



Pastor's Perspective - Apologetics Without Apology

June 2026

Dear Church Family,

One argument sometimes raised against Christianity is the claim that the worship of Jesus developed slowly over centuries, becoming exaggerated over time like many historical legends. People point to examples such as Alexander the Great gaining mythical status after his death, George Washington cutting down the cherry tree, or the idea that Abraham Lincoln never told a lie. According to this view, Jesus may have started as merely a teacher or prophet and only later became worshipped in a divine upgrade.

The historical evidence tells a very different story.

One of the earliest Christian documents outside the New Testament is the Didache, dated roughly between AD 70–120. Its full title is The Teaching of the Lord Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations. The Didache provides a remarkable window into the life, worship, and practices of the earliest Christian communities, within living memory of the apostles themselves.

Think of the Didache as an early handbook for Christian living. It encouraged believers to walk in the “Way of Life” rather than the “Way of Death.” It included instruction on baptism, fasting, prayer,

communion, church leadership, and readiness for the return of Jesus Christ.

What is striking is not merely what the Didache teaches, but what it assumes. From nearly the very beginning of the Christian movement, Jesus was already central to worship, prayer, obedience, and hope. Christians gathered in His name, baptized according to His command, celebrated communion in anticipation of His return, and organized their lives around His teachings.

The Gospel is not a Marvel-style myth that evolved long after Jesus lived. The earliest Christian sources reveal a community already transformed by belief that Jesus truly was the incarnate Son of God, possessing divine authority and victorious over death through His resurrection. Christ had come, died, risen, and would return again.

The faith of the early church was not built upon exaggeration, but upon conviction, conviction rooted in eyewitness testimony that changed the world.

In Christ,
Pastor Steven

2026 Tithes & Offering - Year to date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$269,073.43**

Current Expense Giving - **\$ 275,604.30**

Building Fund Designations - **\$ 23,543.67**

Deacon Fund Designations - **\$4,734.46**

Total Giving - **\$ 303,882.43**

Average Attendance In May

8am - 86

10:15am - 299

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

DESIGNED FOR NEW ATTENDERS
& THOSE CONSIDERING
MEMBERSHIP @ FBC

Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com



Discover FBC Class-Only 2 spots left!

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., June 7th & Sun., June 14th 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

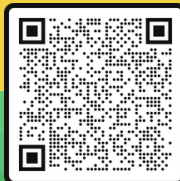
July 12-17

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.

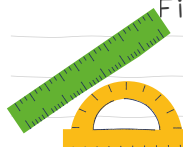
Register Online www.firstbaptistaledo.com

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22nd - 26th

9:00 - 11:30am

3 years old - 5th grade

Sign up online at
firstbaptistaledo.com



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, June 10th 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!

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE • STREAMING VIDEO SIX SESSIONS

MATT CHANDLER

BECOMING LIKE JESUS

THE EVERYDAY JOURNEY TO LIVING A LIFE OF HOLINESS

Tuesdays with Jesus
Women's Study

BECOMING Like Jesus

Begins June 9th!

Jump In Any Time | Tuesdays at 2pm
Led by Rhonda McKinley | Enon Room
Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com

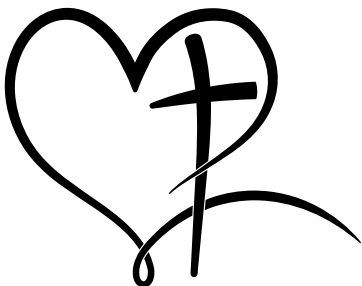
Join the Tuesdays with Jesus Women's Study beginning June 9th as we start a new study - Becoming Like Jesus by Matt Chandler. This encouraging study explores how spiritual transformation happens as we follow Christ daily and allow God to shape our hearts, minds, and lives to reflect Jesus more fully. 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!

J.O.Y. Circle

Meeting June 23rd @ 7pm in the Enon Room #9

All ladies are welcome to attend.

All ladies are invited to the J.O.Y. Circle on Tuesday, June 23rd 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!



Robin Huffstutler has been recently dealing with health issues and surgery. If you would like to send a card of prayer and encouragement, Robin's address is 110 SW 10th St. Aledo, IL 61231



REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY

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 6-8:00 pm! We will be having games, a fire pit, devotions, and summer FUN. No Refuge June 3rd.

High School Bible Study On Summer Break!-Taking a quick break and will resume on Sun., June 28th! 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. Beginning June 28th, we'll meet Sundays 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. We are not meeting on June 1st.

Ultimate Frisbee - All students and adults are invited to play ultimate frisbee here at the church on June 12th, 2:00-4:00 pm. No need to sign up, just show up.

Refuge CFA Takeover - All students 6th-12th grade, on Wednesday, June 24th, we will be heading to Moline Chick-fil-a for a Refuge CFA takeover. Jr.High can ride on the bus that leaves from the church at 5:00 pm. High school, please find a ride and meet us here at the church to leave at 5:00 pm. Dinner will not be provided, so please have students bring money for their meals.

