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February 2023

Time to Jump In!!!

In case you missed the annual meeting this year, I spent some time talking about various goals that we have for the church this year. These goals range from launching new fellowship groups to reaching a certain number of visitors by the end of 2023. "Jumping in" is a reference to a Jewish story about a man who follows God by faith. In the story, Moses and the fleeing Israelites are pinned between a vicious army and a stormy sea. God has told the people to cross through the Red Sea, but it looks too treacherous. It is only when this man jumps into the sea that God finally parts the waters. "Jumping in" is exactly what we are doing this year.

To overcome the obstacles facing our church (facing all churches for that matter) requires a unified movement in the same direction. There is no singular magic button to fix all problems. It will take many small victories adding up to equal one large movement. And while God is likely most famous for the big victories, God has always been a lover of small moments.

So this year, we will be introducing new fellowship opportunities, new Bible studies, and bringing back some beloved traditions that were paused during covid. We are going to place an emphasis on hospitality and inviting people to come and experience God at First Baptist. Sharing our story and reaching out to the community will be paramount, as will the faithful giving of our congregation.

As the season of Lent approaches, we will be gathering for: the Ash Wednesday Service on February 22; for the Lenten dinners on Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, and 22; and for the special services of Palm Sunday and Easter! Let us not enter the coming season with blinders on!! God has placed an important calling on this church. This calling requires faith, hope, perseverance, and a commitment to building upon God's love. Together, and with God's love, I do believe we can achieve good things.

I pray that we would answer God's call, that together we would strive to make this church a place that will bless the community and embrace the kingdom for many years to come.

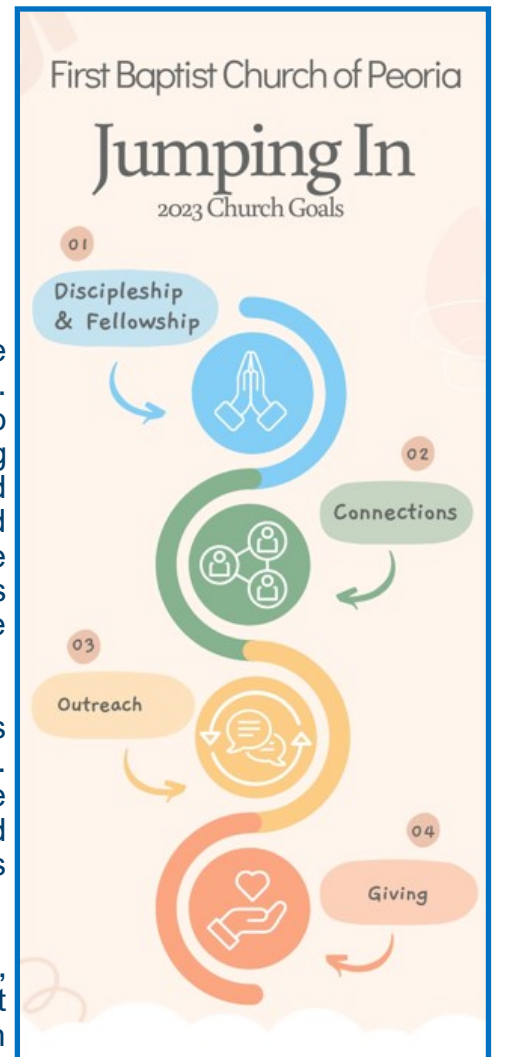
Time to Jump In, my friends!!!

Serving Together,

Dr. Rob Collins
Senior Pastor

Contact Us:

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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.

PARISH NURSE SUGGESTIONS:

Is your skin feeling dry and tight - even itchy or flaky? Any number of things can strip your skin of its protective oils. The result: everything from chapped lips and itchy skin to cracked heels. Use this guide to see top weather threats to your skin and what you can do about them.

DRY LIPS: Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated and use a humidifier at home. Put on lip balm or lipstick with sunscreen every time you go outside. Avoid being in the sun and wind too much. Don't lick your lips - it only makes them chap worse.

CRACKED HEELS: Keep feet healthy by marinating heels in petroleum jelly, covering them with plastic wrap and putting on a pair of socks, keeping them on overnight. You should see improvement in a few days.

DRY HANDS: Give your dry hands extra care. Your hands may be hard hit by the cold winter air. Your hands may be more exposed to cold than any other parts of your body. Use glycerin-based moisturizer when you wake up, before you go to bed, and any time your hands feel dry throughout the day.

You should choose a winter moisturizer. Try a heavier cream at least on dry skin patches. A shower can add water to your skin, as long as you keep it short. Long hot showers can actually draw moisture from your skin. Right after you step out of the shower/tub, pat your skin dry and apply moisturizer to retain the water your skin has just absorbed.

FROSTNIP vs. FROSTBITE: Bundle up against frostnip, a mild form of frostbite, which can affect the earlobes, cheeks, nose, fingers, and toes. Signs of frostnip include pale skin and numbness or tingling in the affected area. Avoid frostnip by dressing warmly, including a hat, or earmuffs, and gloves. The best treatment is to re-warm the affected areas. Although frostnip is uncomfortable, it doesn't cause any damage to skin. Frostbite is more serious and can cause lasting damage. Deeper tissues freeze, causing skin to become hard, pale, and cold. It may ache and lack sensitivity to touch. Treat frostbite by getting to a warm place, wrapping the affected areas in sterile dressing and going to an emergency department immediately.

