



June 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

Scripture as Truth...Scripture is the story of God's revelation of Himself to humankind and His plan for the redemption of the world. We are called both as individuals and as the Church to read, interpret, discern, & follow this truth.



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 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 those that grieve: The Families of Kim & Randy Francisco (both have passed), Dale Green, Lily Wint, Judy Zeiss, and Dana Zhou

For the health needs of many of our church family: Elva Blymyer (recovery), Thayer Bradish (surgery recovery), Wayne Crosby (bike accident), Betty King, Dave Mitchell (surgery recovery), Dale Moore, Ruth O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Joyce & Nate Poland, Bruce Rogers (recovery), Andrea Ross (numbness/shingles), Lou Stickney, Alex Sutherland and Family.

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter); Amelia (Nicole Richard's infant niece); Lillian Baker (preemie); Mike Dahley (surgery recovery); Kim Francisco (cancer); Roger Hackett (Ruth O'Dell's nephew-cancer); John Ingram (recovery); Sharon Ingram; Tyler Jenkins (great-grandson of Don & Lorraine Raetz - epilepsy); Lewis King (health); Peter Mortensen (cancer); Greg Poland (seizures); Tim Richard (leukemia); Lanny Robbin's granddaughter's family & foster child; Yvette Spiker (recovery); and John Yuill (ear tumor).

And praises: Rhonda Vance became a grandma again on May 16! Elizabeth and Matthew Denten are the proud parents of Joshua Erick Denten. Joshua weighed 9 lbs, 7 oz and was 22 inches long. Joshua's middle name is in honor of both his uncles --- the late Erik Vance (Liz's brother and Rhonda's son) and Matt's brother, Eric Denten. The spelling of "Erick" is a combination of both the uncles' names.

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.

LEAD PASTOR

Summer is quickly coming upon us, isn't it? In fact, some may even say that we have had glimpses of it already over these past few weeks! Usually, summer is a time when we change pace and take things a bit slower. In some ways, this will be the case for us here at First Baptist. For instance, our choir members, Take Note children and youth, and Sunday School teachers will all be able to take a break for the summer as these groups will not be meeting as usual.

But, that doesn't mean that things are going to be idle at First Baptist this summer. Instead, this is going to be a season set aside for exploration and fellowship! For church members, there are going to be 6 exciting gatherings over the course of the summer to fellowship with one another. First, is the third annual "Connections" in the park which will take place in Pavilion "H" at Plymouth Park from 5:30-7:30PM on June 13, 20, 27, and July 11. "Connections", which is a potluck style gathering, offers us a chance to spend time and get to know one another better in a casual environment. Feel free to invite your friends!

Making these connections with one another is an important part of our life together, not only because it is a way that we are living out our value of Christ-Centered caring, but because spending time together is how we build that sense of community that we desire to have at First Baptist! Another way we hope to grow in our sense of community this summer, is by providing additional opportunities to fellowship which will also serve the purpose of giving you a chance to share with the leadership your experiences of life and life within the church. These events are being coordinated by a small team created by Team Network with the purpose of finding ways to listen to the congregation. This team, consisting of Barb Neil, Louise Bergman, and myself, is excited to announce that there will be three events over the course of the summer which will serve this purpose. First, a "Cupping Event" at Live Oak Coffee house, during which we will seek to learn about your personal life experiences outside the church. The second event, which will take place at the final Connections of the summer (July 11) will focus on sharing our experiences within the church. Then finally, the last event will be an "Un-birthday Party", hosted by the Freeburg's, on August 5, at which time we will listen for our dreams for the future of FBC.

I encourage you to mark your calendars now for these events. Team Network and the Listening Team are looking forward to hearing from you. And how awesome to be able to do that in such fun and unique ways!

Another way we have chance to build our relationships with one another while living into our "What We Do" statement that we are learning to live like Jesus through: "intentional connections with our community" is going to be through two incredible outreach events this summer. The first, hosted by the Community Story Study team, will be an End of School BBQ. This event, which will take place on our own property is intended to give us a chance to intentionally make connections with our neighbors so that we can invite them to take part in our Story Study. The Community Story Study Team has been working hard over the last few months planning and meeting with leaders within the community. Many of the community leaders we have met with have noted that our grassroots method of listening to the community fits with their work and what they are seeing is effective in building opportunities for relationships. From principals, to the city planner, to the local police - they all see the future being built upon local relationships and collaboration. We have been delighted by the response and support we are receiving. We are now ready to do this make the connections with our neighbors and hear their stories, and we believe this BBQ will be a wonderful way to invite them to participate. In fact, the team has met with Principal Dirk DeBoer at Northeast School and he is excited about this connection to the church and is going to assist in advertising the event to families!

