



Pastor's Perspective

Why We Gather

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25

One of the easiest things to forget about Christianity is that God never intended us to live it alone. We are living in a remarkably lonely time. A recent Pew Research Center study found that 16% of Americans say they feel lonely or isolated all or most of the time, while another 38% say they sometimes feel that way.

We tend to think about faith in personal terms. My relationship with Jesus, my Bible reading plan, my prayer life, my walk with God. Those things matter, but they are not the whole picture. When God saves us, He brings us into a covenant community. Throughout the New Testament, we are described as the family of God, the body of Christ, and a spiritual dwelling place made up of living stones. Christians are not simply individuals who happen to believe the same things. We are a people who belong to one another because we belong to Jesus. That's why gathering matters.

Hebrews 10 doesn't simply tell us to go to church. It tells us to consider how we can encourage one another and stir one another up toward love and good works. It moves us away from thinking that the goal of faith is independence and toward recognizing our need for one another. Going to church is partially about you, but it isn't just for you. When we gather, we have the opportunity to strengthen someone else's faith, receive encouragement when we need it, and remind one another that we don't have to walk through life alone.

I've been reminded of that as we have entered another fall season at First Baptist. Our regular rhythms are underway again, including Wednesday Night Live, classes, small groups, and ministry with our children. These are more than activities on a calendar. They give us opportunities to know one another, open our lives to one another, and live out what it means to be the body of Christ.

That kind of community takes intention. We have to show up, get to know people, and sometimes step outside our comfort zone. If you've found yourself on the edges of church life, perhaps this is the season to take a step toward people. Join a class or small group. Stay and talk after the service. Invite someone to lunch. And if you've been at First Baptist for a long time, look around for someone who hasn't yet found their place.

Hebrews reminds us to encourage one another "all the more" as we see the Day of Christ approaching. In a lonely and increasingly disconnected world, the church has the opportunity to show people something different: a people who belong to Jesus and who have learned to belong to one another.

I'm thankful for the people God has brought together at First Baptist, and I'm grateful for the privilege of serving alongside you. My prayer is that we would continue becoming a church where people find the truth of God's Word and a church family with whom they can walk through life. We were never meant to follow Jesus alone.

— Pastor Steven

First Baptist Church Aledo

2026 Tithes & Offering - Year To Date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$499,707.78**

Current Expense Giving - **\$543,040.15**

Building Fund Designations - **\$37,967.67**

Deacon Fund Designations - **\$5,069.46**

Total Giving - **\$586,077.28**

Average Attendance - September 2026

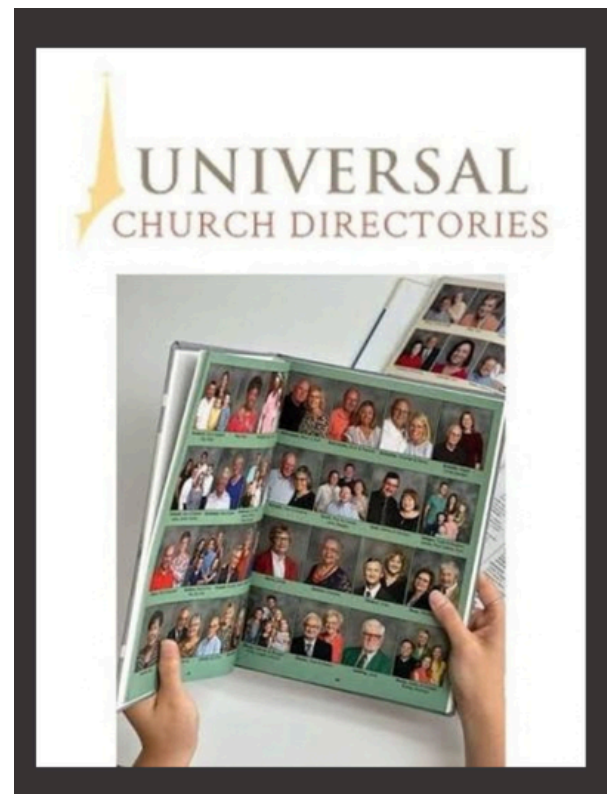
8am - 94

10:15am - 308



October is Pastor Appreciation Month! What a blessing it is to have pastors and families who faithfully pour their hearts into our church and community. We are incredibly thankful for Pastor Steven & Chelsea, Pastor Seth & Denise, Pastor Austin & Brynn, and our Kids Min Director Chelsea & Blake and their families. Their love for Jesus, faithful service, prayers, and care for others make a difference in so many lives.

Throughout October, let's take a moment to let them know how much they are loved and appreciated. A kind word, a note of encouragement, or simply a prayer can mean so much. Cards may be left at the Welcome Desk through the end of October. Let's surround these families with the same love and encouragement they so faithfully give to others.



New Church Directory Coming Soon!

We're excited to be creating a new FBC Church Directory featuring professional photos by Universal Directories!

Tentative photo dates are Dec. 1st-5th, 2026. Everyone who participates will receive a FREE 8x10 photo and a church directory.

