

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Newsletter

FEBRUARY - 2025

### Pastor Michael's Thoughts...

This year as I read through the Bible, it's been so revealing and rich. Especially, reading through Leviticus and Numbers. Yes, you heard me! It's been fun reading and exciting.

What has really struck me is the call for our cleanliness or purification. In Numbers 8, we read, *6 "Take the Levites from among the people of Israel and cleanse them. 7 Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: sprinkle the water of purification upon them, and let them go with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves."*

What's so important about this? Why all the language in Leviticus and Numbers about purifying yourself? As I am reading through the Bible I am struck by God's words in Leviticus 20:7, *"Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the Lord your God."*

God is calling us to be clean because He is! It's as simple as that. We have a holy God! We have a God who is 100% pure. He is perfect in every way, and He calls us to strive to be the same. So, we are to purify / consecrate ourselves so that we are holy, or at

least moving in the process of holiness.

Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:15-16, ---15 *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

That's part of our mission. A call to holiness. It's not always easy work. It means life transformation, but it's worth it. God has promised us that He will always be with us and He will not fail us! If you are wanting to move in that direction and feel stuck, please reach out to me and ask for help. No question is bad. It's part of the search and quest to be like the King of kings and Lord of lords.

## NEWS AND EVENTS



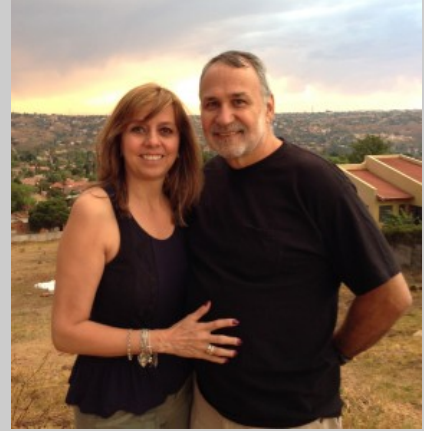
## *Fellowship Time* *on* *Sunday Mornings*

FBC has started an hour of fellowship on Sunday mornings in the Family Life Center from 9:15am to 10:15am. Coffee, tea, donuts, and various pastries are provided. Make sure to stop by for a treat and fellowship time! If you are interested in volunteering to bring refreshments, please contact Heather Prophet.

### **S.A.L.T. Society** (Seasoned Adults Learning Together)

Tuesday, February 4th at 12:00pm, we will have a pitch in and learn how to make greeting cards with Paula Garrett. The cards we make will be sent to Mary Bassett for Valentine's Day.

On Sunday, February 9th, missionary Ric Escobar will be speaking during the morning worship service.



### Attention FBC Kids!

On Sunday, February 9th, Kids in grades K-6th are invited to enjoy a Super Bowl Cereal Bar beginning at 10:15am! Parents, please RSVP to Jill Thomas by Wednesday, February 5th if your children are planning to attend.

On Friday, February 21st, we will have a Family Movie Night from 6:00-9:00pm! Families are invited to come watch The Chronicles of Narnia. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Jill by 2/19.

# VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Sunday, February 16th, 2025



Doors open at 5:30pm

Dinner served at 6:00pm

Donations will go toward  
Impact summer mission trip

The youth group at First Baptist Church would like to invite you to their annual Valentine's Banquet. The event is always free, but any donations are very much appreciated and will go toward a summer mission trip to help with hurricane cleanup. The meal will consist of chicken and noodles, mashed Potatoes, green beans, rolls, and dessert.

Please remember, as this event is a fundraiser for the youth, EVERYONE (not just couples) is invited to come and share love for God, each other, and this youth group.



# THE THIRD TUESDAY TABLE

The Deaconesses of First Baptist Church are hosting community dinners! These are held on the Third Tuesday of each month. **EVERYONE IS INVITED.**

This month's dinner will be **February 18th from 5:00pm-6:00pm.**

Meal will be biscuits and gravy, bacon and fruit.

Dine in only - no carry outs.

## Did You Ever Wonder?

Did you ever wonder what and who are the Deaconesses? First of all, they are not female Deacons!

