



**November 1, 2017**

## 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 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.

## Thanksgiving Baskets



### **YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT**

**Sunday, November 19, 2017,  
12:00 Noon – 3:30 pm.**

**Meet at 12:00 Noon** for lunch in the Hearthside Room; pack up and deliver food, personal care, and monetary donations to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 12:30-1:00 pm. Pack baskets at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1:00-3:00 pm. Return to First Baptist for pick-up by 3:30 pm. Have fun and thank Jesus by serving others!

## LEAD PASTOR

For the past two years, I have attended the Clergy Clinic at the Mennonite Peace Training Center in Lombard, Illinois where I have learned about and been transformed by my training in “Bowen Family Systems Theory.” I am handling stress, or anxiety, differently now; I am able to remain calm in intense situations and carry less stress over all! Given what learning this theory has done in my life, it is no wonder that I desire to share some of these learnings with this congregation, which I have done through sermons, Sunday school classes, and even the “Healthy Congregations” workshop that we put on last year.

But, what good is simply learning about the theories if we don’t have a tool to help us cope with our anxiety? This, for me, has been the importance of Faithwalking in my life. The leaders of Faithwalking, Jim Herrington and Trisha Taylor, have used some of Bowens theories to help create a personal transformation process which brings together the psychologist’s theories with a faith in Christ; add that to their belief that we are created by God to partner with Him in His work in the world, and the results are nothing short of amazing. I can speak first-hand about the effects of Faithwalking because for the past four years I have been on the “Faithwalking journey.” Through the retreats and small groups I have attended, I have found practical steps and a safe community in which to process through what I have learned about myself (especially since beginning the Bowen training) and to begin to see God work in incredible ways in my life as I experience a deeper relationship with God, a stronger sense of His calling in my life, and freedom from some of my past experiences.

This year, for the second time, we are hosting the two day Faithwalking in our very own church! Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 Jim Herrington, along with members of the Faithwalking community from here in Midland, will be in our building leading a retreat which takes participants through the first part of this incredible transformational journey. I would like to invite everyone to attend this incredible retreat with others from around the community. For more information or to sign up for the retreat simply go to [www.faithwalking.us/midland](http://www.faithwalking.us/midland). Or talk with Allen Ross, Vicki Walter, or John Walter, who each attended the retreat last year. For those who still need more information feel free to email me personally at [pastor@midlandfbc.com](mailto:pastor@midlandfbc.com), or talk to Dave Pellegrum or Kathy Williams who both not only attended the retreat but have completed the follow up small group process.

This is a time of transition for our congregation, just remember, God is still working in us here at FBC. Faithwalking is just one of the tools being offered to us to assist us in growing into the men and women that God has called us to be as individuals and as a church. God bless!

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

## **PRAYER PARTNERS**

**For the health needs of many of our church family:** Bobbie Baker, Thayer Bradish, Kathy Burch, David Bussell, Ed Clark, Dianna Cole, Mel Collins, Dale Green, Pastor Lara and her children, Betty King, Emma Mantel, Dave Mitchell, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Joyce Poland, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Shirley Sevener, Betty Spiker, Lou Stickney, Alex Sutherland and Family, Marilyn Walker, Bob Winchester and Judy Zeiss.

**And the needs of loved ones:** Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Bill Babb, Bobby Baker (Bobbie's nephew), Emily Baker (Bobbie's daughter-in-law), Kim & Randy Francisco, Steven Gibson (E. Poindexter's nephew), Dr. Harris (Kathy Burch's doctor), Kathy Moe (Don Raetz' sister), Peter Mortensen, Mary Pietenpol, Gary Poindexter, Rick Raetz, Rose (E. Parsons' friend), and Audrey Yost (Streeter's friend).

**And those that grieve:** The Martin Family (death of FBC Manistique's pastor's son); family of baby girl (Shawna's client)

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](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com).

## **SHARING TREE**

The Holiday Season is approaching; Sharing Tree helps to provide some gifts at the Holidays, as well as other needed items throughout the year, to those who are less fortunate. The Sharing Tree tags will be available soon. Green tags are items that have specifically been requested for the Christmas Holiday. Sharing with those in need is always a way to warm your heart and share your joy during the season!