Details are still being finalized, so watch for more information and sign-up will be coming soon!

FBC Kids Ministry!



Interested in volunteering in FBC Kids Ministry?

Is God weighing on your heart to serve?
Please text 'serve' to (309)447-7277 for more information.

"And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'"
Luke 10:2 ESV



Kids Club: Kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade
Jump in anytime and 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 10:15am
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.

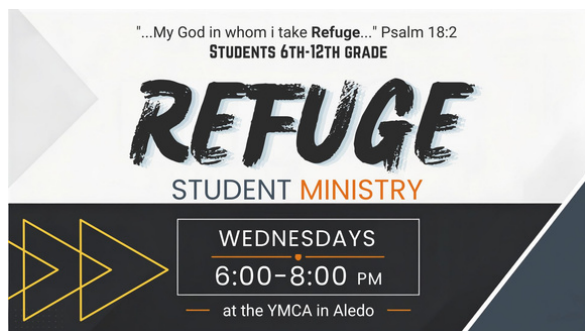
Kids Ministry Is NOW Available at Both Services! 🎉

We're excited to offer Nursery (infants–2 years) at 8:00, 9:00 & 10:15 AM and Kids Worship at 8:00 & 10:15 AM!

All Kids Worship children must check in. At 8AM, all kids check in at the Nursery and children will be dismissed after the first song to the Fellowship Hall. At 10:15AM, check in at Fellowship Hall; PreK–1st goes to Kids Worship right away, while 2nd–5th worships with their families and is dismissed after the songs.

All children (except nursery) are picked up in the Fellowship Hall with a security label. A cry room with live video is also available upstairs at the end of the hallway in the Enon Room #9.





Refuge at the YMCA!-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).



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.



God's Gals-Girls 6th-12th grades are invited to join us on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. in the Enon Room. The current study is Abide by Jen Wilken. Jump in anytime!



Fall Retreat-All students are welcome to join us on Oct. 10th at Spring Valley Camp in Muscatine for an all-day event! Check-in and breakfast will be at the church at 6:45 am. Jr. High will be back to the church at 9:00 pm. High schoolers will be home around 10:00 pm. We ask for High schoolers to find a ride but since it's a little further this year, we will provide a ride if your student needs it. Make sure to check it at registration. Registration cost is \$35 (T-shirt included!). We will be having Worship, Archery Tag, Board Games, Kayaks, Disc golf, carpet ball, tether ball, fishing, GAGA Ball, Basketball, and 9-Square In the Air! Sign-up deadline is October 4th.



Boomsisters on Mission-October 17th, Quilt tying at Faith Lutheran Church, Moline. Bus leaves FBC at 9 am Returns 3 pm or earlier. Lunch will be served. Sign up by texting Rhonda at 309-235-5054 by October 10th.

Flourish Women's Ministry

First Baptist Aledo

Women's FLOURISH EVENT

SATURDAY, NOV. 7TH • 9AM - NOON

Join us for a special time of growing together in God's Word and worship.

GUEST MUSICIAN
Delayna Sneed

Delicious brunch provided

FREE Event

No childcare available

Sign-up by Oct. 25th @ firstbaptistaledo.com

SPEAKER
Crystal Clark

FBC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Donation Drive

Help us bless One Eighty Women's Home in Davenport by donating much-needed items:

- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Paper Products
- Laundry Supplies
- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

Drop donations in the marked lobby box by **Nov. 1** or bring them to the Women's Flourish Event on **Nov. 7**.

Thank you for helping meet needs and share Christ's love!

THE FBC FLOURISH Women's Ministry FREE Event will be held Saturday, November 7, from 9 AM–Noon at FBC Aledo. Ladies, join us for a special morning of fellowship, worship, and growing together in God's Word! We'll be blessed by guest musician Delayna Sneed and speaker Crystal Clark, and a delicious brunch will be provided. This event is free to attend, but childcare will not be available. **Sign up begins Sunday, October 4th - Sunday, October 25th at firstbaptistaledo.com.**

We'll also be collecting donations to bless One Eighty Women's Home in Davenport. Needed items include tampons, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent pods, laundry baskets, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner. Donations can be dropped in the marked box in the church lobby by November 1 or brought to the event.

Ladies Taco & S'mores Bar

Sunday, October 4th 5:30-7:30pm

At Kim Fullerton's Home

Register @ Firstbaptistaledo.com

Tacos & S'mores-Ladies are welcome to join us Oct. 4th from 5:30–7:30pm at Kim Fullerton's home (1881 70th Ave. Aledo) for a fun evening of tacos, s'mores, and fellowship with sisters in Christ! Bring a lawn chair if you'd like, and come enjoy a relaxed evening together. Please RSVP at firstbaptistaledo.com by Fri. Oct. 2nd so we can get a head count for food. We'd love to see you there!

