



FELLOWSHIP BUILDER ~ SEPTEMBER 2026

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The classic 1897 Hymn, Count Your Blessings, written by Johnson Oatman Jr. opens with

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

I can still hear Burl Ives singing that song from a cassette tape in the family station wagon back in the 60s – God blessed us right before the player ate the tape. Isn't that the way life is? We're just riding along, singing a song and then life throws you a curve ball. Once you figure out how to handle the curve balls, life pitches you a slider, then a speedball. And so it goes, life regularly handing us new, often tricky pitches. Occasionally we get beamed by a pitch and end up on our back. Ok, enough baseball analogies. The point is that life is unpredictable, often painful, and eventually deadly. We have it pretty good these days, all things considered. We live longer, healthier lives. There's nobody actively trying to ambush us on the way home through the wilderness. When we get home there's food in the refrigerator. If there isn't, we have a cornucopia of foods from which to choose at the supermarket. Is life more complicated today than it was back in biblical times? Well, that's a yes and a no answer. While we manage computer updates and car repairs, they had to contend with invading armies and famines. Personally, I'll take my problems over theirs as warfare and famine don't sound pleasant.

Our Bible passages this week give us hope in times of trouble. New problems, like computer updates and call-ending cell signal shadows plague modern life are temporary and God's ancient, unchanging promises remain dependable. Moses encounters God in the desert, in the form of a burning bush in **Exodus 3:1-15**. For every problem Moses foresees, God gives one answer. "I'll be there with you." In **Matthew 16:21-28** Jesus tells His followers the same thing. Yes, there will be even more problems as His followers try to emulate Him. Don't worry, says Jesus, because I'll be there with you. Just maybe that's all we need to remember when faced with problems, both new and as old as the Bible. Yes, there will be problems, but God is faithful. He has been with you in the past, blessing you along the way. But He'll be there in the problem with you too, so try to relax. I know, that's easier said than done. I'm a pretty accomplished worrier myself, until I remember God is omni-present. He's got a plan and we are part of it. Let's be happy and maybe a little less worried as we go about our week and gather this Sunday. See you then at 9:30. Gosh! I hope we have enough donuts. Maybe I should order more. What if nobody shows up?!

Blessings, Pastor Walt

Circle of Caring

Kathryn Wall, Lois Strothman, Kevin Sors, Jane Rebone, Richard Poff, Terrence Nolan, Brian McDougal, Ron Kelley, Cathy LaChance, Kevin Hayden, Pauline Hada, Pam Gribou, & Mason Bartram

(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

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www.facebook.com/firstbaptistbeloit

Choir Practice: will resume August 27th.

Church Renewal: meeting September 8th at 10 am

Church Staff Relations: meeting September 10th at 10:00 am

185th Anniversary Celebration: Please shop our Red, White, & Blue sale and mark your calendars for September 12th & 13th! Free will donation.

ABW: will resume on September 16th at noon & lunch will be provided. Program is “International Ministries” By Jim Clowes. All are welcome to attend.

Bible Study: will resume on September 17th at 6:00 pm

Family Movie Night: Saturday, September 19th at 6:00 pm. The movie is “TBA”.

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

Caritas Needs: Canned pasta, Individual Applesauce & Fruit Cups, Microwaveable Mac & Cheese. Personal Care Needs include: Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Bar Soap, individually packaged Toothbrushes & Toothpaste.

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

Caritas Volunteer Needs: greeting neighbors at the Drive thru and loading the food in their car, assisting parents in the Baby room with clothing & diapers. Positions are 9:45-12 or 11:45-2:15 Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, or Thursdays 9:45-12. Also, looking for individuals to help unload the Second Harvest Truck on Friday mornings, between 7:30-9 a.m.

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.

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.

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

September Birthday's & Anniversaries

1	Lilyanna Mentele	7	Karrie Winters	14	Sara Sanders
2	<i>Denny & Jan Diderich's Anniversary</i>	8	Marilyn Poff	18	Kevin Hayden
2	Jodi Gile	11	Mike Hutchinson	21	Michael Brunner
3	<i>Mark & Cindy Smith's Anniversary</i>	11	Justin Strickler	22	Cindy Cooley
5	Kelsey Stewart	13	Ron John Mixon	23	Ron Parker
6	<i>Ken Naatz & Jan Hartin's Anniversary</i>	14	Roger Cooley	30	Pastor Walt

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No C.E. Board Meeting		1	2	3 No Bible Study Choir 7pm	4	5
6	7 Family Promise Rotation <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	8 Church Renewal Meeting 10 am	9	10 Church Staff Meeting 10am No Bible Study Choir 7pm	11 TOPS 8-10am	12 <i>Heritage Days</i>
13 Trustee Meeting 8am Choir Back Rally Sunday Potluck	14 Diaconate Meeting 10am Church Council 7pm	15 Mission Board Meeting 6:30pm	16 ABW Noon	17 Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00pm	18 TOPS 8-10am	19 Movie Night 6:0 pm Movie is "TBA"
20	21	22	23	24 Bible Study 6:00 pm No Choir Practice	25 TOPS 8-10am	26 Farmers Market 8am – 1pm
27 Hymn Sing Sunday	28	29	30			