



2026 January



Pastor's Perspective

Pastor Search Update

We're thankful for God's continued guidance as we move forward in our pastor search, and we ask you to please keep praying. In this season of waiting, we must keep our hearts prepared.

As a church family, we are called to remain faithful and unified—continuing to preach the gospel, live as missionaries, and shine the light of Christ wherever God sends us, whether at home, at school, at work, or in our community. We trust God's timing and desire to walk together in faith and unity.

As part of this process, we've created a Pastor Introduction video that reflects the heart, mission, and people of First Baptist Church of Aledo. You can view it on YouTube by going to YouTube.com and searching First Baptist Church of Aledo. This video will be shared through Vanderblomen staffing agency with prospective pastor candidates so they can get a meaningful sense of who we are as a church family.

In Christ,

Seth



2025 Tithes & Offering - Through Dec. 28, 2025

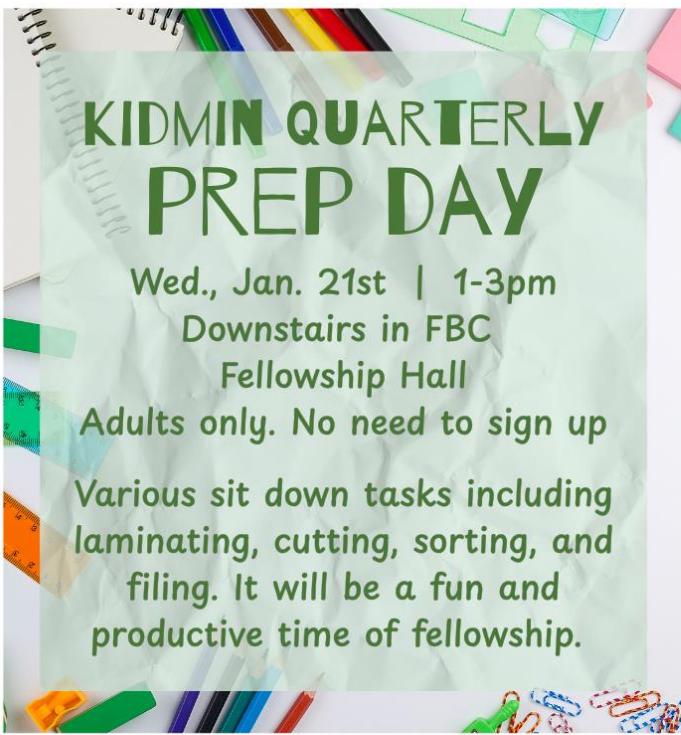
Giving Needed to Meet 2025 Budget - **\$623,097.28**

Current Expense Giving - **\$646,058.10**

Building Fund Designations - **\$161,330.06**

Deacon Fund Designations - **\$12,567.00**

Total Giving - **\$819,955.16**





KIDS CLUB

Winter Session



Kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm starting February 4th through March 11th. We will continue our theme from the Fall: "We are God's Masterpiece," and learn more about the ministry of Paul and Jesus's return through the Gospel Project. We will have fun playing games, engaging in Bible activities, memorizing scripture, eating snacks, and making new friends.

Mission Project
 This session we are collecting non-perishable items to donate to the Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry and the FBC Blessing Box. Our goal this session is collect 1,350 items. We only have six weeks for collection, but you always amaze me at your generosity so I know we can do it!

Fun Nights this Session
February 18th "What I Want to Be Night": Kids, can dress up as who they would like to be when they grow up. This is another way we can celebrate how God has made each of us unique and special.
March 11th "Glow With Generosity Night": We're throwing a Glow Party to celebrate your amazing support for our Mission Project! Kids are encouraged to wear white or neon colors that will pop under the blacklights.

Bible Memory Challenges
 Each time kids recite their verse, they will get 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

Denise Bowker
 Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator
denise@firstbaptistaledo.com
 Church: (309) 582-7812



Registration is strongly encouraged. Even if you participated in the Fall, we ask that you please sign-up online by clicking the QR Code here.



REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY



Refuge at the Y!-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). Hope to see you at the YMCA this Wednesday!

God's Gals-Girls 6th-12th grades are invited to join us on Mondays from 6-7 pm in the Enon Room. Our current study is Jude-Contending for the Faith in Today's Culture by Jackie Hill Perry. Jump in any time! Questions, see Rhonda McKinley or Vickie Korns.