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-grade students welcome, practice every other Tuesday 4:30-6:00 pm @FBC Aledo, must sign up online.

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, must be ordered by July 1st! Don't miss this opportunity to be strengthened in your faith and connected with other men.



Use QR code to sign up through Edgewood Baptist
or go to edgewood.church/events

edgeMEN
GOLF OUTING
Saturday, June 20th
@Indian Bluff Golf Course - Milan, IL
9am - Cost \$50 Per Person | \$200 For Team
4 Person Scramble Format

Men's Golf Outing with Edgewood Baptist-FBC Men, grab your clubs and join the fun! Several of our guys are planning to participate in the Edgewood Church Men's Golf Outing on Saturday, June 20th at Indian Bluff Golf Course in Milan, IL. It's a 4-person scramble starting at 9am and a great chance for fellowship, laughs, and maybe even a few good golf shots! Cost is \$50 per person or \$200 per team. Pre-registration is required by June 14th. Sign up by June 14th using the QR code or visit Edgewood.church/events.

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

A note from Pastor Steven



Making Space for what God is doing!

One of the greatest blessings we've experienced at First Baptist Church Aledo is continuing to welcome people as they encounter Jesus in a real and powerful way. God continues to bring new people and families through our doors, and we are incredibly excited about the transformation and discipleship opportunities that lie ahead.

As we prayerfully look at where God is moving, we've seen our 10:15am service has expanded to around 300 people, while our 8am service has also grown to around 100 people, with plenty of room still available.

As we look ahead, we believe one important step toward creating better balance between our two services is offering childcare and Kids Worship during the 8am service. Many young families have shared that they would gladly consider attending the earlier service if those ministries were available. Our hope is to begin offering Kids Worship and nursery during the 8am service by mid-June, but we can only make that happen if we have additional volunteers in place soon.

We are asking members of our church family to prayerfully consider serving in Kids Ministry during the 8am service. By volunteering, you would help create a welcoming, Christ-centered environment for children and young families while also helping open space in our growing 10:15am service.

You don't have to be a Bible scholar or lifelong teacher to serve. You simply need a willing heart, a desire to lovingly encourage kids as they learn about Jesus, and it helps if you like snacks. Whether you can serve weekly, occasionally, or as part of a rotation, every volunteer makes a difference.

If you would be willing to learn more about serving in this ministry, please call the church office at 309-582-7812 or stop by the Welcome Desk and let Pam know. Someone will be in touch with you about how to get plugged in.

Thank you for being a church family that continues to serve, grow, and make room for others to experience the love of Christ. Sincerely, Pastor Steven



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. First Baptist's food collection bins are located in the lobby for your convenience.

****Also, 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!**



Welcome Miss Cora!

We are so excited to welcome Cora Whitenack as our Summer Kids Ministry Intern at FBC! Cora will be serving with us through mid-August, and we are thrilled to have her investing in the lives of our children and families this summer.

Cora is entering her senior year at Central College in Pella, Iowa, where she is pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. While we're excited about all she brings to our ministry, what makes this especially meaningful is that Cora is no stranger to FBC. She grew up in this church and was once part of the very Kids Ministry she is now serving in.

It's a joy to see God bringing things full circle as Cora returns to pour into the next generation of kids at FBC. Her love for children, kind heart, and familiar smile are already a blessing to our church family.

We also want to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Denise for helping Cora transition into this role and for her continued guidance, leadership, and faithful investment in our Kids Ministry. Her love for our children and families continues to make a lasting impact, and we are so grateful for all she does behind the scenes and beyond.

Be sure to give Cora a warm welcome when you see her around church this summer!



2026

Congratulations



8th Grade Graduates

Grace Bieri
Josie Bonyng
Lydia Clark
Griffin Burns
Macy Freeman
Kaelyn Huston
Hallee Kammerman
Jake Nelson
Derek Smith
Abigail Struble
Jesse Swift

High School Graduates

Elijah Burns
Brody Clark
Molly Dixon
Tyler Fox
Bailey Johnson
Noah Johnson
Kane Loving
Laryssa Russell
Logan Swift

College Graduates

Damian Martinez
Veronica Moffitt
Kale Moreland
Sidney Quam
Warren Reed
Shaylee Smet



**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



Thank you Church Family!

On March 28th Boomsisters joined the ladies of Faith Lutheran Church to tie quilts the ladies had sewn. Our girls sewed and tied the quilt layers before the edges were sewn for completion. We also delivered your fabric donations from the Bushels of Love baskets. 30 quilts were completed along with sewing kits that day. Faith delivered 81 quilts total along with 9 sewing kits to the distribution center in April. These items will bless people overseas as well as victims of natural disasters in country.

Again we thank you for your support and donations as we learn and grow in service to the Lord.

The Boomsisters

**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



**Kid's Zone @ Rhubarb Fest
Fri. & Sat. June 5th & 6th 10-3pm**

Look for the inflatables by the Fire Station at Central Park in Aledo. We'll have inflatables both days. See you there for this free day of fun with the family.

Sponsored by First Baptist Aledo
www.firstbaptistaledo.com



**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.