



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

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Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



The Old Testament book of Esther deals with the issue of God's timing. Briefly, a Jewish orphan girl named Esther is chosen to become queen of Persia. Subsequently, Queen Esther finds herself in the right place at the right time, to save her people from annihilation.

The book of Esther had a difficult time obtaining canonical acceptance because it contains no religious elements; no prayers or sacrifices; makes no attempt to acknowledge or follow Jewish law, and perhaps most significantly make no mention whatsoever of God. Regardless of these omissions, the book does contain an underlying theology of God's providence most clearly illustrated in chapter four, verse fourteen which declares: "For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

As we gather for worship on June 4, we will celebrate 160 years of ministry in Pontiac. The church was organized on Sunday May 24, 1857, with eight persons under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend W. Branch.

It is not possible for us to know what was in the hearts and minds of those early Baptists as they organized what we now know as First Baptist Church. We can however deduce that they felt it was the appropriate time for a Baptist presence in Pontiac.

For just such a time as this Pastor Branch and those eight pioneering Baptists organized to Tell the Story, Nurture Believers, and Serve the Community.

For just such a time as this we are called to continue the ministry that was begun in 1857. The call is the same in 2017 as it was 160 years ago. We are commissioned to be the people of God in this place, at this time. The vision of God is always before us. God is calling us to stretch ourselves into the future that God has planned for us. God has vision, hope, and purpose for this community of faith. We are God's people in this community, for such a time as this.

You Are the Branches...



Name: Mark Therien

Your favorite meal? Chicken

Are you typically a morning person or a night person? Night person

Where were you born? Pontiac, IL

How many states have you lived in? Three

Have you traveled abroad? No

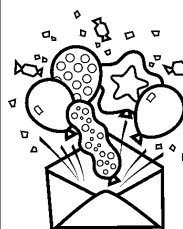
Did you have a nickname growing up? What was it? Mugzy

If you could go anywhere in the world for vacation, where would you visit? Switzerland

Do you remember "Drive In" movies? Yes

Who is your favorite singer? Elvis

Happy Anniversary FBC!!



Under the leadership of Rev. W. Branch, eight persons organized the First Baptist Church of Pontiac on Sunday, May 24, 1857. At that time worship services were held in homes, but later the congregation used the Methodist Church for afternoon services. As the church membership grew, plans were made to construct our own church building in 1860. Our first building was completed in 1866 on the corner of Oak and Water Streets.

From eight members meeting in homes and baptisms being performed in the Vermillion River to the large, loving church family and beautiful church facility we have today, First Baptist Church has been a vital part of the fabric of our community for 160 years! As we gather for worship on Sunday June 4, we will celebrate our 160 years of ministry and look forward to what God envisions for our future. There is no question that God is working powerfully in our ministries and has great plans for a future of hope and promise. Following Sunday school on June 4 you are invited to join the family for a catered meal which will be held in the gym at 11:30 AM.

Cursambri Center News

Cursambri Rec Center
Matthew 25:40

The Cursambri Center is celebrating its 5th anniversary this June. Every Thursday morning we have five special needs young adults and three volunteers who work one on one with them to enjoy crafts and activities. During the summer we get together on Tuesday and Thursday for even more fun. We visit various places in town, ride the Jolly Trolley, and get together with High School students. We bowl in the hallway, ride golf carts, fly kites, and are so thankful for this big parking lot. It is perfect for wheelchairs. It is such a joy for everyone involved. And it is a wonderful ministry of our church. It is at no cost to the persons attending and donations are appreciated to cover the cost of supplies, snacks, and outings. You can see us on Facebook.

Thank you for your prayers and donations,
Karen Meister

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.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the July newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, June 16th.



Bake Sale!



The Esther and Ruth Circles will be hosting fund raisers to purchase a portable defibrillator for our church. The first will be a bake sale held in the church gym on June 24th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Donations of baked goods to be sold would be greatly appreciated, as would monetary donations to the project. Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday, June 23rd between 3:00 and 6:00 pm or on Saturday morning before 9:00 am.

Come buy some delicious snacks and support an important cause!