While all of the volunteers here at First Baptist Church are hard workers, and the church depends on each and every one of them, the Deaconesses take it to a whole new level. The Deaconesses prepare all of the funeral dinners, sometimes for 20, sometimes for 60, sometimes for even more. The funeral dinners require donations from the church congregation, so that involves calling the congregation and asking for those pies, deviled eggs, etc. Those dinners sometimes are for families who do not attend our church, but are in need of some assistance. They take food, as needed, to the funeral home or supply food for visitations.

Whenever there is an all-church dinner, the Deaconesses prepare extra food to round out what is brought by the congregation. Last year they started the Third Tuesday Table, serving the community with a free meal. They assist the Deacons in the Pastor Appreciation dinner each year.

Whenever there is a baptism, you will find a Deaconess back in the hallway behind the baptismal helping assist those going to and from their baptism. The Deaconesses provide rosebuds for families with newborn babies. They send cards to those who are sick or recovering from surgery. They take gifts to shut-ins. Last year, they took food gifts to the police and fire departments as a way of saying thanks. This year, they will be taking gifts of appreciation to all city workers. One group of unsung workers to another!

Whenever you are in the kitchen and need a cup or a plate, it's because the Deaconesses make sure the kitchen is stocked with supplies. As you can see, the Deaconesses put in a lot of work, usually behind the scenes. They are vital to the hospitality outreach of our church. Next time you see one of the Deaconesses in the kitchen during a church dinner, give them a big thank you.

Kevin and Beth Thompson



## College Scholarship

First Baptist Church was blessed by the Spreen family with a college scholarship for members of this church. High school seniors may apply at [Madisonccf.org](http://Madisonccf.org). Current recipients will need to reapply as well.

## Pastor Michael's Reading List

My goal was to reduce the number of books I'm reading, but I'm in the process of, or have finished reading 4 books thus far. All are winners. I would highly recommend all of these books. Here's a quick synopsis of my reading...

### **Tunnel 29: The true story of an extraordinary escape beneath the Berlin Tunnel by Helena Merriman**

I enjoy history and this book was recommended from another reading list and it didn't disappoint. I read this book in about 5 days. It was easy reading and featured a timeline, as well as history of the Berlin Wall and the efforts to escape and the intrigue from the East and West. The book broaches on some politics, but not much. More than anything, it was about the human element for many stuck in East Berlin and those trying to get them out by digging a tunnel. NBC actually made a documentary at the time.

### **Slow Productivity: The Lost Art of Accomplishment Without Burnout by Cal Newport**

Actually, I did not like this book as I started reading. It was too theoretical. But it has been so highly recommended, so I stuck with it. I am glad I did. Newport theorizes that we work so hard and really produce so little. As a result, Newport comes up with 3 ways to increase productivity. They are really straight forward and worth trying. The point is not to be lazy, but to do the work which is most important. His 3 ways are ---- 1.) Do fewer things. 2.) Take your time, don't rush. 3.) Obsess over quality. That's it! How can you put that into practice? It's worth the read.

### **It Worked for Me: In Life and Leadership by Colin Powell**

This was an easy to read book about the wit and wisdom of Colin Powell. He rose up through the ranks to one of the highest political positions in the country. The book is filled with anecdotes about events in his life. He shares some wonderful wisdom, which is easy to follow. In his first chapters, he details his 13 rules for life. The rest of the book is filled with life lessons he learned in the military and through politics.

### **Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer**

This is a spiritually rich book. It started slowly, but as I've been reading, it is making a difference in the way I am thinking about myself and my relationship with Jesus. His basic premise is that we are called to be disciples of Jesus. The word he uses is apprentices. As such, we are students and we follow the rabbi, with the ultimate aim to be like Jesus, doing what Jesus did and as a result, being a change agent.

## **SERVICES**



### **Sunday**

10:30am: Worship Celebration

### **Tuesday**

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study with Debbie Deutsch  
S.A.L.T. Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month

### **Wednesday**

6:30pm: Bible Study  
6:30pm: High Point (K-3rd), Crew 456 (4th-6th), Impact (7th-12th)



Phone: (765) 724-2457

Address: 2107 S Park Ave  
Alexandria, IN 46001

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First Baptist Church | 2107 S Park Ave | Alexandria, IN 46001 US

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