



February 15 - March 15, 2024

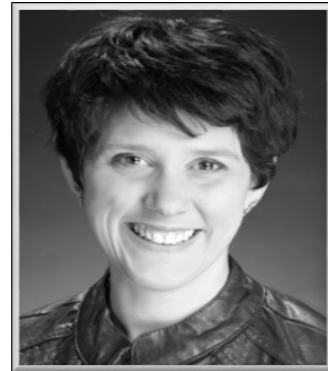
First Things

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Who We Are: FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.

What We Do: We are learning to live the life that Jesus would live if Jesus were living our life through:

- *meaningful worship and study*
- *valuing and loving others through service*
- *embracing God's created diversity*
- *intentional connections to our community*
- *caring for one another through all of life*



Rev. Lara Freeburg

joined our pastoral staff, in December 2012, as the Pastor of Preaching and Teaching; in June 2015, Lara transitioned into the role of **Lead Pastor**. Lara has a passion for preaching and teaching God's word and for walking with people as they discover who God has created them to be. Lara is active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Mid-Michigan Health Advisory Council, and Faithwalking. She has two children: Lola and Devin.

PRAYER PARTNERS

For the needs of friends & family - January-February 2024: Louise Bergman (Heart surgery recovery); Kathy Burch (continued recovery); Joyce Meyer (hospital/Cathy Steib's mom); the Page family (Julia struggling with work & college/Caleb looking for a house); Joyce Phillips; Paul Schultz; Vicki Walter (surgery recovery); John Williams (air cast/afib procedure); Bob and Sharon Winchester

For those that Grieve: The Boucher Family (Karen's mother); the Page Family (father-in-love);

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer: Please contact the church office by phone: 989-835-6731 or via email:

office@midlandfbc.com

LETTER FROM PASTOR



First Baptist Church

Rev. Lara Freeburg, Lead Pastor
Rev. Aleka Schmidt, Music and Youth Minister

Whatever You Do, Do All to the Glory of God

Letter from Pastor – February 2024

In the early hours of the morning, nearly one hundred and twelve years ago now, the Titanic crashed into an iceberg and sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Historians have gathered enough data to determine the series of events which culminated in this horrible travesty. From the rushed construction, which led to shoddy workmanship, to a lack of binoculars in the crow's nest due to a last-minute change of crew, it was truly a series of unfortunate events that sank the luxurious ocean liner. Imagine what would have happened if just ONE person made a different choice.

It has been said that getting a Church to change is just like trying to turn a huge cruise ship. It is a slow process! But it is a PROCESS; meaning there is plenty of time for us to stop and adjust. We just have to take the time.

That is what I want to do with this report. I want to offer a chance to look at the 2024 FBC church goals that were set this past fall and share how we are either adjusting or continuing to work toward them. If you recall, the three goals were:

- 1.) Establishing a Worship Ministry; including a leader who sits on Church Council
- 2.) Prioritize ministry to/with HeadStart
- 3.) Establishing means to provide long and short-term care for meeting the needs of the congregation.

I am excited to inform you that not only has Bobbie Baker agreed to act as the chair of the worship team, but she has already taken a role in helping us plan the next two sermon series. The first is the Lenten series "Revolution", where we will look at the impact of Easter on the Church, and the spring series "Bringing the Kingdom Home," where we will seek to discern together the "land" that God has given us.

In addition to helping plan, Bobbie also is available to act as a liaison between members of the congregation and music teams and the pastors. If you have any concerns or ideas, you are welcome to reach out to her. Thank you, Bobbie, for fulfilling this role!

The next goal, set for 2024, was to prioritize ministry to and with HeadStart. FBC did a great job with this during the holiday season by adopting a family from the school to support for Christmas. Though we haven't had any other opportunities yet, Pastor Aleka has started to volunteer at the school. It is our hope that this will provide us with some insight into areas where we can better connect with the students, families, and teachers.

Finally, I am currently in search of a way to provide long or short-term care for a need within the congregation. If you recall, there was some very positive feedback from the Grief Group this fall. But I have not discerned what needs should be addressed in this season. If you have an idea, please reach out to me!

