



May 1, 2017

First Things

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Our Vision: *“We are a church partnering with God by intentionally building the Kingdom of God, through abiding in Christ, discerning God’s will and discipling others in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Prayer Partners

Prayers for those that Grieve: The Frankie Bristow family (Pat Hitchcock's mother).

For the health needs of many of our church family: Thayer Bradish, Wayne Crosby, Shawna Kobel Elmore, Barb Franklin, Dale Green, Pastor Lara and the Heise Family, Jenny Kendrick, Betty King, Emma Mantel, Tom Moeser, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Dave Pellegrom, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Andrea Ross, Eleanor Stenger, Jan Sutherland and Family, Ned Sweebe, Marilyn Walker, John Williams, and Bob Winchester.

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Joann Baker (Kim Bruce's mom), Carter (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Jared Engleman (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Evie Knouse (Kathy Burch's sister), Keith Overly, Terry (McCourt friend), Tim Richard & Family (McCourt friends), Marcus Terwillegar, Wayne (John Williams' friend), and Molly Young (friend of Jilian Struble).



Rev. Lara Heise joined our pastoral staff, in December 2012, as the Pastor of Preaching and Teaching; in June 2015, Lara transitioned into the role of **Lead Pastor**. Lara has a passion for preaching and teaching God's word and for walking with people as they discover who God has created them be. Lara is active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Mid-Michigan Health Advisory Council, and Faithwalking. She and her husband, David Heise, have two children: Lola and Devin.

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer, please contact the church office by phone: 835-6731 or by email:

office@midlandfbc.com.

LEAD PASTOR

Even before my mother accepted the call of God to enter into ministry, our family was the kind of family who was actively involved in church. You know what I mean, the family that is at the church anytime the door was open. So, as a child, I enjoyed church; it was a place that I felt loved and accepted.

But by the time I entered high school, like many teens, I had started viewing church as boring and a waste of my time. This perception heavily influenced my feeling of horror when my mother's church friends and my Sunday school teachers began asking if I would follow her into ministry. Truth be known, by my Sophomore year in high school, while I believed in God, I had found myself less interested in living the "Christian life" and more interested in being more like my non-believing friends. So, ministry was the furthest thing from my mind.

Then, the summer between my sophomore and junior year, I spent several weeks working at a Christian camp. Through the friendship of a Godly, young man whom I had worked alongside in the kitchen, I began to feel God call me back to Himself. Finally one afternoon I found myself crying at the foot of the cross and asking Jesus to be my savior once again. At the same moment that I felt the love and acceptance of Jesus, I also received complete clarity: I was called by God to be a minister of the Gospel.

In Mark 1:15, Jesus says "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" It is my belief, influenced by author and Pastor Mike Breen, that moments like the one where I rededicated my life to Christ and received my calling are times when we see that "kingdom of God come near." Breen calls these "Kairos moments" or moments when God breaks into our lives and the impact can change our lives forever.

I wonder, have you had those experiences? Our sermon series, starting on May 21, is going to be called "The Kingdom Is Near". It will follow stories of people in the scriptures who had these experiences. As part of the series, members will be invited to begin looking and documenting "Kairos" moments. Will there be enough of them to justify doing such an activity, I guess you will have to come to worship and hear the challenge firsthand to find out!

I am very excited about this series, but more so, I am excited about the energy that I believe it will bring to our body as we share our own stories of how we see God working in us, around us, and through us. I hope you will join us for worship for a few of the weeks! Let us anticipate the movement of the Lord together!

~Rev. Lara Heise

YOUNG WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - MAY 7

May 7 will be the second meeting of the Young Women's Fellowship. **We will gather in the church kitchen at 12 noon, after Sunday School, and then choose a local restaurant to go to and enjoy lunch.**

This fellowship is geared toward young women in their teens, twenties and early thirties. Our first meeting at the Loch Coffeehouse in April was a nice way to get to know each other better and share stories. Join us and plan on good food, smiles and lots of laughter! See Jan Sutherland for details.

RETIREES LUNCHEON & FELLOWSHIP!

Save Thursday, May 25, 11:30AM - 2:00PM for lunch and visiting in the Harmony Room.

