

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



Pastor's Perspective

*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,
not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another." —
Hebrews 10:24-25*

Dear Church Family,

What a wonderful summer it has been! From Rhubarb Fest to the Fourth of July festivities, from the Mercer County Fair to the upcoming Praise in the Park, our community has been filled with opportunities to gather, celebrate, and enjoy one another. As my family and I have experienced these moments, we've been reminded repeatedly what makes Aledo such a special place: its people. Community is about more than sharing the same ZIP code; it's about sharing life together. Aledo is a community where neighbors care for one another, celebrate life's victories, walk beside one another through hardships, and work together to make this town stronger. That longing for community reflects something God has placed within us.

As wonderful as community is, God has given us something even deeper: the Church. It is one of the primary ways He meets our longing to belong. The Church is not simply a building where we gather on Sundays. It is a family of faith brought together by Jesus Christ. Here we are rooted in God's Word, strengthened through prayer, challenged to grow, and get to love God through loving each other. But God's work in us is never meant to stop with us. God gathers His people so that He can send His people.

As we are shaped by Christ, we become a blessing to the world around us. The Church should be a visible expression of Christ's love in our community, serving our neighbors with compassion and pointing people to the hope found in Jesus.

August 2026

One of the ways we grow together is by intentionally gathering to study God's Word. As we move into the fall, I'm excited for our Wednesday Night Live classes and programs to begin again. Whether you've followed Christ for decades or you're simply looking to grow deeper in your walk with Him, there's a place for you. We'll offer studies for men, women, couples, and anyone who wants to grow in the rhythms of discipleship. Wednesday night captures the essence of fellowship: relationship with purpose. I hope you'll make plans to join us each week from September 16th through November 4th as we grow together in Christ.

My prayer is that First Baptist Church Aledo would be known not only for what happens inside our walls, but for the way we love beyond them. May we serve generously, care deeply, welcome warmly, and faithfully point our community to Jesus Christ.

Summer schedules can become hectic. Vacations, ball games, family gatherings, and community events quickly fill our calendars. Yet even in the busyness, don't miss the evidence of God's goodness all around you. Give thanks for your family, your church, your neighbors, and the community He has graciously given us.

Thank you for welcoming my family so warmly. We are grateful to call First Baptist Church Aledo our church family and Aledo our home, and we're excited to see all that God will do in and through our church in the days ahead. My prayer is that together we would grow in faith, serve with joy, and become a church that faithfully blesses Aledo for the glory of God.

In Christ, Pastor Steven

2026 Tithes & Offering - Year to date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$384,390.60**

Current Expense Giving - **\$434,482.28**

Building Fund Designations - **\$29,756.67**

Deacon Fund Designations- **\$5,009.46**

Total Giving - **\$469,248.41**

Average Attendance - July 2026

8am - 91

10:15am - 303



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ALEDO, ILLINOIS

www.firstbaptistaledo.com

FBC Praise in the Park Family Fest!

Mark your calendars and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for a fun-filled day in Aledo's Central Park on Sunday, August 30th from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM!

Enjoy outdoor worship, live music, lunch, and plenty of family-friendly activities. Kids will love the Fun Zone featuring water & bounce inflatables, 9 Square in the Air, and Joust. Kids, don't forget your swimsuit, towel, and sunscreen!

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and spend the day with us.

Admission is completely free! Invite Postcards can be found at the Welcome Desk.

Please note: There will be no Sunday School or 8:00 AM service that day.

Greetings FBC Family!

The past few months have been whirlwind, but the Children's Ministry Search Committee has some exciting news to share! We spent quite a bit of time discussing the type of person we were looking for and developing a list of qualifications needed to serve our kids. At a meeting in June, we met with Pastor Steven to review our work and discuss our next steps. Pastor asked the committee if he could have a week to discuss the opportunity with someone in the church body that was on his heart. Of course, we were happy to oblige and over the next couple of weeks, we had a resume, an interview, and an overwhelming spirit of unity within the group.

With that said, we are pleased to announce that Chelsea Bieri has accepted the position of Children's Ministry Director. Chelsea has an amazing heart for ministry, especially to kids. She has served the Children's Ministry during multiple sessions of Wednesday Night Live and has been serving the High School girls in Refuge Student Ministry. She has seen the value of these programs firsthand and we have no doubt that she will do an awesome job.