Personally, I am very happy with the progress that we have made toward these goals, since setting them this fall. It feels like we are on the right course and taking moments, like this, to stop and make necessary adjustments. I am excited about where God will lead us next on this journey! ~Rev. Lara Freeburg

915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland, Michigan 48642-3772
Phone 989-835-6731
e-mail: office@midlandfbc.com

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join us in worship on Sunday February 25 at 10am for a special celebration of Black History. DJAM will lead the music and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will present cultural perspectives for learning and celebrating.

A Celebration of Black History Month

African Americans and the Arts:

A Vehicle for Social Justice

February 25, 2024 10:00am



Sponsored by

**First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Street
Midland, Michigan**



**DJAM Band
with Kelly Thompson**

Black History Month Celebration in Midland

Mu Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and First Baptist Church invite you to a Black History Month Celebration on February 25th at 10am. This event is sponsored by First Baptist Church's "The Helen & Russell Skidmore Concert Series". This multi-faceted celebration is entitled African Americans and the Arts: A Vehicle for Social Justice. Join us as we share the words of struggle and victory accompanied by music across the diaspora. Visit our visual display featuring Literature: The Tree of Life; Music: As a Force for Change; and Art: As an Expression of Struggle and Victory on loan from families in Midland and curated by Janice Wallace. Music will be provided by DJAM Band featuring Kelli Thompson as vocalist. A Jazz Vespers will begin at 9:45am on February 25th at First Baptist Church, 915 E. Sugnet Street, Midland.

The Helen & Russell Skidmore Concert Series

First Baptist Church's The Helen & Russell Skidmore Concert Series was established by William and James Skidmore in memory of their parents, the late J.R. and Helen Skidmore. Helen Skidmore was a private piano teacher in Midland for many years and directed the children's choir at First Baptist Church.

For further information, please contact Janice Wallace, 989-859-3117 or Octavia Cabey, 989-430-2038.

Community Partner Sunday Event

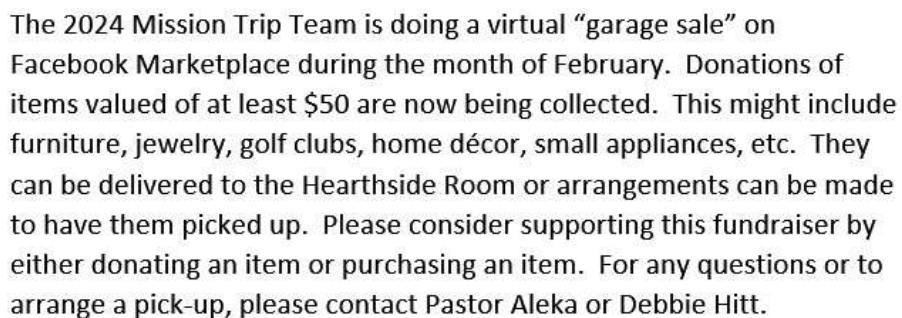
Please plan to stay after worship this Sunday, February 18. for our Sunday Event, featuring Community Partner, ***The Legacy Center***. Vision: To enhance well-being, strengthen families, and give individuals tools for success using proven strategies in literacy, youth development, and substance use prevention.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Lara Escoffre.....	pastor@midlandfbc.com
Rev. Aleka Schmidt.....	musicandyouth@midlandfbc.com
Scott Lippoldt.....	Pianist: salippol@svsu.edu
Shelley Page.....	Office Mgr: office@midlandfbc.com
Bruce Woodcraft.....	Maintenance Mgr: maintenance@midlandfbc.com
Mike Walker.....	Assistant Custodian
Dave Jezowski	Groundskeeper
Jeff Carroll.....	Housekeeper



ONLINE GARAGE SALE





FBC is sending a delegation of volunteers to serve in Eastern Kentucky this summer. They will be serving alongside the Appalachia Service Project helping to make homes safer, drier and warmer. To help defer the cost of the trip, several mission trip fundraising opportunities are being planned. We need your help and support in reaching our fundraising goal of \$3000.

