

Easter

HE IS RISEN

Pastor's Perspective

In both life and Scripture, beginnings are rarely accidental. They set the direction for all that comes next.

When you read the letters of the New Testament, you quickly notice that the authors take their greetings seriously. Before addressing problems or giving instruction, they remind people of something important: "Grace and peace to you." Sometimes they call believers saints, beloved, or chosen, and other times they point directly to Jesus, as Mark does: "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). These greetings are more than polite introductions. They set the tone for the journey ahead, reminding the church that everything must be grounded in God's grace and lived out in the peace of Christ.

As I write my first words to you as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Aledo, I am mindful that beginnings matter. This greeting marks the start of a shared journey for our

church family. I'm most excited about getting to live life together as a body of believers, being intentional about fulfilling the Great Commandments and honoring the Great Commission. The healthiest churches are relentlessly focused on bringing fame to the name of Jesus. A few things to know about me: I am a husband, a dad of four amazing kids, someone who talks fast when they get passionate, and only a half-joking ice cream addict. Forgive me if I do not remember everyone's name at first, just keep repeating your name, I promise I am trying.

As we move forward, I pray that we will always take the gospel very seriously. At the same time, I hope we never take ourselves too seriously. Let's laugh freely, invite boldly, serve graciously, care for each other fiercely, and allow the church to be a laboratory of love.

Grace and peace to you as we begin this journey together.

Pastor Steven



2026 Tithes & Offering - Year to date

Giving Needed to Meet 2026 Budget - **\$153,756.24**

Current Expense Giving - **\$ 175,534.36**

Building Fund Designations - **\$16,462.67**

Deacon Fund Designations - **\$2,839.96**

Total Giving - **\$ 194,836.99**

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.

Join us for Easter worship on Sunday, April 5th with services at 6:30am (Sunrise), 8:00am, and 10:15am—there’s a place for you at every gathering.

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



Make plans for a fun and meaningful morning with your family at our Family Easter Event! Join us on Good Friday, April 3rd at 10:00am here at First Baptist Church. Doors open at 9:40am, so come a little early, grab a donut, and get settled in for a short, engaging story time that shares the true meaning of Easter—Jesus!

After that, we'll head outside for an epic egg hunt that kids of all ages will love! No need to worry about bringing anything—bags will be provided, and everything is completely free. This is a perfect opportunity to celebrate, connect, and make special memories together. No sign-up is required—just come and bring your family (and maybe invite a friend too)!

What Is RIGHTNOW MEDIA?

Looking for something meaningful to watch, study, or share with your family? RightNow Media is an incredible resource available to you—completely FREE through our church!

RightNow Media is often called the “Netflix of Bible studies,” giving you access to thousands of biblically-based videos for all ages. Whether you’re looking to grow deeper in your faith, find a small group study, or keep your kids engaged with Christ-centered content, there’s something for everyone. You’ll find teachings from trusted pastors and speakers, marriage and parenting resources, devotionals, and even fun, faith-filled shows for children.

rightnow MEDIA
Happy Easter!
Enjoy a gift from First Baptist Church!
25,000+ Bible Study Videos Anytime,
Anywhere, and Any Device

Get Free Access

1. Text FBCALEDO to 49775

2. Or scan the QR code here:

It’s perfect for personal study, family devotions, or group discussions—anytime, anywhere.

Since First Baptist provides this subscription, there’s no cost to you—just a great opportunity to be encouraged and equipped in your walk with Christ.

If you haven’t signed up yet, now’s the perfect time! See the graphic above for sign up details or call the church office at 309-582-7812 for more information.

KidMin Leadership Update

I have served as Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator since May 2025 and will conclude my time in this role on April 12th. I'll still be serving in Kids Ministry, just not as the coordinator. We're excited to welcome Cora Whitenack as a summer intern (May 18th-August 16th), while church leadership begins seeking the person God is calling to this role long term. We're grateful for our dedicated volunteers who will keep Kids Ministry running smoothly during this transition. Please join us in praying for them and for the leader God is preparing for First Baptist.

~ Denise Bowker



May 27th - Last Day of School Bash
June 7th - Promotion Sunday



2026 SUMMER Camp

Kindergarten - High School

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



SATURDAY, MAY 2ND

CHECK IN AT 7:30AM IN THE CHURCH FOYER
RETURN AT 12:00PM FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
SIGN UP BEFORE
TUE, APR. 28TH
FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM





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.

