



Pastor's Perspective

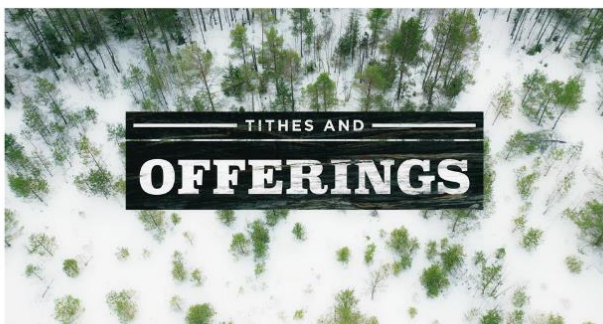
"They devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching..."
~ Acts 2:42

As January gives way to February we also begin a new session of Wednesday Night Live. Every session is a new opportunity to jump into a new study or to serve. For the past several years I have alternated between teaching a class, attending a class and serving in the Children's Ministry (usually in the sound booth). Regardless of what I am doing for Wednesday Night Live, I have always made small group Bible study a priority. In addition to Sunday School, I feel it's important to meet with a group of guys whether I'm leading the group or just participating. There is something valuable that only happens in the context of a small group. I can study the Bible on my own and learn a lot, but I can't connect with other people and learn from their insights apart from a small group. This session of Wednesday Night Live we are offering several options for people. Seth and Denise will teach a marriage study, Steve Struble will lead a class through John MacArthur's teaching on the Parables, Kady Hofer is leading a study on Titus, Aaron Struble will continue the men's class at the Y that is part Bible study and part weight-lifting, and I'll be teaching a class for men on the

book of 1 Corinthians. Last session I met with a group of about 12 guys last year as we studied "Disciplines of a Godly Man" by Kent Hughes, and the Book of James. I'm excited as we regroup to dig into 1 Corinthians.

I write this to encourage you to consider getting involved in a small group. There are always many options to choose from. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate." As we seek spiritual growth and maturity, it is never enough to dive into study and prayer in isolation. We benefit greatly by learning and growing together. There is another aspect of this that I think we often hesitate to be honest about. Participating in a group forces us to apply grace. Life in relationship is messy. We will hear things we don't agree with and we will most likely say or do something that offends someone else. Commitment to participate at a deeper level will mean working on issues of forgiveness and restoration. In the end it's a powerful exercise. We not only learn the truths of Scripture, but we actively see them at work as we grow in a small group. If you've been thinking about what you need to go the next step in your faith, this may be it. No matter where you are in your walk with the Lord, small group Bible study is always a good thing.

In Christ, Pastor Luke



2025 Giving

Giving Needed to Meet 2025 Budget YTD - **\$47,930.56**

Current Expense Giving YTD - **\$44,314.81**

Building Fund Designations YTD - **\$6,930.54**

Deacon Fund Designations YTD - **\$55.00**



KID'S PASTOR: MOLLIE DUNN CELL: (309)371-6962
MOLLIEADUNN@YAHOO.COM CHURCH: (309)582-7812

KIDS CLUB: WINTER/SPRING '25

We're excited to begin a new session of Kids Club on Feb. 5th with lots of fun planned over the next few months. Kids Club is for kids ages 3 through the 5th grade on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm.

Check-in begins at 6:15pm and pick-up is 8-8:10pm. Register new participants at

www.firstbaptistaledo.com.

Fall attenders DO NOT need to register again.

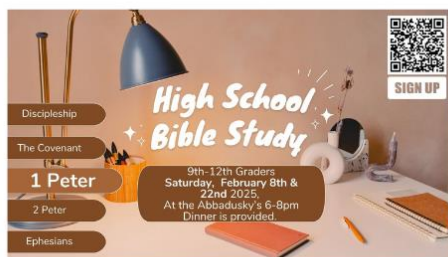


We have two church camp options this summer. Pick-up a packet under the TV in the church lobby or look at our church event link at www.firstbaptistaledo.com. Those attending Hidden Acres need to sign-up sooner than later to secure the camp of your choice. Check-out all that's going on this session!

See you soon. ~Mollie



REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY



Refuge at the Y!- all 6th-12th grade students join us at the YMCA in Aledo for Refuge youth group! Games, small groups, snacks and more will be provided from 6:00pm (check-in) to 8:00pm (pick up).

Boomsisters will be baking with Kerri Clark at the church on February 8th from 10-11:30. Sign-up by February 3rd is a must.

Questions contact Rhonda or Britni

God's Gals-Girls in 6th-12th grades are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7pm in the Enon Room. The current study is "The Gospel on the Ground Study- The Grit & Glory of the Early Church in Acts." Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

FCA-Calling all students to join us for Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddles at Mercer county high school and Jr. High! High school will meet every Wednesday morning at 7:15am in room 210, Jr. High will meet every Friday at 7:30am in room 23. All students are free to join; breakfast will be provided! We still need breakfast provided and the meal train is still active, questions see Andrew Hofer or Pastor Austin.

