

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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# Newsletter

FEBRUARY - 2023

Greetings!

**Saying hello and goodbye in ZULU!!**

I was reading an article about Africa and learned a couple of words which I wanted to pass on to you.

The first word is **Sawubona**.

It's an African Zulu greeting that means "I see you." It means more than our traditional "hello." It's telling the other person - - - "I see your personality. I see your humanity. I see your dignity and respect." It symbolizes a powerful representation of understanding.

Sawubona says you're not an object to me. You're not just another person standing in line between me and my Starbucks macchiato.

You exist. You matter. You're a living, breathing, human being who has experienced joy and suffering, triumph and despair, love and grief.

The traditional response to sawubona is **ngikhona**. It means "I am here." But, it goes deeper than that. It tells the other person you feel you have been seen and understood and that your personal dignity has been recognized.

That's pretty deep for just a hello and goodbye.

So, what does this mean for us? As a church we're called to love one another. To have a deep caring for one another and to encourage one another. These words don't come with grand gestures to show you see someone, it's something which comes from our hearts, as we let one another know, 'you matter.'

It means remembering our common humanity, even when we disagree. It means we choose to see one another, especially in a world which has decided to stop seeing one another. It means we make sure every person is shown grace and kindness. It's letting every person know and believe that they really matter in this world.

We do well at this. This is not an indictment on us! I hear lots of good things about our kindness and at the same time, I want us to look around, wherever we are, whatever we're doing... and make certain people are loved!

May you be Christ to the world!

Blessings and see you Sunday!!

Pastor Michael

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Virtual Meeting about Camp Tippy Closing

Saturday, February 4, 2023 - 1:00pm

Zoom link: Click [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 978 2399 4009

Password (if needed): TippyMtg

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Please come out and support the youth group as they present their annual Valentine's Banquet! Dinner will be chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and a dessert. This event is free, but donations are greatly appreciated!



# IMPACT PRESENTS ENCHANTMENT UNDER THE SEA

VALENTINE'S BANQUET

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023  
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM  
DINNER SERVED AT 6:00PM



ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARD TRIP TO  
THE CREATION MUSEUM AND ARK ENCOUNTER



19th ANNUAL  
**Walk a Mile  
in My Shoes**



**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 11**

**MUNCIE FIELDHOUSE**  
CHECK-IN 8AM  
CEREMONY 9AM

Register at  
[munciemission.org/walk](http://munciemission.org/walk)

**"Walk a Mile in My Shoes" to support Muncie Missions and Beauty for Ashes**

The Muncie Mission has been serving the homeless in Delaware county since 1935. It approaches ending homelessness one person at a time, by addressing the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the men who stay at the shelter.

In 2004, Beauty for Ashes Transitional Home opened its doors to women in crisis in Alexandria. In January 2018, Beauty for Ashes merged with Muncie Mission and now continues to do their work, in Alexandria, as a service provided by Muncie

Mission. The Mission works to provide a safe space for women who are working to overcome their homelessness and give them the support they need to change their lives. They offer stability, hope, and restoration to women and their children through a Christ-centered structure that focuses on personal and spiritual growth.

I invite you to join us for a "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" to share the loneliness and isolation of those without homes. Let's see what it is like to walk a mile in the shoes of the homeless. This walk supports the Muncie Mission for men and our Beauty for Ashes transitional home for women and their children.

You can sign up to walk on February 11, 2023 on the Muncie Mission webpage <https://www.munciemission.org/get-involved/walk/> or on the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MuncieMission>. I would love for you to join my team of Alexandria First Baptist Church to show this organization that Alexandria supports the Muncie Mission and appreciates their support of Beauty for Ashes.

This is an event that my family has supported since I was in youth group at my church in Muncie. Now that this event supports our own Beauty for Ashes, I am proud to continue to walk for Alexandria.

Thank you!

Jill Thomas

# SUPER SUNDAY

February 12, 2023

Pastor Michael's recent sermon series, "Fan or Follower," has given us an idea for Super Bowl Sunday. Come join other Followers on Sunday February 12th, dressed in your team attire. If you are a Fan of football, wear your favorite team jersey. If you are not a Fan of football, but are a Fan of country music, wear your cowboy hat. If

you are a Fan of the arts, come as your favorite character. Use your imagination and show us your fan attire. As a Fan of First Baptist Church of Alexandria, wear your new church t-shirt. It will be a good way to get to know others who are Fans and worship together as FOLLOWERS.

