

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Newsletter



MARCH - 2025

### Pastor Michael's Thoughts...

I look forward to March! Yes, I have a child's birthday in March, but what I look forward to is the start of Spring and new life and warmer weather. If you're interested, Spring begins on March 20 at 5:01 AM. Set your clocks and celebrate.

I marvel at creation, the ways in which God created this world, especially the way we were created. As David tells us in Psalm 139 - - -

*13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

*14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

*15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

*16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. - Psalm 139*

We were knit together by God. Created, intricately woven together! Fearfully and

wonderfully made! It's amazing how our bodies work . . . wounds heal, sometimes too slowly, but they do. Our bodies recover from surgeries and traumas. Our bodies are designed to purge sickness and disease from our bodies.

It's not by chance. It's not a random occurrence. It's the powerful hand of God. Even when we grieve our losses, we still marvel at creation. And we marvel and give thanks that this world is not all there is. There's more to come. And that more to come is even better than the greatest joys we experience in this world.

We will reside in a place where that sickness and disease are not even in the vocabulary. The skies are sunny, everyday! There are no medications to remember to take! There's praise and glory and work to do as we worship the King of kings and Lord of lords.

What a glorious day that will be.

Until then, hold onto the hope you have in Jesus. The One who overcame death to give you life. After Lazarus died, Jesus said to Martha, *25 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."* - John 11

What great words. Jesus then asked the question, "Do you believe this?" That could be a difficult question for some. Do you believe?! Do you believe He has conquered death? Do you believe His death could actually lead you to experience forgiveness, peace, power, grace, hope, and yes . . . love!

It's all available from the One who loves you more than you could ever imagine!

Happy Spring!

Pastor Michael

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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

**Tuesday, March 4th at 12:00pm**

Officer Bob Willoughby and K-9 Jaxon will be joining us for a pitch in lunch and demonstration of Jaxon's abilities! A love offering will be taken to help with K-9 Unit expenses such as food, toys, and healthcare.

This is for anyone and everyone, so please come on out!

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**Attention FBC Kids!**

**Friday, March 7th from 6:00-8:00pm**

### NERF & NACHOS

All children in grades K-6th are invited to enjoy this activity. Kids, bring your Nerf guns! If you don't have one, sign up with Jill Thomas to reserve one.

Looking ahead...

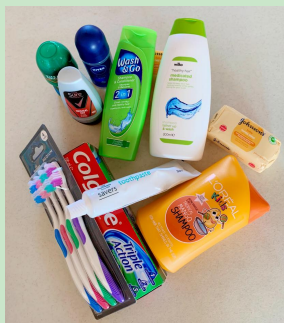
Saturday, April 12th from 10:00am-Noon  
EASTER PARTY at FBC!



**Spring forward, you must...**

**or late to church, you will be.**

Don't forget to change your clocks on Saturday night, March 8th!



### MARCH for MISSIONS

On Sunday, March 9th we will be featuring our missions outreach to Pete's Pantry of Alexandria. Donna Key Kerr will be sharing at our morning worship service.

Pete's Pantry is our local food pantry that gives to community members in need. One of the Pantry's greatest needs is to have

toiletries and hygiene supplies available for distribution. Would you consider purchasing and donating several items such as deodorants, shampoo, toothpaste, body wash and hand soaps? Try and take advantage of sales and house brands. We will have a receiving container in the foyer of the church for that Sunday's emphasis. Thanks so much for your help and blessings!

Your Board of Deacons

Pete's Pantry (located in the Lutheran Church)  
Phone: 765-724-7566  
309 Washington St, Alexandria, IN 46001  
Hours: Mondays & Thursdays (9:30-10:50am)



# THANK YOU!

The youth group would like to thank everyone who came to the Valentine's Banquet to support us! We look forward to heading to Western North Carolina to serve in the wake of the terrible hurricane that came through the area, and you have been instrumental in making this trip possible!