High School Super Bowl Party - All 9th-12th graders join us February 9th at 5:00pm at the Shields' house for the Super Bowl! Come on over to enjoy ping pong, pool, fellowship, food and football! Students bring your favorite finger food to share (buffalo dip, pinwheels, sliders etc.), dessert will be provided. Sign up online by February 5th. The Shields' address is 204 NW 3rd Ave, Aledo IL 61231.

High School Bible Study- Attention high schoolers, join us Feb 8h & 22nd, 2025 at 6pm as we study 1st Peter. Please be sure to bring your Bible. Dinner is provided and free to attend. This study meets at Nick & Justina Abbadusky's home-[408 NE 12th St.](http://408NE12thSt.com) Aledo.

Jr. High Winter Outing- All 6th-8th graders, join us Saturday, Feb. 15th at Elevate Trampoline Park! We will be leaving from the church at 9am and getting back around 2pm. Cost is \$15, that covers the whole experience, socks and a pizza lunch. Register online and sign the Elevate waiver in the "Additional forms" section of your registration.

High School Winter Outing- All 9th-12th graders join us Friday, February 21st at QC Family Entertainment! We will be leaving the church at 6pm, and getting back around 10:30pm. Cost is \$15, that covers your dinner at Chick-fil-a, Cosmic Bowling and your shoes. Students may bring additional money for the arcade or laser tag. Register online today!



Thank you 

I want to thank the ladies that provided meals when I was home from the hospital. I am also thankful for the prayers for my healing.
Bernice Kelly

All ladies 13 years old and up are invited to attend the Iron Sharpens Iron Conference held at Calvary Church in Moline Saturday, April 12th from 8:30am-4pm. First Baptist Women's Ministry is covering the cost of this one-day event, which includes a boxed lunch. Join us for a great time of Biblical teaching, encouragement and fellowship with one another! Please register online at firstbaptistaledo.com by March 23rd. Please note this event sells out, so the sooner you register the better.

Revive Our Hearts-True Woman '25

Buy Your Ticket & Reserve Your room for the True Woman '25 TODAY!

The True Woman Conference hosted by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth will be held Oct. 2nd-4th, 2025 in Indianapolis, IN.

If interested in attending, please purchase your conference ticket yourself at <http://www.reviveourhearts.com>. Tickets are \$209. After you purchase your ticket, sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com for lodging so we know to hold a shared hotel room for you. The Women's Ministry covers your hotel cost. You are responsible for food and transportation costs. Questions, see Crystal Clark or e-mail her at crystal_clear_ann@yahoo.com.

We are so excited for the new Small Group year to begin! If you signed up, your group leader will be in contact with you soon with information on meeting times and getting your "Beholding and Becoming" book. Let's grow together in setting our hearts and minds on Christ this year!

FBC MEN'S MINISTRY



Men's Momentum

Men's Momentum Retreat is April 4th-6th in Buchanan, MI at Life Action Camp-What is Momentum? Food, fellowship, and spiritual recharging mark these men's times together.

Be challenged in your Christian walk and encouraged to lead your family with deliberate action. This retreat is designed for men ages 16 and older.

The cost is \$225 per person which includes the conference, accommodations, and meals at the retreat. We are asking each participant to pay \$150 with the FBC Men's Ministry paying the balance. When you register online at firstbaptistaledo.com there will be two payment options \$150 and \$225, choose the best option for you.

Men's Ministry Update!

On February 28th, we will hold a Euchre Tournament for the men at the church beginning at 6pm. It's a great opportunity to learn the game or just fellowship with new people. Then in April, the Spring Momentum event will take place at Life Action Camp in Buchanan, MI, dates are April 4th through the 6th. The cost for that event is \$150. Mark your calendars for trivia night on Sunday, May 4th from 6-8pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. It will be a bring your own food and drinks event, sometimes the food is the best part! Reservations will be opened some time in March, for teams of eight. Start building that team today. Also, please remember that we host a Men's Breakfast every Sunday morning beginning at 7am. We have breakfast then follow up with discussion on the previous week's sermon. We do dismiss in time for 8am services. It's a great time for fellowship and accountability. Men 13 years and older are welcome.

If you have questions about the FBC Men's Ministry, please see Men's Ministry coordinator, Kevin Ricke or email him at ricke13@mchsi.com.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

WINTER/SPRING '25 SESSION
WEDNESDAYS FROM FEB. 5TH-APRIL 9TH
6:30-8PM

Classes & Programs for the
whole family!

SIGN UP AT
FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM
Open to the Public!



Join us Feb. 5th-April 9th, 2025 on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm for WNL!

