

FBC MACOMB

Monthly Newsletter

2020 January

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

During the month of January we will be collecting for RMMO during worship. Please give as you feel led.

The roots of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) originated in the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. The long-standing tradition of the RMMO established in 1977 supports ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA.

This year's theme, Honoring the Service of God's Servants uplifts the generosity, grace and tireless work of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses and families who have dedicated their lives to serving the body of Christ. We hope you will join us in honoring God's committed servants.

Thank you for your continued support.



FBC Weather Policy

It appears that winter may have arrived with snow in the forecast. 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

For over 400 years, Baptists have been a group of Jesus followers. Baptists grew out of a time in Europe in which genuine religious freedom was being denied (as it had been for most of history). A small group of people said we cannot be silent and made a stand for spiritual freedoms. One could suggest that Baptists living in the USA may need to make a stand for truth and freedom.

As was written in 1997 by Baptist scholars trying to help people to see the value of historical Baptist thought, we may also need to remember or re-envision what it means to be Baptist. They wrote: "Baptists in North America have long been fragmented, and far too often the fragmentation has been for most unworthy reasons. In the contemporary theological milieu, many Baptist theologians have remained timid about stepping forward to make constructive theological proposals. Even criticism of the status quo popular theology is either excessively muted, or so heavily ideological that it seldom gets to the heart of what the Baptist theological heritage has stood for. For too long Baptist theology has railed against Catholics, Anglicans, Campbellites, and Methodists, not to mention liberals, fundamentalists, pedobaptists, holy rollers, or whoever are identified as the current "bad guys" in other churches or theological camps. But Baptist theology ought not to be against the church. Baptist theology needs to be for the church and the gospel in a hostile world."

My suggestion, as your pastor, is that we may be repeating the mistakes of past because we did not learn from the mistakes of the past. Through February, we will be worshipping and asking the question: What do Baptists historically and truly bring to value in the 21st century? This may be challenging for many of us since our preferred media sources and embedded religious ideas have characterized Baptist in a very small sub-culture of rigid, backwards, and short-sighted people. Now in fairness, some versions of Baptists may fit this description.

However, in this country alone, Baptists have been a driving force in the design of the 1st amendment to the USA Constitution. Many of them preached against slavery as early as 1790. Many Baptists lived and literally died to start the international missions movement during a time period in the USA (1830s) when people were saying it was against God's will to preach the Gospel in international areas. Many Baptists campaigned for women to vote (and even ordained some) well before 1920. Many Baptists made a stand with other races in a difficult time in this country's history thus why MLK Jr finishes his ministry career as an American Baptist.

Sure, many Baptists have worked against the will of God. Yes, many Baptists have done horrible things in God's name. The question I ask us to ponder is what would our community look like if the members of Baptist churches in this area valued the historical Biblically based Baptist traditions. History tells me that it would bring freedom in Christ to a vast number of people and our ability to communicate the love of Jesus would be easier because we would not be seen as a political group but as people who value other people and their genuine freedom in Christ more than our religious rules.

Grace and Peace,
Jon Self (@pastorjonself)



January Sermons

January 19th—*Mystery of Iniquity* (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

January 26th—*Circles Are Better Than Rows* (John 8:31-32)

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

Church Board Update

Reflecting upon 2019, the highlight of our year was God's calling of Pastor Jon Self to the First Baptist Church of Macomb. We are ever grateful for Claudia's service as our Interim Pastor.

The Board worked throughout the year monitoring the finances of the Church. The income was close to what was budgeted. Expenses overall were below what was budgeted. Again, the staff has been mindful when making purchases.

A memorial committee is being formed by the Board. This committee will consist of a member of the board, a deacon and a member of the congregation, which will make recommendations to the Board on possible uses for memorial funds that have not been designated. This should be finalized early next year.

Progress continues on completion of the rooms on the east end. 4 rooms need drywall finished and ceiling installed.

Please continue to pray for our Church, the Board and Staff.

Richard Sample, Chair of the Church Board



We are now into the 2nd year of our Vision 4 Tomorrow campaign, good progress is being made toward meeting our campaign commitment total of \$307,275.00. As of December 31, 2019, \$149,424.87 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.

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.

