

## December 2017

**SUNDAY**

10:30 am Sunday Morning Worship  
10:30 am Children's Sunday School

**MONDAY**

9:30 am Walking in Family Center  
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study  
6:30 pm Band of Brothers

**TUESDAY**

11:00 am Sr. Women's Bible Study  
1:15 pm Shuffle Board  
7:00 pm Volleyball

**WEDNESDAY**

9:00-10:00 am Exercise Class  
9:30 am Walking in Family Center  
4:45 pm Men's Prayer Meetings

**THURSDAY**

5:30 pm Bell Choir practice  
6:30 pm Choir rehearsal

**FRIDAY**

9:00- 10:00 am Exercise Class  
9:30 am Walking in Family Center

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THERE'S NO HEAVIER BURDEN  
THAN A GREAT POTENTIAL!

Pastor's Pen  
Pastor Andy Smith  
November 29, 2017

Linus was indeed correct! There is no heavier burden than a great potential. At the same time, a great potential is something that should be celebrated and taken advantage of. As Nancie and I have now embarked on our fourth year at FBC, we continue to be optimistic, despite the challenges we face, and we continue to believe that we can do great things for the kingdom of God here at First Baptist of Muskegon. Here are some of things that I think we should be excited about, and that we should use as we attempt to grow First Baptist, both numerically and spiritually.

First, our Planning Committee is up and running! These folks all share a passion for the growth of First Baptist, and for the growth of Christ's kingdom. They are an ad hoc committee of folks here at FBC who are brainstorming ways that we can connect with our community, and who fill function as an advisory committee to the Diaconate, the Trustees, our Children's Ministry, and all the other ministries here at FBC. Do you have an idea on one or more ways the ministry here at First Baptist can grow? Let the planning committee (chaired by our own very capable Angie Gassman!) know what's on your mind.

Second, ministry innovations such as our "Tables Ministry" in the foyer. Several months ago, we had a wedding here at FBC which included tables in the foyer for guests of the wedding to greet each other and fellowship. Due to a quick turnaround, those chairs and tables did not get removed for Sunday morning. So what happened? People sat at the tables, had enjoyable conversations, and there were even fewer coffee spills as a result! Sometimes great ideas happen by accident, and this was certainly the case here. So, pull up a chair and enjoy the company of one or more of your fellow FBCers!

Third, the presence of Calvary Church in our facility. I realize that having a "roommate" can be and often has been challenging. But let's remember – Calvary is not the Enemy (we all know who he is!), nor are they our savior. I believe now more strongly than ever First Baptist has a future going forward, but it will take work. And I can assure you that the leadership at Calvary wants to do all they can to help us (and themselves) grow and thrive! So if you have concern about our "roommate", feel free to talk to the appropriate person(s) at Calvary. They are wonderful people who love Jesus just as much as we do. And remember, we are going to be dwelling with them for all eternity, so look at this as a little "Heaven Practice"!

Fourth, let's continue to be a bit of heaven on earth. Our recently completed series on Growing Up in Christ has shown us the importance of being a community of grace, of love, of forgiveness, of putting others first. If we can model the virtues that Christ demands of us, just think how attractive we would be to people who are lonely, hurting, and who simply need the kind of relationship with Jesus that we all have! May the folks in Muskegon say of us, "Look how they love one another!"

Finally, our facility and location. Of course, our building is aging a bit, and repairs are needed from time to time. But we do have plenty of room, especially on Sunday morning, and we are located at the corner (more or less) of Apple and Quarterline! Is there a better location in Muskegon? I don't think so. One thing that spending the summers in The Lighthouse has taught Nancie and me is that hundreds, or even thousands, of people drive by our church every day! And a lot of them are riding loud motorcycles! But we are easy to find, and there is much to appreciate about the building with which God has blessed us!

So let's get out there and actualize our potential. Invite your neighbors and friends to FBC (a sermon series on that topic is coming up in January!), and let's start realizing some of that amazing potential that God has given us!



**Join the Lift Ladies on Mondays starting in January 8th**

**Explore The Quest Study from Beth Moore**

There Is No Quest Without Questions

The crooked punctuation mark at the end of a sentence speaks of curiosity, interest, and perhaps doubt. A question is an invitation to vulnerability, to intimacy. The Bible does not shy away from such an invite.