There are classes for the whole family designed to help grow your faith and deepen your fellowship with others!
These classes are open to the public! Sign up coming soon at firstbaptistaledo.com.

A Marriage Study-Art of Marriage - Led by Pastor Seth and Denise Bowker - Every marriage has its strengths and its stresses. There's not one that can't be improved, fine-tuned, made stronger—or even overhauled—if needed. In this study you will discover a transformative marriage resource designed to help you explore new levels of intimacy, communication, and connection with your spouse. Whether you're a newlywed or have been married for decades, this series can be your path to a stronger, more beautiful masterpiece of God's handiwork.

A Study of Parables By John MacArthur-*The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed Through The Stories Jesus Told*. Led by Steve Struble and open to all adults. Jesus was a master storyteller, and the parables He told were ingeniously simple word pictures with profound spiritual lessons. Understanding the parables is a crucial matter for followers of Jesus. Jesus told parables so His people might comprehend His message about the kingdom of God clearly. The set of books for this study is \$22. You may pay if you are able.

A Women's Class The Book of Titus by Chip Ingram followed by **Living Life Together** by Shauna Neiquist taught by Kady Hofer.

Men's Bible Study-The Book 1st Corinthians-Led by Pastor Luke Dunn. Come join us as we read and discuss the book of 1st Corinthians each week. This study is open to all men.

Men's Strength & Faith Class-Join leader Aaron Struble at the Mercer County YMCA for a devotion and guided weight lifting. We'll gather in the lobby of the Y for a devotion and then proceed to the weight room to do a guided weight lifting. The cost for Non Y members is \$5 per person per night, if you are a member of the Y there is no cost for this class.

***Nursery** for babies 0-2 years old is provided for adults who are attending a study or who are serving. Register your nursery kiddos at firstbaptistaledo.com

Refuge Student Ministry-Students grades 6th-12th grade are invited to join us at the Mercer County YMCA for Refuge Youth Group on Wednesdays. Doors open at 6pm and pick up is 8-8:15pm during WNL. No registration required. Check-in & pick-up through the exterior community room door at the y (to the left of the main entrance).

Kids Club-Kids ages 3 years old through the 5th grade are invited to join us at First Baptist Church on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Check-in starts at 6:15pm in the lobby and pick-up is in the lobby from 8-8:10pm. If you're new to Kids Club, register on the Kids Club registration at firstbaptistaledo.com.



Other Items & Events *Of Note*

Do You Need Prayer?

In addition to being available for prayer at the altar at the close of each service, the FBC prayer team is now on hand to pray for your concerns AFTER the services. Look for the prayer banner at the front of the sanctuary on the west side and prayer team members wearing an ID badge.

Mercer County Better Together Night In A Car Event



Night in a Car is a homelessness simulation intended to shine a spotlight on the hidden aspect of rural homelessness that many in our community experience – living in a car. Participants of Night in a Car will "live" out of their cars during the overnight hours of February 7th, 2025. Our challenge to participants is to raise \$500 per car. This can be done by seeking sponsors. Sponsors can be businesses, individuals, or organizations who make a commitment to donate a chosen amount of money to the Mercer County Emergency Housing Fund when their sponsored party spends the night in their car during the event.

The overnight simulation will be done "drive-in" style at three convenient locations throughout the county. Each location will have security volunteers throughout the night as well as a dedicated building open to participants for bathroom breaks, or to warm up with hot cocoa. Use the QR Code to register!



Feb. 2nd is Communion Sunday and this is also the Sunday Boomsisters, will be on mission collecting items for the MC Food Pantry. Items needed include canned corn, green beans, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, chili beans, peas, pork-n-beans, peaches, fruit cocktail, tuna, soups, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, cake mix, brownie mix, bars of soap, toilet paper, shampoo, and toothpaste. Leave in church lobby.



Boomsisters will be collecting plastic bags to benefit the homeless. The bags are used to make thick, water proof sleeping mats by women at the Methodist church. There will be a labeled tote by the food pantry tote in the lobby for donations.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH AVE.
ALEDO, IL 61231

PHONE: 309.582.7812
E-MAIL: FBCALEDO2@FRONTIERNET.NET
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALED0.COM

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 102
ALEDO, IL 61231

Stay Connected!

•We offer worship at 8am & 10:15am. Sunday School for all ages is at 9am along with a nursery for 0-2 years old. We have Kids Worship at the 10:15am service as well as a nursery for babies 0-2 years.

•For all the details about our upcoming events and live streaming Visit FirstBaptistAledo.com.

•Listen to WRMJ 102.3 at 10:30am each Sunday.

•Download the "Church Center App" from the App Store or Google Play and choose "First Baptist Church, Aledo, IL" to easily sign up for church events, check our church calendar, give online, watch sermons and receive important church notifications.

•Find Us On Facebook.

•Call the Church Office at 309.582.7812.



Love Christ. Love Others.
Think Biblically.

