



**July 1, 2018**

## **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*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF THE MONTH**

**Separation of Church and State...**the state cannot dictate to the Church on matters of belief. The state must allow people of faith the freedom to pursue their theology and politics.

### **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.

## LEAD PASTOR

Did you know that the average person only listens for seven seconds? After that we have decided if we agree or disagree with what the person is saying and formulating how we will respond. When we add to that the cultural phenomenon of texting, in which we lose important cues like inflection and tone, it is no surprise that communication between individuals is harder and yet more important than ever.

Within the walls of the Church, the statistics don't change much if at all. In addition to our habit of only listening a few seconds, I know I can be tempted to keep up the "good Christian persona" of having it all together on Sunday morning. If the same is true for you, I imagine that making those true connections with others can be difficult at times.

The problem is, when we function in this way, we maintain shallower relationships and don't give ourselves a chance to grow in our sense of community. It also makes it harder to grow as a community, because we aren't having deep conversations about our hopes and dreams. So what are we to do?

In an effort to grow in this area as a church community, Team Network pulled together a small group of people (Louise Bergmann, Barb Neil, and myself) to plan a few opportunities for church members to gather in order to have time to fellowship and to share together. The first of these events will take place at the final Connections at Plymouth Park, on Wednesday, July 11th from 6pm until 7:30pm. We will begin by sharing a potluck meal together, as is typically the case with Wednesday evening Connections. Then, for the last forty minutes we will break into small groups and share a bit about ourselves and our faith. I hope that everyone, even those who haven't joined us for a Connections potluck yet this year, will consider participating in this event!

Then in August, the Listening Team (Louise, Barb, and myself) will be hosting an "Unbirthday Party." This event will take place at the Freeburg's Sanford Lake home from 2pm-4pm on Saturday, August 5th. This event, inspired by Alice in Wonderland's Tea Party, will be an opportunity to fellowship and even play games with other friends from First Baptist. We will even have cake and ice cream like a real birthday! But, it won't just be fun and games as we will also be looking to hear more about each person attending and their hopes and dreams for our church.

I truly do hope that everyone will take advantage of one, if not both of these fun opportunities this summer. It is so important for me personally as your pastor, Team Network as your leaders, and even each one of you to listen to what others have to say. I pray these opportunities will offer us the chance not only to develop deeper relationships but also to learn how we can grow together into FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbor grows.

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

## **SAVE THE DATES**

### **ICE CREAM SOCIAL - July 18, 2018 - 6:30-8:00PM**

The Missions & Ministry Team is hosting an Ice Cream Social Outreach to give our congregation an opportunity to meet Our Neighbors. More details to follow...

### **UNBIRTHDAY PARTY - August 5, 2018 - 2:00-4:00PM**

We are having an "Unbirthday Party! This event will take place at the Freeburg's Sanford Lake home. The party, inspired by Alice in Wonderland's Tea Party, will be an opportunity to fellowship and play games with other friends from First Baptist. We will even have cake and ice cream like a real birthday! But, it won't just be fun and games! We will also be looking to hear more about each person attending and their hopes and dreams for our church. We hope you will join us!

### **BLOCK PARTY 2018 - August 16, 2018 - 5-8:00PM**

We will have food, games, the Lemon Squeezer, Karaoke, Face Painting, Crafts and much more! We are looking for volunteers to work the activities in shifts.

We also need folks to set up tables and chairs, tents and activities beginning at 2:00PM. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex on the Welcome Center Counter. Please consider signing up to help and come for the fun and good food. Our neighbors look forward to the Block Party, let's get to know them better and enjoy a great evening together!

Plan to wear your FBC T Shirt. Linda has a few for sale at \$10.00 each.

Contact Linda Atiemo-Obeng with questions, or Sign Up in the Narthex.

### **FREE LITTLE LIBRARY**

The Free Little Library between FBC and Plymouth Elementary is expected to be installed soon. Donation of books, Pre-K through High School are needed. A collection container is in the Narthex. Both gently used and new books are welcome.

### **EAGLE SCOTT PROJECT - Restoring Basketball Court**

A Pop Can donation box has been set in the Narthex to help cover the costs of restoring the basketball court in our parking lot. Cash donations can be given to Dave Hitchcock or Shelley Page.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

To my church family at First Baptist:

The last three years have been three years of incredible change in my life, both personally and professionally. The strength and generosity of the First Baptist Church family has provided me with a place to grow: as a musician, as a parent and as a servant of Christ.

It is with a bright eye to the future, but also with a heart heavy with sadness, that I write you this letter, and announce from the pulpit, that I am leaving First Baptist to serve my home congregation of Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church. My last day as your Music Minister is August 26. June, July and August will find me part-time and three guest musicians will sit on the organ and piano benches to lead you in worship as I simultaneously begin part-time work as Director of Music at Chapel Lane in preparation for the fall. Deb Hitt, my liaison to Team Network, and Team Network will work together as quickly and as efficiently as they can to find the servant or servants needed to carry on the Music Ministry after I leave.

Words of grace and thanks are in order from me to you. I am grateful to Pastor Lara for her leadership, love and friendship. I am grateful to Shelley Page for her ever present guidance and friendship. I am thankful for the leaders of Team Network. I am thankful for the custodial staff and the A/V crew. I am especially thankful for those of ALL ages who serve in any one, or two, or three, of our music ensembles, who sing and play with such ease that it makes *me* look good! And from my heart arises a special prayer of thanks for the children of the church and for the volunteers who make Take Note! a welcoming, special place for *any* child.

I am thankful for the saints who had the vision to make worship more beautiful by building this building, by installing this organ, by purchasing pianos and hand bells of such quality that they will endure for many more generations of worship. I am grateful for your church, because First Baptist is *your* church. I am merely a hired hand who hopefully did many things right and can be forgiven for those things that failed to live up to expectation.

