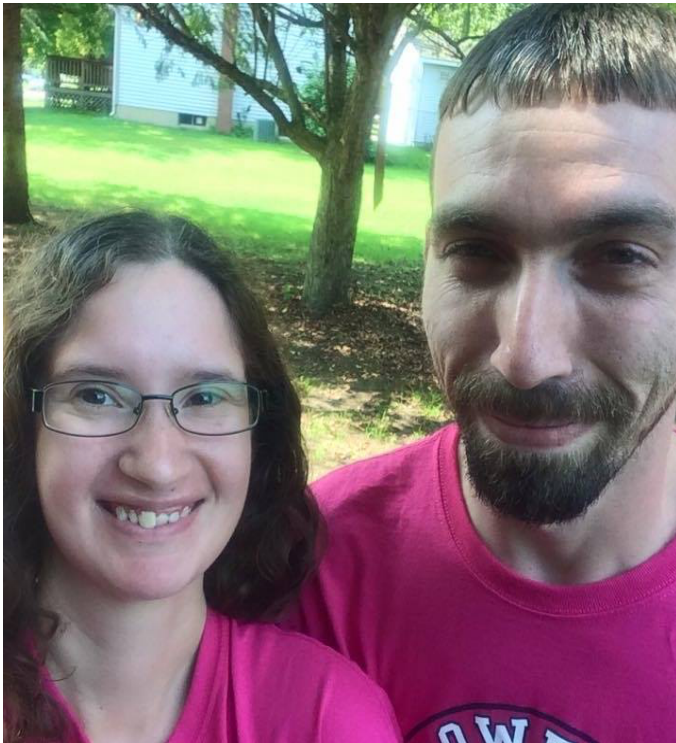


January 2020



An Opportunity to Love!

Many of you are aware that Chris Smith (on the right in the photo) has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He has been undergoing treatments almost immediately since being diagnosed. We have been praying for both Chris and Kelsi during this very difficult challenge in their life. After meeting with them to see what their needs were, we decided to hold off taking up an offering for them as they were getting immediate help from friends and family. However, as medical bills begin to come in and the initial push to help has past, it is now time to show them some love. We will be dedicating January's benevolent offering funds to help the Smiths. This offering will be collected after our communion service on January 5th. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to help support them during this challenge in their life.

2020 Men of Valor Conference

January 25th, 2020

On Jan. 25th from 8am until 3pm, there will be a men's conference at First Baptist Church of Lowell. This conference is a collaborative effort by several area churches who have a passion to see men thriving in their relationship with Christ and in their God-given responsibilities as men. There will be several speakers, including both Pastor Andrew and Pastor Jon. The morning will kick off with breakfast at 8am and end with a late lunch with lots of meat. The cost of the conference is \$10 or at least 5 canned goods to donate. The theme of this year's conference is "Take the Hill." No need to sign up... just show up!



[Dis · ci · ple]

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children”

— Ephesians 5:1

We all recognize the importance of planning ahead. Whether it's preparing for a trip, planning for retirement, or simply planning the week's activities, it is wise to plan ahead. In fact, Scripture itself acknowledges the prudence of planning: “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance” (Proverbs 21:5a). Planning is wise because it is a characteristic of a person who is diligent. If we are to be successful at anything, it will require diligence, hard work, and determination. And the only way to be diligent for the long-term is by planning. This requires setting goals, evaluating, oftentimes changing plans, then moving ahead as we have planned.



But how many of us make plans for our spiritual growth? We make plans for financial growth, personal growth, or family growth, but sometimes it seems people think spiritual growth happens spontaneously without any planning. For many of us, the second half of Proverbs 21:5 more accurately describes our spiritual growth: “...but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.” Spiritual disciplines that are hastily added into our days will lead to spiritual bankruptcy. No Christian becomes spiritually mature hastily. It takes time and effort. It takes planning.

What is your plan for your spiritual growth for the coming year? What sort of person do you want to be at the end of 2020? Maybe you want to be a Christian who spends time daily in Scripture. Perhaps you should commit to following FBC's reading plan and joining a D-Group for accountability to your commitment. Maybe you want to be a Christian who shares her faith more often, who talks more regularly with her kids or grandkids about Jesus, who serves the disadvantaged of our community, who is more intentional about inviting people over for dinner, or who is more generous with her money.

