



FELLOWSHIP BUILDER ~ April 2024

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

I have been renovating parts of my house that were caving in. Like all homeowners who embark on ambitious home improvement campaigns, I like the improvements but instead of marveling over living in a house that now has a couple of nice rooms, all I can see is the money I am spending. Everything new has an imaginary price tag and all of them say, “You can’t afford this, and you’ll never get it paid off.” Amusingly, the old, tired unrenovated rooms are where I am most comfortable because they aren’t constantly reminding me of the bills. I’m amused by my inability to enjoy the new, costly part that I wanted most. Like the rest of the world, I’m a captive of money. It frequently decides how much I’m going to enjoy something, to the point that I prefer clothes I got on sale over those for which I was forced to pay full price.

Money is our blind spot because it is part of nearly every decision we make. Many times, after long, hot days I’ll drive home dehydrated because McDonalds raised the price of their drinks. I’m taking a stand against inflation by not buying drinks from fast food restaurants. That will teach them! I know I’m crazy but I’m crazy just like you. Money is ubiquitous. We are like fish and money is water. The fish don’t know that water is all around them because the idea of water has never occurred to them until they are dragged by a fisherman’s hook from the lake. This constant money obsession is ok until we come to scriptural interpretation. The minute money comes up in a passage, we base our interpretation on the money questions the verses raise. Except, maybe the author was not making a point about money at all. Maybe money was the last thing they were thinking about as they wrote.

Our Scripture passages this week are *Psalm 133* and *Acts 4:32-35*. The Psalm speaks of how good it is when believers live together in peace and love. This state of being requires us to give and take without keeping too close an account of who got what and when. This is hard to do after we have been trained to watch the distribution of money and demand our fair share. Sometimes a “fair share” is not the same for us as others received. The passage from Acts tells the story of the early and highly idealistic church. They owned everything in common, forsaking possessions as they imitated Jesus’ arrangement with His disciples who kept and used their money in common. Early believers had found something far more fulfilling than owning things. So, is this passage from Acts written to demand that we forsake all possessions? Are we supposed to give up everything unlike the rich young man (who failed to give up his worldly goods as far as we can tell from the text)?

Or, maybe there is a profound message about the nature of the Kingdom of God that calls for something far more radical than just giving up money. Is money that important? I just gave my money to a contractor, and I don’t feel any different about religion. Come to church this Sunday at 9:30 and we will look at the passages to discover if God is asking for something more profound than a check.

Blessings, Pastor Walt

Circle of Caring

Kathryn Wall, Tommy Van Metere, Lois Strothman, Marilyn Massa, Matt Lundblade, Eric Gill Sr.,
The Family of Ryan Gish, & Devon (Alyssa’s Son)

(Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless the office is notified.)

Here to Serve in Ministry

Walt Hoshaw, Pastor

Alyssa Higginbotham, Office Administrator

Kathy Mentele, Choir Director

Peggy Pleasant, Organist

Worship Service 9:30 am

Contact Information

Telephone: 608.365.8455

E-mail:

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Website: www.firstbaptistbeloit.com

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Spring Clean-Up: will be on April 27th starting at 8:00 am. *Rain date May 5th.*

Worship Leaders: We are looking for more volunteers to be Worship leaders. These are people who lead others in worshipping God and aim to glorify God. Please let Diaconate know if you are interested in learning more.

Bible Study: Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm.

Choir Practice: Thursdays at 7:00 pm.

New Ways to Give: please read the Baird flyers in the Narthex. Questions, see Ed Hansen.

Facebook: please remember to like and share First Baptist posts to friends and family!

Prayer Requests: please fill out the gold card in the narthex and put them in the offering plate or give them directly to Pastor Walt.

Board & Committee Chairs: Please to turn in a copy of your minutes to the church office.

Caritas Needs: 4, 5, & 6 diapers, unscented baby wipes, & cereal.

2024 Worship Bulletin Recognition: Please sponsor a Sunday bulletin in memory or honor of a loved one or a special occasion. Fill out the white form in the narthex & drop it to off in the office. Include a check for **\$20**. You will be notified if the date is not available.

Youth Group Fundraiser: Don't forget to buy your eggs. All proceeds go to our youth!

Midweek Message: If you would like to receive the Midweek Message, please contact the church office or visit our website www.firstbaptistbeloit.com

Donuts: Do you enjoy donuts at Coffee Hour? Please consider sponsoring a Sunday for \$40.

Trustee Meeting: We will meet April 7th at 8:15 am.

Church Council: will meet on April 8th at 7:00 pm

Scoopie Night Check Presentation: April 9th at 9:00 am.

Renewal Committee: will meet April 9th at 10:00 am in the Parlor

Mission Board: will meet April 9th at 6:30 pm

Diaconate: will meet April 14th at 11:30 am

ABW: meets on April 17th at noon, bring your own lunch. The program is “*Method in Their Madness*” By Shirley Swanson.

Family Movie Night: will be on April 20th at 6:00 pm. Movie T.B.A.

CE Board: will meet April 21st at 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Hannah Ellis	8 Riley Jensen	21 Shari Druetzler
Virgil Elson	Mary Wilson	22 Joann Saunders
3 Nick Wright	12 Rykin Montoya	Leland Wilson
4 Mary Arneson	14 Ron Mixon, Jr.	25 Dixie Dunn
Craig West	15 William Jolly	27 Debbie Grey

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 TOPS 8-10 am	6
7 Communion Trustee Meeting 8:15am	8 Church Council 7:00pm	9 Culver's Check Presentation Renewal Committee 10:00 am Mission Board 6:30 pm	10	11 C.S.R. 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	12 TOPS 8-10 am	13
14 Member Appreciation Diaconate Meeting 11:30 am	15	16 PEO 11 – 2 :00 pm	17 ABW Noon	18 Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	19 TOPS 8-10 am	20 Movie Night 6:00 pm
21 CE Board Meeting 10:45 am	22	23	24	25 Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	26 TOPS 8-10 am	27 Spring Clean-Up 8:00 am
28	29	30				