

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

APRIL 23, 2019



First Baptist Church

WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time

Sunday, April 28, 2019

"I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT"

John 20:19-23

Thomas refuses to believe the testimony of his friends. He has to see it for himself. Most of us carry this same attitude in our lives. But when he does finally see Jesus, everything changes!

Music: "I Have Seen the Light" — Men's Ensemble

Welcome Center: Jennifer Dusek

Sunday, May 5, 2019

"TURN YOUR MOURNING INTO DANCING"

Psalms 30

When we experience extreme mourning it can feel like an inescapable pit. Psalm 30 calls on us to keep moving because God has laid a path before us. And this path will lead to healing, hope, and joyous dancing.

Music: "We All Belong Here" — Chancel Choir

Welcome Center: Jean Currie

PRAYER CONCERNS

Tom Maulding	Char Austin	Helen Nicol
Sharon Stanard	Rose Kimpling	Mark Stanard
Jim Ashton	June Fredell	Rosemary Walk
Mary Hinch	Jerry Edwards	Pam Orrill
Alyssa Russell	Leon Vickerman	Jacquelyn Kellogg
	Ted Osborn (Dr. Osborn's brother)	

MEMORIAL GARDEN STONES

If you would like to order a resin stone for the Memorial Garden with a message engraved on it, you can get an order form at the Welcome Center. The cost of each stone will be \$50.00. Please contact Janet Middleton by phone, 309-692-5006, or e-mail, midkrees@sbcglobal.net, if you have any questions.

Three Years & Going Strong

It's hard to believe that our exercise group started three years ago in March and is still going strong. Most of those who started with the group still attend, and others have joined.

A big thanks to Sally Tiessen, who has used her training as a fitness trainer to lead this group. She has been able to help us all regardless of our ability level. This class provides many health and emotional benefits. Also, who could believe that exercise could be fun—thanks, Bobby Courtney and Doug Miller!

We always welcome new people to this group. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Lurene Ladd,
Health & Wellness Committee

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES CLASS

Advanced Care Plans – why we need them and what can happen if we don't have them -- will be the subject of our May 5 Contemporary Issues Class. Debra Kemp, faith community nurse at OSF Health Care, will be our speaker. She is a registered nurse with a background in home and hospice care who works primarily with the underserved on Peoria's South Side. She will talk about how to talk to family members and doctors about your wishes, provide packets of information and even offer to schedule appointments to get advanced care plans in place. Class will meet at 11:15 in the sanctuary. During the class children from birth to fifth grade will meet for Kid's Connection, a program of Bible study, snacks and fun.

KID'S CONNECTION

First Baptist has a fun new way for your kids to plug in! May 5th, during the Contemporary Issues class after worship, kids from birth-5th grade will meet for Kid's Connection! During Kid's Connection, kids will dive into a Bible study followed by a snack and fun activity. This month's theme will be "Growing in Christ." This time also serves as childcare for adult Sunday school time. We look forward to this time together!

Contact Us:

Dr. Robert Collins, Sr. Pastor	(309) 682-5491	robertdoncollins@icloud.com
Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth. Leader	(309) 310-9927	markg@fbcpeoria.com
Dr. Joshua Russell, Organist	(319) 400-8920	joshua@joshuarussellpianist.com
Leigh Grizzard, Bell Choir Director	(309) 682-5491	leigh.grizzard@gmail.com
Sandy Johansen, Church Secretary	(309) 682-5491	office@fbcpeoria.com

First Baptist Church of Peoria
411 West Lake Avenue
Peoria, IL 61614-6093
Phone: (309) 682-5491
Fax: (309) 682-5450
E-mail: office@fbcpeoria.com
Website: www.fbcpeoria.org





From Left: Casey, Miles, Rob and Raegan.

ROB AND CASEY COLLINS

By Barb Drake

As a kid growing up in Fort Worth, Texas, Rob Collins loved to paint and thought he would study art in college. But he was also excellent in math, so he planned on getting a math degree in hopes of working for NASA. It made sense, as Texas Christian University was offering him a full ride to study math. But the more he thought about it the more he decided he really wanted to study ministry. So he said no to TCU and yes to Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, where he earned a degree in Biblical Studies.