Then, we can put Pastor Michael's words into action. On a day when so much emphasis is on the big game and the food everyone consumes, bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Pete's Pantry, giving to others struggling with putting food on their table. Weather permitting, we will have a tent outside where you can drop off your items as well as some tailgating activities! Every family that brings food items to donate will receive a complimentary grocery tote bag with our new church logo on it!

### **Upcoming Kids Activities!**

- Friday, February 10th at 6:00pm - Kids' Movie Night
- Sunday, February 26 - Kids' lunch after church

Please let Miss Jill know if you can attend either event. Thanks!

jthomas@alex.k12.in.us or 765-617-0079

### **M25 Ministries**

We had a great response to the announcement about M25 Ministries last Sunday! It is wonderful to see so many people who want to help others in need. The volunteers and people with needs who turned in a form will be contacted by a staff member soon. There will be more information coming in the near future. Thank you, again!

### **S.A.L.T. Society**

We will meet on Tuesday, February 21st at 12:00pm for a pitch-in lunch. Please come for great food and fellowship!

**2023**  
**OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS**  
 (Chairperson is in bold)

|                     |               |                         |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Moderator           | Linda Nelson  | Term ends Dec. 31, 2024 |
| Vice-Moderator      | Bob Swisher   | Term ends Dec. 31, 2024 |
| Clerk               | Linda Prophet | Term ends Dec. 31, 2024 |
| Treasurer           | Becky Herniak | Term ends Dec. 31, 2024 |
| Assistant Treasurer | Pam Blake     | Term ends Dec. 31, 2024 |
| Financial Secretary | Tim Watson    | Term ends Dec. 31, 2024 |

| <b>BD. of DEACONS</b> | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Mark Hasty            | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Chris Stoll           | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| <b>Kevin Thompson</b> | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Jeff Miller           | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Larry Owen            | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Mike Owens            | Dec. 31, 2025       |
| Charlie Hasty         | Dec. 31, 2025       |
| Paul Dent             | Dec. 31, 2025       |

| <b>BD. of DEACONESSES</b> | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Missy Swanson             | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| <b>Debbie Holmes</b>      | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Linda Byerly              | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Joyce Gates               | Dec. 31, 2025       |
| Pam Gorman                | Dec. 31, 2025       |
| Diane Prophet             | Dec. 31, 2025       |

| <b>BD. of FINANCE</b> | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Tim Watson</b>     | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Pam Blake             | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Joyce Gates           | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Jennifer Dickey       | Dec. 31, 2025       |

| <b>BD. of MUSIC</b> | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Beth Thompson       | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Bob Swisher         | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Aubrey Elliott      | Dec. 31, 2025       |

| <b>BD. of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b> |                                      | <b>Term Expires</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • <b>Tommy Thomas</b>             | <b>Chairperson</b>                   | <b>Dec. 31, 2023</b> |
| • Debbie Deutsch                  | Sunday School Ministries Chairperson | Dec. 31, 2023        |
| • Jill Thomas                     | Children's Ministry                  | Dec. 31, 2023        |
| • Eric Prophet                    | Youth Ministry                       | Dec. 31, 2023        |
| • Krystal Hill                    | Children's Works Chairperson         | Dec. 31, 2023        |
| •                                 | Sports Chairperson                   | Dec. 31,             |
| • Heather Prophet                 | Adult Works Chairperson              | Dec. 31, 2025        |
| •                                 | Leadership Chairperson               | Dec. 31,             |

| <b>BD. of USHERS</b>                | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bob Swisher (C-3, 6, 9, 12)         | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Judy Swisher (C-3, 6, 9, 12)        | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Jeff Beigh (C-3, 6, 9, 12)          | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Stephen Neese (B-2, 5, 8, 11)       | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Rachael Neese (B-2, 5, 8, 11)       | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| <b>Tommy Thomas</b> (B-2, 5, 8, 11) | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Loraine Huffman (C-3, 6, 9, 12)     | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Alexis Bassett (A-1, 4, 7, 10)      | Dec. 31, 2025       |
| Chris Bassett (A-1, 4, 7, 10)       | Dec. 31, 2025       |

