



May 1, 2016

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."

Lead Pastor

We are First Baptist, a church that has survived and thrived for nearly 150 years. Our origins tell of our passion for our denomination, as we were started so that there would be a Baptist church in Midland. We have seen the blooming of Dow and felt the benefits that brought: new buildings, new programs, new people. We have experienced the struggles of a community torn apart by a strike. Yet through it all we have stood hand in hand as a body, a family, a light to the community.

The times have changed around us and we have allowed ourselves to be impacted by those changes. We have embraced a less formal feel to Sunday morning worship. We have welcomed women into every role. We have dared to change our leadership structure. We are willing to take a close look at ourselves and ask the hard questions so that we can continue to grow.

Our church has a history that is marked with a commitment to soul freedom, a passion for missions, and a gift for music. We have seen the gifts these



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 to 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.

have brought to our body. We have been blessed with incredible leaders. We have grown in our own beliefs because we were willing to be challenged. We have answered the call to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth through. We give of our time and our resources here in Midland, across the United States, and overseas. We have seen lives forever changed through the gift of music.

This is a history that we should be proud of and celebrate. We should celebrate the incredible ministries that have changed lives like the building of the Habitat House and the young adult fellowship group. The leaders who made huge impacts like Rev. Mortensen and Rev. Bruce. We are First Baptist and it is this history that made us who we are today.

It is this history which gives us the wisdom and courage to move forward into whatever comes next. Yes the world that surrounds us today is scary. We are afraid when we hear that church numbers across the country are dropping, financially and membership. We are afraid when we turn on the television and see Christians being persecuted. Yet, we have faced hardships and challenges inside and outside the church before. We have overcome, we have changed, and we have survived.

I know that it can be tempting to ask how we need to change to make us appealing to the masses, especially those under thirty. Consider, that the most recent data reveals that younger generations don't trust any establishment, religious or secular. Trying to change to make them like us only pushes those in this camp further away. So, what do we need to do so that this church will continue to be around for another 150 years?

I believe we already have a lot of understanding of what needs to be done. Our church studied Strengthfinders, we know that people excel when they play to their strengths--institutions are the same. We have learned a lot about ourselves through several studies in the last fifty years. **We value the freedom of expression and Scripture and the way**



Pastor Rich Williams joined the pastoral staff in June 2004 as the Youth and Young Adult Pastor; in June 2015, he transitioned into the role of **Discipleship Pastor**. Rich's passion is to journey alongside and challenge people of all ages to claim their true identity in Christ and to live that out in the world. Rich is active in the local Youth Ministers' group, Sneakerpalooza, and in the lives of the church youth. He and his wife, Sue Williams, have two children: Ceonni and Isaiah.

those two things are lived out in education and worship. We have a deep desire to care for one another through prayer and for others through missions. What if, we stop asking who we need to be, and start asking how we live into those statements to the best of our ability?

~Rev. Lara Heise



FBC's Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 22, during the 9:30AM Worship Service.

Upcoming Events - Save the Dates!

- May 8 - Mother's Day Musical
- May 13/14 - Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Rm
- May 15 - HOPE Luncheon for BVT
Missionary to Ghana
- May 22 - Annual Business Meeting
- May 30 - Office Closed for Memorial Day



Prayer Partners

For the health needs of many of our church family: Naomi Collins, Dale Green, Ruthie O'Dell, Shelley Page, Elaine Parsons, Jeff and Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Andrea Ross, Ashley & Jenny Kalafet-Seamster, Eleanor Stenger, Marcia Williams & Denny Zeiss.

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Carter (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Isaac Ciluffo (Puckett's grandbaby), Beth Hill (Acacia's kidney donor), Jenn Hitchcock, Tammy Overly, Rebecca (Elaine Parsons' friend), Marcy Simpson (Nate & Joyce Poland's daughter), & Sonya (Renna Yuill's aunt)

And for Praises: Betsy Imhoff gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Monday, April 25. "Braylie Joyce" was 9 pounds, 8 ounces, and 21.5 inches long! Andrea Ross and Sue Williams graduate from college in May.

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.

GOOD-BYE & 'GO FORTH AND DO GOOD WORK'!

Dear Lara,

Kathy and I thank you and our many dear friends at First Baptist Church for the farewell occasion yesterday. I had several conversations after the service recalling forgotten (by me) connections made long ago that made a difference in someone's life. God has blessed us richly through the years with dear friends whom it is hard to leave.