What excited the team about this idea, was that we will be able to make connections with our neighbors, AND invite them back for our Block Party in August. Please hear me say, this is not in place of, but the team hopes will only

add to the success of the Block Party in August. In addition, the team hopes to have our study finished by then and could offer to share our findings with our neighbors at that time!

I know I am excited about all that is happening at our church. I hope that you too can feel the energy of what God is doing among us. I continue to anticipate FBC further living into our purpose of being that place where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

Missions Ministry Team May 2018 Update

1. Missions Funding from Harlow Fund Grants and the Thorsberg Fund:

The allocation of funds from the Harlow Fund and the Thorsberg Fund are listed separately in this issue of the May Newsletter. The Harlow Fund Allocation for 2018 was approved at the May 20th Business Meeting. The 2018 interest portion of the Harlow Fund was \$5,700 with all the funds allocated as listed in *The Harlow Fund* section at the end of this (1.) section.

The 2016 & 2018 Requests from the Vi Thorsberg Fund were presented and discussed, at the Spring Business Meeting, noting that no vote is required from the congregation. The Thorsberg Fund was given as a gift to FBC following the death of Vi Thorsberg with a portion of her generous gift (\$7,260) being given to the MM Team for mission work. In **2016** the Mission Team allocated funding to four agencies totaling \$2,500. Recipients were EFPN (\$300), SHARE in support of Ceonni Williams' counselor salary (\$1,000), Young Life(\$300) for summer camp fee for a teen victim of sexual assault living at Shelter House, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint for the Flint Water Crisis (\$1,000). The **2018** funds available were \$4,710. A description of the Funding allocated for 2018 follows - \$2,000 to The Midland County Flood Recovery Project, \$710 to MCFOAR and \$1,338 to Midland Open Door for the purchase of Two PackTite Bed Beg Heaters – one to each of the Crisis Center Locations. *The 2018 fund balance is now \$662.*

The Harlow Fund is an endowment fund with a percentage of the fund made available for grant requests for mission work. There is an application period with a stated deadline for applying and certain criteria must be met. The MM team reviews the requests checking to see the request for funding have met the criteria requested and then allocates the funding. The approved grant requests are then presented at the Spring Business Meeting where a vote is taken with the approved funds then being allocated for mission work. This 2018 percentage of funds available for grant requests was \$5,700 all of which was spent on five requests.

2018 Allocated Harlow Fund Requests:

\$500 - Midland County Family Ministries, MCFM: (Support for Programs and Invitational Speakers that encourage healthy relationships and communication for couples and families.)

\$1,200 - Midland County Emergency Food Pantry (EFPN): (New Building Location & Refurbishing)

\$1, 800 – Midland Area Homes (New Building Relocation Fund)

\$1,500 – Cargiving Network (Outdoor Screen & Projector and Fire Pit)

\$700 – Caregiving Network (Building Renovation Fund of Chapel Building)

2. One Week One Street (Saginaw):

We will not be sending a team of worker to Saginaw this summer. **It is possible for an individual or a group of people to participate in this worthy project.** There is information posted on the small bulletin board across from the church office. You may also view information online.

June25-29, 2018 9am-4pm
“Loving our Neighbors”

“One Week One Street” is a week-long opportunity to serve in the city of Saginaw. The focus this year will be on revitalization of Webber St. in Saginaw which will include the beautification of 20 homes. Over 31 churches and organizations from the Great Lakes Bay Region are participating!

Come join us! For more information contact Tamara Klida at (989)662-4245 and feel free to leave a message or email at oneweekonestreet@aol.com

- 3. **M&M Team Hosts Nancy Money, Ex. Dir. Of the former Midland Area Homes on June 3.**
 MAH has been aiding Midland County residents since 1969. Now the non-profit is moving to a new location and with a new name – **Home to Stay Housing Assistance Service**. Nancy Money is being asked by the M&M Team to inform the congregation of FBC about ways individuals as well as groups might partner with Home to Stay to meet the needs of residents of Midland County residents assistance with three primary programs.

- 4. **FBC Sponsoring the annual Plymouth Walk-a-thon on June 12, 2018:**
 Plymouth Elementary School is our neighbor to the east on Sugnet St. For the past few years we have been intentionally trying to find ways to build a supportive relationship with our neighbor. The Funds generated from the Walk-a-ton will help support the 500 kindergarten through fifth grade students with fieldtrips and student reading and fitness programs.
The MMT has approved \$100 from the New M&M Projects/Opportunities budgeted funds to sponsor this event.

