



First Baptist Church

Lara Freeburg, Lead Pastor

Whatever You Do, Do All to the Glory of God

Lead Pastor July 2018 Newsletter Article

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