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

Iron Sharpens Iron Presents 2017
 Women's Ministry

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! Conference sells out quickly so please call the church office at 309-582-7812 to check on availability of tickets.

J.O.Y. Circle
 Meeting
 April 28th @
 7pm in the
 Enon Room.
 All ladies are
 welcome to
 attend.

All ladies are invited to the J.O.Y. Circle on Tues., April 28th at 7pm in the Enon Room. Join us for fun, fellowship and a devotion.

Pop, Fizz, Forever

Help us celebrate the bride-to-be
Katelynn Loving

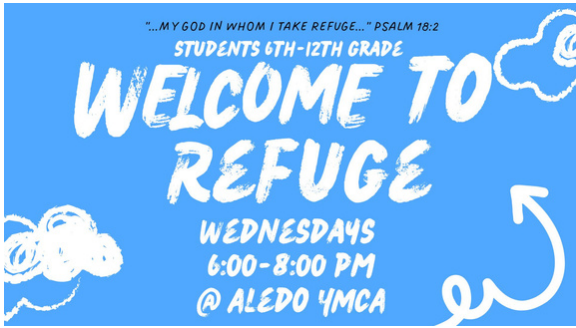
Join us for Italian sodas and desserts
 Friday, April 24th from 6-8pm
Stop in anytime and stay as long as you like

First Baptist Church Aledo
 (800 NE 6th Ave Aledo, IL)

Katelynn and Orion are registered at Amazon.

A LITTLE
Wild One
 IS ON THE WAY

Celebrating Emily Reed
 April 26th • 1:00pm-3:00pm
 First Baptist Church of Aledo



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.



KIY MOVE-KIY MOVE is May 30th-June 4th at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO. MOVE and is intended for students who will have completed grades 8th - 12th. The cost is \$250 per student. Sign up online at firstbaptistaledo.com by May 9th.



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 also 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.

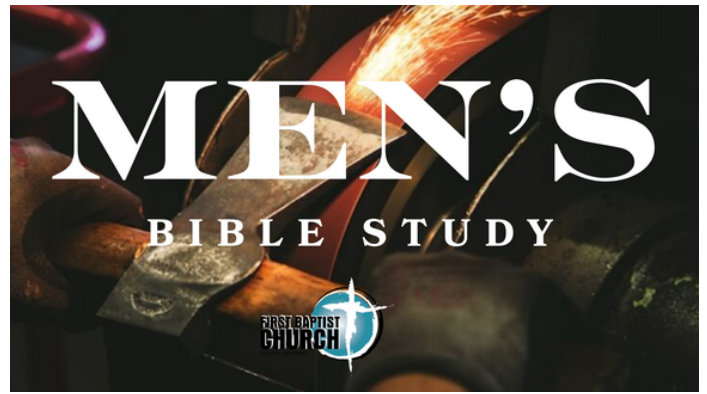
FBC MEN'S MINISTRY



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

Just a reminder to those who registered for the Men's Momentum Retreat, it's coming up April 17th-19th. Please be ready to leave the church Friday, April 17th at 9am.

Men's Momentum happens in the spring and fall each year so watch for fall dates which will be released later this summer. Questions, see Barry Cooper, Troy Riddell or Kevin Ricke.



Wednesday Night Men's Bible Study at FBC Wednesdays - 6:30-8pm - Lower Enon Room Led by Troy Riddell

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 beginning a new verse-by-verse study 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.

Whether you've studied the Bible for years or are just getting started, you'll find a welcoming, encouraging environment where questions are welcome and conversations are meaningful. It's also a great way to build authentic connections with other men who are seeking to follow Christ.

You can jump in at any time—no sign-up is required. We meet in the **Lower Level Enon Room**. We'd love to have you join us this week!

Men's Sunday Morning Breakfast!

Start your Sunday with good food and great conversation at our Men's Breakfast! We meet every Sunday at 7:00am in the lower-level Refuge Room to enjoy a free breakfast and take a closer look at the previous week's sermon. It's a relaxed, encouraging time to reflect, ask questions, and grow together in God's Word. Come hungry—and bring a friend!