In February we will be doing a virtual “garage sale” on Facebook Marketplace. Donations of items valued of at least \$50 are now being collected. This might include furniture, jewelry, golf clubs, home décor, small appliances, etc. They can be delivered to the Hearthside Room or arrangements can be made to have them picked up. Please consider supporting this fundraiser by either donating an item or purchasing an item. For any questions or to arrange a pick-up, please contact Pastor Aleka or Debbie Hitt.

Also in February, we will be selling homemade cinnamon rolls! They will be available for pick-up or delivery on Sunday, February 25th. Orders will be taken before and after worship on Sundays leading up to the 25th. You may also contact a member of the mission trip team to place your order.

FBC is sending a crew to work with Appalachia Service Project in Kentucky, June 8-16, 2024. The cost will be around \$500 per person for enrollment & travel expenses. Over the next several weeks, you'll hear about how we're preparing for the trip, and you will be invited to support us with your time, creativity & dollars. If you'd like to know more about this exciting mission trip, please see Pastor Aleka.

Deposits for mission trip registration are due 2/28. Make out your \$50 check to First Baptist Church, with your name and “ASP 24” on the memo line. Please contact Pastor Aleka for scholarship information.



We'd like to send Warm Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

February BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jim Funk
Jeff Richards
- 2 John Holmes
- 12 Thayer Bradish
- 18 Emily Richards
True Rogers
- 20 Marci Rogers
- 25 Rena Walker
- 26 Kelly Kloha
- 27 Corinne Bishop
- 28 Louise Bergman

March BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Shawna Kobel
Tyler Steib
- 24 Bobbie Baker
- 26 Barb Neil
Preston Streeter
- 27 Mark Neil
- 29 Dustin Seamster
Sheridan Seamster
- 31 David Pellegrom
Emersyn Seamster



February ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Dave & Bunny Mitchell

March ANNIVERSARIES

- 23 Jim & Debbie Hitt
Chris & Michell Moe
- 30 Roland & Janice Wallace



First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Rd.
Midland, MI 48642

Phone: (989) 835-6731

Email: office@midlandfbc.com

Website: www.midlandfbc.com

FEBRUARY 2024

MARCH 2024

CALENDAR - 2024

Regular Schedule

ABIDING SCRIPTURES FEBRUARY - PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

Sundays at	10:00 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month
	11:15 AM	Fellowship
	11:30 AM	Sunday School
		1 st Sunday - Sermon Reflection & Baptist Beliefs
		2 nd Sunday - Sermon Reflection & Missions Training
		3 rd Sunday - Community Partner & Baptist Beliefs
		4 th Sunday - Sermon Reflection & Missions Training
	6:00 PM	Handbell Ensemble Practice
Mondays	4:00-5:30 PM	Take Note! (Grades K-12)
	6:30 PM	Church Council Meeting - Room 16 - 2 nd Monday - All Welcome
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Big Boy
Wednesdays	1:30 PM	Christian Education Team Meets - 2 nd Wednesday Harmony Lounge
	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Harmony Lounge - Dates TBD
	6:30 PM	FBC Vocal Choir Practice
	6:30 PM	Property Management Meeting - Room 16 - 2 nd Wednesday
Thursdays	10:00 AM	Facebook Prayer Time
Saturdays	9AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - 2 nd Saturday

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
Feb 16 (Fri)	4:00PM	Youth Leave for Retreat at Hitt's Cabin
Feb 18 (Sun)	5:00PM	Youth Return from Retreat at Hitt's Cabin
Feb 19 (Mon)	-	No Take-Note! (No MPS)
Feb 25 (Sun)	10:00AM 11:15AM	Jazz Vespers Service Reception
Mar 17 (Sun)	10:00AM	Take-Note! Preview
Mar 24 (Sun)	10:00AM	Palm Sunday
Mar 25 (Mon)	-	No Take-Note! (No MPS - Spring Break)
Mar 28 (Thur)	6:30-7:30PM	Maundy Thursday Service in the Chapel
Mar 31 (Sun)	8:30AM 10:00AM	Easter Breakfast provided by the Seamster Family Easter



Psalm 23:5-6
New King James Version

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

ONLINE DONATIONS

First Baptist Church is now able to accept online donations!



Online donations are now available on our Website!
(See top right corner: www.midlandfbc.com)