## A word from the Board of Trustees...

We are working to get our hallways updated with new paint in anticipation for new carpeting in the next few months! We have formed a carpet selection committee that includes Connie Owens, Chairman; Debbie Deutsch, Pam Gorman, Aubrey Bronner, Janelle Bohlander and Emily Nichols. Please pray for them - it will be a big job! The hallways will be completed this year and Lord willing, the sanctuary and balcony will be completed next year.

Thanks for all your support! We anticipate an exciting year!

Elaine Bronner - Chairman

# 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 **March 18th from 5:00pm-6:00pm.**

Meal will be biscuits and gravy, bacon and fruit.

Dine in only - no carry outs.



**FIFTH SUNDAY**  
*Dinner*

Sunday, March 30th after worship

The Board of Christian Education will provide fried chicken and mashed potatoes. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert and enjoy this special fellowship meal with your church family!

### Did You Ever Wonder?

Did you ever wonder... well, we have a young friend who wonders lots of things. For ease of writing, we are omitting quotation marks and referring to us as A (Adult) and C (Child).

C: What are you doing?

A: Making deviled eggs for a funeral dinner.

C: Why?

A: That's what I was asked to donate.

C: Why is there always a dinner after a funeral? Do funerals make you hungry?

A: No, but it's one way you can show people that you love them by feeding them, by taking care of their needs at a sad time.

C: Is Valentine's Day a sad day?

A: Where did you get that idea?

C: The youth group fed us.

A: That's different. The Valentine's Banquet was started a long time ago, when we used to be at the other church, the church that is now The Commons Theatre where we see plays. The youth wanted to show their love for us by giving us a nice evening, then we show our love for them by donating money to their summer mission projects.

C: Is that why we're going to have a pitch in at the end of March?

A: What?

C: We are having a pitch in. Because we love each other?

A: That's a good explanation. We want to eat together after church because we love each other and want to be together a little extra.

C: I thought it was because we got hungry sitting still during church!

So, clearly our young friend is wondering, trying to put together pieces of information that may have started before he was born. But, whatever the reason for our gatherings, love is certainly a key factor.

If you have things that you wonder, feel free to ask!

Kevin and Beth Thompson

### Pastor Michael's Bible Reading Thoughts

If you've been reading the Bible plan, you should be in the middle of Joshua. You've made it through the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Good for you!!

Did anything jump out at you as you read? Any new learnings? Share them with me. Drop me a line and tell me what struck you in the Word. I would really enjoy hearing how God moved you.

I am about 4 weeks ahead. I'm in the historical books of the Old Testament, finishing 2 Samuel. It's the story about the birth of a kingdom, the desire to have a ruling king, just

like everyone else had. So, a good looking and strong man named Saul became the first king of Israel.

The key is that the people wanted what everyone else had. That can be a problem for us, as we want what others have, even when it's not to our benefit. But the immediate gratification sounds and feels good.

The people lost sight of the type of government they were supposed to have. It was not a monarchy, not an oligarchy, not socialism or even democracy - - - it was supposed to be a **theocracy**. The government was supposed to be based on God. God was the leader, but the people said a resounding NO to this!

In the end, there were some good kings, but most were not! They fulfilled their wants, wishes and desires. It's easy to fall into that trap.

So, I want to encourage you to see God's hand in the Bible. I want you to see what God was telling us in the book of Deuteronomy, over and over and over. It was so constant that it overwhelmed me. God's message through Moses was clear - - - 'follow my laws, follow my commands, simply love and follow me AND all will be well with you.'

It sounds so simple, yet can be so difficult.

Final thought - - - Seek to honor and glorify God with all you do! Worship and praise Him! Give thanks in all circumstances! Draw near to Him and experience the 3 P's - - - Power, presence and peace!

Blessings to you!!

Pastor Michael



## 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.

## Missing some dishes?

There is a table set up in the foyer that has dishes that were left at the church. If any of these belong to you, we would love for you to have them back! Please stop by the table and see if any of them are yours. After March 2nd, they will be placed in the northwest corner of the kitchen until eventually they will be put away with the other church dishes.

Thank you!

# SERVICES



## Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

5:00pm: Betterman Men's Ministry

## 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)



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