Children's Church

June 4: Shirley and Bob Carroll

June 11: Rick Golliday and Julie Amdor

June 18: Rick Golliday and Julie Amdor

June 25: Janet Halford

Thank You

Thanks to all the members of the First Baptist Church for your prayers and support and comfort during the loss of Tom Oakes.

From his family

I would like to thank everyone for the kind thoughts, calls, visits, and prayers as I went through surgery and as I make my way through rehab and recovery. I'm thankful for each and every one of you, especially Pastor Jim and Ron McBeath for all of their visits and prayers.

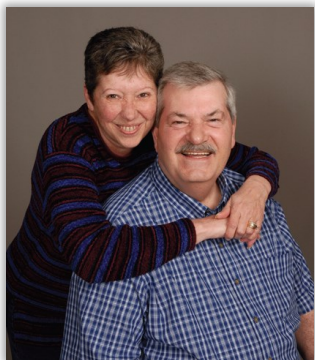
I truly am blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

Love,

Vickie Jaime



You Are the Branches...



Name: Karen Therien

Favorite Color? Blue

Are you typically a morning person or a night owl? Night

Where were you born? Gibson City

How many states have you lived in? One

Have you traveled abroad? No

What is the first word or thought that comes to you when you enter the Church? Peace

What is your least favorite household chore? Dusting

What was your favorite class in school and why? P.E. because I enjoyed sports

Do you remember "Drive In" movies? Yes

What is your favorite Carnival food? Corn Dogs

Secret Sister



It's that time of the year again ladies! It's time to find out who has been praying for you this past year! The Secret Sister's reveal party will be held on June 24th at 1:00 pm in the Vineyard classroom. If you want to participate in this ministry during the upcoming year, forms will be available in the narthex and you are warmly invited to join the party! The more the merrier!

Please bring a snack to share with the group and join us for this fun time of support and fellowship as we meet our secret sisters from the past year and get ready to be paired with our secret sisters for the upcoming year!

Newsletter Changes



As we strive to make church information more timely, accessible and cost effective, we've decided to make some exciting changes to the way our church newsletter is delivered to you each month. Beginning in September, we will no longer mail the church newsletter via USPS. Instead, we will make the newsletter available in three different formats.

1. You will still be able to go to our website and download the full newsletter (along with several years of back editions)
2. You will be able to sign up for our e-mail list and have the newsletter delivered to your inbox each month.
3. We will make a *limited* number of 'hard copies' available for pick-up here at the church at the beginning of each month for those who do not have internet access.

We recognize that this will take some adjustment but we're confident that this will allow us to provide more dynamic content with more flexibility while cutting costs at the same time! Want to get on our e-mail list? Just e-mail us at: Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org with the subject line "mailing list" and let us know where you want the e-mail edition of our newsletter sent! It's that easy!



- 4 Rose Gerald
- 4 Tom and June Oakes
- 5 June Oakes
- 6 Gary and Jaime Wykes
- 7 Jim and Janet Wolfe
- 8 Cindy Knight
- 10 Steve and Debbie Carroll
- 10 Brinda Henson
- 11 Megan Amdor
- 12 Mike and Jill Cole
- 12 Chuck Peck
- 13 Katie Borders
- 14 Kaity Carroll
- 14 Marian Dixon
- 14 Brandi Miller
- 16 Ronald and Gayle McBeath
- 16 Barry Highland
- 16 Landon Borders
- 17 Gerald and Judy Shepherd
- 18 Martha McCutcheon
- 19 Linda Gruen
- 19 Diana Rich
- 20 Don Schiff
- 20 Patti Butcher
- 22 Scott Knight
- 23 Robert Wing
- 25 Les and Julie Amdor
- 26 Harlin Dean
- 26 Missy Hoover
- 28 Bob Dowdy
- 29 Nickey and Linda Gruen
- 29 Kay Sidfrids
- 30 Trudy King-Beller

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
4 Anniversary Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Celebration meal	5	6	7 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 10:30 am Grief Group 1:00 pm Esther Circle	8 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	9	10 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
11 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	12 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	13	14 9:00 am ROMEO Club	15	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
18 Father's Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	19	20	21 9:00 am ROMEO Club	22	23	24 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Bake Sale 1:00 pm Secret Sister Party
25 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	26 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	27	28 9:00 am ROMEO Club 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile @ VFW	29	30	