



January 15 - February 15, 2024

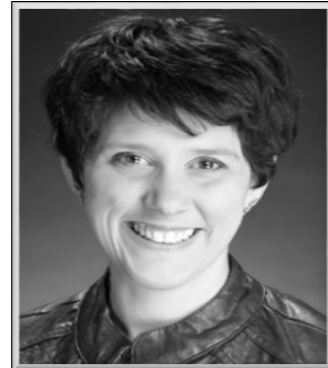
First Things

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Who We Are: FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.

What We Do: We are learning to live the life that Jesus would live if Jesus were living our life through:

- *meaningful worship and study*
- *valuing and loving others through service*
- *embracing God's created diversity*
- *intentional connections to our community*
- *caring for one another through all of life*



Rev. Lara Freeburg

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 to be. Lara is active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Mid-Michigan Health Advisory Council, and Faithwalking. She has two children: Lola and Devin.

PRAYER PARTNERS

For the needs of friends & family - December 2023-January 2024: Kathy Burch (continued recovery); Joyce Meyer (hospital/Cathy Steib's mom); the Page family (Ben is hospital/Caleb's family sick/Julia struggling with work & college); Joyce Phillips; Paul Schultz; Skyler Seamster (stress fractures-spine); Bob and Sharon Winchester

For those that Grieve: The Schultz Family (Ben's mother)

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer: Please contact the church office by phone: 989-835-6731 or via email: office@midlandfbc.com

LETTER FROM PASTOR



First Baptist Church

Rev. Lara Freeburg, Lead Pastor
Rev. Aleka Schmidt, Music and Youth Minister

Whatever You Do, Do All to the Glory of God

Letter from Pastor – January 2024

The new year is upon us which, for many people, means a resolution, something they want to change in the next twelve months. Dieting is a big one and so I confess seventeen years ago, I made such a decision, and my life was changed forever. What was the change I committed to; you ask? To give myself over to the truth that I had a food addiction and that I could not eat like “normal people.”

By truly embracing this truth, I lost over 100 pounds and am the healthiest I have ever been. While many of you knew this about me, what you may not know is that prior to that day (almost two decades ago now), I made the commitment to lose between sixty and one-hundred and twenty pounds six times! Each time, I meant it. But it wasn't until I embodied the commitment DAILY that my life was changed.

Many of us have made a commitment to follow Jesus. But I wonder, have we given ourselves over to this commitment DAILY so that we could truly be transformed? Or were we happy with just making the commitment?

This winter season, as a body of Christ we are to be looking at what it means to live out our lives daily for the kingdom of God with the sermon series “Embodying the Kingdom.” Starting Sunday, January 14th and running through Sunday, February 11th we will be diving into the Epistles. These letters from Apostle Paul to the early Church, with the goal of discovering how we can better embrace the life we committed to living when we accepted Christ. Each week we will explore a section of a different letter, written to a different community of faith from the first century. What can their experiences and Paul's challenges to them teach us about living our kingdom centered lives today? It should be an exciting time and I hope you will join us to find out!

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Hey, Middle and High School Kids! (and parents)

Let's go sledding after church on Sunday, 1/21! Bring your lunch & gear to church. We'll eat & do devotions at 11:30 in North Wing Classroom 16 (across from the nursery). Then we'll head for City Forest, returning to church by 2:30. Let me know if you plan to join us, so I can be sure everyone has a ride to the park. As always, pick-ups & drop-offs can be arranged as needed if you ask ahead of time. If the snow is gone or the windchill is colder than -10 f, we'll play board games at church. Either way, we hope you can join us for a fun, no-cost activity THIS SUNDAY! Also, take a look at the calendar of coming events. Grace and Peace, *Pastor Aleka*

FBC Midland Youth Fellowship

Schedule of Activities – Spring 2024

1/07	11:30-12:15	Planning
1/14	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 1 & Fundraising Meeting
1/21	11:30- 2:30	Lunch & Sledding at City Forest (Games at Church, if no snow)
1/28	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 2
2/04	11:30- 2:30	Lunch, Craft & Deliver to Shut-Ins
2/10	SATURDAY	10am-2pm Volunteering at Midland's Open Door
2/11	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 3 & Fundraising Meeting
2/14	6:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
2/16 FRIDAY 4pm – 2/18 SUNDAY 5pm Winter Retreat at Hitt's Cabin		
2/25	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 4
3/03	11:30-12:15	Worship Planning for Maundy Thursday
3/10	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 5 & Fundraising Meeting
3/17	10am	Take Note Preview during Worship
	11:30-12:15	Community Partner – ACT Uganda
* 3/23 – 4/1 MPS Spring Break *		
3/24	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 6
3/28	6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
3/30	SATURDAY	10am-12pm Set up for Easter Breakfast
3/31	8:30am	Serving Easter Breakfast
	10am	Easter Sunday Service

4/02	TUESDAY	7:30pm "Come from Away" church-wide trip to MCFTA
4/07	11:30-2:30	Lunch & Volunteering at Humane Society of Midland County
4/14	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 7 & Fundraising Meeting
4/21	11:30-12:15	Community Partner <i>(Possibly "Come from Away")</i>
4/28	11:30-12:15	Mission Trip Training Session 8
5/05	11:30-2:30	Lunch & Frankenmuth Aerial Park
5/12	10am	(Mothers' Day) Take Note Musical followed by Reception
5/19	11:30-12:15	Community Partner??
* 5/25 – 27 Memorial Day Weekend & last week of school MPS *		
6/02	11:30-12:15	FINAL Mission Trip Training Session

~Rev. Aleka Schmidt



First Baptist Church, Midland, MI
Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 11, 2024

SAVE THE DATE!!!

