

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

A friend recently bemoaned her fate upon discovering she had purchased a fake designer bag from an online scammer. I can see her point. She paid for what she thought would be a discounted original and received a knock off. I hear that fakes can be so accurate it requires an expert to tell the difference. I silently wondered just how my friend thought she could get a real item for less than half price. I also wondered why anyone would pay that much money for a purse. Finally, it occurred to me that close enough ought to be good enough to fool most people. It’s not like we were talking about fishing rods or something important.

At any rate, the designer bag she had carried with such care only yesterday was now an object of scorn and embarrassment. It was, after all, not made of the same material as a real designer bag and my friend had lost her faith. I can’t claim any expertise on designer items or purses, so I’ll suggest another area with which I am more familiar. Lots of people adhere to all sorts of religious and spiritual beliefs until they find that the ideas, good as they are in some circumstances, fail in others. They seem to lack some indiscernible, permanent, and universal quality. They seek a more satisfying, lifelong basis upon which to build their personal faith system. What a coincidence! Our Scripture readings this week tell us of a system, built on a solid foundation, enduring, that can be universally applied.

1 John 5:1-6 speaks to the heart of the matter, telling us that everything we believe has a solid basis that can bring universal agreement. *Acts 10: 44-48* gives us a practical example of this faith in action. What a world of difference it would be if we all based our faith on this common, permanent, most beautiful thing of all. Join me this Sunday as we study the Scriptures to find out how to live more fully and happily.

Blessings, Pastor Walt

Circle of Caring

Kathryn Wall, Tommy Van Metere, Shirley Swanson, Lois Strothman, Vic Schoonover, Bobby Potter, Jace Newell, Marilyn Massa, Matt Lundblade, Robin Huffman, Emily Herrman, Connie Gleasman, & Jay Brown

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

Heart of Gold Raffle: Ed Hansen is raffle tickets for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. There will be 10 chances to win raffle baskets that contain donated gift cards from local businesses. Gift cards range in value from \$10 to \$380! The winner will be drawn on July 1st!



2024 America for Christ Offering: the total raised this year was \$940. Thank you to all who were able to give to this important mission.

Need Furniture? contact Pastor Walt for details.

Video: if we are to continue broadcasting, we need someone shadowing Dave Parr as soon as possible. Otherwise, our Sunday morning services will not go out to shut-ins & members watching from home. Please contact Dave Parr to help out.

Foundation Meeting & Annual Baird Update: will be May 2nd at 6:30 pm at the church.

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

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

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. Let Diaconate know if you're interested in helping.

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 green card in the narthex and put them in the offering plate or give them directly to Pastor Walt.

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

Caritas Needs: Diaper sizes 4, 5, & 6, unscented baby wipes, & Cereal (No oatmeal).

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.

Feeling Ill: you have the option to watch our Sunday service from home at www.facebook.com/firstbaptistbeloit

Need to stop by the church office? We'd love to see you, just give us a call 365-8455

Calendar

Thursday	May 2	6:00 pm	Bible Study
		7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	May 5	8:15 am	Trustee Meeting
		9:30 am	Sixth Sunday After Easter Sunday
		10:45 am	Coffee Hour