

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

OCTOBER 2021



First Baptist Church

MORE THAN ONE THING

If you see the connections between my sermons you may have noticed that I have a certain mantra recently added to my everyday habit, "Life is More than One Thing." I know that it has found its way into several of my messages as of late, and for good reason. Each day I see more and more that life, people, even singular moments are indeed more than one thing. In the past few months I have celebrated with you, wept with you, strategized with you, sang with you, and laughed with you. I have experienced the joy of seeing new visitors in the sanctuary again, and I have embraced old friends on journeys back here to visit. What a blessing this life can be!

I have also watched as several of our friends passed away back in Tennessee and Alabama. Some from dumb bad luck, some from covid, some from cancer. Each loss tragic, each loss felt deep in my bones. I'm reminded of something that my friend Pete Peterson once said, "We stand at the shores of life and scream because we know it shouldn't be this way. This isn't how it's supposed to be." And he's right, of course, that's why it stings so much to lose the ones we love. What an affliction this life can be!

We had a Youth Game Night in the month of September. Casey, Mark, Leigh, and I all gathered to play fun board games and a little bit of Super Nintendo with our middle school and high schoolers. There was plenty of laughter, some flying burritos, and way too much pizza. I can remember the last time I lost a game to a youth, but now it was just a few weeks ago. It was so much fun to be together and to share stories and laugh with one another. And I'm reminded of the beauty and joy of this life. What a celebration this life can be!

You see, life is more than one thing. And so are you. And so am I. We are more than our worst day and more than our best. We are more than last thing we feel and more than the first. We are all of it, wrapped up and held close by a loving, caring, forgiving, understanding God.

The prophet Joel says this in his second chapter:

*Children of Zion,
Rejoice and be glad in the Lord your God,
Because God will give you the early rain as a sign of righteousness;
God will pour down abundant rain for you,
The early and the late rain, as before.*

*You will eat abundantly and be satisfied,
And you will praise the name of the Lord your God,
Who has done wonders for you;
And God's people will never again be put to shame.*

My Friends, enjoy this blessed, difficult, beautiful life!

Serving Together,
Dr. Rob Collins

Contact Us:

Dr. Robert Collins, Sr. Pastor
Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth. Leader
Dr. Joshua Russell, Organist
Leigh Grizzard, Bell Choir Director
Church Secretary

(309) 682-5491
(309) 310-9927
(319) 400-8920
(309) 682-5491
(309) 682-5491

rob@fbcpeoria.org
mark@fbcpeoria.org
joshua@joshuarussellpianist.com
Leigh.Grizzard@gmail.com
office@fbcpeoria.org

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.org
Website: www.fbcpeoria.org



UPDATE ON SOCIAL DISTANCING AT FIRST BAPTIST

By Dr. Rob Collins

As I am sure you are aware, there is a dangerous rise of Covid cases in our area. With information coming out from the CDC and local health officials daily, church leadership is regularly in conversation and prayer about this topic. Our boards and volunteers are still diligently working to maintain a safe and clean environment for everyone who attends worship and church events on our campus. With this in mind, here are a few updates on the current social distancing policies changes and schedules at First Baptist.

- **Masks:** Church leadership is asking that everyone please wear masks while inside the church.
- **Sanctuary Seating:** We are removing the “closed” signs from the pews in the sanctuary. With the regular attendance of our members and guests, the restriction on pew usage is actually causing people to sit closer to each other. Opening up the pews will allow all of us to distance better and have a safer environment.
- **Communion:** The knowledge gained from other congregations and health officials has shown us that we can do communion in a way that is safe. Starting the first Sunday of September we will be bringing back communion. You’ll notice that it looks a little different, but the power of the shared table will still be present. If you are uncomfortable taking communion at this time, we fully respect and support that decision.
- **Fellowship Hour:** The fellowship time which takes place traditionally after each worship service will begin starting again in the month of September. We will not be having food at this time, but there will be the normal beverages available for people to drink and speak with one another. Again everyone is encouraged to wear their masks as much as they can and to social distance while in the fellowship hall. Also, if you are uncomfortable going to the fellowship hour, we completely understand.

The calling of mercy and compassion has required much of us in the past year and a half. Thank you for your steadfast faith, support, and prayers. Together we serve the Creator of all good things, and together we walk in this life filled with God’s grace and mercy.

*“Serve each other according to the gift each person has received,
as good managers of God’s grace.”
—1 Peter 4:10*

DISH PACK THANK-YOU

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Dish Pack auction. Especially, thank you, Gloria Graham, for the quilt and Mike Connors, who had the winning bid.