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

Judy Hurt
Capital Campaign Follow-up Director

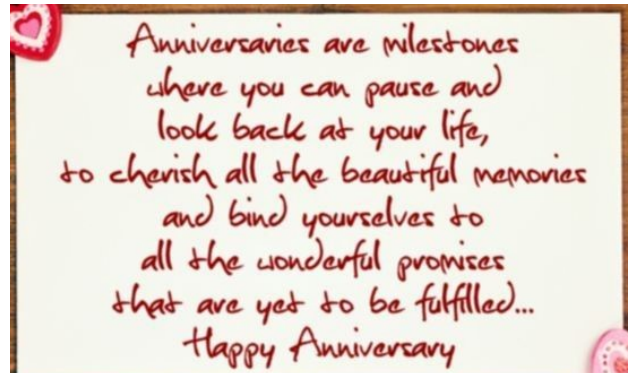
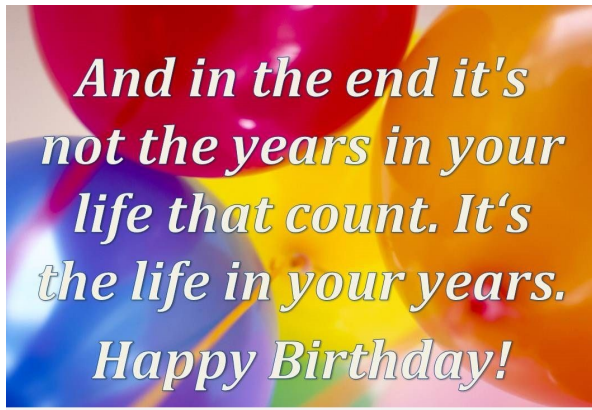
Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

2—Jim Harman
3—Emily Jordan
10—Richard Sample
14—Christina Harman
15—Tyler Green
16—Kyler Glaue
17—Kathleen Barry
George Sewell
22—Steve Smart
23—Rob Wallace
24—Tammy Carson
Evelyn Hagan
26—Margaret Ellis

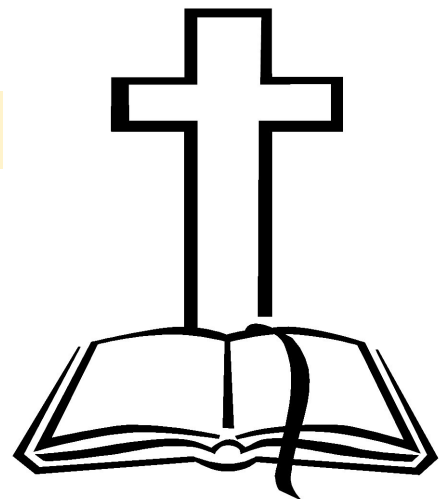
February

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



January Candle Lighters & Opening Prayer Leaders

January 12—Jadyn Glaue & Justin Derry
January 19—Kyler Glaue & Judy Hurt
January 26—Celena Mangalaraj & Richard Hurt



Thank You

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you for your generous love gift and your prayers during 2019. I love doing what I do and I appreciate each and every one of you for helping make my job easier.

Leann Walters



2019 Giving Statements

Your giving statements will be handed out on Sunday, January 12 or if you are not in church that day I will mail them out on Monday, January 13. If you do not receive yours within 2 weeks please contact the office.



2020 Giving Envelopes

If you currently do not have a box of 2020 Giving Envelopes and would like one, please contact the office.



Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, January 12

- ⇒ **10:45 a.m.**—Pastor Talk Back Session
- ⇒ **6:00 p.m.**—Annual Business Meeting. We will be voting on Officers, the 2020 Proposed Budget and New Members. Please come and get your Annual Report.

Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 a.m.—Join us for lunch at Gelsosomo's (East side of Chandler Park). Everyone is welcome.

Thursday, January 16, 8:00 a.m.—Breakfast at McDonald's West. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, January 26, 11:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m.—Teens (grades 6-12) Luncheon & Fellowship with Pastor Jon at FBC

Monday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.—Children/Youth Sunday Morning Bible Study Teacher Meeting



**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.
Sunday Morning Bible Studies
8:00 a.m.—Early Bird Adult
10:45 a.m.—For All Ages

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