FCA-We are challenging all students to join us for Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddles at MC High School and Jr. High. The high school will meet every Thursday at 7:15-7:50 am in room 210, and the Jr. High will meet every Friday at 7:30-7:55 am in room 23. All students are welcome; breakfast provided!



Boomsisters-All girls in grades 6th through 12th are invited to join us for a Boomsisters on January 10th from 10 am-12:30 pm here at FBC in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a special event on being The Bride of Christ. Questions, please contact Rhonda McKinley.

Women's Flourish Ministry

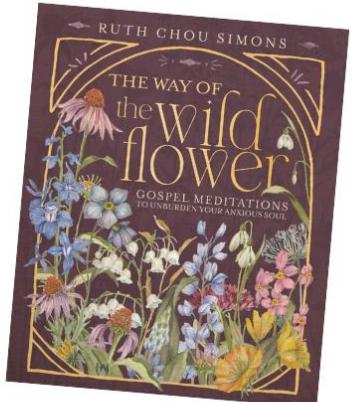
Flourish Small Groups Begin Soon!

As we step into a new year, we are excited to see our FLOURISH Women's Small Groups begin again. This year's study, The Way of the Wildflower by Ruth Chou Simons, invites women to release their burdens, rest in God's grace, and discover the freedom that comes from living rooted in Christ.

FLOURISH groups are designed to encourage meaningful connection and spiritual growth in a flexible way. Each group will choose its own meeting schedule, with monthly gatherings encouraged, allowing women to participate in a way that best fits their season of life.

If you signed up online, your group leader will be in touch during the month of January with details about meeting times and information on picking up your study book.

We look forward to seeing how God uses this study to strengthen faith, build community, and help each woman flourish in the year ahead. Questions, see Women's Ministry Chair, Crystal Clark.



2026 Women's Through the Word Study



We will be 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.

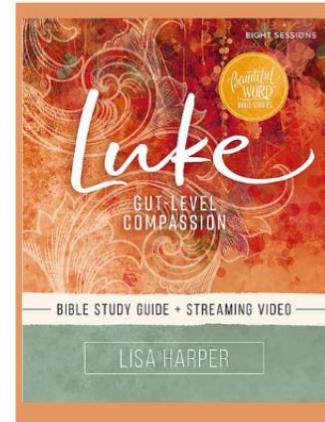
When we meet, we will discuss connections, God's attributes, and ways God has been speaking to your heart to apply what you are learning. Taught by Britni Ewing.

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



The ladies of the church are invited to celebrate Emily (Bowns) Reed at an Open House Bridal Shower at First Baptist Saturday, Jan. 17th from 1:30-3pm in the Enon Room. Emily & Warren are registered at Walmart. No RSVP needed.



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

FBC MEN'S MINISTRY

FBC Men's Car Ministry

Have a car you'd like to donate?
Call the Church Office for donation details.



Donate a Car, Change a Life

Do you have a vehicle you no longer need?
Consider donating it to the First Baptist
Church Car Ministry.

Each donated car is repaired when needed and
then passed directly on to someone in our
community who needs reliable transportation.

Your gift can make a real, practical difference.
To learn more, contact the church office.



Bible Collection for FCA Student Huddles

First Baptist is collecting new and gently used Bibles to support FCA student huddles. Our goal is to gather 1,000–2,000 Bibles to help place God's Word into the hands of students. If you have a Bible to donate, please bring it to the Welcome Desk by Sunday, Feb. 15th, thank you for partnering with us in sharing hope and truth with the next generation.



Guys, it's time to show off those world-class tossing skills. Join us Friday, Jan. 16 from 6–8pm at FBC for a night of friendly competition, good laughs, and bragging rights. No sign-up needed—just show up. Snacks + soda provided. Grab a buddy and come hang out! Let's see who takes home the unofficial title of Bag Toss Legend.



FBC Men's Euchre Tournament

Guys, you're invited to a fun night of fellowship and friendly competition! Join us for a Men's Euchre Tournament on Friday, February 20th, from 6–8pm at the church. Whether you're a longtime Euchre player or just in it for the laughs, this will be a great chance to connect with other men from our church family. Bring a friend, enjoy some good conversation, and come hungry—pizza and sodas will be provided. Best of all, this is a free event. Come ready for cards, fellowship, and a great evening together!



College Age Meetup | Annual Meeting| Christmas at The Nursing Home| Prayer Nights



Nursing Home Gift Ministry THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Nursing Home Christmas Gift project this year!

