

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

“THE TABLE OF CHRIST”

JANUARY 2022

COME TO
The Table

Happy New Year Church!

As I journey into the year 2022, I do so with high expectations for what God has in store for our church and faith community. Our past couple of years have been unprecedented in the history of First Baptist, yet we have come out together. I am vastly proud of the work that we do, the worship we offer unto the Lord, and the spirit with which we serve the community.

Starting on January 16th, we will begin a short worship series entitled “The Table of Christ.” This worship series will focus on the role that meal sharing has in the life and ministry of Jesus, and what that can teach us about being disciples in this day and age. After living in Peoria for over three years now, I know how difficult January and February can be. The Christmas season is over, and the snow is less magical than it was before the new year. Nothing seems more powerful than a warm bowl of soup on a freezing cold winter day. That’s why we are going to spend some time talking about the dinner table, meals, fellowship, and Jesus’ ministry.

Each week will focus on a different moment of table fellowship from the New Testament and will unpack the necessary elements for building a loving Christian community. An influence on this series is the work of John Pavlovitz, author of *A Bigger Table*. In his book on community, he argues that churches seeking to truly build a Christian community must do so with hospitality, diversity, authenticity, and relationships. These are the metaphorical “legs” of the bigger table we are trying to build. My prayer is that this series serves as a warm encouragement during our waiting for spring.

Psalm 42 says:

“As the deer longs for the water brooks,
so my soul for longs You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”

I pray that in this new year, your soul would long after the living God. That as you face obstacles and trials, as you celebrate and rejoice, as you mourn and laugh, and love and weep - that with each moment you would seek the God of Love and Mercy and Truth.

Stay well my friends, and serve one another, and live with hope.

Serving Together,

Dr. Rob Collins
Senior Pastor

Contact Us:

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

(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





First Baptist Church
A Vibrant, Inclusive, Authentic
Christian Community

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of
heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PEORIA

MINISTRY RESIDENCY

I greatly enjoyed talking with all of you about the FBC Ministry Residency program. Our church has a long history of supporting and welcoming young ministers along their journey and this is the next step in that journey. As your Pastor, one of my primary goals at First Baptist is to help strengthen our Children, Youth, and Young Adult ministries. This is of vast importance, as each church's future rests with our youngest congregants. The first step in this goal is the creation of Kids Church. Kids Church will teach our children not only about worship but also how to worship. In order to best build this ministry, we are creating the Ministry Residency.

The Ministry Resident Program will be an intentional one year residency for a recently graduated seminary student from an American Baptist affiliated seminary. The Ministry Resident will be hired to work full-time at First Baptist, each year, from June (after they graduate) through May of the next year. This program is being supported by various private donors, the Great Rivers Region, and from our own budgeting. It also comes with the affirmation and recommendation of our various boards, the FRUT Committee, Pastoral Staff, and the Executive Board.

I hosted two conversations in December for you to learn all about this exciting new ministry and ask any questions you had. I hope you were able to attend one of those gatherings. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and ask. We are planning to have a church wide vote on proceeding with this new ministry on January 23rd, directly following the worship service.

Members that would like to vote, but are unable to attend in person, may send their votes into the main office (either by email or a short mailed note) by January 20th to be included in the vote.

If you still have questions, please reach out to myself or my foundation team, Joe Sexton, Lisa Austin, and Paula Austin. We would be happy to speak with you. Please join us in praying about this new journey. It is an exciting time for our church and ministry.

Serving Together,

Dr. Rob Collins
Senior Pastor

MONDAY MORNING MUGS:

I have given a lot of thought to what MUGS should look like the next few weeks. Covid continues to be a problem with so many people being asymptomatic but still able to spread the virus.

I've made the decision to suspend MUGS until March 7th. By that time, I hope we can resume without masks and enjoy our time together without Covid worries. I will be gone the month of Feb. so I was hesitant to start in the middle of Feb. or constantly trying to decide what we should do.

I have chosen our next book. We will start "The Jesus I Know" by Kathie Lee Gifford.

Please stay safe, stay warm, and stay connected to our church family.

God Bless,
Marti

PRAYER CONCERNS

Garland Criswell
Judy Ryan
Alyssa Russell
Jean Currie
Middleton family
Bronx NYC Fire victim families
Medical First Line Responders
Fire and Police Responders

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Sunday, Jan. 16 Contemporary Issues Class
Sunday, Jan. 23 Ministry Residency Vote
Sunday, Jan. 30 Church Annual Meeting