

February

2019



February 15- March 15, 2019

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.



Scrapbooker's

9AM – 5PM

Ladies: Bring your craft project, knitting, etc., and join us!

Invite your friends & neighbors!!!

**This Thursday & Friday
February 21 & 22 - March 14 & 15**

LEAD PASTOR

For the last few years my life has been being transformed through the work I have been doing at the Advanced Clergy Clinic in Lombard, Illinois. Three times a year, I spend three days engaging speakers, listening to case studies, working with a coach, and learning more about Bowen Family Systems theory. Through these experiences I have seen incredible personal and professional growth, which has led me to continue my studies year after year.

As I prepare to leave for this trip again this year on February 3rd, I am saddened and excited to share with my colleagues and you, my church, the opportunity that I have to continue my studies in Bowen Theory in a different setting over the next few years, while I pursue my Doctorate of Ministry (or D.Min.) at Sioux Falls Seminary. I have had a desire of mine since I arrived to follow in Dr. Mortensen's footsteps and earn a doctorate degree. But, for the past few years the timing simply hasn't felt right.

That changed this fall with the merging of two different opportunities. First, I received a phone call from the president of Sioux Falls seminary in which I was invited to join a very elite D.Min cohort. This once in a life time opportunity would place me in a situation of learning along-side individuals who are well respected in their fields of spiritual formation, leadership, and ministry. Additionally, the president of the seminary was excited about my interest of a doctoral project which centered on integrating my love of Bowen Theory into church leadership. In fact, he asked me if in addition to considering taking part in the doctoral program, if I would be interested in speaking on the subject at the school in the next few years!

The second opportunity which led to my decision to take a few years off of the Advanced Clergy Clinic in order to pursue a doctorate was that this December will mark my seventh year at First Baptist. This means that I will be eligible for a sabbatical in 2020. While at first I questioned if this was the time to start a doctorate, the fact that I would have time during a sabbatical to do the reading and research necessary to do a doctorate, enticed me to consider the idea further. As my project will hopefully be around using Bowen Family systems theory to help develop leaders within the church, the time will be well used in order to develop a program which will accomplish this goal for us as a congregation.

But, what sealed the idea of the doctorate was actually the Community Story study. As we come to the end of the study and begin to look at what the findings will mean for the church, it seemed to me that the next step will be to help develop the leadership of the church in order to support whatever comes next. Being that this is the focus of the doctoral project I would like to pursue, the idea seemed to fit perfectly!

With this conviction that the timing is perfect to begin the process of earning a doctorate, I approached my liaison, LDT, and Team Network with the idea and was pleased to have their support. With their blessing in hand, the next step of the process is to gather a sabbatical team and to apply to Sioux Falls seminary for classes which hopefully will begin this coming Spring or Fall. Unlike some other programs, earning a Doctor of Ministry degree requires that I will attend one, week long session several times over the course of a few years. That means that I will continue working here at First Baptist while

earning my degree with the same amount of time away as I have had over the last few years while in the Advanced Clergy Clinic.

I have to say, I am excited about this upcoming opportunity and what it will mean not just for me, but also for the church. The experiences of the last few years have helped me grow so much, I can't wait to use that knowledge to help others in our church grow! Who knows what will come of this new adventure!

Upcoming Lenten Series: "Thy Kingdom Come"

This year's Lenten sermon series, "Thy Kingdom Come," is scheduled to begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6 at 7PM. The series, which will last for the entire six and a half weeks of Lent (including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday at 7:00PM, Palm Sunday, and Easter), will focus on the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5-6 and what they reveal about what it means for Christians to embody God's kingdom in our world.

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

PRAYER PARTNERS

For those that grieve: The families of Glenn Pietenpol, Betty King, and the Escoffre Family

For the health needs of many of our church family: Thayer Bradish (surgery recovery), Sharon Cooper-Bussell (surgery recovery), Bob Hodges (tests), Joe Mortensen (recovery), Ruthie O'Dell, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Don Raetz (surgery recovery), Andrea Ross (numbness), Shirley Sevener (heart failure), Wilbur Seamster (fall/recovery-Stratford), Lou Stickney (hospice), Rena Walker (arm surgery), Marcia Williams (migraines), Bob Winchester (surgery 2/25)

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Tyler Jenkins (Raetz' great-grandson-epilepsy), Lewis King (cancer), Mel Lewis (Poindexter grand-niece), Don Raetz (surgery recovery), Rick Raetz (cancer/surgery), Tim Richard (leukemia), Lanny Robbins' granddaughter's family & foster child, Ben Schultz' mom (cancer), Lee Sperry (surgery recovery), John Yuill (Acoustic Neuroma brain tumor)

And the needs of Friends: Mike Dahley (more surgery recovery), Pat Hintz's friend (cancer), Peter Mortensen (cancer), Patty Zurba (cancer - friend of Kathy Burch)

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer, please contact the church office by phone: 835-6731 or by email: office@midlandfbc.com.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Leadership Development Team is looking for individuals who would be interested in filling the following "Officer" positions for the next two years:

- Moderator
- Team Network Pro-Tem
- Church Clerk
- Financial Secretary
- Special Funds Treasurer
- Christian Education, Chair
- Congregational Care, Chair
- Leadership & Development, Chair

Team Network is responsible to the Church membership for administration of the Church program. Team Network consists of the chairs of all voted upon committees.

