



FELLOWSHIP BUILDER ~ JUNE 2025

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

I’m taking a few days off to argue with a couple of my brothers in a boat. We probably won’t catch any fish, but I suppose that was never the point as fish are readily available at a much lower price at any local supermarket. Besides, we throw the fish back and at the end of the day go to a restaurant where the fish are already cleaned and cooked, and served with delicious sides as we sit in comfortable chairs. So, what is the point of this yearly excursion? Well, we all own boats we rarely use, but that isn’t the most important reason.

I suppose its because we have a lifetime bond, formed by the hard process of sharing clothes, meals, one bedroom, and fighting over the seat space in a series of station wagons and vans. The relationship is not always smooth, but it endures because of the history. Over time we form bonds of affection in both good and bad situations. The same is true if you’ve lived for many years in a community. It is hard for me to get all the way through local grocery stores without stopping to talk to at least one former co-worker, neighbor, relative, or acquaintance. We always spend too much time talking about old times and what has happened since we last saw each other. When we part, the good feelings follow us.

This Summer we will naturally run all different directions because we live in Wisconsin where the Winters may be debatable, but Summers are as good as they can be anywhere in the world. There is so much to do and see. Some of us will run farther afield, visiting other states and countries. Yet, in the Fall we will all wander back home, the place where we are most comfortable. We will renew bonds by sharing new and old stories, offering congratulations, sympathy, and occasionally advice where appropriate. And, in the Winter, when the first snow is falling, we will look forward to the holidays because the bonds will be renewed again. The cycle is made more beautiful by repetition and remembrance of those no longer present, who taught us to live together.

This is one of the reasons I work in a small church. It’s a community with strong, personal bonds. Recently, a friend told me she must constantly reintroduce herself to people in her mega church. The pastor of her church has never met or spoken to her, and he doesn’t have time to perform weddings and funerals. The junior pastors do that. He does the baptisms because that’s good advertising for growing the church and can be accomplished during the service. But the personal services that mark important landmarks in the many lives that attend are too time consuming for a head pastor at a mega church. I hate doing funerals because I always know the person I’m burying. I’ve buried too many friends lately and my head is kind of messy from so much loss. That’s one of the reasons I’m going to go sit in a boat on a lake and hold a fishing pole. If I catch one fish, it is a good trip. I need to get away because too many bonds in my life have been ripped away and I need time to recover. I guess the only thing worse in my mind is to never have the bonds to start.

We are all tired from a year of serving God and community and need a slow Summer to recover. Church work is hard for everyone where the good and bad experiences tend to live in our heads for long periods because, like family, our bonds have been formed over many years and the roots run all the way to the bottom of our soul. So, I will see you in a week when rested, I will be ready to renew and refresh those around me. *Blessings, Pastor Walt*

Circle of Caring

Rev. Sarah Welton, Lois Strothman, Mike Soderberg, Marilyn Massa, Mahogany Little, Robert Howe, Robin Huffman, Kevin Hayden, Judy Elson, & Kevin Brown

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

You are all invited to celebrate the graduation of Daniel Lancaster on Sunday, June 8th from 2pm -5pm

Congratulations Jolene Hall on your retirement from Beloit School District after 40 years of service!



Free Family Fun Carnival

Saturday, June 14th

Games ~ Prize~ Snacks

4:00 – 6:00 pm Carnival ~ 6:00 pm Dinner ~ 6:30 pm Movie Toy Story 4



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

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“Like” us on Facebook



www.facebook.com/firstbaptistbeloit

2025 Scholarship Applications: are available in the Narthex. Due date is June 8th!

Camp Tamarack is a wonderful resource for Christian faith formation and development. This year's theme for camp is WILD (Luke 4:1). Rev. Mindi will be returning as Sr. High Camp Pastor June 15th -19th. Camp schedule & registration can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex & <https://camptamarack.org/2025-abcwi-camps/>

Meals On Wheels: is in urgent need of drivers both regular and substitutes.

One Night Without A Home: Experience Join us June 27th starting at 8:00 pm – June 28th at the Edwards Activity & Sports Center for an unforgettable overnight event that sheds light on homelessness in our community. Upon arrival, you'll receive a participation kit designed to enhance your experience throughout the night. As the event concludes, enjoy a continental breakfast to start your day. Flyer is posted in the Narthex.

Heart of Gold Raffle Fun-raiser is officially underway in support of Beloit Meals on Wheels. Tickets are just \$5 each or 5 for \$20! You can purchase them from Ed Hansen or online. The flyer is posted on the bulletin in the Narthex.

Special Music Calendar: is posted in the narthex. If you would like to participate, please sign up. We would enjoy hearing your musical talents!

ABW: does not meet over the summer. Our next meeting will be in September. Details to come!

Make your Bible study time more fun: with a coloring and journaling Bible. Each page has space for notes, illustrations, and reflections. Cost is \$20. See Pastor Walt for details.

One Great Hour of Sharing: this offering provides emergency help to people around the world who have suffered from a natural disaster. This important mission running during all Sundays in June.

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

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

Bible Study: will return in the fall.

Choir Practice: will return in the fall.

Worship Leaders: We need more volunteers to be Worship leaders. These are people who lead others in worshiping and glorifying God. Let Diaconate know if you are interested in learning more.

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.

2025 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

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

June Birthday's & Anniversaries

1	Zach Morris	11	Cathy Bown	22	Kathy Soderberg
3	Lee Arneson	14	Billy Reetz, Jr.	26	Pat Clowes
4	Deb Kerwin	14	<i>David & Karrie Winter's Anniversary</i>		
5	<i>Cecil & Jan Montoya's Anniversary</i>	17	Kyle Newsom	27	Janet Crowley
9	<i>Tim & Robin Huffman's Anniversary</i>	20	Nicole Smith	29	Gail Ludlum

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Trustee Meeting 8:15am	2	3	4	5 No Bible Study No Choir	6 TOPS 8-10 am	7
8 Scholarship Deadline	9 Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm	10	11	12 No Bible Study No Choir	13 TOPS 8-10 am	14 Carnival 4-6pm Dinner 6:00pm Movie Night 6:30pm "Toy Story 4"
15 <i>Father's Day</i> Baby Elliott Dedication	16	17 PEO Meeting	18	19 No Bible Study No Choir	20 TOPS 8-10 am	21
22	23	24	25	26 No Bible Study No Choir	27 TOPS 8-10 am	28
29 Hymn Sing Sunday	30					