Baptism | 1830 Ministry | Trustee Statement



Statement from the Board of Trustees [First Baptist Church of Aledo] [3/16/26]

The Board of Trustees confirms that a wheelchair accessibility ramp was recently stolen from our church property. We have reported the theft to local law enforcement and are fully cooperating with their investigation. We support the pursuit of justice and accountability through the appropriate legal processes, as theft is both a criminal offense and a violation of biblical principles (e.g., Romans 13:8-10; Ephesians 4:28). At the same time, as followers of Christ, our hearts are oriented toward redemption and restoration. It is our sincere intent to minister to the individual responsible—offering grace, prayer, support, and the opportunity for repentance and reconciliation—should they be open to it. We hold no personal animosity and pray for their healing and transformation, even as we uphold the need for them to be held accountable for their actions.

We ask for the prayers of our congregation during this time. Our focus remains on continuing to serve all people with compassion and on being faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

In Christ's love and truth,

Trustee Board Members
Mario Pauley -Chairman



Easter Sunday is Communion Sunday & Food Pantry Sunday

Easter Sunday is a special opportunity for the Boomsisters to bless others in our community by collecting nonperishable food items for the Mercer County Food Pantry and the FBC Blessing Box. As we celebrate the hope and new life found in Christ, we invite you to share that hope in a tangible way by giving to those in need. Non-perishable donations can be dropped off at any time in the wooden crates located in the church lobby. Thank you for helping us make a difference and serve our neighbors this Easter season!



We're launching 1830 Ministry, 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 russellscesar14@gmail.com.



Greetings FBC Family! For nearly a year now, I have had the amazing opportunity to serve and work with, what I believe to be the best group of people I could have possibly asked for...Seth, Austin, Denise, and Pam...our church staff. If you don't know them well and haven't had the opportunity to spend time with them, you are really missing out! Of course, over the past year, there have been times that the stress of not having a Senior Pastor made us all a little crazy. Sure, from time to time we wanted to wring each other's necks...but isn't that what being family is all about? That's what this past year has felt like to me...I have gained another family, brothers and sisters, and it had been an honor to work with each of them!



As everyone has undoubtedly heard, we have a new Senior Pastor! We are so blessed to have Pastor Steven Stern join our team and our family! The future is bright and I am excited to see what The Lord is going to do at FBC in the coming years. Welcome Home Pastor Steven!

I did want to take this opportunity to focus on one of my sisters, Miss Denise, as most of the kiddos call her. For the past year (nearly), Denise has been serving as our Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator...and she has been a ROCK STAR! She stepped in to this role and loved and cared for these kids in a way that only Denise could. I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done in this time of transition, and I would ask you all to thank her as well. When Denise and I met to discuss her taking on this role, she reiterated several times that this was to be temporary. She knew what God's calling was for her life, and this wasn't it...But God raised her up and gave her the strength for this season, and we are so thankful that He did.



Denise will have her last day as CM Coordinator on April 12. Again, I would like it if everyone took time to thank her for her amazing service to our church, our kids, and most of all, our Lord! She will continue to serve in the Kids Ministry as a volunteer, so we will continue to be blessed for that.



So where does that leave us? Well, the church council is in the process of forming a small search committee to begin to seek our next Children's Pastor. In the meantime, we are blessed to have Cora Whitenack as a summer intern. Cora will be handling all things CM from mid-May to mid-August. She will be working with the rest of the staff and with the CE board as she learns and tackles new challenges. As a church, it is our job to support her and help her out in any way we can. Most importantly, we need to pray for her, the volunteers serving under her, and for the kids of our church. This ministry has been a staple of our church for many years and I am excited to see what this next chapter will look like.

I am so proud of how our church has pulled together during this transition phase of our lives and I thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Vice Moderator and Interim Administrator.

Aaron Struble



Jesus Revolution

Showing at The Aledo Opera House April 3 & 5, 2026

A story of spiritual awakening and cultural change during the late-1960s counterculture movement – a moment when faith and youth culture collided in unexpected ways.

Overview

In the 1970s, aimless teenager Greg Laurie searches for all the right things in all the wrong places until he meets Lonnie Frisbee, a charismatic hippie/street preacher. Together with local pastor Chuck Smith, they open the doors of a languishing church to an unexpected revival.

Cast - Joel Courtney, Kelsey Grammer, Jonathan Roumie

Tickets can be purchased at aledooperahouse.com



**Love Christ. Love Others.
Think Biblically.**

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.