We are so excited to see what the future holds under Chelsea's leadership! Please join me in welcoming her to the FBC Staff.

I would like to thank the CM Search committee for all their hard work, dedication, and most importantly their prayers as we have went through this process.

Aaron Struble, CM Search Committee Chair



Please join us in welcoming Chelsea Bieri as the new FBC Children's Ministry Director!

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLY SHOP

Sat., August 1st

10:00am - 11:30am | Pre-K - 12th Grades
Public School & Homeschool Families are welcome.

No need to sign up. First Come First Served.

@First Baptist Church Aledo
800 NE-6th Ave, Aledo

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ALEDO, ILLINOIS

The Fall Session of **Kids Club** will begin on Wednesday, September 16th and run through Wednesday, November 4th from 6:30-8pm!
Mark your calendars!



Signups will open very soon — keep an eye out for more information.
We can't wait to have the kids back!



Women's Better Together Gathering

Ready to kick off the new school year with a powerful sense of community and purpose? Join us **Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30pm** for an evening dedicated to filling your cup and lifting up the next generation. We are gathering in **Refuge Room #25**, located in the **FBC Basement right off the Fellowship Hall**. On Aug. 5th, we are thrilled to host **Moms in Prayer**! Whether you are a mom, grandmother, or mentor, praying for the students in your life can feel overwhelming on your own. The Moms in Prayer team will be on hand to provide practical resources, biblical guidance, and heartfelt encouragement to help you confidently pray for your kids, grandkids, and local schools. Come exactly as you are for a meaningful night of connection, laughter, and shared encouragement with other women who understand the joys and challenges of raising faith-filled kids today.



Women's Thrive Retreat

Thrive, a women's retreat is happening Oct. 2-4 at Life Action Camp in Buchanan, MI. Thrive is a weekend of encouragement, worship, fellowship, fun, and great food designed to help women grow closer to Jesus. If you're interested, register online at firstbaptistaledo.com. Cost is \$150 and includes lodging, conference sessions, and meals. **Spots are limited, deadline to register is August 1st.** Questions, see Karyn Smith or Crystal Clark.



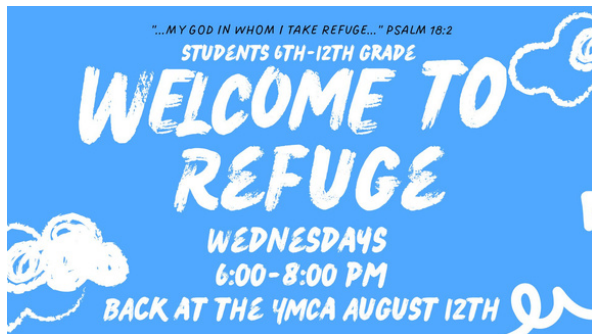
All ladies are invited to the J.O.Y. Circle on Tuesday, Aug. 25th at 7PM in the Enon Room. Come enjoy an evening of fun, meaningful fellowship, and an encouraging devotion. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women, build friendships, and be spiritually refreshed. Whether you've attended before or are coming for the first time, you are warmly welcomed—we'd love to see you there!



Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, Nov. 7th!

Join us for Flourish, a special women's event at First Baptist Church on Saturday, November 7! This will be a meaningful day of worship, biblical teaching, encouragement, and connection with women of all ages and stages of life. Whether you're new to FBC or have been attending for years, Flourish is an opportunity to grow deeper in your faith, build friendships, and be refreshed in God's presence. Mark your calendar now—more details and registration information will be coming soon. We can't wait to see you there!

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY



Refuge Resumes 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). We will not meet on Aug. 5th, instead join us on Aug. 12th at 6pm.



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 pm in the Enon Room. Current Study: Jude. Contending for the faith. Beginning August 24, join us for Abide by Jen Wilkin, a 10-session Bible study through the letters of 1, 2, and 3 John. Discover how to stand firm in your faith, discern truth from deception, and rest in the assurance of God's love as we learn what it means to abide in Christ.



Youth Band-6-12th grade students: Share your musical talents for the Lord! If you are interested in singing, playing your instrument, or learning how to run slides or sound, sign up online.