We pray that God's Spirit will unite, guide, direct, and provide for you and the church as you navigate the troubled waters of a vastly different world than I entered in 1969, or even when I finished my ministry at First Baptist in 1993. The many complex differences in the situation call for uncommon wisdom, energy, and effort.

One thing I always hoped and strived for in the work of First Baptist was excellence, as expressed in the quotation over the fireplace in the Hearthside Room - "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Or as Paul put it in Philippians 4:8,9:

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

Thank you, and God bless you and First Baptist Church.

-Joe Mortensen

Mission Trip

This Trip is schedule for July 30 - Aug 9. We have 6 adults planning to go: Jim & Debbie Hitt, John Williams, Rich and Sue Williams, and Bobbie Baker. We have a few youth attempting to work out the details of the summer in hopes of going: Afua & Kofi Ofori-Darko. We would love for others to join us! Right now the six adults will fly out of Detroit on a non-stop Delta flight. We will work July 31 - Aug 6. We will sightsee on August 7-8. It's not too late to sign up!!! If you are interested, please speak with Rich.

Softball

The Church will once again have a team. This year's coach is Brett Seamster. A schedule will be published Mid-May, with games starting June 2, and finishing with a picnic in July. Practices and possible scrimmages will be planned and communicated by Brett. We are excited about another fun (and safe) season, plus many trips for Ice Cream!

Summer "Connections"

Interested in being part of the Summer Connections Team? We will have a meeting on May 1, after Sunday School, for those interested in helping plan and pull together these summer gatherings. The dates we have schedule for this Summer are June 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13 & 20, --six Wednesdays in a row. We have the same shelter reserved for each gathering, which should make it easier for people to gather each time.

Ladies' Retreat

Attention Ladies! American Baptist Women's Ministry of Michigan is hosting a retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt from Friday-Sunday, June 3-5. There will be Bible study with Rev. Roxie Perry, the pastor at Fairfax Baptist Church in Battle Creek; entertainment by the Young At Heart Singers of Lansing, and seven different workshops addressing subjects from Islam to technology. Pamphlets and workshop information are available in the narthex or by email if you contact Lara at lara.heise@midlandfbc.com. The registration deadline is May 16, so sign up soon!



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Summer Sunday School There is NO Sunday School planned for this summer. This will allow our teachers to have some time off to rest from teaching each week. This will also allow time for them to look ahead to the fall and begin dreaming about possibilities. If you have an interest or passion for Christian Education, please speak with Rich Williams.



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

June's Newsletter deadline is May 19th at Noon.



U Knighthood Youth News



MAY YOUTH EVENTS

- **Sunday Night Youth Group - 5:30-7:30PM - May 1, 15, & 22, dinner provided**
 - May 1 - Youth Group - 5:30-7:30PM
 - May 15 - Youth Group - 5:30-7:30PM
 - May 22 - Youth Group - 5:30-7:30PM
- **Wednesday Buys' Breakfast 6:15AM - Big Boy - April 4, 18, & 25**
- **Thursday Girl's Lunch May 5, 19, & 26 - Check with Rich for location**
(Dow High and Midland High Schools rotate every other week)

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Save the Date - June 5 is graduation Sunday! Our graduating Seniors are: Afua Ofori-Darko, Alan Clark, Andrew Wong, Carley Hitt, Emily Fu, Felicia Overly, Karina Moe, Kofi Ofori-Darko and Matthew Bone.

MISSION TRIPS 2016

Save the Dates and Plan to Go!!! (See the article above about New Orleans)

One Week, One Street revitalization effort on Roberts St., Saginaw **June 20-24** 9am-4pm. Work all week or just one day-lunch provided. Lunch provided; project will be a porch repair at 3330 Robert St. Volunteers are needed to help with a paint station and tool trailer. Join Rich, Rick, Jim and others in June.

SUMMER YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

We are offering a short course during the summer for students on three discipleship principles: The Learning Circle (discernment: knowing what God wants), Abiding (spending time with God and His Word) & Persons of Peace (sharing your story, God's Story and your friends story).

Materials will need to be purchased in preparation for this class, so we are charging \$10 and need registration forms willed out by June 5. The class schedule is listed below. Parents, if you are interested in attending with your students that would be great!