More Details to Come...



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



Community Partner Sunday Event

Please plan to stay after worship this Sunday, January 21 for our Sunday Event, featuring Community Partner, **Midland County Food Assistance Network**. This long-standing partner, formerly known as Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network, is home to the **Backpack Buddies** program, and other programs addressing local food insecurity. This is a great time to bring along a non-perishable food item to donate to one of MCFAN's local pantries!

SUNDAY EVENTS

February 4, 11, 18, 25

Worship 10:00 am

Fellowship 11:15-11:30 am

Events for all ages 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

- Nursery-Preschool Class – Julia Page
- Elementary Class – Baptist Beliefs w/Vicki Walter or Karen Boucher
- Youth Group – Baptist Beliefs (1st & 3rd Sundays); Missions Training (2nd & 4th Sundays) w/Aleka Schmidt or Debbie Hitt
- Adults – Sermon Reflection (1st, 2nd, & 4th Sundays); Missions Training (2nd & 4th Sundays); Community Partner (3rd Sundays)

Please share your thoughts, ideas, and feedback regarding events with Mark Neil and the Christian Education Ministry!

OUR STAFF

Rev. Lara Escoffre.....	pastor@midlandfbc.com
Rev. Aleka Schmidt.....	musicandyouth@midlandfbc.com
Scott Lippoldt.....	Pianist: salippol@svsu.edu
Shelley Page.....	Office Mgr: office@midlandfbc.com
Bruce Woodcraft.....	Maintenance Mgr: maintenance@midlandfbc.com
Mike Walker.....	Assistant Custodian
Dave Jezowski	Groundskeeper
Jeff Carroll.....	Housekeeper



We'd like to send Warm Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

January BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Keith Freeburg
Janice Martz
- 6 Marcia Williams
- 8 Dave Jezowski
- 10 David Hitchcock
- 11 Noah (Max) Schultz
- 12 Renna Yuill
- 14 Jo Clarke
- 18 Brendon Smith
- 19 Claire Caldwell
Lilly Caldwell
Pat Clark
- 25 Kathy Burch
- 26 Victor Atiemo-Obeng
- 28 Rhonda Vance

February BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Jim Funk
Jeff Richards
- 02 John Holmes
- 12 Thayer Bradish
- 18 Emily Richards
True Rogers
- 20 Marci Rogers
- 25 Rena Walker
- 26 Kelly Kloha
- 27 Corinne Bishop
- 28 Louise Bergman



January ANNIVERSARIES

None on Record

February ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Keith & Karen Freeburg
- 27 Paul & Renna Yuill
- 28 Gregg & Laura Clark

ONLINE DONATIONS

First Baptist Church is now able to accept online donations!



Online donations are now available on our Website!
(See top right corner: www.midlandfbc.com)



CALENDAR - 2023

Regular Schedule

Sundays at 10:00 AM
11:15 AM
11:30 AM

6:00 PM
Mondays 4:00-5:30 PM
6:30 PM
Tuesdays 7:30 AM
Wednesdays 1:30 PM
5:30 PM
6:30 PM
6:30 PM
Thursdays 10:00 AM
Saturdays 9AM-2PM

ABIDING SCRIPTURES

JANUARY - ROMANS 12

FEBRUARY - PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1st Sunday of each month

Fellowship

Sunday School

- 1st Sunday - Sermon Reflection & Baptist Beliefs
- 2nd Sunday - Sermon Reflection & Missions Training
- 3rd Sunday - Community Partner & Baptist Beliefs
- 4th Sunday - Sermon Reflection & Missions Training

Handbell Ensemble Practice

Take Note! (Grades K-12)

Church Council Meeting - Room 16 - 2nd Monday - All Welcome

Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Big Boy

Christian Education Team Meets - 2nd Wednesday Harmony Lounge

Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Harmony Lounge - Dates TBD

FBC Vocal Choir Practice

Property Management Meeting - Room 16 - 2nd Wednesday

Facebook Prayer Time

FBC Serves at Open Door - 2nd Saturday

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
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Jan 21 (Sun)	11:30-2:30PM	Youth Sledding Event
Feb 11 (Sun)	-	Annual Business Meeting following Service
Feb 14 (Wed)	6:30PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Feb 16 (Fri)	4:00PM	Youth Leave for Retreat at Hitt's Cabin
Feb 18 (Sun)	5:00PM	Youth Return from Retreat at Hitt's Cabin
Feb 19 (Mon)	-	No Take-Note!