

March 2018

March 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*

PRAYER PARTNERS

For those that grieve:

The Kevin Lee Family, The Vance Family.

For the health needs of many of our church family: Bobbie Baker, Elva Blymyer (fell), Thayer Bradish (health needs), Wayne Crosby (bike accident), Dale Green, Betty King, Dave Mitchell (cancer), Elaine Parsons, Dave Pellegrom, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Joyce Poland, Andrea Ross (numbness/chemo/mass in spine), Shirley Sevener, Lou Stickney, Alex Sutherland and Family, Marilyn Walker, Bob Winchester (surgery recovery), and Judy Zeiss (cancer).

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter); Amelia (Nicole Richard's infant niece); The Baker Family: Seth, Emily, Sienna, Andrew & baby Lillian; Bobby Baker (Bobbie's nephew); Mike Dahley (surgery recovery); Domingo Davila (Hitchcock grandson-complications from strep); Kim Francisco (cancer); Gaylene's Dad (stroke-friend of Sharon Cooper-Bussell); Tyler Jenkins (great-grandson of Don & Lorraine Raetz - epilepsy); Lewis King (health); Peter Mortensen (cancer); Naomi Potter (Poindexter's friend-fall); Tim Richard (leukemia); Yvette Spiker (recovery); Lily Wint (cancer-Ziess' granddaughter); Cindy Wong's mom (fall); John Yuill (ear tumor); and Dana Zhou (Jessica Hu's mom).

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.



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

During 2017, FBC completed a whole-congregation process leading to the above statement which members believe encapsulates the heart of who FBC *is* as a congregation. Upon completion of the statement, participants in the formation of the statement asked, “How exactly are we going to do this?” The group invested in discussion and prayer and established the following goals for how we faithfully live out our calling:

“We are learning to live the life 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, and caring for one another through all of life.”

For the current year of 2018, Team Network determined that the next step in living out our purpose and goals is to complete a Community Story Study which will teach the FBC community about the lives of our neighbors. The **Purpose** of the study is to:

“Understand the lived experience of community members through observation, which may include (with permission)

- participation in their daily lives
- photographs which tell the story of what we observe
- interviews
- and the gathering of anything that tells the communities’ story

The hope is listen to and know the neighborhood in order to better live the mission and vision of the congregation.”

With the information gleaned from the study, leadership will seek to discern together how we can take what we know about who we are (FBC) and how we live that out, to more effectively move out into our community for Christ!”

Team Network approved the initial study proposal in October of 2017, and agreed to the formation of a task force to initiate and direct the planning and implementation of a Community Story study. (The Community Story Study Task Force is comprised of Allen Ross, Moderator; Dave Pellegrom, Chair of the Leadership Development Team; Lara Freeburg, pastor; Laura Neil, Project Administrative Assistant; Jim Kent, consultant, ABC-MI leader, and friend of FBC; and Karen Walker Freeburg, retired Northern Seminary professor. Jim Kent and Karen Walker-Freeburg are co-leaders of the administrative and creative work of the Task Force.)

The Task Force is open and encourages interested persons in joining the team and the subcommittees that will be created in the coming months. The team will seek to procure the talents of persons skilled in the social sciences, data analysis and codification, and open-ended interviewing of neighbors and community leaders to assist in the project along the way.

PROJECT TIMELINE

February/March

- Appoint Community Story Implementation Team [in process]
- Recruitment of Sub-Committee Leaders [in process]

- Appoint person to review 2010 census data for target #1 area [in process]
- Research community leaders and interview [in process]
- Task Force Members review Resource books and 2 doctoral Theses [in process]

March-April

- Present Progress and Proposal to Leadership Network
- Mapping of congregation on a plot map
- Identify Interviewers
- ½ Day Creation Task Force Retreat

May

- Congregational Interviews
- Congregational Asset Mapping
- Task Force Meeting to see what we have learned
- Design Human Subject Research Form
- Develop Final Interview Questions
- Finalize audience to be interviewed

June

- Present Learning and Final Interview Plan to Leadership Network
- Train Interviewers
- Train Coders

June-July

- Neighborhood Interviews

August

- ½ day Creation/Implementation Meeting to discuss What We Have Learned

August/Sept.