Sandwiches, dessert, beverage, and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

Questions or reservations: call Bob and Jo Clarke (835-4175) or Kathy Williams (435-2997)



Our Take-Note! Children & Youth Choirs will lead us in worship, **May 14**, when they present their **spring musical, O, Jonah!** Put **May 14**, Mother's Day and the musical, with a **wonderful reception prepared by Marcia Williams** after the service, on your calendar! Be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors!

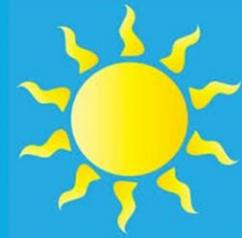
House of Mercy Changes in Administration

Due to changes made at the House of Mercy, FBC will no longer be collecting items for them. Thank you to all who have donated to this ministry over the 12 years we've been in partnership with them. ~Anne & Elaine Poindexter

YOUTH

We need Youth Meals for Sundays at 5:45PM. Meals are needed for May 7 and 21st. Please sign up to prepare a meal for our youth at the Welcome Center. Plan to prepare for 10-12 people. If you'd prefer to not cook, you may donate funds for pizza. See Linda A-O or Chuck McCourt.

Youth:



**May 7 – Youth Group & Parents’ Meeting
at 5:45pm**

**May 14 – Take-Note Children & Youth
Choirs perform: “O, Jonah”
at 9:30pm**

May 21 – Regular Youth Group at 5:45pm

THANK YOU, SEAMSTERS!!!

We’d like to shout out a big “THANK YOU” to the Seamster family for the Easter Breakfast they provided their FBC Family and Friends. Your ministry to us is MUCH appreciated!



MUSIC NOTES from the MUSIC MINISTER

Spring has sprung. April Showers bring May flowers. He is Risen!

EXPERIENCING LENT - For those who journeyed through Lent, with Pastor Lara and myself on Wednesday evenings, we hope that the varied worship styles-- Ash Wednesday Liturgical, Celtic, Taize', Jazz Vesper, Global, and a Maundy Thursday focused on the Lord's Prayer, communion and foot washing--helped guide your journey in many familiar and some unexpected ways. For those who assisted as music and worship leaders, we thank you for your participation and leadership. In our chapel, which allows for more intimate worship, attendance averaged 25 worshippers for most services and over 75 in our sanctuary for our Jazz Vesper featuring Roland Wallace and his ACT-SO ensemble. Our Celtic service featured the Dow High School Chamber Choir singing in Gaelic and our Taize' and Global services featured instrumentalists Kerry Smith, Mark and Andy Neil, and song leader Troy Bergman, who also sang a glorious rendition of Malotte's "Lord's Prayer" for Maundy Thursday.

It is my hope to offer opportunities for mid-week services in the chapel during Advent.

MUSIC in WORSHIP and REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC - I am beginning the planning for special music in the summer. Sundays are filling up fast. If you would like to share your musical talents with a song or with an instrumental piece, please contact me before mid-May.

Take Note! Children and Youth sang in Worship Easter morning with the Chancel Bells and Choir. **Take Note! Children and Youth Choir** continue their after-school spring season. More than half of our kids either do not have a church or attend church elsewhere. This is truly mission work. They will lead us in worship, **May 14**, when they present their **spring musical, O, Jonah!** Put **May 14**, Mother's Day and the musical, with a **wonderful reception prepared by Marcia Williams** after the service, on your calendar.

Chancel Bells will lead in worship May 7. Our last Sunday evening rehearsal is April 30. **Chancel Bells** rehearse **Sunday, 6-7:15.**

Worship Team rehearses **Sunday mornings at 8:40AM.** NO worship team will be in worship **May 14, May 21, and June 4.** May 14 is the Spring Musical. A guest organist will lead May 21, and June 4.

Our **Chancel Choir**, although small in number, is a dedicated group of individuals who lead in worship most Sunday mornings. **Chancel Choir** meets **Sunday mornings at 9:00AM** to warmup. **Thursday** rehearsals continue through **May.** As our children and youth present their musical on **May 14**, there will be NO Chancel Choir in worship that day, as well as on May 21 and June 4 when I am gone.