“I never regretted going there ... except when I had to start paying off student loans,” Rob says, laughing. Two more university degrees (a Master’s in Biblical Studies and a Doctor of Ministry) later, he became debt-free in February. He celebrated with Casey, who simultaneously finished paying off her college debts; she has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in special education from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. What a journey to Peoria it’s been!

Rob’s transformation from mathematician to pastor began when he was 14 and had a “conversion experience” at a Christian conference for students. “The experience of community was very powerful to me,” he recalls. He started going to church and also rang bells for the Salvation Army. By age 17 he was preaching on occasion at a local Baptist church. But he says he really developed those skills in college when he preached monthly at a Brownwood African-American church. There he learned how to do “a valley sermon” – it starts slow and, like a train, moves up faster and faster. “I really developed my voice there,” he says.

Still, he almost took a detour. His work as a graduate assistant coach for the women’s basketball team – he loved it – resulted in an offer to join the staff as full-time assistant coach. “I was a little torn,” he says. “I consider ministry and coaching to be similar.” But, as is obvious, ministry won out.

Casey’s story begins in New Market, Alabama, just outside Huntsville. She loved to play outside, read and go fishing with a dear and lifelong friend. Daughter Raegan has inherited that love for fishing. A partnership between Casey’s middle school gifted class and some special education students persuaded her to become an occupational therapist for those with special needs. But she first earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary and special education and began to teach. “I was so in love with teaching I decided not to pursue occupational therapy,” she says. “I believe it’s all about the relationship with the kids.” She plans to be a stay-at-home mom for another year, when Raegan will begin kindergarten, then resume her career. “It’s been nice,” she says of her time off. “I’ve been able to invest more in the church and getting my family settled in a new town.”

Casey and Rob met in 2008 at Locust Grove Baptist Church in New Market, which she attended and where he was being hired as youth minister. “The pastor’s wife said, ‘You have to meet this guy.’” She did, and “he started wooing me, bringing flowers to the gift shop” where she worked. Rob’s hard work paid off, and they married in 2010. In 2012 he became associate pastor.

The opportunity at First Baptist arose at the right time. “I was ready to do something new, to preach more often,” he says. (His doctorate in ministry from Mercer University was in preaching.) “We just felt called to go on an adventure. It just seemed right. We’re very progressive Christians, and we wanted to raise Raegan and Miles in a place that shared that idea,” he says. “I wanted to find my voice in preaching again. In the Baptist world there aren’t enough strong progressive voices, and I felt like I had something to say.” Although she would be leaving her mother (and child-care provider) behind in her hometown, Casey too says she was “ready to jump. Life’s too short to not adventure a bit.”

(continued on next page)

Their thoughts about coming to Peoria – neither had even heard of the city – grew after meeting the search committee, though it almost took a serious detour. The day committee members came to New Market to hear Rob preach Casey began having labor contractions. Fortunately they stopped, Rob preached and Miles waited two weeks to add his voice to the world. Two months later, in August, the family arrived here to check out the city – Rob was asking himself “Does the place feel right?” -- and the church. They loved Peoria right away as well as the church building and the members they met. The feeling was mutual; the congregation’s vote to hire Rob was unanimous. He started at First Baptist in October.

Rob says his first goal here is simple: “I just want to pastor well, to help people live and die well. I want to be a strong voice in the Baptist world for a grace-filled, mercy-filled life. I want to invest in ministries that last.” He believes the church’s biggest challenge is “to be creative in what we do – not just do what we did 20 years ago.” Our smaller church membership offers “a creative space” to do things differently. Recalling his surprise when visiting Paris and seeing how small the Mona Lisa painting is, he says, “We are the Mona Lisa of Peoria. With this smaller (congregation) we can create our own masterpiece.” At the church’s recent Leadership Retreat, he said he believes in planting oaks that take many years to grow “but leave beautiful things for the world.” He hopes First Baptist, which turned 175 eight years ago, will be around to celebrate its 275th anniversary.

Casey, who has joined the Christian Education Board, suggests the Worship Bag now available to keep small children occupied is one of those creative things that our small size necessitates. The same goes for Kid’s Connection, the monthly Biblical study and play program offered during Contemporary Issues classes. Also new is a play group on occasional Friday mornings as her schedule allows. She says she’s thinking of her own kids when considering programs and events that would draw in new families. “If there’s nothing for kids to do, why come back?”