The Learning Circle - Sundays, June 19 & 26 @ 6-7:30PM in the Youth Room

Abiding - Sundays, July 17 & 24 @ 6-7:30PM in the Youth Room

Persons of Peace - Sundays, Aug 14 & 21 @ 6-7:30PM in the Youth Room



**First Baptist Church will sponsor a
"Healthy Congregations" Workshop
August 13, 2016 - 8:30AM-5PM**

The Healthy Congregations workshop uses the insights of family systems theory to help church leaders and all members become more effective stewards of their congregation's health. The workshop was developed by Dr. Peter Steinke and is based on the work of Dr. Edwin Friedman, author of *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*.

Since the publication of *Generation to Generation*, many pastors have come to recognize the importance of understanding family systems theory as it relates to congregations. The Healthy Congregation workshop helps both leaders and all church members expand their insight into how churches function as emotional systems.

Friedman noted that in many congregations today negative, reactive forces are allowed to set the agenda for the church. What can be done to prevent anxiety from becoming a toxic force in your congregation? The Healthy Congregations workshop is designed to equip leaders to respond to the presence or potential threat of anxiety in a congregational system in ways that prevent destructive conflict and help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose.

Early Registration deadline is June 10. Cost: \$95 per person (includes manual and lunch), or \$168 for a couple (sharing on manual; two lunches).

After June 10, the registration fee increases by \$10 per person. Final deadline is July 10.

Registration may be submitted to First Baptist Church, 915 E. Sugnet Road, Midland, MI 48642. Attn: Healthy Congregations

See www.LMPeaceCenter.org for more information on "Healthy Congregations."



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



Congregational Care Corner:

We'd like to acknowledge this Kudos for our very own Kim Bruce!

Kim Bruce has been selected as this year's Strosacker Award winner!!!



The Charles J. Strosacker award recognizes an individual from a United Way partner agency for their contribution and leadership in promoting the well-being of Midland County residents. This is a very prestigious award, and I am so happy that Kim's work for our community is being recognized. I fully agree with their selection, Kim is an outstanding example of all that this award symbolizes. She will receive the award at United Way's Spirit of the Community Awards Celebration on May 17th at the Great Hall, so we won't be able to brag too much until then – but we will sure be there to cheer when she does!

~Janine Ouderkirk, ShelterHouse

We'd like to share this nice note from Gloria Decker:

Dear Church Members, Thank you so much for sending me the monthly newsletter. I enjoy reading it and can see how busy you all are with all the upcoming activities and trips, etc.

I fly back to Detroit on April 20 and will spend a few days at my daughter's, so I can catch up with my three great-granddaughters and new great-grandson, Wyatt, who was born on January 8.

I've had a wonderful winter here in California, but now look forward to being back home and hope to be in church by the end of April.

~Thanks, again, Gloria Decker

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Rose Garden "Thank You"

Thanks to: Tom Moeser, Rhonda Moeser, Denny Zeiss, John Williams, Jim Hitt, Dave Hitchcock, Louise Bergman, Roger Bergman, as well as many boys from Troop 760 (and parents and Scout leaders!) for helping remove leaf bags from the Rose Garden.

~Bob & Jo Clarke, on behalf of Property Management



First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Rd.
Midland, MI 48642
Phone: (989) 835-6731

Email: office@midlandfbc.com
Website: www.midlandfbc.com

2016 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 5 | 12:00 to 1:00 pm
Midland County Courthouse (Front Steps)
Main St. Midland, MI

This day gives people an opportunity to gather and pray for America, to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture, and to intercede before Almighty God for this Nation, and its families, work force, churches, and communities.

Even if you are uncomfortable praying aloud, please join us anyway and stand with others as we recognize God as the source of hope for the restoration of this nation.



2 Chronicles 7:14 ...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

MAY'S CALENDAR - 2016

Regular Schedule

		ABIDING SCRIPTURES MAY — LUKE 17:20-37
Sundays	9:30 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month
	11:00 AM	Sunday School
	5:30-7:30PM	Youth Group Activity
Mondays	10:00-11:30AM	Staff Meeting
	3:45-5:30PM	Take-Note Children's Program - May 2 & 9
	6:15-8:15PM	Worship Team Mentoring Meeting
	6:30 PM	Team Network Meeting - Media Room - May 9
	6:30-9PM	Boy Scouts Meet - Hearthside Room
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
	6:30 PM	Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Room - May 3
Wednesdays	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Media Room - May 18
	6:15 PM	Property Management Meeting - Media Room - May 4
	7-8:30PM	Chancel Choir Practice
Thursdays	3:30-4:30PM	Worship Planning Meeting



