

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

This is the best-worst time of year. We look forward to the holidays with anticipation, tinged with dread. There are so many things to do. Christmas card lists, family gatherings, community volunteering, decorating (and keeping the cat off the tree), and a hundred other things. But the holidays make it all worthwhile. When the holidays are over, we look back with both gratitude and relief. On top of all this, everyday life grinds on bringing bills, sick family members, unexpected breakdowns of mechanical things and people at the worst possible minute – and always when we are most exhausted and hanging at the knot on the end of our own rope.

How would I know all of this? Because it is, and always has been an integral part of the human condition. People are funny because we often think too much and just rest in existence too little. What do I mean? Consider the squirrel. Yes, the squirrel. Squirrels are busy folk, spending every minute of every day running madly here and there, gathering nuts, stealing nuts from each other, fighting over territory, and staying clear of predators and cars. Although, like people, squirrels often run into the path of greatest peril and end up as furry frisbees on the road. The only time squirrels stop moving is when they are sitting in a tree, angrily chattering at a predator that has stopped their mad schedule. Finally, their nut supply filled, they fall into a deep sleep that lasts for months. Does any of this start to sound like your life? Well, excepting the sleeping well for long periods part.

We know this is part of the human condition because ***I Kings 17:8-16*** somewhere about 500-600BC. Things weren't any better in the 100 years after Christ because the Book of ***Mark (12:38-44)*** tells us there were problems then too. Things today are much more comfortable because technology changed but humans are still involved, and we haven't changed a bit. What remains the same to this day is that both Kings and Matthew tell us that relying on God by obeying Him makes this life easier. Join me this Sunday at 9:30 am when I will explain why our imperfection will do when combined with the perfection of God.

Blessings Pastor Walt

Circle of Caring

Andy Yeadon, Bobby Wilson, Paul Tracy, Lois Strothman, Mark Singer, Jace Newell, John Luttig, Robin Huffman, Kevin Hayden, Eric Gill Sr., Mark Fernette, Virgil Elson, Carrie, Sabrina Bloadorn, & Bart Bingham

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

ABW: will meet on Wednesday, November 20th, at noon. Please bring your lunch, dessert is provided. The program is “*Sing a Song to the Lord*” by Shirley Swanson.

Family Movie Night: will be Saturday, November 23rd at 6:00 pm. We will be watching “*Spellbound*”.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers: are needed for December 9th from 10am to 8pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room for 2-hour shifts. We will cover both entrances.

Advent Sign-Up: is posted in the Narthex. We need a family on Dec. 15th. You will be provided with the reading materials.

World Mission Offering: collected \$999 this year. Thanks to all that were able to give.

Handbell Choir: has started and practices will be on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am in the sanctuary.

Support Camp Tamarack: we are selling bags of peanuts in the Gathering Room for \$1 each. See Carol Egleston for more details.

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

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.

Caritas Needs: Soup, (Cream of Mushroom & Chicken).

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

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| Wednesday | November 20 | Noon | ABW Meeting |
| Thursday | November 21 | 6:00 pm | Bible Study |
| | | 7:00 pm | Choir Practice |
| Saturday | November 23 | 6:00 pm | Movie Night |
| Sunday | November 24 | 9:30 am | Twentieth – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Proper 28 |
| | | 10:45 am | Coffee Hour |
| | | 11:00 am | Hand Bell Practice |