It could be any number of things, but here is the key: pick only one thing, and then *plan* for it. If you are going to grow, it will require that you change something in your life. This will not happen by accident (if it did, you would have already changed!). But the only way to grow is to change what you are currently doing. So what is your plan?

I pray that God would give you wisdom to plan for your spiritual growth. May you experience the abundance available to those who plan from the one who came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.



God has established the family as the foundation of human existence. Families are intended to provide a nurturing and guiding environment that helps children develop into healthy, inter-dependent adults. Families serve as the primary context for spiritual formation and parents are the main spiritual influence in a child's life.

The Faith Path is designed to give parents a clear plan for intentionally cultivating their children's personal faith in Jesus Christ. Faith Path offers suggestions for age-appropriate practices and conversations at various stages of a child's life. Parents will grow in their own spiritual formation as they lead their children to embrace these disciplines.

This process is intended to help guide a child to become a healthy, growing follower of Jesus. At some point along the way, your child will be mature enough to make a conscious decision to trust Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior and then be baptized as a Christian.

Your child will receive a packet in the mail when they have reached the recommended age for each pathway step. Each packet will contain tips, conversation starters and ways to focus on this specific area of growth for the upcoming year. Please consider utilizing the resources in the packet as you continue guiding your child on a path of faith.

PARENT DEDICATION Recommended Focus: age Birth- 2 years

BLESSING Recommended Focus: age 3+

FAMILY TIME Recommended Focus: age 4+

LEADING YOUR CHILD TO CHRIST Kit will be provided at age 5, unless requested earlier

PRAYER Recommended Focus: age 6+

BIBLE Recommended Focus: age 7+

WORSHIP Recommended Focus: age 8+

GIVING AND SERVING Recommended Focus: age 9+

ADOLESCENCE Recommended age 11 years

PURITY Recommended age 13 years

RITE OF PASSAGE Recommended age 16 years

LAUNCH Recommended age 18 years

SALVATION AND BAPTISM When your child trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, create time of celebration and guide your child into believer's baptism

FBC Youth

Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church,

We had a great time at the student Christmas Party! It was a great evening. We played reverse Christmas charades, played Christmas-themed glow ball, and had a white elephant gift exchange. It was a lot of fun, and I am grateful for how many students showed up.

Remember that Youth Group will start up again on January 6th at 6:30pm.

Happy New Year!

-Pastor Andrew



MISSIONARY CORNER



Steve and Sue Mayo arrived in Australia in May 1997 as church planters. They have remained church planters but have added and subtracted other responsibilities. For about 10 years Steve was the principal of the Sydney Institute for Biblical Studies and lectured in pastoral theology. They also founded the Australian Fellowship of Bible-believing Churches and continue to be on the leadership committee which has grown to 40 churches across the country. They are currently leading Calvary Baptist, a church plant an hour north of Sydney on Sunday mornings. Sunday afternoons they mentor an Australian church planter at Logos-a two year old church in Sydney. Their primary responsibility, however, is Asia Pacific Regional Director. In that role, they give oversight to church planting teams in Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and

Thailand. Their four grown children are permanently settled in Australia. Three are married, and between them there are 14 grandchildren with three more on the way. All of their children are following the Lord and are active in their local churches. Their next project is to start an Australia-based mission organization that will serve Australian churches that want to send missionaries. As of this year, they have an active work in Papua New Guinea and are looking for missionaries to Cambodia and Japan.



The Mallays Will Be With Us!

The Mallays will be with us on January 5th to present their ministry to the church during our Life Group hour. Some have become familiar with their ministry through our missions conference, however, we wanted everyone to have a chance to meet them and hear about their ministry. We will be voting to partner with the Mallays as a supporting church on January 12th at the Annual Business Meeting. Seth is a medical doctor and they are currently raising support with ABWE to go back to Togo where they hope to serve as medical missionaries. Dr. Seth and his wife, Rebecca, have 6 children.

Building and Grounds

Merry Christmas!

All right, I know this may be a little late reaching you, but as I write this it is still the appropriate greeting. It is also the true expression of my heart. What a wonderful reminder of God's great love for us. I also would like to thank you all for the Christmas gift you have blessed me with. It is much appreciated.

