



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
515 N. LADD STREET
PONTIAC, IL 61764

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven . . .” (3:1). Each new year opens a fresh season of opportunities for each of us. The same is equally true for the church as we anticipate the next season of mission and ministry.

Our church was organized on May 24, 1857 under the leadership of the Rev. W. Branch. Church meetings were held initially in private homes and later the Methodist church, with baptisms conducted in the Vermillion River. The first building located at the corner of Oak and Water Streets was completed in 1866, and Sunday school classes were held on May 19, 1867.

2017 marks 160 years of ministry in this community. We celebrate a rich heritage of service and commitment. Over the years, we have experienced times of great joy as well as moments of deep discouragement. Hebrews 12:1 reminds us that we are surrounded by “a great cloud of witnesses”. We stand on the shoulders of those early leaders who were persons of vision and purpose; committed to a Baptist presence in Pontiac.

A new season stretches before us. We look back only to prepare ourselves to look forward into the new season of ministry that God has in store for us. Our forebears were people of vision, commitment, and purpose. We are called to live out those same virtues in the season of ministry that stretches before us.

Looking forward challenges us to anticipate the future through the lens of what God wants and expects for our life together. God expects us to be people of vision and action. The prophet Joel anticipated a time when the Spirit of God would be poured out on all people: “I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions” (2:28).

In his sermon on the Day of Pentecost Peter affirmed the ancient words and boldly proclaimed that the outburst of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2:16-21).

I want you to know that God is powerfully at work in our mission and ministry. It is a sad and ungodly thought when we can only look back and declare that our glory days are behind us. What’s behind us is exactly that: behind us. God’s future lies boldly in front of us. What is re-

quired to fulfill that future is vision to see what God dreams for us. Psychoanalyst Carl Jung declared: "Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside awakens."

160 years of ministry does not guarantee our future; it only affirms the past. The future is guaranteed by people of vision who search the heart of God, pray in the Spirit, and live actively, creatively, and dynamically in presence of God.

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven . . ." A new season stretches before us. Together we are called to boldly, dramatically step into this season. It will be a season of vision, growth, and maturity as together we grow up into Christ.

An Important Reminder...



If you have been to see a medical professional recently you no doubt were asked to sign a form indicating that you received information regarding HIPAA regulations. What you may not realize is that HIPAA regulations prohibit hospitals and other agencies from sharing your personal information with anyone including your pastor.

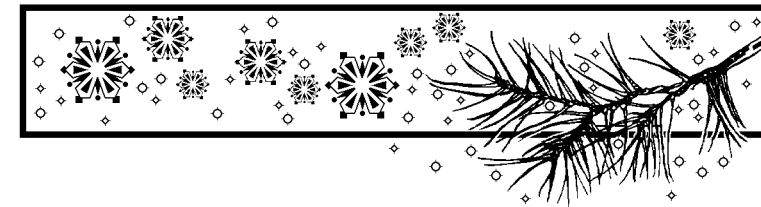
This means if you want us to know about your hospitalization you or a family member must contact the church office directly, or you must specifically ask the hospital chaplain to contact Pastor Jim and let him know that you have been hospitalized. This is the *only* way you can be sure that we will know you have been admitted to the hospital.

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the February edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Monday, January 16th.

You may submit your articles by phone (842.4321), fax (844.6943), by e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org) or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.



Nursery Care Available

Nursery care is available during worship services for infants and toddlers through age 3.

The nursery is located across the hall from the sanctuary.

Winter Weather



A reminder as we make our way into a season of unpredictable winter weather, *if Pontiac schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all church activities scheduled for that day will also be cancelled and the church office will be closed.*

To the best of our ability, church cancellation notices will be posted on our church Facebook page and will be broadcast on the WEEK and WMBD television stations, and, as appropriate will be shared via our calling system. If you do not receive church-wide notices via our automated calling system, please contact the office and request to have your number added to the list.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO USE THEIR BEST JUDGMENT AND BE SAFE DURING HAZARDOUS WEATHER!



