

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

FEBRUARY 4, 2020



First Baptist Church

FROM THE PASTOR

Good morning Church,

In Psalm 59:16 the poet says, "But I will sing of your strength, in the mourning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble."

As winter (hopefully) comes to an end and the chilly days of early spring arrive, it is a good time to start reflecting on your personal journey in faith. Does your life embody the "singing of God's strength and love?" Do you rely on God in "times of trouble?" Well, if you are anything like me then the answers are probably both "sometimes!"

Our challenge is to continually rely upon God, after all we do gather to worship this God each Sunday. There is nothing easy about that challenge either. Often times it feels more satisfactory to rely on worldly things for refuge, even when we know they actually give none.

It is also important to remember the calling to be encouragers of one another. When our friends or family are going through times of trouble the platitude of "rely on God" can feel more insulting than encouraging. Are we assuming they're not relying on God? Of course we do not mean that, but that is often what is felt. Instead of speaking platitudes, perhaps we should be living out those words. Be the giver of hope and help. Be the one showing up with a home cooked meal or much needed respite. It seems appropriate as the followers of Jesus, the Word, that we also become the word in the flesh, Psalm 59:16 incarnate.

As our current worship series, "Seek Justice," comes to an end, it will finish with an exploration of the ministry of reconciliation. Reconciliation is at the heart of healing, justice, and peace. And it is the same idea and calling that fuels passages like Psalm 59:16. I hope that we will all listen carefully to the Spirit as we explore these callings and answer their call in our lives.

The beginning of the Lenten Season will start with our Ash Wednesday service on February 26 @ 6:30pm. This service will be a time of worship, reflection, and remembrance. The following four Wednesdays (March 4, 11, 18, & 25) will be our Lenten dinners, all starting 6:30pm. Each dinner will include food prepped by our social committee and served by our boards; as well as time of teaching led by me. Finally our Lenten Worship Series will be exploring the seven signs (or miracles) in the gospel of John. I expect it to be a full and wonderful journey to Easter Sunday.

Serving Together,
Dr. Rob Collins

Contact Us:

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WORSHIP

10 AM Worship & Children's Sunday School ■ 11 AM Fellowship

February 2020 Sermon Series

"SEEK JUSTICE"

February 2

"For Every Child"

Mark 10:13-16

February 9

"Creator of the Ends of the Earth"

Job 12:7-10

February 16

"Liberation from the Bondage of Poverty"

Luke 21:1-6

February 23

"Reconciled Through Christ"

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

PRAYER CONCERNS

Tom Maulding	Char Austin	Helen Nicol
Sharon Stanard	Rose Kimpling	Mark Stanard
Jim Ashton	Rosemary Walk	Mary Hinch
Jerry Edwards	Alyssa Russell	John Hart
Jacquelyn Kellogg	Deb Houser	Traci Nielsen
Leon Vickerman	Karen Vickerman	

Don Middleton (Rev. Middleton's son)

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

A mother and son who are active in Moms Demand Action will speak February 16th on "Addressing Violence Prevention with Common Sense Gun Safety Measures." They are Katie Jones, a psychotherapist with the OSF Strive Trauma Recovery Program, and her son, Gus Steinberg Jones, a Richwood's High School Senior.

Katie Jones chairs the local chapter of the organization, a grass-roots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence. Their presentation will cover approaches being proposed in this state and elsewhere to reduce gun violence and the effectiveness of safe-school efforts. It will also touch on "post-vention" – how to help crime survivors and the larger community. The class will meet at 11:15 in the sanctuary.

Barb and Bernie Drake
Co-Chairs

KID'S CONNECTION

February 16th during the Contemporary Issues class children from birth-5th grade will meet for Kid's Connection! During Kid's Connection, we will dive into a Bible study followed by a snack and fun activity. This time also serves as child care for adult Sunday School time. We look forward to this time together!



COME INSIDE, WARM UP, & HAVE SOME FUN FRIDAY, FEB. 7TH, 5:30-7:30 PM

Children ages 3 to 12—accompanied by at least one parent or grandparent—are invited to come for a night to enjoy playing inside.

