.

We look forward to seeing you bright and early — even if it feels a little earlier than usual! 😊

Grief Share®

GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP
THURSDAYS FROM 6-8PM - JAN. 22ND-APRIL 16

Hosted at First Baptist Church Aledo
Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com or
Call the church office at 309-582-7812 to register





We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, thoughts, cards, and food. Cathy is over halfway done with the chemotherapy. She is getting better at knowing what to expect at certain times in each cycle. We definitely do not recommend breaking your leg while doing chemo. She has almost 2 years of immunotherapy treatments ahead. They are supposed to have fewer side effects.

Cathy and Linus Griswold

A Glimpse from El Salvador Mission Trip 2026 To God Be The Glory!



Stay Connected!



·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.

Love Christ. Love Others.
Think Biblically.