

FBC MACOMB

Monthly Newsletter

2020 February



To make sure we have your most current information, please fill out a registration card (found in the chair backs) and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office (309) 833-2479 before Friday, February 14.



FBC Weather Policy

Below is the FBC Weather Policy:

In the event of inclement weather, the pastor(s) will work with the Chair of the Church Board to determine if Worship and Sunday School should be cancelled. In the event of cancellation:

- ◆ The message on the church answering machine will be updated with the relevant information
- ◆ The information will be posted on Facebook with members encouraged to share
- ◆ The information will be distributed on the church email chain
- ◆ Key personnel will be called (i.e. maintenance, early bird teachers)



Words from Pastor Jon

On January 22, 2020, a long running court case had arguments heard by the Supreme Court of the USA. The case is known as Espinoza vs Montana Department of Revenue. If you are more interested, feel free to do some research about it, but this case is an example of how important and difficult it can be to be truly Baptist.

The issue in this case is whether a religious school can be publicly funded by tax dollars. This is a tough issue. The Supreme Court seems divided about it. On the one hand, the government wants to be supportive of education in our schools. Yet, the 1st amendment calls for no governmental establishment of religion and no prohibiting of any free exercise of any religion. This can get complicated very quickly but it is also very important as people of faith.

As has been proven historically, if any government funds a religious group in any way then eventually the government wants a say in how the religious group operates thus intruding on said group's freedom of religion. Of course, if the government funds one religious group then it must fund all religious groups. This can create some very uncomfortable positions for those of us who follow Jesus. We may feel left out by government funding but by accepting it then we become pawns of said government.

As Holly Holloman wrote for Baptist Joint Committee regarding this case and others like it: "States should not have to fund religious schools. Religion is treated in a unique way in constitutional law, both to avoid its establishment by government and to avoid government interference in its free exercise. This special treatment of religion stems from our country's deep and abiding commitment to religious liberty for all."

If this all seems complicated to you then I understand. Also, I cannot cover the entire Supreme Court arguments. However, as a church with Baptist in the name, we are built on a tradition from Thomas Helwys that has allowed many people to have true freedom in order to become true followers of Jesus by their choice. Historically when religious freedom has been used in name only and not truly provided, then generations of "FAKE" Christians have been created. Faith can never be forced and should never be government supported. Faith can never be ignored and should never be limited by government either. This is why we are exploring the complicated ideas like religious freedom and the important place of Baptist today in creating true followers of Jesus in our February worship experiences. It is not easy being Baptist but it is worth it!

Jon Self

@pastorjonself



February Sermons

February 2—Football Sunday (1st Corinthians 10:23-24)

February 9—*Free At Last* (Matthew 22:15-22)

February 16—*Being a Priest* (1st Peter 2:4-10)

February 23—*It's Better than That!* (2nd Timothy 3:14-17)

Church Board Update

The Board met on January 14 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was opened with devotion and group prayer. After the prayer the following business was conducted:

- Election of Officers: George Sewell, Chair. Steve Smart, Vice Chair. Tammy Carson, Secretary
- Reports were presented.
- Adoption of Memorial Committee. Pastor Jon will appoint 3 people to this committee.(a deacon, a board member, and a congregation member)
- Several outdoor lights need fixed
- Furnace repair
- Items that need finishing in the south end of building.

The Board welcomes 3 new members this year: Steve Smart, Keith Rose and George Sewell. They would also like to thank leaving board members: Rich Sample, Lora Wallace and Jim Richardson for their service on the board.

The Board thanks each of you for your prayers and asks for continued prayer for the new board as we conduct the church business in 2020.

George Sewell
FBC Board Chairperson



We continue to make good progress toward meeting our campaign commitment total of \$307,275.00. As of January 31, 2020, \$155,127.87 has been given toward reducing our debt. Every dollar given to the building fund goes to our monthly loan payment of \$6,366.88 or to completion of Phase I. Regular giving helps ensure that we meet this obligation.

To contribute to the reduction of the church loan simply write your amount on the "Building Fund" line of a giving envelope or in the memo line of your check. You can also make an official commitment to the campaign by contacting Leann in the office. All commitments are confidential.

Volunteers have saved the church thousands of dollars in construction costs and new volunteers are always welcome to help with this work. If you would like to volunteer to help with the completion of Phase 1, see Rich Sample for suggestions.