Younger children can bring electric cars, scooters, etc. for fun in Fellowship Hall. Older kids can bring their favorite board games for some friendly competition.

Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Reserve your spot today by calling the church office (682-5491) with your name and number attending.

FBC ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting is over and it is now time for us to begin focusing on the work ahead of us. The budget is set and our Boards are prepared and ready to move forward. We anticipate that 2020 will be an exciting time for our church, and we seek everyone's commitment to helping us in our efforts.

I want to again extend my special thanks to the ladies of the Social Committee, the setup crew, the video/sound team, and especially Sandy for helping put on a successful Annual Meeting. Their help was invaluable.

Joe Sexton
Moderator

2019 Christmas Offering

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2019 Christmas Offering. Thanks to your generosity, we received a total of \$2,492.50. This was divided equally between Peoria Friendship House and our adopt-a-school partner, Hines Primary School. Each organization received a check for \$1,246.25.

Joe Sexton
Moderator

WELCOME CENTER SCHEDULE

Feb. 9 — Gay Barton	Feb. 16 — Bonnie Connett
Feb. 23 — Jonathan Ellison	Mar. 1 — Jean Brown

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy to Kara & Paul Grove and family on the death of Kara's nephew, Jeremy Schermann. Services were held in Peoria on Wednesday, January 29th. Rev. Dr. Robert Collins officiated.

MARCH 2020



First Baptist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION SUN.  9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time	2 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	3 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor)	4 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:PM Lenten Dinner (FH) 7PM Choir Reh.	5 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)	6	7 8AM Men's Breakfast (Fell. Hall)
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time	9 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's 11AM Heart-warming Hats (Conn. Rm.)	10 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 6:30PM Board Mtgs.	11 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:PM Lenten Dinner (FH) 7PM Choir Reh.	12 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)	13	14 10AM ABW Brunch (Fell. Hall)
15 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time 11:20AM Executive Comm. Mtg. (Parlor)	16 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	17 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor) 12:30PM Circle of Friends (Fell. Hall) 1PM Literature Circle	18 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:PM Lenten Dinner (FH) 7PM Choir Reh.	19 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)	20	21
22 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time 11:15AM Contemp. Issues (Sanctuary) & Kid's Time	23 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	24 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor)	25 Rehearsals: 5:15PM Guitar 5:45PM Bell 6:PM Lenten Dinner (FH) 7PM Choir Reh.	26 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel)	27 6:30PM Dining Out Group	29
29 9AM Music Rehrsl. 10AM Worship & Children's SS 11AM Fellowship Time	30 10AM MUGS2 @ Panera's	31 8:30AM FBC Exercise (Chapel) 10AM MUGS (Parlor)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  Please bring your non-perishable food items on March 1st. Donations will continue to go to Friendship House. </div>			



First Baptist Church

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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.

DINING OUT

We will be going to Sweet Basil cafe on February 28th at 6:30pm. Please let John and Jen know if you will be attending. Phone: 309-231-6389.

John and Jen Dusek

ABW FEBRUARY DATES

The **ABW Brunch** will be on Saturday, February 18th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Our speaker is Brian Uhlenhopp from the Dream Center. It should be very interesting! Devotions will be done by Joan Trotter. We will have 2 offerings — our Love Gift and the Stanton's.

Feel free to invite friends; just make reservations so we have a seat for them. Call Carolyn at 309-685-1388 or e-mail her at csimk@comcast.net for reservations.

The **Circle of Friends** will meet in Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18th. Everyone is to bring cookies that they love. The Program is unusual valentines received

The **Literature Circle** will meet on Tuesday, February 18th, at 1:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church Parlor. The book to be reviewed is Chaperone by Laura Moriarty.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER & MARDI GRAS TALENT SHOW

5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 25



JOIN US FOR GOOD FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
IN SUPPORT OF OUR YOUTH GROUP.

FEBRUARY 26
@ 6:30 P.M.



The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday. This is a day to come together, worship the Lord, remember the ones we have lost, and reflect on our own journeys through life. The service culminates with the receiving of ashes to symbolize our own mortality and our radical reliance upon the God of Love.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

CWU will hold their General Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 7th, at the University United Methodist Church, 2717 N. University St., Peoria.