I understand that this is a difficult time of transition for First Baptist; that anxiety arises and people wonder why someone is leaving. This transition is unexpected for me. I could not foresee that the Director of Music at Chapel Lane Presbyterian, my home church, would retire. I leave because I feel called to return and serve my congregation.

I came to First Baptist broken and in need; I leave repaired and more able to give. I came to First Baptist with two teenagers; I leave knowing they have found relationship and love that will carry them through these difficult years.

I came to First Baptist as a stranger; I leave as a friend and sister in Christ.

I am thankful and deeply indebted to you all.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Jan Sutherland

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

FBC has been blessed with the musical talents and gifts of Jan Sutherland for the past three years. Jan has been provided the opportunity to return to her home church as the Director of Music at Chapel Lane. Jan will continue half-time with FBC through the months of June, July and August. As such her compensation will reflect the half-time hours she will be working. Provisions have been made to cover the Sundays through the summer that Jan will not be in worship with us. Jan's last day with FBC will be Sunday, August 26th. There will be a reception following worship in her honor.

The Personnel Committee is actively seeking qualified candidates for Organist/Pianist, Music Minister and Praise Team Leader with a reduction in budgeted salaries.



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)

**Joyce Phillips**

40 Rosemary Court, Midland, MI 48640

**Verda Rider**

1400 Eastlawn, Midland, MI 48642

**Mercedes Ross**

350 Dick Street, Midland, MI 48642

**Shirley Sevener**

4815 Russell St, Midland, MI 48640

**Dorothy Trask**

800 W Meadowbrook, Midland, MI 48640

**Nate & Joyce Poland**

2737 W Wilder Road, Midland, MI 48642



**WITH DEEP APPRECIATION FOR ELVA BLYMYER's MEMORIAL,**

Thank you all so very much for making Mom's service a beautiful memorial of her life! I was made to feel right at home just like the past 40 years faded away, you truly are the "Friendly Church" that Mom loved so much! God's Blessings to You All! ~Larry & Kay Blymyer

**EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY NETWORK (EFPN),**

Thank you so much for having me speak to the congregation about the EFPN and the work we carry out in the community with partners like First Baptist. ~Sandy Warner

**DEAR BAPTIST CHURCH,**

I moved from Midland to Plymouth, Michigan, in December, since most of my family has moved to other cities. I moved to Westland, Michigan, to American House Apartments and I like it very much and I am near my daughter, Nancy Sutherland, and her children and grandchildren, and her husband, Dave. My house on Mertz Street and my car sold in two days. I still think of First Baptist and members. I plan to continue to support First Baptist Church in whatever endeavors I can. I hope and pray First Baptist continues to grow and grow. Blessings to you all.

~Love, Gloria Decker

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

*... HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.*

**July Birthdays:**

**July Anniversaries:**

5	True & Marci Rogers	23	Mark & Barb Neil
10	Rich & Sue Williams	26	Gary & Christina Gibson
13	Preston & Karolea Streeter	28	Brendon & Kerry Smith
14	Jake & Catherine Wange		

If your name, or that of a loved one, should be here, but isn't, please contact the church office with name and birthdate/anniversary date, so Shelley Page can update church records: [office@midlandfbc.com](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com)

## SUMMER CONNECTIONS

### Weekly Picnic Potluck @ Plymouth Park

Dates: Wednesdays, July 11 Time: 6 - 7:30 pm

Location: Plymouth Park, "H" Pavilion - this is by the little league fields

Our Final Date - July 11 - We will begin by sharing a potluck meal together. Then for the last forty minutes we will break into small groups and share a bit about ourselves and our faith. We hope that everyone, even those who haven't joined us for a Connections potluck yet this year, will consider participating in this event!

REMEMBER this is a potluck meal...bring your own plates, cups, silverware, drinks and a dish to pass. We want to include as many people as possible. In case of a bad storm, we will meet at the church. Hope to see you on a Wednesday for a change!





## JULY CALENDAR - 2018

### Regular Schedule

		<b>ABIDING SCRIPTURES JULY— HEBREWS 11</b>
Sundays	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month Sunday School
Mondays	10-11:30AM 6:30 PM	Staff Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 12:30PM) <b>Team Network Meeting, Media Room - July 9 (all church invited)</b>
Tuesdays	7:30 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd. <b>Stewardship &amp; Finance Meeting - July 17</b>
Wednesdays	6-7:15 PM 6:15 PM 7:15-8:30PM	Chancel Bells Practice <b>Property Management Meeting - NO JULY MEETING</b> Chancel Choir Practice
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - July 14 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Every Month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
July 1	5:30 PM	Leadership Development Team Meeting
July 4 & 5	-	Office Closed for 4th of July Holiday
July 8	10:30 AM	Birthday Reception for Emma Mantel
July 11	6:00 PM	CONNECTIONS - Plymouth Park Pavilion "H"
July 14	12 NOON	Memorial for Mercedes Ross followed by Luncheon
July 15	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service followed by Memorial & Luncheon for Marilyn Walker
July 18	6:30-8:00AM	Ice Cream Social - Hearthside Room & Rose Garden

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Block Party  
August 16  
5-8:00PM**

### CHURCH GREETERS

1 Roger & Louise Bergman  
8 Mark & Barb Neil  
15 Nicole Richards  
22 Bob & Jo Clarke  
29 Kathy W. & Dave P.



### USHERS

David Bussell  
Mike Walker  
Kathy Williams

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/>

**August's Newsletter deadline is July 24, at Noon.**



Date: July 1, 2018

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](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com)  
Website: [www.midlandfbc.com](http://www.midlandfbc.com)

Communion served 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com)**

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

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

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister

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