Please join us for a

BRIDAL SHOWER

Honoring
Cassidy Freeman

— 18 OCTOBER —

2:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church Aledo

Please RSVP to
Jeanne Barber (309-337-9515) or
Marsha Loving (309-221-3966)

Registered at: The Knot
Search for Cassidy Freeman November 2026

THRIVE Women's Retreat

@ Life Action Camp
Oct. 2nd-4th

Just a reminder to those who registered. If you have questions, see Karyn Smith.

J.O.Y. Circle

Meets
Oct. 27th @
7pm in the
Enon Room.

All ladies are
welcome to
attend.

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. Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com.

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.

Our current study is going verse-by-verse through the Book of James — join us @6:30pm every Wednesday in the Enon Room #9.

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!
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!



Wednesday Night Live at FBC!



Wednesday Night Live Classes & Programs - Wednesday Night Live continues for our Fall Session through November 4th. We meet 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. It's not too late to join! 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 & Steve Johnson

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.

We Need Winter Gear & Volunteers!



DONATE ❤️

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED



Dear Church Family,

As Boomsisters continues to support the community through Bushels of Love, we want to thank you so much for your overwhelming support. You are so amazing!

We have asked for your help in supplying The Eagles Nest Closet at Mercer County High School with hygiene products, non-perishable food items, clothing as well as monetary support. You embraced our mission and filled those baskets and our hearts over and over. We may never hear the stories of the impact you have made for our very own high school students, but you have certainly blessed them and Boomsisters. We continue to pray and believe that God will give us all “but God” moments through your generosity.

We ask that you join us in praying for all students in Mercer County and for Boomsisters as we learn and grow in our relationship with Christ and in our service to Him.

Again, thank you so much,
Boomsisters - Bushels of Love



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!



Grow in Your Faith—Anytime, Anywhere!

Did you know First Baptist has a RightNow Media account—and it's available to you for FREE? RightNow Media is a huge library of Bible studies, devotionals, Christian teaching, kids' content, marriage resources, and more. Whether you want to dive deeper into God's Word, find something meaningful for your family, or grow in your faith throughout the week, there's something for everyone.

Because you're connected with First Baptist, you can have free access to RightNow Media on your phone, tablet, computer, or smart TV.

👉 Sign up today and start exploring! Scan the QR Code above for the RightNow Media link and access information.



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.



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



Help Us Make A Difference! - Sometimes sharing God’s love looks like showing up with a rake, changing a light bulb, or lending a helping hand. Helping Hands Ministry is an opportunity for us to serve members of our church family and neighbors in our community through simple acts of practical care.

On Saturday, October 31, adults and youth are invited to join us as we work together on general household projects—from raking leaves to small maintenance tasks. We’ll meet at FBC at 7:30 AM for breakfast, prayer, and crew assignments before heading out to serve.

You don’t need special skills—just a willing heart and a desire to bless someone in Jesus’ name. Every helping hand can make a difference! **Please register each person participating at firstbaptistaledo.com by Tuesday, October 27.**

If you have one, bring a labeled rake.

Other Events & Happenings!

THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONATION,
THE FBC SANCTUARY NOW OFFERS
ASSISTIVE LISTENING
through  **Auracast!**

 **Bluetooth hearing aids?**
Connect directly to the sanctuary's audio and hear the service through your own hearing aids.

 **No Auracast hearing aids?**
Receivers are available at the Sound Booth.

 **Need help connecting?**
Stop by the Sound Booth at the back of the sanctuary — we're happy to help!



Thanks to a generous donation, the FBC Sanctuary now offers **Assistive Listening** through Auracast! If your Bluetooth-capable hearing aids support Auracast, you can connect directly to the sanctuary's audio and hear the service through your own hearing aids.

Don't have Auracast-compatible hearing aids? Auracast receivers are available at the Sound Booth that connect to wired headphones or earbuds. Just pick up a transmitter from the Sanctuary Sound Booth, connect your headphones, and listen to the service with improved clarity and volume.

Need help connecting? Stop by the Sound Booth at the back of the sanctuary — we're happy to help!



Baptism
SUNDAY

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



COMMUNION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCT. 4TH EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO BRING AN ITEM FOR THE MC FOOD PANTRY OR FBC BLESSING BOX



FBC FAMILY DAY AT CASTOR'S FARM

1536 135TH AVE., ALEDO
SUN. OCT. 25TH - 4-6PM

BRING LAWN CHAIRS, HOT DOGS, BUNS & A DISH TO SHARE. DRINKS & TABLE SERVICE PROVIDED. NO RSVP REQUIRED.

All ages are invited to this churchwide event on Sunday, Oct. 25th at Castor's Farm (1536 135th Ave., Aledo) from 4-6pm. It's a wiener roast so please bring hotdogs & buns for your family, a dish to share, and your lawn chairs. Drinks and table service will be provided. No RSVP required, just show up!



CHURCH BUSINESS meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FBC Quarterly Business Meeting
Oct. 18th
@11:30am**
(Please Note new start time!)

Church Council Meeting.
Oct. 13th
@7pm

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 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.