We know that your generous donations of gifts are definitely appreciated. This is a community wide event, so we would also like to thank the following churches: Hamlet-Perryton Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Catherine's Church and Grace Evangelical Free Church. We would also like to thank our wonderful volunteers: Dennis and Penny Dixon, Denise and Seth Bowker, Carol Hill, Vivian Kopp, Anita Parkinson, Lela Bieri, Sherry Huffstutler, Peggy Johnson, and Pam Ricke with their help in sorting, boxing, loading and delivering the gifts!

This important ministry goes so smoothly and quickly when people are willing to serve and volunteer to help us out!

Thanks again for all your help!!!
Linus and Cathy Griswold



College-Age Meetup (Ages 18-26)

We're launching a new meetup just for college-age young adults—a place for friendship, encouragement, and meaningful conversation.

This season of life can feel busy and uncertain, and it's important to stay connected; to God, to community, and to each other. Whether you're in college, working, or exploring your next steps, you are welcome and wanted here.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Lauryn Russell at 309-781-3136 or russellsceasar14@gmail.com.



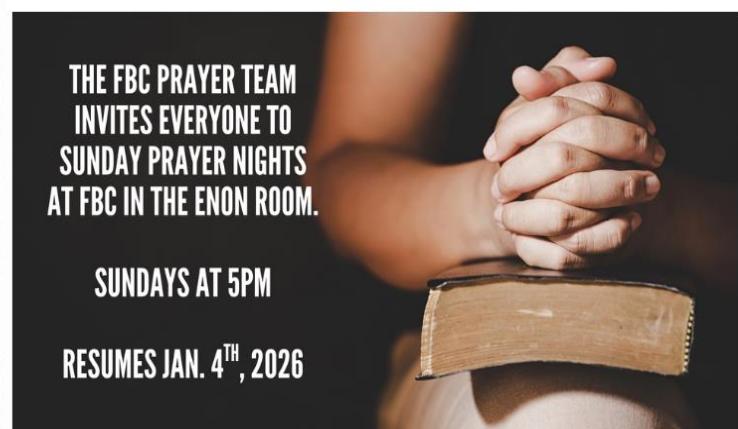
FBC
Annual Business
Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 18th
@11:40am.

Church Council
Meets Tuesday,
Jan. 13th at 7pm.

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

SUNDAYS AT 5PM

RESUMES JAN. 4TH, 2026



Griefshare - 5th Sunday - WNL



GriefShare®
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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

New Session of GriefShare Begins Soon!

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. This 13-week class is taught by Joe and Kathy Olson and held Thursdays from Jan. 22nd-April 16th from 6-8pm at FBC in the Enon Room. This class is free and open to everyone. Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

Did You Know?

Did you know that on Fifth Sundays we have a special opportunity to support the First Baptist Deacon Fund? This fund helps individuals and families in our community with urgent needs such as rent, utilities, car repairs, and medical expenses, meeting real needs close to home. To clarify, only cash gifts received on Fifth Sundays are designated for the Deacon Fund. Thank you for your faithful generosity and heart for helping others.



Each Communion Sunday, held on the first Sunday every other month, the students of Boomsisters/Bushels of Love invite the FBC family to come alongside them in supporting neighbors in need.

Our next Communion Sunday is February 1st. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Mercer County Food Pantry and/or FBC's Blessing Box, our 24/7 food pantry located in the northeast parking lot. Please leave your donated items in the crates located in the church lobby.

Thank you for helping us share Christ's love in practical ways close to home.



Wednesday Night Live classes at First Baptist are starting soon and you're invited to be part of this meaningful midweek time of learning and fellowship. Classes will run February 4 through March 11, meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm. This session will include a Bible Study for Men focused on the Book of John, taught by Troy Riddell. It's a great opportunity to dig deeper into Scripture and grow together in faith. More adult class details coming soon!

We're also excited to continue offering engaging programming for all ages:

Kids Club for kids 3 years old through 5th Grade.
Refuge Student Ministry for 6th-12th grade students at the Mercer County YMCA.

Whether you're looking to grow spiritually, connect with others, or provide a great midweek experience for your family, Wednesday Night Live has something for you. Adult Class sign up coming soon at firstbaptistaledo.com.

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

PHONE: 309.582.7812
E-MAIL: FBCALEDO2@FRONTIERNET.NET
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 102
ALEDO, IL 61231

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.**



FBC NEWSLETTER IS NOW ELECTRONIC!
Starting Jan. 2026, the FBC newsletter is now electronic! Already get it by email? You're set. Want added? Email fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net
No email? Printed copies will still be at the Welcome Desk.