Ask Rob what he does in his spare time, and he says he hasn’t had a day off in three weeks! Many a night he’s in his study working on his sermons. He does squeeze in time to watch movies, read and play video games. A self-proclaimed “geek” as a kid and adult, he likes the collectible card game “Magic, the Gathering.” He’s eager for weather to warm up so he can golf.

And what about Casey? “Go drink Starbuck’s by myself!” she responds. She still loves being outside and reading, often listening to audio books while working around the house. She says she’s been “pleasantly surprised at how much there is to do for families here” – the zoo, the museum, the Children’s Playhouse and more. Being strangers in town has meant an often welcome anonymity for both.

Anything about Peoria that surprised them? The question brings the same response: “The winter!” “Negative 20 was a little surprising,” Casey says. “The winter lasted a long time,” says Rob. The writer suggests it will be better next year. Have faith.



This profile is part of a series on First Baptist Church members.

The series is the work of a church committee headed by Barb Drake. Please let her know if anyone has been overlooked.

May 2019



First Baptist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Please bring non-perishable food items on May 5th for Friendship House Food Pantry. Thank you for your support of this mission..	CHURCH WOMEN UNITED CWU will hold their May Friendship Celebration on Friday, May 3rd, at 9:00 a.m. at Glen Oak Christian Church, 1115 East Republic Street in Peoria. In addition to lunch, there will be readers, music skits. The program "Loaves and Fish" will be presented by Dan Phelps. Please call Kathy Simpson at (309) 688-5237 to reserve seats for yourself and any guest.		1 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bells 7:15PM Choir	2 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 6:30PM Grief Supt. (Parlor)	3	4 8AM Men's Brkfst.
5 COMMUNION SUN.  ABW Blanket Sun. 9AM Music Rehrl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time 11:15AM Cont. Issues Class (Sanctuary) 11:15AM Kid's Connection	6 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	7 NEWSLETTER 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor)	8 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 6:30PM Choir	9 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 6:30PM Diac. Mtg. (Parlor) 6:30PM Grief Supt. (Parlor)	10	11
12 ABW Blanket Sun. 9AM Music Rehrl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time	13 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's 11AM Heart-Warming Hats 1PM Prayer Chain (Parlor)	14 15 16 17 18 LIFE TOUGH TAKES PICTURES FOR DIRECTORY BY APPOINTMENT.				18 10AM ABW Brunch
19 GRADUATE REC. ABW Blanket Sun. 9AM Music Rehrl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11:15AM Exec. Mtg. 2-5PM Community Spring Celebration	20 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	21 NEWSLETTER 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 12PM Circle of Friends (Parlor)	22 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 6:30PM Choir	23 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 6:30PM Grief Supt. (Parlor)	24 6:30PM Dining Out Group	25
26 ABW Blanket Sun. 9AM Music Rehrl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	28 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor)	29 5:15PM Guitar Reh. 6PM Jae Stockton, Missionary speaker & light dinner.	30 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)	31	



First Baptist Church

**411 W Lake Avenue
Peoria IL 61614**

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THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.



HEALTH TIPS: END OF LIFE DECISIONS

Talking about our own death is never an easy subject to approach. Unfortunately, it is a conversation that needs to be had while you are still able to make decisions for yourself and ensure your loved ones know your wishes. As important as these conversations are, they are not enough. Your wishes regarding living on machines, who will make legal and/or medical decisions when you are not capable, etc. must not only be put in writing but legally documented.

First, search your soul as to the type of advanced life support, if any, you are willing to try. Talk with a trusted physician/health-care provider to discuss your options. Do you have a chronic health condition that will not improve? Will the condition stay at the same level or possibly get better? During these discussions have loved ones, including your health care power of attorney (POA) present. What does "life support" actually mean? Can I be on life support for a certain amount of time before having it removed? Educate yourself on these terms. Many of us have strong feelings on how we want to be allowed to live and die.

Once you have made your decisions, communicate them with those you love. Once again, this will be a difficult conversation to have. You, the patient, will be in control of your care. If and/or when the time comes that you cannot make the decision for yourself, your appointed health care POA will make them on your behalf.

Reliable websites:

- Ill. Dept. of Public Health: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov>
- Mayo Clinic: <https://www.mayoclinic.org>
- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov>

Lurene Ladd
Parish Nurse