Below are the descriptions of the responsibilities of the Church Officers mentioned above.

- **The Moderator** shall preside at all business meetings of the Church and of the Team Network, and prepare an agenda for each business meeting and Team Network meeting with input from the Congregation and Team Network members. The Moderator may sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer or designee.
- **The Team Network Pro-Tem** shall attend and participate in Team Network meetings for the purpose of learning about Team Network and their own leadership development. They may assist the Moderator in meetings as they feel comfortable, and are encouraged to attend one meeting from each of the represented ministries.
- **The Clerk** shall be a member of and secretary to the Team Network and is responsible for keeping a correct permanent record of all business meetings of the Church and Team Network, signing all letters of transfer, and maintaining the membership records.
- **The Financial Secretary** shall receive all money given to the Church for local expenses, benevolences and capital improvements, through regular channels and special offerings; keep detailed records of all individual pledges and payments; send financial statements twice each year to all regular contributors; and make monthly report to Team Network.
- **The Special Funds Treasurer** shall have custody of special funds for building, special gifts, memorials or benevolences which may be collected separately from current expenses, and shall disburse these funds as approved by the Team Network.

The responsibilities for the three chair positions include organizing and leading regular meetings for the team, communicating team needs to Team Network, participating and occasionally leading church events, and regularly attending Team Network Meetings.

Please contact Kathy or Dave Pellegrum if you are interested in serving in any of these positions.

In Preparation of FBC's 150th Anniversary, Kathy Williams Pellegrom thought to share this with us:

MAGGIE CUNNINGHAM **(Original Member of FBC - 1869)**

As we look back at writings from the early days of our church, one name truly stands out -- both in the church history and the history of Midland. Maggie Cunningham was a leader of Baptist women, but also, a leader within the entire community.

Born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, November 30, 1825, Maggie Cunningham was orphaned at the age of 7. After spending a year in an orphanage, Maggie was bound out to a hotel keeper where she helped clean rooms, carry water and perform a wide array of other backbreaking tasks during her 14-hour days. She remained with the hotel keeper's family for five years.

According to local history, Maggie Cunningham came to Midland with the George F. Ball family in 1861. The trip was made from East Saginaw on the once famous steamer, Belle Seymour. After working in George Ball's hotel on East Main Street for a few years, she returned to Saginaw seeking office work. In May, 1875, she returned to Midland to establish a restaurant. Church records show that on June 2, 1869, a congregation was organized with four charter members: Margaret Cunningham, Mrs. Goulet, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Myers. This would seem unusual if Miss Cunningham was living in Saginaw at that time; however, research indicates that during those years, a train ran between Saginaw and Midland six times a day.

Upon her return in 1875, Miss Cunningham invested her substantial life savings, \$640, in a hotel and restaurant which stood nearly opposite the courthouse on the northwest corner of Main and Gordon streets (the site is the current location of the Strosacker Building). Unfortunately, Maggie Cunningham's business was one of many which was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1876, which occurred on May 20. Though she carried ample insurance on her structure and possessions, Miss Cunningham was unable to collect any insurance benefits due to the city's extraordinary losses. After borrowing \$800 from Saginaw lenders, Maggie was able to rebuild her business within a few months of its destruction.

In addition to being an astute business woman, Maggie Cunningham possessed a personality which helped make her a local legend. Maggie often provided meals to destitute travelers and others free of charge.

Remembering her own days as an overworked orphan, Maggie Cunningham took in several orphaned children and raised them as "the family that she never had." Lizzie Skillman and Anna Sorenson, two orphans who were fortunate to be taken in by her, were provided with all the comforts of home, including cultural opportunities and post—high school education— all through the goodness and generosity of Maggie Cunningham. (According to Miss Cunningham's obituary, Anna Sorensen lived with Maggie during her declining years and was her faithful attendant.)