Team A January, April, July, October.  
 Team B February, May, August, November.  
 Team C March, June, September, December.

| <b>BD. of TRUSTEES</b> | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Elaine Bronner         | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Kim Gorman             | Dec. 31, 2023       |
| Steve Eden             | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Marsha Eden            | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| <b>Phil Prophet</b>    | Dec. 31, 2024       |
| Steve Swanson          | Dec. 31, 2025       |

## Church Security

Before the Covid pandemic, our church leadership had been discussing measures that could possibly make our church a safer place to worship. Only a few, but important changes were made at that time.

Discussions regarding church safety are taking place once again. Safety protocols are intended to guide us in the event of an emergency, or better yet, prevent an emergency from occurring. The areas being addressed by these protocols are fire within the church, a weather related emergency during worship, a medical

emergency and an active shooter threat.

This would be a comprehensive plan to provide safety instructions to the congregation if an emergency should occur. Committees will be established to ensure we are providing the maximum safety in any situation. There are many details which would need to be covered.

It has been agreed upon by the deacons and trustees that a Resource Officer should be employed by the church on Sunday mornings to help guide our efforts.

Radio communication from a resource officer gets to dispatch quicker than our 911 calls. They are also able to give needed information to dispatch that may not be known by worshippers. In any emergency, time is of the essence and having trained professionals on the scene can make a huge difference.

We have attended seminars and have learned that having a marked police car near the entrance is the best way to prevent a violent attack. In our communication with Sheriff Scott Mellinger last fall, we were applauded for being pro-active in all of the mentioned situations.

In summary, no church thinks anything bad is going to occur, whether it's weather, health, an active shooter, etc. Yet, we have learned that this does happen, and we want to ensure that all people know they are protected as best as we can.

We will be providing more information regarding the use of a resource officer in the coming weeks.

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## SERVICES

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### **Sunday**

10:30am: Worship Celebration

6:00pm: Impact (7th-12th Grades) meeting at different homes

### **Tuesday**

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study with Debbie Deutsch

S.A.L.T. Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month

### **Wednesday**

6:30pm: Prayer Meeting (first Wed. of month), Bible Study (remaining Wednesdays)

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Pastor Michael's Reading List

Every so often I try to post what I'm reading, and if any of the books are worth reading. I tend to read mostly non-fiction. Below is a list of books I've read or am reading since September of 2022. If you have a question, please ask.

If it's of any help, here's my rating system!

Very Good to Excellent - \*\*

Fair to Good books - \*

Books which aren't marked, 'don't blame me.'

September-December 2022 books read---

**Why Has Nobody Told Me This Before?** - Julie Ann Smith

\***The Coaching Habit** - Michael Bungay Stanier

\*\***Verbal Judo** - George Thompson and Jerry Jenkins

\*\***Facing Evil** - Scott Brown and Victoria Newman (Law enforcement book)

\*\***Emotional Survival for LE** - Kevin Gilmartin (Law enforcement book)

\***Meditations** - Marcus Aurelius (Stoicism)

\*\***Make your Bed** - Admiral William McRaven

\***Help is Here** - Max Lucado

\*\***How Not to Kill Yourself: A Portrait of the Suicidal Mind** - Clancy Martin

2023 Books Read---

\*\***The splendid and the vile: A saga of Churchill, family, and defiance during the Blitz**  
- Erik Larson

\***Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow** - Gabrielle Zevin (fiction)

**The anomaly** - Herve' Le Tellier (fiction)

Currently Reading---

**Delighting in the Trinity** - Michael Reeves

**The Incomparableness of God** - George Swinnock

**Bullies and Saints: An Honest Look at the Good and Evil of Christian History**  
-John Dickson

**Pray First** - Chris Hodges

**Learning Humility** - Richard Foster

**The Faith of Elvis** - Billy Stanley

**Dream Big** - Bog Goff

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Find us on Facebook!





# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CONTACT  
US