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
May 8	9:30 AM	Mother's Day Musical "The Three Trees"
May 13	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers meet in the Hearthside Room
May 14	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers meet in the Hearthside Room
	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves @ Open Door - See Chuck McCourt for details
May 15	12 Noon	HOPE Luncheon
May 19	12 Noon	June Newsletter Deadline
May 22	9:30AM	Annual Business Meeting - during Worship Service
May 30	-	Office Closed for Memorial Day

May Ushers

Etheljean Carroll
Denny Zeiss
Bob Clarke
Jo Clarke

SAVE the DATE!!!

Graduation Day

June 5

"Connections" Begin

June 15

One Week, One Street

June 20-24

May Church Greeters

- 1 Mary Lou S. & Elaine Parsons
- 8 Keith & Karen Freeburg-Walker
- 15 John & Marcia Williams
- 22 David & Sharon Bussell
- 29 Ron & Joyce Trouten



April 25, 2016

Dear Pastor,

One out of four families in America are affected by mental illness. Yet, in many ways mental illness is the leprosy of today. A Baylor University study indicated that while help from the church with depression and other mental illness was the 2nd priority of families affected by mental illness, it ranked only 42nd on the list of requests from families that did not have a family member with mental illness. Other studies show that clergy, not mental health professionals, are the first ones that people go to in times of psychological distress. Unfortunately, the same Baylor study found that about 30% of members who approached the church for help with their mental illness or their family member's diagnosed with mental illness were told to dismiss the diagnosis and view it as only a spiritual problem. The lack of understanding of and the stigma associated with mental illness lead many who are affected by it to suffer discrimination, prejudice, ridicule and pity. As a pastoral counseling center, Fresh Aire Samaritan Counseling Center's vision is to be a resource for churches and communities, helping to bring *healing and growth* to individuals, families, workplaces, schools and the community affected by the reality of the both the stigma and prevalence of mental illness and its effects in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

May is Mental Health awareness month. In an effort to raise support and awareness in the community around this important concern, the Fresh Aire Samaritan Counseling Center is hosting a fundraiser event, on Sunday May 22 2016. For anyone who brings the attached coupon and "dines in" at the Buffalo Wild Wings in Midland any time that day, Fresh Aire will receive a portion of the sale.

Fresh Aire's vision has been further carried out this winter and spring by collaborating with New Hope Village and the Bay City's schools to provide counseling, psycho-education, and other emotional/relational/spiritual resources. Monies raised through the Buffalo Wings fundraiser will be used to continue and expand the collaborative work begun in the schools and at New Hope as well as support our Samaritan Fund, a fund used to help provide adjustable fees for those who are unable to afford the full fee for counseling.

In addition to asking you and your church to consider supporting this fundraiser by spreading the word (distributing the attached coupons to all you can) and attending the fundraiser, we encourage you to designate a Sunday in May in which you might highlight mental health awareness in your worship. There are a number of worship resources, videos, stories, and other ideas you might find helpful/useful on these websites: <http://mentalhealthministries.net/spotlights/index.html>, http://www.mentalhealthministries.net/resources/worship_resources.html and <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/church-civic-holidays/mental-health-awareness-week-month>. I also invite you to go to our Facebook page or our website: freshairesamaritan.org, and view the utube video that highlights the collaborative work we have been engaged in with the schools and New Hope Village as well as other ministries and highlights of the work of Fresh Aire Samaritan Counseling Center. You can also download and print there additional copies of the coupon!

In closing, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and renew our commitment to being a resource for you. We look forward to this event and the opportunity to bring greater awareness, *healing and growth* to our communities and hope that you will join us in promoting and supporting this important endeavor.

Shalom,

Rev. Dr. Lisa McIlvenna, LPC
Executive Director

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 at 2:00 PM Thursdays, and on digital box Channel 191, at 7:30 PM, Wednesday evening. Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>

Newsletter for Friends and Members

First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland MI 48642-3772

Date: May 1, 2016

Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Worship Service

11:00AM Sunday School

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) / Rich Williams: Discipleship Pastor (Cell: 989-859-3332)

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister / Livingston Garland: Praise Team Leader

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