- Write Findings into Report

September

- Present Report to Leadership Network
- Pray and plan action

October/Nov.

- Present Findings to the Congregation

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF THE MONTH

SOUL FREEDOM-- This direct personal relationship with God is the privilege and responsibility that each and every one of us has. We have both the ability and the necessity to enter into a direct saving relationship with God through Christ. We may be different in our relationships with God, so we need to recognize and honor these differences.

LENT

The Lenten Season offers believers a chance to reflect on our lives in light of Christ's sacrifice. As it says in Hebrews 12:1-2, "we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses," those who have come before us, who model how our lives can reflect our commitment to Christ that we take a closer look at during the weeks leading up to Easter. So this year, Jan and Pastor Lara invite you to engage in this Lenten season with a look at "The Saints Before Us."

Continuing every Wednesday through March 21, we invite you to bring table service and drinks, and enjoy a simple soup and bread supper. This will be followed by a short worship service which will include: music, prayer, a story of one of the saints of the church, God's Word being applied to a principle that the saint encapsulates, and an experiential response to what we have heard. This will be followed by a sermon on Sunday which again touches on the principle which was discussed on Wednesday evening! We hope you will join us!

March 7: St. Francis of Assisi - "Redemption"

March 14: St. Patrick - "We have a job to do"

March 21: Saints of FBC - "We are all saints"

Thursday, March 29: There will be a soup supper followed by a Maundy Thursday Service



Judson University Choir Sunday - March 4

We are excited The Judson University Choir will be presenting God's Message in Song and Testimony on Sunday. Please join us at 9:30 for worship, and at noon for a luncheon opportunity to share a meal and get to know the choir members.

Invite your friends!



MUSIC NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MINISTER

It would appear that spring really is in the air.

But I know I am being deceived. Michigan weather is unpredictable. We may be in a t-shirt walking our dog February 28, and shoveling the driveway again in mittens on March 3. The chirp of birds is audible outside my window and a flock of geese flew overhead, but knowing that there is not much on the ground for them to forage, I keep the bird feeder full. I pruned and trimmed this morning, but look with trepidation on the small lilac buds already formed, knowing that one more deep freeze will still the budding. I'm ready for the spring, but I am cautious.

I'm ready for Easter, but not quite. A song is in the air, but the trumpets aren't blaring, yet. We are still traveling through our mid-week Wednesday Lenten Soup and Worship services. We are experiencing the lives of the saints, ancient and modern, and using their lives as examples for our own. Along with our Maundy Thursday service on March 29, you are invited to attend these midweek services to prepare for Easter.

As Easter happens on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, the actual date varies from year to year: as early as March 23 and as late as mid-April. One year it's snow boots and a scarf to walk out the door to worship. One year it's a spring dress and heels. This year, Easter also happens to be on April Fool's Day. Some secular events also can impact our Easter celebrations. Spring break in Midland can impact the persons available to lead worship in song. Scheduling can be a nightmare for a worship leader like myself.

All things considered, my take away for Lent and this spring-like weather is to be prepared for what I know and to be ready for the unexpected. Be cautious and expectant. Wait on the Lord.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Jan Sutherland, Music Minister

March 2018



March CALENDAR - 2018

Regular Schedule

Sundays	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	ABIDING SCRIPTURES MARCH — JOHN 21:15-19 Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month Sunday School
Mondays	10-11:30AM	Staff Meeting (2 nd Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 12:30PM)
Tuesdays	7:30 AM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd. Stewardship & Finance Meeting - March 20 LDT Team Meeting - March 13
Wednesdays	5:30-6:45 6:45-7:30PM 7:30-8:30PM	Lent Soup Supper and Service Chancel Bells Practice Chancel Choir Practice
Fridays	6:30 PM	Team Network Meeting - March 5 All church is invited
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - March 10 (2nd Saturday of Every Month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
March 16/17	9AM-5PM	Scrapbooker's
March 29	5:30PM	Lent Soup Supper
	6-6:45PM	Maundy Thursday Service

The Music Teachers Association will be utilizing the building on Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10.



