

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

Today I ordered some fishing maps for my Winter ruminations over Spring fishing trips. The company that sold fishing maps is winding up their paper business, another victim of technology. I'd hate on apps but of course I have the fishing map app too. And so go our lives in this modern world of change. We plan and complain, daydream or sit staring off, empty-minded at nothing with our unimproved, non-digital brains. This appears to be the natural habit of people according to sociologists, who have observed and carefully documented the lives of the most primitive tribes on Earth. They spend a maximum of 6 hours a day meeting all their needs. I wonder who invented the 8-hour working day. The rest of the day, they just lounge and daydream, thinking about nothing and no one in particular.

We modern people also rarely think about others we don't know or can't see. A friend put it best when he told me he used to worry what his boss thought of him until he became a boss. "I had so much work on my desk, I never thought about what any of my employees were doing – until there was a problem." Such is life. Desk or no desk, we all have piles of work and immediate, personal concerns. This default lack of concern for others leaves me feeling a bit guilty about the presentation we received from our brother in Christ, Jerome Madigan, representative of World Mission Offering. His faithful dedication to spreading the Word of Christ worldwide reminded me of an uncomfortable memory.

Years ago, a fellow student in my seminary class recounted a mission trip to Ethiopia. Carmen came back glowing with the Holy Spirit, describing passionately the discovery of her purpose in life, going on foreign missions to places I'd rather fly over. I felt guilty because I was unhappy about having to wait in my luxury-brand car, in a long line at Chick Filet, for my large-size supper. Here was a missionary-in-the-making telling me the joys of shared suffering in a country where food insecurity is the norm. My fries lost flavor as she spoke. I'm sure Carmen has since become a successful missionary, healing, converting and blessing souls through her service in hot, dangerous places of scarcity. I curse my luck when I'm at an inconvenient distance from the nearest ice cream parlor. I try not to think of the disparity between our ministries too often. So, I will turn in my World Mission offering envelope this Sunday. It is the least I can do. I'm not saying we all need to be missionaries, and I know we all have our problems. Nobody has a life of perfect ease, but we can all think of the less fortunate and do a little to aid the servants doing God's work around the globe.

Speaking of our problems, this week I'll return to the Bible passages from last week's bulletin, *Exodus 33:12-23* and *Matthew 22:15-22*. I will give you some thoughts on how and when we should cooperate with the government and when we should resist in a bountiful, peaceful country where we can resist our government if we choose. See you on Sunday at 9:30.

Blessings Pastor Walt

Circle of Caring

Ray Thomas, Mike Soderberg, Terrence Nolan, Steve Najdowski, Nicole, Brian McDougal, Ronald Kelley, Robin Huffman, Jolene Hall, & Debbie Giles

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

ABW: will meet on October 21st at noon in the gathering room. Please bring your lunch. The program is “*Daughters of the Greatest King*” by Doreen Peterson. All women welcome. Bring a friend!

Trunk or Treat: October 31st from 12-2pm. We will pack the parking lot with decorated cars so the kids will can trick or treat in a safe environment. There will be candy, games, food, and fellowship. You can bring your car, dress in a costume, hand out candy, or volunteer with set up & clean up.

World Mission Offering: during October, we will be collecting the World Mission Offering. ABC international has over 100 Global Servants (missionaries) throughout the world. This offering supports the General Fund which is used to help Global Servants get to the mission field and help pay for emergencies when they arise. Feel free to “pick” an apple from the apple tree in the Narthex for the amount you will contribute. Please consider a generous gift to this important offering.

Boards & Committees Chairs: Finance Committee needs your 2027 budget requests by October 31st.

Operation Christmas Child: make a difference in a child’s life, pack a shoebox! Pick one up in the Gathering Room & return by Nov. 8th Remember to include \$10 cash or check written out to FBC for shipping.

Save the Date: we are hosting a community blood drive benefiting Rock River Valley Blood Center in our parking lot on November 23rd from 2:00 to 6:00 PM. All donors will be entered into a drawing for 2 - \$100 gift cards to Boundaries Bar & Grill or Austin's Filling Station. Winners need not to be present. All donations stay local and your donation could potentially save a family member, a friend or neighbor. The current blood supply is at a critical low and your donation is needed now more than ever.

Caritas Needs: Pasta Sauce, Hamburger Helper, Canned Fruit, Soup. Personal Care Needs List includes: Toilet Paper, Bar Soap, Toothpaste, & Toothbrushes.

Coffee & Donuts: Do you enjoy donuts at Coffee Hour? Please consider sponsoring a Sunday for \$60. Drop it in the basket or leave a check in offering plate and write “Coffee Hour” on the memo line.

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.

Wear Red: please wear red on the first Sunday of each month to support our military and their 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 green card in the narthex & put them in the offering plate.

2026 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 can watch our Sunday service from home at www.facebook.com/firstbaptistbeloit

Calendar

Wednesday	October 21	Noon	ABW Meeting
Thursday	October 22	6:00pm	Bible Study
			No Choir Practice
Sunday	October 25	9:30am	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost ~ Proper 25
		10:45am	Coffee Hour