This year there is an addition to the program! For the first time, we will offer a way for community members who don't have access to a tree—or may not have time to shop for a gift the option to purchase critical basic need items for families in our community—through our brand new online Sharing Tree Impact Store. Items such as transportation tickets, utility money orders, clothing, cleaning supplies, baby supplies, etc. will be available. This will be a great opportunity to reach more people in our community and offers an impactful and easy way for those in your organization to participate—share the mobile-friendly link and text to give options in your bulletins, newsletters, e-communications and social media. Please contact [bevabb2@gmail.com](mailto:bevabb2@gmail.com) or [office@midlandfbc.com](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com).

## MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM

### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

First Baptist is participating in the **Community Thanksgiving Food Basket** program this year! This important program provides Thanksgiving dinners to 400 or more Midland county families in need, and is coordinated by Midland County Department of Human Services, Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network (EFPN), and Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Here is the plan for our participation:

- **Church-wide contribution of food items, personal care items, and/or monetary donations for turkeys and other fresh items – bring these with you to church on Sundays, November 5, 12, and 19.** Leave items at the Welcome Center! See below the list of needed items.
- **Youth** transport and delivery of contributed items from First Baptist to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, **12:30-1:00PM on Sunday, November 19.** Youth will meet at 12:00Noon, right after Sunday School that day, for lunch at First Baptist, then will pack up the First Baptist contributions and deliver them to Aldersgate.
- **Youth** and **youth leaders** participate in packing baskets, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, **1:00-3:00PM on Sunday, November 19.** Youth will be back to First Baptist for pick-up by 3:30PM.

**In heartfelt thanks to God, please join in this lovely act of celebrating His gracious bounty!**

#### Here are suggested donation items:

**Food** – canned fruits & vegetables, cereal, spaghetti sauce, noodles, boxed potatoes, rice  
canned soup, dessert mixes, juices, stuffing, jello, pie mixes.

**Personal Care** – shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, combs, hair brushes,  
razor/shaving cream, toilet paper, toothpaste, tooth brushes, laundry detergent

**Monetary** – make checks payable to Midland County EFPN – Thanksgiving Baskets on  
memo line. (Please leave these in the offering plate or the church office, rather than at the  
Welcome Center.)

## GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF THE MONTH

**SEPARATION OF CHURCH & 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.

## MUSIC NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MINISTER - FALL 2017

**Hymns are poetry set to music.** “Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.” With that in mind, it is with much gratitude that I thank **the singers and instrumentalists, the readers and the audio-visual team** for their dedication and commitment to our fall ***Festival of Hymns: The Hymn Writers Tell Their Stories***, presented in worship October 22. Thanks to the excellent writing of its composer and arranger, Hal Hopson, the congregation was immersed in almost 2000 years of hymn singing in the Christian church. Ten hymn writers, from Bishop Ambrose of the 3rd century to Sydney Carter of the 20th century, ‘visited’ the congregation to tell their stories. After each story, the Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, Brass Quartet and organist led the congregation in singing such traditional hymns as *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*, *Now Thank We All Our God* and *For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*. Voices were raised in a variety of styles, ranging from the plainsong chant of Bishop Ambrose *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*, the acapella singing of John Calvin’s *O Clap Your Hands*, the gospel stylings of Fanny Crosby in *Blessed Assurance*, the lilting Spanish accompaniment of the Roberto Escamilla song *When We Are Living*, to the fast jig of Sydney Carter’s *Lord of the Dance*.

While we are thankful that **Chancel Bells and Choir** are always present in worship, I would also like to thank by name our soloists **Ceonni Williams and Amelia Sutherland**, our guest organist **Chelsea Storms**, and our guest brass ensemble of **Dave Selley, Rick Enszer, Gaye Terwillegar and Rich Harner**. And much thanks and praise goes to our storytellers who brought the hymn writers alive before our very eyes- **Lara Freeburg, Lanny Robbins, Doug King, Bob Clarke, Dave Pellegrom, Karen Walker-Freeburg, Betty King, Andy Neil, Victor Atiemo-Obeng, True Rogers and Brendan Smith**. It was an absolutely glorious morning of praise and worship!

