



## FELLOWSHIP BUILDER ~ May 2024

*“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”*

### *FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH*

Summer is right around the corner. At the beginning of every Memorial Day parade someone should fire off a starters' gun, signaling the race into summer. That way the parade crowd would know that they need to start running to the butcher shop for brats and dogs. Others in the crowd could jump into their cars and head north, towing trailers and boats at high speed. And still another group would go home to officiate the opening of another backyard pool season. Summer is a time of movement, meeting and sharing.

Many of us will meet new friends and some of us will meet interesting challenges. One never knows these days which previously innocent and inoffensive comments or actions will be met with angry condemnation. Worse yet, once slow moving social and political movements are now changing sides on an issue with each news cycle. So, when talk turns to politics, religion, or even topics like dental hygiene, we take long sips on our drink before answering in the most neutral fashion possible. Life is messy and complicated, leaving us wondering if we know anything for sure. That's where the Bible comes in for believers.

Paul teaches us that the best way to make converts is not by confrontation, but by using the words and ideas of the other to help them understand that they really agree with you. It's all a matter of listening for the problem and reshaping their answer toward a more permanent, biblical solution. In this way we make friends and converts. Our Scripture readings for this week hint at just this way of doing things. In *Acts 1:15-17, 21-26* the once confrontational Peter must choose a new disciple to take the place of Judas Iscariot. He asks God to choose the one with the heart that will best serve Him.

*Psalm 1* is a poem that warns readers they will meet others who do not believe in God. Sometimes their arguments will test the faith of believers. But using the turnabout logic, the psalmist asks a simple question of the scoffers. Well, if not God, on what do you base your life? This leaves the scoffers with no basis for their life beyond their opinions. And we all know opinions change over time. That brings me back to where I started. We will be confused this summer by news reports, internet rumors, and odd opinions coming from people we never thought would say such things. Some of those ideas may test your faith. Just remember that there is one, permanent source of all things, and ideas, Who has a plan for all of this. (No matter what somebody might tell you after their 3<sup>rd</sup> poolside / campsite / back seat of the boat drink. It's all good. God has this in His hands. See you Sunday at 9:30 in -person or online.

*Blessings, Pastor Walt*

#### *Circle of Caring*

Kathryn Wall, Tommy Van Metere, Lois Strothman, Bobby Potter, Jace Newell, Marilyn Massa, Matt Lundblade, Robin Huffman, Emily Herrman, Alice Godding, & Jay Brown

Congratulations to Gail Ludlum on the birth of her Great Grandson, William Cocherell

*(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:

[secretary@firstbaptistbeloit.com](mailto:secretary@firstbaptistbeloit.com)

Website: [www.firstbaptistbeloit.com](http://www.firstbaptistbeloit.com)

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**America for Christ Update:** with an additional gift given last week we topped the \$1,000 mark. Our new total is \$1,040.00. Thanks again to all who were able to give.

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

**Diaconate:** will meet May 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am

**Church Council:** will meet May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Renewal Committee:** will meet May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Parlor

**Mission Board:** will meet May 14<sup>h</sup> at 6:30 pm

**ABW:** meets on May 15<sup>th</sup> at noon, salad luncheon. The program is “*Mothers & Daughters of the Bible*” By Marilyn Poff. All are welcome!

**Family Movie Night:** will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Movie will be Descendants

**CE Board:** will meet May 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

**Heart of Gold Raffle:** Ed Hansen is raffle tickets for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. There'll be 10 chances to win raffle baskets that contain donated gift cards. Winner will be drawn on July 1st!

**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.

**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. Last practice will be May 16<sup>th</sup> for the summer.

**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.

**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](http://www.firstbaptistbeloit.com)

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Randy & Deb Rotschka	13 Jana Maxted	27 Jeff Morris
<i>Mike &amp; Donna Hutchinson's Anniversary</i>	15 Judy Elson	29 Samantha Jones
2 Doug Newsom	17 Jim Clowes	Barbra Lansbery
8 Deb Najdowski	22 Jasmine Jones	<i>Lee &amp; Mary Arneson's Anniversary</i>
Gary Bjerke	23 Lindsay Winters	
11 Tamara Mixon	24 <i>Steve &amp; Kathy Mentele's Anniversary</i>	
Ty Huffman	25 <i>Leland &amp; Mary Wilson's Anniversary</i>	

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## May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Bible Study 6:00 pm  Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm  Choir 7:00 pm	<b>3</b>  TOPS 8-10 am	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Communion  Trustee Meeting 8:15am	<b>6</b> Church Council 7:00pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Bible Study 6:00 pm  Choir 7:00 pm	<b>10</b>  TOPS 8-10 am	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  Diaconate Meeting 11:30 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Renewal Committee 10:00 am  Mission Board 6:30 pm	<b>15</b>  ABW Noon	<b>16</b>  Bible Study 6:00 pm  Choir 7:00 pm	<b>17</b>  TOPS 8-10 am	<b>18</b>  Movie Night 6:00 pm
<b>19</b>  CE Board Meeting 10:45 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  PEO 11 – 2 :00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Bible Study 6:00 pm  No Choir	<b>24</b>  TOPS 8-10 am	<b>25</b>  Float Prep 10:00 am at the Bown's
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Memorial Day</i>  <i>Office Closed</i> →	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Bible Study 6:00 pm  No Choir	<b>31</b>  TOPS 8-10 am	