- 5. **Upcoming July Event-**
 The M&M Team is planning an *Ice Cream Social in July*.
 Keep posted for the Date, Time, and Details

HARLOW FUND 2018

Amount	Expense
\$500	Midland County Family Ministries, MCFM
\$1,200	EFPN (New Building Location & Refurbishing)
\$1,800	Midland Area Homes (New Building Relocation Fund)
\$1,500	Careging Network (Outdoor Screen Projector and Fire Pit)
\$700	Building Renovation Fund of Chapel Building
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Total \$5,700	

THORSBERG FUND 2018

Amount	Expense
\$2,000	The Midland County Flood Recovery Project
\$1,338	Midland Open Door (Two PackTite Closet Bed Bug Killing Heaters - 1 for each location)
\$710	Midland Community Offender Advocacy and Rehabilitation (MCFOAR)
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Total \$4,048	



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



SUMMER CONNECTIONS

Weekly Picnic Potluck @ Plymouth Park

Dates: Wednesdays, June 13, June 20, June 27, July 11 Time: 5:55 pm - 7:30 pm

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

Vision/Purpose of "Connections": To have a mid-week family-focused presence for the whole church family, that would encourage tighter bonds and deeper friendships. Additionally, this is a fun and safe place to invite a friend, co-worker or someone you want to connect to your church family.

REMEMBER this is a potluck meal...bring your own plates, cups, silverware, drinks and a dish to pass. We will have spaces near the walkway for those who need a smooth path. We hope to have a few people available as valets. 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!

Contact Shelley to sign up as a "HOST" one of our Summer "CONNECTIONS". Hosts will bring a meat and choose a theme. Please let Shelley know a week in advance what meat you are providing so it can be in the weekly highlight to give everyone an idea of what side dishes or desserts to provide: office@midlandfbc.com or 989-835-6731.

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)

Elva Blymyer

Stone Crest Assisted Living, 255 N. Main St (M-47) #14A, Freeland, MI 48623

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



WITH DEEP APPRECIATION,

Thank you sincerely for your thoughtful kindness at a time when it was deeply appreciated. Thank you, very much, for the hard work in feeding our family. We so appreciated it!

~The family of Judith Zeiss



JUNE CALENDAR - 2018

Regular Schedule

ABIDING SCRIPTURES JUNE — HEBREWS 11

Sundays	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month Sunday School
Mondays	10-11:30AM 6:30 PM	Staff Meeting (2 nd Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 12:30PM) Team Network Meeting, Media Room - June 11 (all church invited)
Tuesdays	7:30 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd. Stewardship & Finance Meeting - June 19
Wednesdays	6-7:15 PM 6:15 PM 7:15-8:30PM	Chancel Bells Practice Property Management Meeting - June 6 Chancel Choir Practice
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - June 9 (2 nd Saturday of Every Month)



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
June 2	3:00 PM	Roland Wallace " <u>BASS</u> ically Strings Recital"
June 9	10:30 AM 11:00 AM	Visitation for Dale Green Memorial Memorial for Dale Green
June 13	5:30 PM	CONNECTIONS - Plymouth Park Pavilion "H"
June 20	5:30 PM	CONNECTIONS - Plymouth Park Pavilion "H"
June 27	5:30 PM	CONNECTIONS - Plymouth Park Pavilion "H"

CHURCH GREETERS

3 Dave & Jenn Hitchcock
10 Leona Seamster
17 Bev Babb
24 Jim & Deb Hitt



USHERS

Rick Imhoff
Meilink Family



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

... *HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.*

Wouldn't you love to send those simple powerful words to everyone at FBC?

YOU CAN!

Get the card supply and monthly birthday list from Shelley Page in the office. (These can be delivered to you, if needed.) At home, at your leisure, write a celebratory note and address the card. Print the date lightly in the stamp corner. Return the monthly supply of greetings to Shelley and she will post them in a timely manner. (Or stamps can be given with birthday card supplies to be mailed from your home.)

Congregational Care will financially sponsor this BIRTHDAY greeting. Please contact Vicki Walter of Congregational Care (or Shelley Page at 835-6731) for details.

June Birthdays:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Carley Hitt, Joyce Poland | 16 Elva Blymyer |
| 2 David Brown, Lara Freeburg, Nancy Metz
Connor Moe, Robert Winchester | 18 Mira Moore |
| 3 Andrew Zhou | 19 Jen Caldwell |
| 5 Quinton Steib | 21 Kati Johnstone |
| 6 Ben Schultz, Lacey Schultz | 23 Janet Ofori-Darko, Don Raetz |
| 8 Catherine Clark | 26 Paul Yuill |
| 10 Shannon Johnstone | 30 Marla Moore |

June Anniversaries:

2	Victor & Linda Atiemo-Obeng	20	Jeff & Emily Richards
4	Nathan & Joyce Poland	22	Don & Lorraine Raetz
9	David & Susan Brown	23	Charles & Pat Mccourt
16	David & Sharon Bussell	24	Dale & Marla Moore
17	Melvin & Nadine Collins	25	Jillian & Ben Struble
18	Pengfei & Bing Fu	28	John & Marcia Williams
19	Robert & Sharon Winchester		

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

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/>

July's Newsletter deadline is **June 21**, at Noon.