Unofficially, Maggie Cunningham started Midland's first shelter for battered women, as her hotel and restaurant were always a refuge for women and children in distress. During a time when social programs were rare, Maggie Cunningham used her own resources to help those in need of shelter, food or clothing. Her restaurant offered many free meals to those in need, particularly during the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

On November 30, 1882, the Ladies Aid Society of the church provided a Thanksgiving dinner and supper at Miss Cunningham's. In the evening, to show their appreciation of Miss Cunningham's earnest and active labors for the society and also being the anniversary of her birthday, they presented to her a beautiful silver water pitcher and cup. At some point, she gave this set to the church to be used for Communion. In 1901, the Ladies' Aid Society purchased the individual communion set and returned the original pitcher and cup to Maggie Cunningham. Miss Cunningham then presented the set to Miss Eva Barclay shortly before her marriage to Mr. E. W. Bennett. Mr. Bennett was one of the early pioneers with The Dow Chemical Company, later becoming Chairman of The Board, and he was a member of First Baptist Church.

In 1887, our Ladies Aid Society records note that, for years, bake sales were held every Saturday in Miss Cunningham's restaurant office. The funds from these sales, as well as other Ladies Aid Society events, were used to pay for the new church being built on the corner of Larkin and McDonald streets.

Maggie Cunningham died August 5, 1905, at her home on Ellsworth Street and her obituary states that "her funeral was held from the Baptist Church, of which she was an exemplary member from the first organization." The Reverend A.C. Barclay officiated. "All Main Street businesses closed during her funeral as a respectful tribute to the woman who gave so much of herself to others," her obituary further stated. Hundreds of local citizens attended her funeral and burial was at the Midland cemetery.

~Written by Leona Seamster many years ago.

*information for this article was taken from old records of the First Baptist Church and also from articles in The Midland Daily News.

Mission & Ministry Moment

The Mission and Ministry Team wants the congregation to know that in the Adopted 2019 Budget, below, "House of Mercy (Open Door)" is actually "Open Door: Women and Children," as "House of Mercy" no longer exists as such. The "Open Door" is actually "Open Door: Men's Shelter"

COMMUNITY MISSIONS	2019 Budget	2018 Budget
Home to Stay (formerly Midland Area Homes)	\$ 500	\$ 300
House Of Mercy (Open Door)	\$ 500	\$ 500
Open Door	\$ 500	\$ 500
EFPN Food Pantry	\$ 500	\$ 400
Caregiving Network	\$ 500	\$ 800
Materials and Supplies	-	\$ 50
SUBTOTAL:	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,550

~Bev Babb, on behalf of Mission & Ministry Team



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



SHUT-INS

Have an hour free this month? Consider visiting one of our Shut-Ins!

(Another list will be printed in next month's Newsletter)

Doreen Cobb

The Medilodge, 1333 W. Grand River #131, Howell, MI 48842

Emma Mantel

Stratford, 2121 Rockwell Drive, Midland, MI 48642

Ruth O'Dell

521 N. Rustic Drive, Midland, MI 48640

Lou Stickney (On Hospice)

Stratford - Woodbridge Wing #251
2121 Rockwell Drive, Midland, MI 48642



We'd like to send Warm Birthday & Anniversary Wishes to all who celebrate in November!

February BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeff Richards
- 12 Thayer Bradish
- 14 Alan Clark
- 17 Saturn Dean
- 18 Sharon Houghton-Ross, Emily Richards, True Rogers
- 20 Marci Rogers
- 21 Sharon Carruthers
- 24 Verda Rider
- 25 Rena Walker
- 26 Kelly (Bishop) Kloha
- 28 Louise Bergman



March BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carolyn Cary
- 2 Elaine Poindexter
- 4 Shawna Elmore, Tyler Steib
- 5 Stephanie Bergman
- 7 Marc Dean Jr.
- 12 James Li
- 22 Robert Clarke
- 23 Ruth O'Dell
- 24 Bobbie Baker
- 26 Barb Neil, Preston Streeter
- 27 Nadine Collins
- 27 Bing Fu
- 27 Mark Neil
- 28 Isaiah Williams
- 29 Sheridan Seamster
- 31 David Pellegrom, Emersyn Seamster

February ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Dave & Bunny Mitchell
- 15 Tom & Margie Seamster

March ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Wayne & Karen Crosby
- 23 Jim & Debbie Hitt
- 30 Roland & Janice Wallace

150th ANNIVERSARY CLEAN UP

The 150th Anniversary Planning Team in conjunction with the Property Management Team, have scheduled "Clean Up" days in preparation of this Anniversary! Join us on March 3, April 7, and May 19!

The next scheduled 150th Anniversary after Sunday School clean up date is March 3. Everyone please bring your cleaning supplies and again as you did before bring your organizational skills. The March 3 clean up will be in the South Wing.

There will be a light lunch provided. A donation is suggested for the lunch as this is one of the ways the committee is raising some funds for the anniversary celebration.