Debbie McGlothlen, RN, Parish Nurse Vicki Weatherington, BSN, Parish Nurse

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ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 22 @ 6:30PM

The beginning of the lenten season starts 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 radical reliance upon the love of God.

Please plan on joining us in worship on Ash Wednesday.

JANUARY FINANCIALS

Recall at the Annual Meeting on January 29, we approved a Disbursements budget of \$443,146. Our estimated receipts and other funding source projections fell significantly short of planned disbursements. If you were unable to attend that meeting, a video recording is posted on [FBCPEORIA.ORG, https://fbcpeoria.org/annual-meeting-2023/](https://fbcpeoria.org/annual-meeting-2023/). I encourage you to give a watch/listen to it and then "Jump In!" as you may be led. January financials are encouraging with pledge and plate revenues about 25% above 2022 January numbers. Trustees budget had a good start with expenses hitting their target for January whereas last year's Trustees budget was \$4,000 over. One month doesn't make a year, but a good start. Thank you for your prayers for our church (and moderate weather LOL) and your faithful giving. I'll look to give more regular updates as we move through the year.
Doug Miller, FBC Treasurer

PLAN ON JOINING US! All ages are welcome!

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, from 10:30 -12 noon, Susan Turner will be teaching "Card Class 101". **HOWEVER, THERE IS NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED!** Join us for paper crafting, an easy, simple and fun way to make cards for every occasion. During the class, you will learn to make one or two cards to share with friends and family. Believe those of us who attended the first class, it was easy and we had fun getting together. Samples are available for viewing in the church office.

To ensure sufficient supplies for all participants, please RSVP to the church office via email, office@fbcpeoria.org, or phone, 309-682-5491, no later than February 22nd. Light refreshments will also be served.



Living Unsheltered!!

Wednesday, February 15th @ 6:00pm,
North Valley Commons (1203 NE Perry Ave.
Peoria, IL 61603)

There will be a town hall and panel discussion around the topics of our local unsheltered neighbors, the realities they face, facts and myths about shelter resources, and more. This event is being moderated by Rev. Seth Major, the pastor at Reachway Church in Peoria. Anyone interested in this event is invited to attend.

Panelists
 Kehe Bernard - LULA, Peoria, LLC/JOLT Outreach Supervisor
 Trudy Schaffner - Peoria Co. ROE - Homeless Liaison
 John Kittinger - Lived Experience Representative
 Kevin Buckner - Salvation Army Men's Overnight Shelter
 Shirley Carrol - Dream Center Peoria

Wednesday, February 15th
 DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
 PANEL DISCUSSION AT 6:00PM

AN EDUCATION AND ACCLIMATION EVENT HOSTED BY NORTH VALLEY COMMONS AND CONVERSATIONS ON THE FRINGE

LENTEN DINNERS HAVE RETURNED!

MARCH 1, 8, 15, AND 22, 6:30 p.m. Please contact the church office at office@fbcpeoria.org or 309-682-5491, to make your reservations for one, two, three, or all four dinners. Worship and music will be on the agenda also!



BECOME A DESSERTARIAN!

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This social group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month from 6-8pm at different homes

SIGN UP SUNDAY 2/5, 2/12, OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

309-682-5491
fbcpeoria.org

Have you felt isolated and lonely the last three years? Do you want to get to know those who worship with you at First Baptist Church each week? **Then it's time to become a Dessertarian!**

A new program is starting at First Baptist Church in March. It will be held on the third Sunday of each month from 6-8 p.m. We will meet at homes for conversation and dessert. **This is social only, no study group or book to read.** After you sign up, you will be assigned a different home with different people each month. After three months, the homes will change, and there will be an opportunity for you to continue and new people to join. **Sign up in Fellowship Hall or the Warm Room on Sunday Feb. 12.**



YOU ARE ALL WELCOME! AN INVITATION FROM OUR MUSIC INTERN, SYDNEY ALPERS

On March 24th at 5:30, First Baptist Church is sponsoring a concert provided by Bradley's chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota. SAI is a music fraternity for those who identify as women. We will be performing some of our traditional SAI choruses, as well as appearances from other Bradley guests and musicians. **Stay tuned for coming highlights!**

ABW FEBRUARY BRUNCH - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 10-11:30 A.M.

Our program is Roger French, who does Olli classes at Bradley University on churches around the World. I picked Canterbury Cathedral, the home church of the Worldwide Anglican Communion and site of the martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket. Canterbury is rich with history. Its "Miracle Windows" contain some of the most detailed storytelling ever embodied in stained glass. It also has some wonderful stone carvings and interesting tombs.

Please call Carolyn at 309-685-1388 for reservations. You can also email, office@fbcpeoria.org, or call, 682-5491, the church office. You are welcome to invite guests but must make reservations by Thursday morning - cost is \$5. We will be collecting our Love Gift and our missionary this month is the Stantons.

See you Saturday!! Carolyn

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Judy Ryan
Garland Criswell
Jerry Edwards
Alyssa Russell
Butch and Karen Vickerman
John Crawford
Betty Hart
Cora Lynn Green
Gordon Brown
Char Austin

THANK YOU!

From a grateful heart to everyone for your visits in the hospital, your phone calls, your cards, and your prayers. Your kindnesses and concerns have been overwhelming. To Pastor Rob, as your timely visits meant so much to Jean and I.
God bless you! Gordon Brown

If you are interested in a piece of church history, the Trustees have several long pews for the asking. They currently are residing in the back hall empty classroom. If you are interested in taking one, please contact a Trustee or the church office.