Judy Hurt
Capital Campaign Follow-up Director

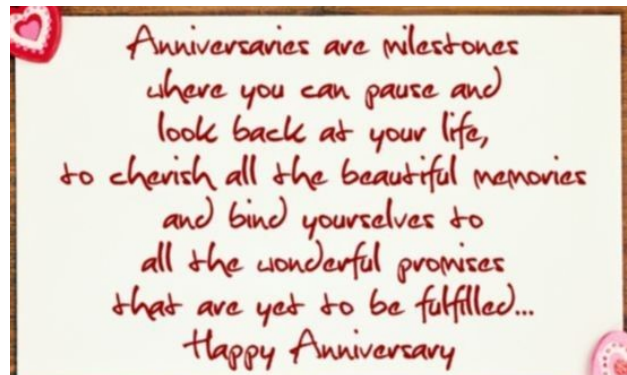
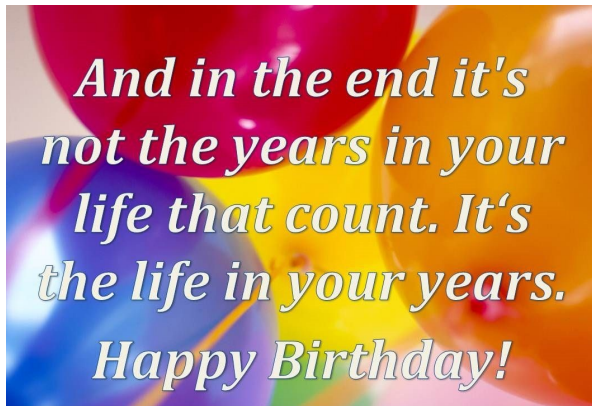
Birthdays & Anniversaries

February

- 1—Marjory Alexander
- 8—Lauren Jordan
- 10—AJ & Marilyn Bourn (a)
- 14—Eddie Green
- 18—Judy Hurt
Pam Sewell
- 20—Orval & Evelyn Hagan (a)
- 23—Tina Sewell
- 25—Celena Mangalaraj
- 29—Vy Lucas

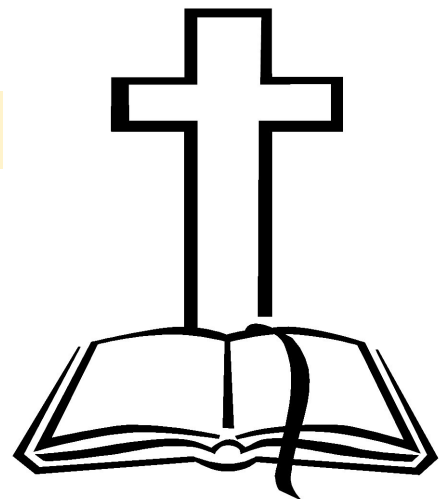
March

- 1—Kathy Brooks
- 17—Moises Molina
- 18—Zech Foulk
Don Garlick
- 19—Richard & Judy Hurt (a)
- 24—Kay Adair
John Ceder
Jaydn Glaue



February Candle Lighters & Opening Prayer Leaders

- February 2—Celena Mangalaraj & Lora Wallace
- February 9—Deena Mangalaraj & Rob Wallace
- February 16—Mykel Glaue & Jim Richardson
- February 23—Malaki Richardson & Bob Babcock



Biblical Songs

Noah: <i>Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head</i>	Peter: <i>I'm Sorry</i>
Lazarus: <i>The Second Time Around</i>	The Three Kings: <i>When You Wish Upon a Star</i>
Moses: <i>The Wanderer</i>	Jonah: <i>Got a Whale of a Tale</i>
Samson: <i>Hair</i>	Jezebel: <i>The Lady is a Tramp</i>
Daniel: <i>The Lion Sleeps Tonight</i>	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: <i>Great Balls of Fire!</i>
Methuselah: <i>Stayin' Alive</i>	Elijah: <i>Up, Up, and Away!</i>

http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Bible/Biblical_Songs.shtml



March Guest Speakers



March 2—Russell Glaue

March 8—Jim Richardson

March 15—Paul Gibson

March 22—Claudia McCain



Upcoming Events at a Glance

- Join us Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. for a workday at FBC. There are lots of little tasks that can be done by everyone. See Rich Sample if you are interested or wonder if you could help.
- Join us Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast at McDonald's West. All are welcome.
- Friday, February 14 & Monday, February 17—The Church Office is closed
- Sunday, February 16, 11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m.—Children/Teen Teacher Lunch (spouses and the children are included)
- Wednesday, February 19, 11:30 a.m.—Join us for lunch at Gelsosomo's (east side of Chandler Park).
- Sunday, February 23, 11:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m.—Children & Teen Lunch with Pastor Jon



**First Baptist Church
1515 S. Candy Lane
Macomb, IL 61455**

309-833-2479

Calendar of Events: <http://fbcmacomb.com/Calendar/index.html>

Please Join Us!

Worship is Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.
8:00 a.m.—Early Bird Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study
10:45 a.m.— Children/Teen Sunday School
10:45 a.m.— Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies

Find us on the web at www.fbcmacomb.com

Podcasts of the weekly message can be heard or downloaded by clicking on the Podcast link on the home page.

Senior Pastor
Jon Self

Director of Christian Education
Gee Min Glaue

Administrative Assistant
Leann Walters

Custodian
Lisa Barker