As the New Year comes and I think of our facilities I am once again amazed by the amount of use they receive. As staff reviews building use requests the predominate question is whether the activity furthers the fellowship, spiritual growth, or relationships within the community. What a wonderful thing it is to have our facilities utilized to further the gospel and spiritual growth! That being said, be sure to look in the church calendar to see how you might be of service to the church body. You just might have fun as well!



Cold weather is here, so please be careful when traversing the parking lot. There may be times when the Michigan weather sneaks up and makes things slippery! Thanks to those of you who just grab a shovel to make sidewalks clear.

God bless in the year 2020!

Russ Race – Building and Grounds

2019 Officer Elections Results

Elders (3 Yr. Term) Tim Kalee Phil VanLaan	Administrative Deacons (2 Yr. Term) Mike Burnham JJ Swain Mercy Deacons (2 Yr. Term) Joe Runstrom Mark Smoes	Nominating Committee (1 Yr. Term) Dave Mersman Terre Ritchie Cheryl Haines
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January Memory Verse

24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. **25** "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. **26** "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Luke 6:24-26 (ESV)

January Reading Plan

Week 1

Starting on Jan. 6

Day 1: Acts 7
Day 2: Acts 8
Day 3: Acts 9
Day 4: Acts 10
Day 5: Acts 11

Week 2

Starting on Jan. 13

Day 1: Acts 12
Day 2: Acts 13
Day 3: Acts 14
Day 4: James 1
Day 5: James 2

Week 3

Starting on Jan. 20

Day 1: James 3
Day 2: James 4
Day 3: James 5
Day 4: Acts 15
Day 5: Acts 16

Week 4

Starting on Jan. 27

Day 1: Gal. 1
Day 2: Gal. 2
Day 3: Gal. 3
Day 4: Gal. 4
Day 5: Gal. 5

Birthdays and Anniversaries January 2020

Birthdays		Birthdays		Birthdays	
Zach Swain	01/03	Mark Smoes	01/16	Anniversaries	
Tim Daily	01/05	Lori Raimer	01/17		
John Gerard	01/05	Jim Rhoades	01/17	Josh & Dianne Milley	01/01
Craig Wittenbach	01/05	Natalie VanLaan	01/17	Aaron & Wendy Tenney	01/03
Don Green	01/06	*Laura Compton	01/18	Scott & Barb Antles	01/09
*Maddy Compton	01/08	DeAnna Schafer	01/22	Randy & Victoria Fleenor	01/15
Christi Swain	01/09	Deborah Fields-Watson	01/23	Bill & Dolly Johnson	01/15
Talina VanderMeide	01/10	Kelly Bruinekool	01/25	Mike and Mandi Crain	01/16
Karen Bennett	01/12	Lynn Mitchell	01/27	Bo & Sandy Smiley	01/19
Mary Wittenbach	01/12	Hannah Tenney	01/28	Terry & Elizabeth Tarchala	01/20
Dianne Milley	01/13	Mari Schmaltz	01/30	*Ron and Chris Self	01/22
Emmit Rickert	01/15	Stephanie Zalis	01/30	* Missionary	
Karl Thomas	01/15				

FBC Calendar: January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			6:15pm: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 5:30pm Family Matters Team	10:00am Ladies Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00am: Basketball
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am: Morning Service 5:00pm: Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 6pm Tae Kwon Do	9:00am Men's Bible Study 10:30 Playdate 4:00pm: Missions Team Meeting 6:15pm: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am MOPS 7:00pm: Admin. Deacon Meeting 7:00pm: Mercy Deacon Meeting		7:00am: Basketball
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am: Morning Service 11:00am: Annual Business Meeting	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am Basketball 6pm Tae Kwon Do	10:30am Playdate 6:15 pm Awana	7:00am: Basketball 11:00am Prime Time 6:30pm: Coffee Break	7:00pm: Leadership Retreat	7:00am: Basketball 8:30am: Leadership Retreat 10:30 am Domino Promise Sewing
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am: Morning Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies Bible Study	9:00am: Men's Bible Study	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am MOPS		8:00am: Men of Valor Conference
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am: Morning Service 2:45 Green Acres Worship Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm: Elder's Mt		7:00am: Basketball		