~Lois Crosby, on behalf of the 150th Anniversary Planning Committee: Kathy Williams Pellegrom, Linda A-O, Sharon Bussell-Cooper, Lois Crosby, Lara Freeburg, Pat McCourt, Sue McCallum Funk, Jan Martz, Barb Neil, Shelley Page, Sharon Houghton-Ross, Leona Seamster, Cindy Wong

FBC Church Services and Functions may be Videotaped for Shut-in distribution and broadcast on MCTV. If you are interested in viewing our services, they will be broadcast on Charter Cable MCTV digital box Channel 191 on Wednesdays at 5:30PM and on Thursdays at 2:00PM. Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>

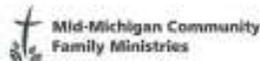
March-April Newsletter deadline is March 11.

THE CHERISH TOUR WITH GARY THOMAS APRIL 6, 2019 • 6:30-9:00 PM

Location: Midland Evangelical Free Church
7221 N. Jefferson Ave. • Midland, MI

Tickets: \$10 per person
Early bird pricing through February 24 only
\$15 per person *after February 24*

For more information, see www.mcfamilyministries.org
or email mcfamilyministries@gmail.com.





February

2019

March 2019

CALENDAR - 2019

Regular Schedule

Sundays 8:30 AM
9:30 AM
11:00 AM
5:30 PM

Mondays 10:30-11AM
3-5:30PM
6:30 PM
6:30 PM

Tuesdays 7:30 AM
5:30 PM

Wednesdays 6:15 PM
7:00 PM

Saturdays 9AM-2PM

ABIDING SCRIPTURES

FEBRUARY - MARK 12:28-34
MARCH - MATTHEW 5:3-16, 21-32

Chancel Choir Practice
Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1st Sunday of each month
Sunday School
Chancel Bells Rehearsal

Staff Meeting (2nd Monday staff meeting is on Wednesday @ 10:30PM)
Take-Note Children's Choir & Chimes Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25
Team Network Mtg-Media Rm - 2nd Tuesday - Mar 11 - all church invited
Bible Study - Media Room - Feb 25, Mar 4/18 (Mar 25 - No Take-Note -spring break)
Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
Stewardship & Finance Meeting - 3rd Tuesday - Mar 19
Property Management Meeting - Media Rm - Mar 6
Stephen Ministry - Media Rm - 3rd Wednesday - Feb 20 / Mar 20
FBC Serves at Open Door - 2nd Saturday - Mar 9

Date

Time

Special Event

Feb 21	9AM-5PM 1:00 PM 2:30 PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Room 150 th Anniversary Planning Meeting - Harmony Room Mission & Ministry Meeting - Harmony Room
Feb 22	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Room
Mar 3	12 NOON	Light Luncheon followed by Church Clean-Up
Mar 6	1:00 PM 7:00 PM	150 th Anniversary Planning Meeting - Harmony Room Ash Wednesday Service
Mar 11	-	Newsletter Deadline
Mar 13	1:00 PM	150 th Anniversary Planning Meeting - Harmony Room



SAVE-THE-DATES

Apr 7 - Luncheon/Church Clean-Up
Apr 12 - Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner
Apr 14 - Palm Sunday
Apr 18 - Maundy Thursday Service
Apr 21 - Easter Breakfast & Service
Apr 27 - Amish Dinner
May 5 - Take-Note Spring Musical
May 19 - Luncheon/Church Clean-Up
May 31, June 1 & 2
150th Anniversary Celebration

CHURCH GREETERS

Feb 24	Jenn & Dave Hitchcock
Mar 3	Thayer & Gale Bradish
Mar 10	Jan Martz & Ken Shillair
Mar 17	Janice Wallace
Mar 24	Sharon Winchester
Mar 31	Leona Seamster

USHERS

Feb	Rhonda Vance Larry Root
Mar	David Bussell Mike Walker Kathy Pellegrom

MARCH
19

Join us for a unique gathering of numerous area organizations specializing in ALL aspects of recovery support, education and treatment.



RECOVERY FAIR

"A COMMUNITY OF ONE"

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019
6pm - 8pm

MESSIAH
1550 S. Poseyville Road Midland, Michigan
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

For more information call Kurt at (989) 488-0741 or email
contact@forabrightertomorrow.org



Date: February 15, 2019

Newsletter for Friends and Members
First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland MI 48642-3772

Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Worship Service
11:00AM Sunday School



First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Rd.
Midland, MI 48642
Phone: (989) 835-6731
Email: office@midlandfbc.com
Website: www.midlandfbc.com

Communion served 1st Sunday of the Month

In the spirit of our compassionate Christ, we are a family of growing believers serving all of God's people in an ever-changing world!

If you do not wish to receive this mailing, please contact us to remove your name: 989-835-6731 or Email: office@midlandfbc.com

Website: <http://www.midlandfbc.com>

Lara Heise: Lead Pastor (Cell: 815-690-8476)

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister

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