Prayer Chain Number
815.419.4454



Children's Church

Jan. 1: Patty Gray and Mary Frobish

Jan. 8: Juanita James

Jan. 16: Juanita James

Jan. 22: Michelle Bohm

Jan. 29: Michelle Bohm

Thank You

I'd like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, food, cards, and flowers at the time of my mother's death. She is at rest now.

Love Always,
the Patti Butcher and Dinges family

We would like to thank our entire church family for the many cards, warm wishes and the generous Christmas gift you shared with us during this Christmas season. We are deeply touched by your thoughtfulness. We love you all very much and feel blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

Jim, Janet and Owen Wolfe

Cold and Flu Season Is Here!

As the cold and flu season descends upon us, we'd like to take the opportunity to give our church family a few important reminders:

- ⇒ If you're sick (particularly if you're running a fever) we encourage you to consider staying at home. This is not only important for your own comfort and welfare but also for the comfort and welfare of other church family members.
- ⇒ Likewise, if your child is sick we encourage you to keep him or her home so that he or she may rest and recuperate.
- ⇒ Influenza is especially dangerous for the elderly, the very young, and those with chronic illnesses who may be immunocompromised. Please exercise extra caution when visiting those members of our church family who fall into these categories and consider making a phone call rather than an "in person" visit if you're feeling unwell or if you've been exposed to friends and family members who are ill.



Community Corner

2017 Kindergarten/Pre-School Screening

Ages: 0 - 6 years.

Dates: February 14th - February 16th

Please call: 815.844.5448 (beginning Jan. 30th) for an appointment.

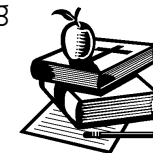
Screenings will be held at:

First Baptist Church
515 N. Ladd Street, Pontiac, IL
(Please enter at the north end of the building)

New Sunday School Opportunity

If you're looking for a new Sunday School opportunity, Pastor Jim is starting an Adult Elective Sunday School Class on Sunday, January 8th.

This class will meet in the media room and will be using the Pastor's study book "I Was Blind, But..."



Grief Support Group

Starting in January, the Grief Support Group will begin meeting on the second Wednesday of every month at 10:30 am.

Visit Us on the Web!



For convenient access to the latest church news and schedule information, don't forget to visit us online at www.fbcpontiac.org. While there, you also have the opportunity to download recent services in MP3 format or browse our picture gallery and see just what we've been up to lately here at FBC! Also, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and receive all the latest church updates!

Office Notes



In honor of the New Year's holiday our church office will be closed on Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd. We will re-open for regular business hours on Tuesday, January 3rd.

We wish our entire church family a happy and healthy holiday weekend!



January



- 1 Rosa Wing
- 2 Chayla Mitchey
- 3 Evelyn Durham
- 4 Gerald Shepherd
- 6 Alivia Waschle ♥
- 8 Kenny and Tara Crawford
- 8 Lynette Senter
- 9 Rich Halford
- 13 Darrell Shoop
- 13 Jennifer Borders
- 14 Gwen Battice
- 15 Jardin James
- 15 Barbara Tholen ♥
- 17 James and Joanne Perkins
- 20 Jim Hodges
- 20 Janet Wolfe
- 21 Jeana Boase
- 21 Steve Carroll
- 23 Sharon Colclasure
- 23 Ron Watson
- 24 Brad Harder
- 24 Kelly Ingram
- 24 Steve McBride
- 25 Steven C. McBride
- 25 Austin Pohanka
- 25 Charles Watson
- 25 Rebecca Bohm
- 27 Edward Bonnivier
- 28 Kathy Zehr
- 29 Christopher Tull



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School No evening activities	2 Church Office Closed	3	4 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:30 pm Grace Sm. Group	5	6	7 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
8 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	9 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	10	11 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:30 am Grief Group 6:30 pm Grace Sm. Group	12 9:00 am BSF Women's Class	13	14 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
15 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	16	17	18 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:30 pm Grace Sm. Group	19 9:00 am BSF Women's Class	20	21 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
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29 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	30	31				