Back To School Bash - All students are invited to join us Wednesday, August 12th at the YMCA for our back-to-school bash! We will be playing games, praying for the school year, and eating pizza!!

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!

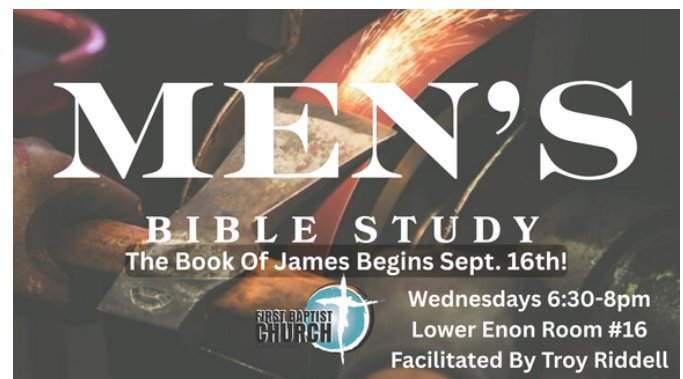
Men's Momentum Retreat is October 23rd-25th in Buchanan, Michigan at Life Action Camp.

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. Early Bird Registration before Sept. 20th is \$150 with the FBC Men's Ministry paying the balance. When you register by Sept. 20th at firstbaptistaledo.com there will be two payment options \$150 and \$225, choose the best option for you.

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.

Beginning Sept. 16th we'll be going verse-by-verse through the Book of James — join us in the Lower Enon Room #16 @6:30pm every Wednesday.



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 Classes & Programs- Wednesday Night Live returns for our Fall Session September 16–November 4, 2026, meeting 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. 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 - Lead 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 - Lead 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 in the Lower Enon Room #16.

Rooted-Connect With God, The Church, Your Purpose - Lead by Pastor Steven Stern

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- Lead 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.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEDO
COATS & WINTER GEAR NEEDED!

- CLEAN OUT CLOSETS
- SHOP GARAGE SALES
- BUY NEW
- DONATE! (Any size or style)
 HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, & BOOTS

DROP-OFF IN THE COAT TOTE BEGINNING AUGUST 9TH
 ALL DONATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL OCT 21ST



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEDO
2026 ANNUAL COAT GIVEAWAY

TWO DAYS OF FREE COATS!
OCTOBER 22ND
 THURSDAY | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
OCTOBER 24TH
 SATURDAY | 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALEDO
 800 NE 6TH AVE
 ALEDO, IL 61231

FOR ALL AGES
NO INCOME GUIDELINES
HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, & BOOTS UNTIL THEY ARE GONE!

THE COAT TOTE WILL BE OUTSIDE FOR DONATIONS BEGINNING AUGUST 9TH.
 Donations of clean, used coats accepted until Oct 21st!

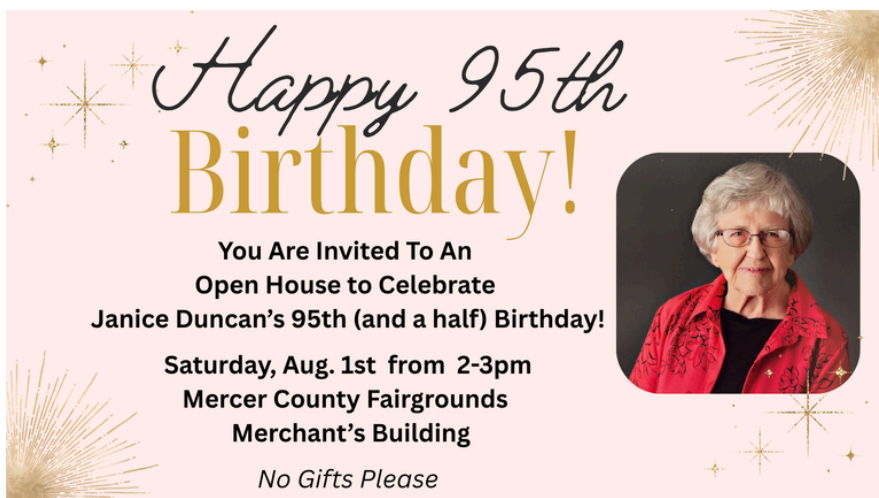


The Schrocks Are Celebrating 75 Years of Marriage!