Over and over we see the people of God asking questions of their Creator. We also see the God of the universe asking questions of His creation.

The Quest is a challenge to accept the invitation. In this six-week excursion with Jesus, Beth Moore uses questions from Scripture to lead you into intimacy with the One who knows you best. Learn to dig into the Word, to respond to the questions of God, and to bring your questions before Him. Let the crooked punctuation mark be the map that points you into a closer relationship with the Father.

\*Learn to pray to promote intimacy with God.

\*Explore questions and responses from the Bible.

\*Track your quest by journaling along the way.

\*Learn to read and respond to Scripture.

## From the front desk

We have been trying to focus on outreach this past month. What a blessing for us and those we want to touch with the love of Christ. Below are some of the things we have been doing.

**Outreach:** Thank you so much for your response to the sock collection. We received more than was needed for the small "Comfort Needs" closet, for the homeless who come in our doors. We keep enough socks here for both men and women. We set up two baskets in the women's restroom with the small shampoos and conditioners that have been given to us by our world travelers. There is a shelf with towels, if a shower is needed. We will also set up something in the men's restroom. Donna brought some of the socks and personal needs items to Every Woman's Place this week, and will give some socks to one of the Men's shelters. It has been very exciting to see so many of you come on board to help those in need. This is a small ministry with a chance to touch lives with the message of Christ's love. Matthew 10:42.

**Narthex Tables Ministry:** A ministry does not need to be big to touch lives. We have been having a great time with what is being called the Narthex Tables Ministry. It gives people a place to sit and connect with each other and read information about coming events. There is a scripture to take home and apply to their hearts. We hope that they feel the love that is going into setting up the tables.

**Giving thanks poster:** Val VanderWal has a poster on the wall with some sticky note paper on the server. Write down something you are thankful for, and post it.

**MAP and Love Inc** are collecting things for their Christmas stores. Love has a day when parents get to shop for their families. MAP collects gifts for children 18 and under.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Karolyn Rollenhagen, Angie Gassman  
 3rd Deborah Tadlock  
 5th Betty Malsom, Quinn Alderink,  
 7th Beverly Ritter  
 8th Cynthia Powers, Selena Montalvo  
 10th Marvin Bell  
 11th Steve Bradish  
 12th Sandra Butler  
 13th Susan Bradish  
 15th Theresa Carlson  
 16th Amy Parker  
 25th Donna Norwood  
 28th Iris Pearce  
 31st Penny Burnes, Liam Huizenga

### JANUARY 2018

5th Megan Hannon  
 10th Lee Haynes  
 13th David Pollice  
 14th Carolyn VanderWal,  
 Abby Monterusso  
 18th Deanne Estelle  
 19th Peggy Eaton  
 22nd Nancy Stott  
 24th Delia Scott  
 26th Krista Cadriel  
 28th Gail Brogren, John Romanes  
 30th Tom Brogren  
 31st Austin Carlson

## 57th Annual FBC Candlelight Service

December 17, 2017

6 p.m.



This will be a beautiful service in which the telling of the story of Advent is intertwined with music. Hear of the birth of Christ through the spoken word and song. This year's program will feature anthems and musical numbers by all portions of the music department as well as traditional congregational advent numbers for the congregation to participate in. This will be a moving program that you will not want to miss.

Pre-service background music will start at 5:40 p.m. with the service starting at 6 p.m. There will be light refreshments in the Family Center immediately following the program.

This year's candlelight service will surely help put us in touch with the reason for the season.

Remember to mark your calendars for December 17. See you there..... *Denny Powers, Music Director*



### Parents' Night Out & Christmas Rehearsal

Kids 2yrs thru 5th grade are invited to join us for rehearsal, crafts, games, food and fun on **Saturday, December 16th from 4-8pm at Calvary.**

Donations will be accepted and will go towards the cost of our **Youth Blast Winter.**



The Band of Brothers is a group of men who have banded together for Bible Study, prayer, fellowship, Christian Service, and accountability. We meet regularly, eat a lot, pray more, and are stronger in our faith from upholding the faith with each other. We invite men to join our band. Starting September 11th @ 6:30pm



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Join us on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am**

As our kids present

*Come to Bethlehem and See!!*