



FELLOWSHIP BUILDER ~ JULY 2026

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Astronomer, Ivo Labbe, went to work expecting to verify his comfortable beliefs about the Universe. When he started in on the data from the Hubble Telescope, his calculations revealed results that upset the scientific world. He ran the numbers again and found that he hadn't made any mistakes. The data was clear; the Universe had formed far faster than anyone had ever thought possible. Additionally, there are galaxies out there that should not exist. They're just too big but there they are all the same. He sat back, took off his glasses, rubbed his face and went back to the data knowing that everything he thought he knew was wrong. Somehow the truth had changed while he slept. The Hubble telescope peered into the darkness at ancient light, too dim for eyes, recorded that data and beamed it back to Earth. When Labbe published his conclusions, astronomers around the world sat back in their chairs in stunned silence. They had been wrong about everything they believed about the Universe. Some of them attacked him and others reached out to offer congratulations. Many asked questions and requested the data sets. That's kind of how people are. Extraordinary claims demand extraordinary truths. The hard work had just begun.

In the end, it turned out the Hubble telescope was new and once it had been fine-tuned those “impossible” galaxies looked less revolutionary. When we move into new territories, our perceptions can be a bit off because our instruments, our senses and our limited knowledge can be fooled. Our Bible passages for this week tell the story of another massive change in the life of Israel. Everything was turned on its head and there was no reliable information (data) to tell them what all the new changes meant. Our Bible verses, ***Jeremiah 28:5-9*** and ***Matthew 10:40-42*** tell us a story. Predictably, everyone tended to see what they wanted to see in the unknown future. Hananiah predicted that the Babylonians would hold Israelite captives for a few years and then let them go because Israel's God was going to break the Babylonian Empire's power. Jeremiah, on the other hand, saw a far more painful future where God's intervention would take decades. Israel had sinned by turning their backs on God and heavy punishment was a natural result. While Jeremiah knew God had not abandoned His people permanently, there was no way to tell how or when He would save them from their worldly folly. We cannot know the motivations of the prophets beyond what the text tells us. Apparently, both felt strongly, but only one could be correct. Inevitably, there was a confrontation between the 2 men, both believing they knew the future. As for the Universe and all those astronomers, the Hubble telescope continues to send back revolutionary data. Every week the data silently streams back to Earth and smashes another comfortable, scientific conclusion. Come to church this Sunday at 9:30 to find out which prophet was correct because we do have conclusive data on that.

Blessings, Pastor Walt

Circle of Caring

Bobby Wilson, Kim West, Terrance Nolan, Stacey Meisegeir, & Michael Harris

(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

“Like” us on Facebook



www.facebook.com/firstbaptistbeloit

Camp Tamarack: the complete schedule and registration information can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex and at <https://camptamarack.org/2025-abcwi-camps/> Everyone wanting to attending camp will have the fee covered by the church. Please reach out to Pastor Walt with any questions.

Church Staff Relations: will meet on Thursday, July 9th at 10:00 am in the parlor.

Family Movie Night: Saturday, July 18th at 6:00 pm. The movie is “GOAT”. All are welcome!

Women’s Prayer Meeting: hosted by the Symphony of Prayer and Praise Women's Ministry on July 18th from 12 -4:00 pm at Home 2 Suites 2750 Cranston Rd Water Tower Room.

RRVBC Blood Drive: July 21st from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. More details to follow.

Farmer’s Market: Mark your calendar for September 26th. Volunteers will be needed. A Sign-up will in the Gathering Room closer to the date.

Special Summer Music Calendar: will be posted on the narthex bulletin board. If you would like to participate, please sign up. We would enjoy hearing your musical talents.

ABW: is off for the summer.

Bible Study: will resume in September.

Choir Practice: will resume in September.

Our Daily Bread Devotionals: mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all. Please remember to leave a \$0.50 minimum donation.

Caritas Needs: Canned Tuna & Salmon, Canned Stew & Chili, Canned Pork N Beans, Canned Vegetables, Peanut Butter, Rice, Pasta.

Donuts: Do you enjoy donuts at Coffee Hour? Please consider sponsoring a Sunday for \$60.

Worship Leaders: We need more volunteers. Worship leaders are people who lead others in worship & glorifying God. Let Diaconate know if you are interested in learning more.

Wear Red: please wear red on the first Sunday of each month to support our military families.

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.

2026 Worship Bulletin Recognition: sponsor a Sunday bulletin in memory or honor of a loved one or a special occasion. Fill out the white form in the narthex, include a check for **\$20**, & drop it off in the office. You’ll 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

July Birthday's & Anniversaries

1	Annabelle Burkee	7	Josh Rebone	21	Andrew Winters
1	Daniel Lancaster	9	Brenda Allen	22	Rodena Parr
4	Janet Schaefer	14	Ellen Elliott	22	<i>Brock & Ellen Elliott's Anniversary</i>
5	Jelene Ahrens	19	Cheryl Wright	27	<i>Bob & Lana Ames Anniversry</i>
5	David Parr	19	Daniel Wright	29	William Mentele
6	Cecil Montoya	21	Carol Egleston	30	Carol Fryar

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Council No Diaconate No Mission Board No Trustee			1	2 NO Bible NO Choir	3 TOPS 8-10 am	4 <i>Happy 4th of July</i>
5	6	7	8	9 Church Staff Relations 10:00 am NO Bible NO Choir	10 TOPS 8-10 am	11
12	13	14	15	16 NO Bible NO Choir	17 TOPS 8-10 am	18 Women's Prayer Meeting 12-4pm Movie Night 6:00 pm Movie is "GOAT"
19 C.E. Board 8:15 am	20	21 Blood Drive 2:00 – 6:00 pm	22 ABW Planning Meeting 10 am	23 NO Bible NO Choir	24 TOPS 8-10 am	25
26	27	28	29	30 NO Bible NO Choir	31 TOPS 8-10 am	