The church family is invited to a celebration of Ed & Mary Schrock's 75th Wedding Anniversary.

The celebration will take place at the Seaton Fire Department 317 Maple St. Seaton on Sunday, August 2nd from 2pm-4pm.

Congratulations and Happy 75th Anniversary Ed & Mary!

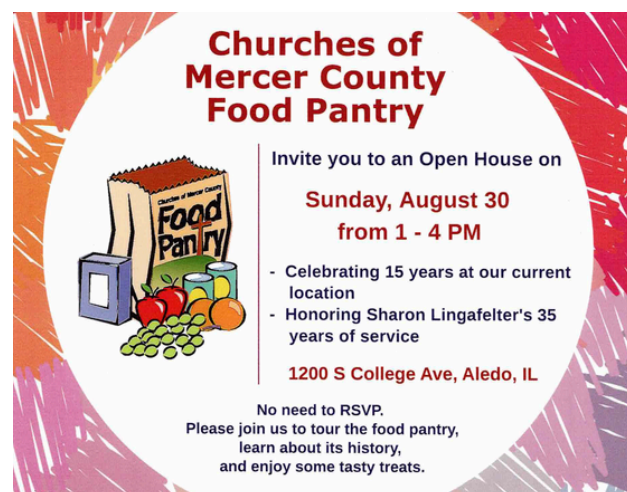


Happy 95th Birthday!

You Are Invited To An Open House to Celebrate Janice Duncan's 95th (and a half) Birthday!

Saturday, Aug. 1st from 2-3pm
Mercer County Fairgrounds
Merchant's Building

No Gifts Please



Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry

Invite you to an Open House on
Sunday, August 30
from 1 - 4 PM

- Celebrating 15 years at our current location
- Honoring Sharon Lingafelter's 35 years of service

1200 S College Ave, Aledo, IL

No need to RSVP.
 Please join us to tour the food pantry, learn about its history, and enjoy some tasty treats.



Bushels of Love

Boomsisters will be collecting items to benefit the Eagle's Nest Closet, located at Mercer County High School, during the month of August.

The Eagle's Nest Closet, coordinated by teacher Angie Gillespie, helps students in need by providing food, clothing, hygiene items, showers, laundry service, graduation clothes, clothes for school dances, shoes, and coats as needed throughout the school year. Ms. Gillespie helps several high school students per day through the Eagle's Nest Closet.

If you would like to help Boomsisters with this mission of students helping students, please see the list below for items needed. Donations can be placed in the Bushels of Love baskets, located outside Austin's office from August 1st-23rd.

Needed Donations Include: Clean, gently used clothing. Socks. Hygiene items including bar soap, conditioner, feminine products, comb, brush, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, lotion. Tide pods for laundry. They currently have plenty of shampoo.

Easy foods include, but not limited to individual applesauce, soup, mac & cheese, granola bars, Raman noodles, peanut butter, cereal, etc.

Cash to buy underwear and shoes. Please give all cash donations to Rhonda McKinley, Pastor Austin or Pam Ricke. Questions? Please text Rhonda at 309-235-5054.

Boomsisters thanks you very much for your support!



Sunday August 2nd is Communion Sunday and also the Sunday Boomsisters emphasizes bringing nonperishable food items for the Mercer County Food Pantry and/or the FBC Blessing Box. Items can be left any time in the wooden crates in the church lobby.

Thank you for blessing those in need in our community.

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



Good News!

We've Launched 8:00 AM Kids Worship & Nursery!

We are praising God for the many ways He continues to bless First Baptist Aledo. As new individuals and families join us each week, we are seeing His faithfulness and provision in exciting ways.

Here's How 8am Kids Worship Works:

- All children ages 3 years old through 5th grade check in at the Nursery before the 8:00 AM service.

Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade begin the service sitting with their parents and will be dismissed after the first song for Kids Worship.

- A nursery is available for babies through 2 years old.

We are grateful for the volunteers God has raised up and for the opportunity to help children grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus. Please join us in praying that God uses this ministry to reach families, strengthen faith, and make disciples for His glory.

As always, we continue to offer Kids Worship & Nursery at our 10:15am service. Select the service that works best for your family!

Thank you for being part of what God is doing at First Baptist Aledo. We look forward to seeing how He continues to work in and through our church family.

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 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.