**CALENDAR - Take Note!** Elementary and Middle School Choir and Bell Ensemble began Monday Sept 11. All kids ages K-8 are invited to take part in choir, handbells, devotions, games and snacks. Almost 2/3 of children attending are either unchurched or attend another church in Midland. Take Note! is truly an outreach of love that just happens to focus on music making. **Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells** continue to meet on Wednesday evenings. **Praise Team** rehearses Sunday mornings before worship

**MORE THANKS** - This summer I put out a call to all abled body individuals willing to run power point one week a month. Thanks to **Dave Hitchcock, Joey Meilink, Alex Sutherland, Cindy Kwok- Wong and Amelia Sutherland** for answering the call. More folks are always welcome to join the power point team!

**Ceonni Williams** is our Choral Song Leader in worship for 2017-18. You will see and hear her leading hymns and songs as well as providing solos for worship. Thank you to **Troy Bergman** for leading last year. Thanks to **Kathy Williams and Dave Pellegrom** for providing the seed money for this ministry in honor of their late spouses.

**MAKING CONTACT** - Please contact me via email, [jant@tm.net](mailto:jant@tm.net), or by office phone. My fall office hours are Monday and Wednesday, and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

~Soli Deo Gloria, Jan Sutherland, Music Minister



Friends at FBC: Thank you so much for your continued support of Midland Young Life. As we reach out and work on making a difference in the lives of teens and teen moms. Your gift helps us to do just that. We appreciate you! Thank you!

~Lisa M - Young Life

FBC Family: Thank you, so very much, for your kindness, prayers, cards and memorial dinner after the loss of my uncle. Special thanks to Bev Babb, Bobbie Baker, Karen Walker-Freeburg, Kathy Williams and Marcia Williams...you all made a time of heartbreak bearable. Thank you! ~Shelley Page



## Scrapbooker's

**Friday & Saturday**

**9AM – 5PM**

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

**November 10 & 11, 2017**

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR - 2017

### Regular Schedule

		<b>ABIDING SCRIPTURES NOVEMBER — COLOSSIANS 3:1-17</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 Rm - November 13 - <u>All church is invited!</u></b>
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
Wednesdays	5:30 PM 6-7:00PM 6:15 PM 7:15-8:30PM	<b>Stewardship &amp; Finance Meeting - Media Room - November 15</b> <b>Chancel Bells Practice</b> <b>Property Management Meeting - Media Room - November 1</b> <b>Chancel Choir Practice</b>
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	<b>FBC Serves at Open Door - November 11</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Every Month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
Nov 3	5:15 PM	<b>Amish Dinner - Hitchcock's: 6104 Millbrook</b>
Nov 10	9AM-5PM 9AM-5PM	<b>Faithwalking in the Hearthside Room</b> <b>Scrapbookers in the Bethel Room</b>
Nov 11	9AM-5PM 9AM-5PM 6-9:00PM	<b>Faithwalking in the Hearthside Room</b> <b>Scrapbookers in the Bethel Room</b> <b>Aspire Women's Event</b> (We will meet @ FBC @ 6PM and travel to Saginaw)
Nov 12	9:30 AM  11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Special Speaker: Rev. Dr. Karen Walker-Freeburg <b>Sunday School</b>
Nov 21	-	<b>December Newsletter Deadline</b>
Nov 22	12 Noon	<b>Office Closes at Noon for Thanksgiving</b>
Nov 23	-	<b>Thanksgiving - Office Closed</b>

**Turn CLOCKS  
BACKWARD**



**on Sunday,  
November 5<sup>th</sup>**

### Ushers

**David Bussell**  
**Mike Walker**  
**Kathy Williams**

### SAVE THE DATE!!!

Dec 3	9:00 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>
	10:45 AM	<b>December Business Meeting</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	4:00 PM	<b>Hanging of the Greens - decorating</b>
	5:00 PM	<b>Soup Supper</b>
	6:00 PM	<b>Take-Note! Christmas Musical</b>

### Church Greeters

**5 Bev Babb**  
**12 Sharon & Bob Winchester**  
**19 Lois C. & Mary Lou Sperry**  
**26 TBD**

**[CLICK HERE to Connect to Church Calendar](#)**

**December's Newsletter deadline is November 21 at Noon.**

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/>

Date: November 1, 2017

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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