The money raised totaled \$220, including donations from some people who participated but did not want to bid.

Thanks again for supporting the Dish Pack program.

Lynelle Ryan
Dish Pack Coordinator

PASTOR APPRECIATION

The first Sunday in October marks the beginning of Pastor Rob’s fourth year as our minister. The second Sunday in October is Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

Please use these times to express your appreciation for Pastor Rob and our entire ministerial team for their tireless efforts on behalf of the First Baptist faith community. A card, warm smile, hearty thank-you, or any other gesture of appreciation would be most appropriate.

Robert Ryan
Pastoral Relations Committee

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy to Mike and Sue Connors and their family on the death of Mike’s mother, Barbara Connors. Barbara passed away the week of September 19th in Florida.

There will be memorial service at a later date in Galesburg, IL.

Please keep Mike, Sue and their family in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NOVEMBER CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Sheila Quirk-Bailey, the ICC president, will speak on Nov. 12th about the Jobs and Skills Mismatch and what ICC is doing about it. It’s a huge issue.

Barb & Bernie Drake

OCTOBER CONTEMPORARY ISSUES CLASS

Our October 10th Contemporary Issues Class will feature a highly reputable speaker addressing an extremely important subject. Martin Johnson, founder and Senior Pastor of New Beginnings Ministries of Peoria, will offer his perspective on racial justice and the church's role in achieving it.

Pastor Johnson leads the African American Pastors Coalition that meets regularly with city leadership and serves on the Mayor's Task Force for Racial Justice and Equity. He is a chaplain for the Peoria Adult Transition Center and the Peoria Police Department. A board member at Great Oaks Camp, he describes himself as "a crusader in challenging other pastors to become more community minded in their ministry approach." His speech at First Baptist is a welcome addition to our church's efforts to learn more about the critical issue of racial justice.

This special event will take place at **6:00 p.m., Sunday, October 10th**, in the chapel. We scheduled the class for the evening to accommodate our speaker's need to preach at New Beginnings in the morning. Do reserve the date – and bring friends. Pastor Johnson will bring his wife and co-pastor, Lisa Johnson.

And plan to wear a mask.

Barb and Bernie Drake

CHURCH YARD CLEANUP WEEK!

This Fall we will have a church yard clean-up that will last a whole week to give you as many opportunities as possible to help with many projects. We will have a yard waste dumpster at the back of the parking lot from October 4 through October 9. On Saturday October 9 we will have help from our Bradley fraternity friends from Lambda Chi and our cleanup week will culminate with the annual planting of our tulip bulbs under the direction of Jan Olson.

There will be a large board with a purple background in Fellowship Hall listing the tasks we would like to accomplish. The pictures here represent a couple of the areas that need work. Feel free to work on any project that strikes your fancy.

We also will have a board with a green background that will have pictures of "adoptable" areas of our church yard. We would love to have individuals, couples, families or groups in the church agree to care for these areas in the Spring and throughout the Summer next year.

The Board of Trustees thanks you for your help. Please contact Jan Olson or Janet Middleton if you have any questions.

Janet Middleton





First Baptist Church

411 W Lake Avenue
Peoria IL 61614

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Peoria, Illinois
Permit No. 677

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Betty Hart Sharon Polakow Mark Stanard
Jerry Edwards Judy Ryan Alyssa Russell
Leon & Karen Vickerman

THANK YOU

We extend a huge thank-you for all the items that were donated for the rummage sale over the last year and a half. When Sandy put in the newsletter and bulletin that we could use lots of help, we got it. We ended up with 26 people who helped us set up and/or helped the day of the sale and clean-up.

We couldn't have done this without all of you. The final total raised was \$3,271,.90.

Debbie McGlothlen/Delores Swigart/Lynelle Ryan



TRUNK OR TREAT



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 4:30-5:30 P.M.

CARS FULL OF GOODIES ARE NEEDED.

WEAR GLOVES AND MASKS AND HAND OUT CANDY.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT KARA GROVE AT 309-648-3332.

ABW NUT SALE

It's that time again! ABW is taking orders for nuts from Terri Lynn out of Elgin, IL. Order forms are on the table outside the church office. You can also contact me at csimk@me.com or to have a list sent to you via e-mail.

Please make out your list & pre pay if possible!! I am not

ordering a lot of extras. I am trying to keep it close. If you don't order, I can't guarantee you will get what you want. I need to have your order ASAP.

I am sorry but the prices have gone up just like everything else.

If you know of someone that would like some please let me know their email &/or phone number, and I will send them a list.

Thank you for your participation!!

Carolyn Ihnken
ABW President