MAKING CONTACT - I value your contact, no matter the medium- via email jant@tm.net, by phone, or face to face. ~Soli Deo Gloria, Jan Sutherland

MAY CALENDAR - 2017

Regular Schedule

ABIDING SCRIPTURES MAY — JOHN 12:44-50

Sundays	9:30 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month
	11:00 AM	Sunday School
	5:45-7:30PM	Youth Activity & Meal (May 7, 21)
Mondays	6-7:15PM	Chancel Bells Practice (Ends May 7)
	10-11:30AM	Staff Meeting (2 nd Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 11AM)
	3:45-6:00PM	Take-Note Children & Youth Choirs
	4-5:00PM	Missions Team Meeting - Harmony Room - May 8
	6:30 PM	Team Network Meeting - Media Rm - May 8 - <u>All church is invited!</u>
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
	10-11:00AM	Pastoral Connections
Wednesdays	1-2:00PM	Worship Planning Meeting
	6:30 PM	Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Rm - May 15
Thursdays	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Media Room - May 18
	6:15 PM	Property Management Meeting - Media Room - May 3
	7:15-8:30PM	Chancel Choir Practice
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - May 13 (2 nd Saturday of Every Month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
May 7	12 Noon	Young Women's Fellowship - meet in church Kitchen
	5:45-7:30PM	Youth Activity & Meal - Parents' Meeting, too
May 12	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Room
May 13	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Room
	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - see Chuck McCourt
May 14	9:30 AM	Take-Note Children & Youth Choirs Present: O' Jonah Musical
May 21	10:30 AM	May Special Business Meeting
May 22	-	June Newsletter Deadline
May 25	11:30AM-2PM	Retirees' Luncheon & Fellowship - Harmony Room
May 29	-	Office Closed for Memorial Day

May Ushers

Jim Hitt
Bob Clarke
Jo Clarke

Shelley Page will be on vacation
May 30, 31 & June 1, 5, 6
Office Hours will be
9AM-12Noon those days.

May Church Greeters

7 Kathy W. & Dave Pellegrom
14 TBD
21 TBD
28 TBD

[CLICK HERE to Connect to Church Calendar](#)

FBC Church Services and Functions may be Videotaped for Shut-in distribution and broadcast on MCTV. If you are interested in viewing our services, they will be broadcast on Charter Cable MCTV digital box Channel 191 on Wednesdays at 5:30PM and on Thursdays at 2:00PM. Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



Leona & Wilbur Seamster Celebrate their 70th Anniversary

On Memorial Day of 2017, Leona and Wilbur Seamster celebrate 70 years of marriage. They will most likely be at their most beloved lake cottage with family all around them.

When they married 70 years ago, Wilbur was 22 years of age and had been in the Navy. Leona was 18 years young and was working at Dow Chemical Company. They only had a few days for a Honeymoon so they returned to Mustacatine, Iowa, where Wilbur grew up. One of the primary sites they visited was the First Baptist Church where Wilbur and his family attended. He was awarded many, many honors for never missing Sunday School.

Leona was from the countryside near Coleman, but her family moved to Midland when she was 3 years old. Her family started attending First Baptist Church around 1932 or '33.

You can see the rest of the story, several children, many grandchildren and so very many many friends. I hope we can all join together and wish them more times of great joy together.

Congratulations Leona and Wilbur Seamster!



**We'd like to send Warm Birthday Wishes
to all who have birthdays in May!**

June's Newsletter deadline is May 23 at Noon.

Date: May 1, 2017

Newsletter for Friends and Members
First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland MI 48642-3772

Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Worship Service
11:00AM Sunday School



First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Rd.
Midland, MI 48642
Phone: (989) 835-6731
Email: office@midlandfbc.com
Website: www.midlandfbc.com

Communion served 1st Sunday of the Month

In the spirit of our compassionate Christ, we are a family of growing believers serving all of God's people in an ever-changing world!

If you do not wish to receive this mailing, please contact us to remove your name: 989-835-6731 or Email: office@midlandfbc.com

Website: <http://www.midlandfbc.com>

Lara Heise: Lead Pastor (Cell: 815-690-8476)

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister

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