USHERS

David Bussell
Mike Walker
Kathy Williams

CHURCH GREETERS

4 Becky & Bob Hodges
11 Kathy Williams & Dave Pellegrom
18 Leona Seamster & Sue Funk
25 The Steib Family

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

DISABILITY NETWORK MID-MICHIGAN FEATHERS AND FEDORAS IS BACK!

Our major fundraiser, Feathers and Fedoras is scheduled for Saturday, March 24th, from 6-11pm at the Great Hall Banquet & Convention Center. Join Honorary Chairs Shelly and Jimmy Greene for the party of the year!

Bring out your black silk fedora or your best flapper dress and get ready to Foxtrot the night away at Feathers and Fedoras!

Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket or \$20 for five. Call 989-835-4041 ext 227 for more information.

CRAFT BAZAAR FOR TONI & TRISH HOUSE FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

A craft bazaar is being held for the Toni & Trish House on Saturday, March 10, from 9-3, at the K of C Hall on Garfield Road in Auburn. There will be crafts, a bake sale and a silent auction. Thank you in advance for supporting the Toni & Trish House for the Terminally Ill.

A MENTOR IS SOMEONE WHO ALLOWS YOU TO SEE THE HOPE INSIDE YOURSELF

Please consider becoming a mentor for a teenager at the Juvenile Care Center. As little as one hour a week could make a huge difference in a child's life. You don't need any special talents and activities could be as simple as: go for a walk, toss a ball around, have a meal together, try a new activity. All it takes is a caring heart and the ability to listen and be a friend.

Every child is one caring adult away from becoming a success story – you could be that adult! Call or email Sue Landis at Midland Mentors for more information: 837-6255 or slandis@co.midland.mi.us



Scrapbooker's

Friday & Saturday

9AM – 5PM

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

March 16 & 17, 2018



ADULT CLASSES:

- **MESSAGE ENGAGEMENT**
Facilitated by Rev. Karen Walker-Freeburg ~ Chapel ~
- **MISSING THE POINT**
Led by Victor Atiemo-Obeng, Mark Neil ~ Harmony Room ~
- **KNIT, PRAY, LOVE**
Led by Elaine Parsons ~ Room 16, North Wing ~



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

Marilyn Walker

4015 Washington, Midland, MI 48642

Nate & Joyce Poland

2737 W Wilder Road, Midland, MI 48642



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

March Birthdays:

- 1: Carolyn Cary
- 2: Elaine Poindexter
- 4: Shawna Elmore, Tyler Steib
- 5: Stephanie Bergman Fritschen
- 7: Marc Dean, Jr.
- 16: Judy Zeiss
- 17: Elaine Parsons
- 22: Bob Clarke
- 23: Ruthie O'Dell
- 24: Bobbie Baker, Kim Bruce
- 26: Barb Neil, Preston Streeter
- 27: Nadine Collins, Bing Fu, Mark Neil
- 28: Isaiah Williams
- 29: Sheridan Seamster
- 31: Dave Pellegrom, Emersyn Seamster

March Anniversaries:

- 1: Ron & Janice Smith
- 7: Wayne & Karen Crosby
- 23: Jim & Debbie Hitt; Chris & Michelle Moe
- 30: Roland & Janice Wallace

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/>

April's Newsletter deadline is March 20th, at Noon.

GROW YOUR OWN PRODUCE WITH GARDEN MENTORING ASSISTANCE



Free Individual Raised Bed Units

Chapel Lane Presbyterian Church
5501 Jefferson Avenue

Sign-up Now

Seeds, Plants and Materials Provided

Call: 430-6766 or

E-mail: waynerstover@gmail.com

D.A.R.E.
invites you to
The 6th Annual
Spaghetti Dinner
& Silent Auction

brought to you by:

MIDLAND COUNTY
SHERIFF
D.A.R.E.

Adults - **\$8.00**
Adults (60 & over) - **\$6.00**
Children (4-12 years old) - **\$4.00**
Children (3 & under) - **FREE**

at Messiah Lutheran Church
1550 S. Poseyville Rd. • Midland, MI

FRIDAY MARCH 23 2018

Optional
Meat Free Sauce
Take Out Available
Door Prizes
50/50 Raffle

STARTS AT 5PM
- TIL 8PM

Sunday Schedule

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



First Baptist Church
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