



January 15 - February 15, 2020

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 Escoffre 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, Laurent, have three children: Lola, Chloe and Devin.

Date Night | with **PHIL GUNGOR**
LAUGH YOUR WAY EVENT

**FRIDAY
02.14.20**

LOCATION
CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION CENTER
6100 SWEDE AVE • MIDLAND, MI
(HOSTED BY: MID-MICHIGAN COMMUNITY FAMILY MINISTRIES)

TIME	COST
6:30-9:00PM	EARLY BIRD \$10/PERSON <small>\$15/PERSON AFTER JAN 26TH</small>

MCFAMILYMINISTRIES.ORG

JOIN PHIL GUNGOR AS HE SHARES HIS HILARIOUS AND INSIGHTFUL TIPS FOR MARITAL BLISS. IT'S AN EVENING THAT PROMISES TO BE POWERFUL, ENCOURAGING, PRACTICAL AND OF COURSE, HIGHLY ENTERTAINING.

LEAD PASTOR

The Christmas lights and trees have been taken down. The Christmas sweaters and jewelry put away. The Christmas treats have all been eaten. The same is true within the Church. The angels and other decorations have been taken down and the hymns of Christmas are no longer sung. We now move into what those in the liturgical traditions call "Common Time," the period in the church calendar when we focus on the stories of Jesus' life and his teachings.

Here at First Baptist Church, we have followed suit this year with the sermon series "In His Image." This has and will continue to take us on a journey through the four Gospels to answer the question: What does it look like to live "Christ-formed" lives? This term, if you recall, is central to our 2019-2020 church focus of "Living out our **Christ-formed** lives within God's kingdom in our community."

Having delved into the idea of what it means to be formed into the image of Christ, during Lent we will look at how we live outside the walls of our church through our sermon series "Be Salty My Friend." This series will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26 in an evening service held in the chapel from 6:30-7:30pm. It will run seven Sundays and include an evening Maundy Thursday service on April 9. The series will then conclude Easter morning, April 12. During that time, we will dive into Scripture, review, consider, and learn about our Christian relationships and witness.

I am excited to share that along with this series, there will be a few other things happening, which I believe, will only enhance the series. First, it is during this period that the Mission Team will be looking for champions for our annual outreach events as well as those with a heart, and a willingness, to champion new events. How exciting to not just talk about but look at what we can do to live out our Christ-formed lives within the community. The Mission Team will also be leading us in the America for Christ offering during Lent, which with its focus on "Loving Our Neighbor." This fits perfectly with not only our series but our desire to act on what we learned through the Community Story Study. Finally, we will be blessed to hear from Take Note this Lenten season, which in my mind is an incredible example of Christian community and witness.

In the wake of Christmas, it might be hard to imagine preparing for Easter, but it will be upon us sooner than we know. So, it is with anticipation that I wonder what God will do in our church through this series. How will our lives, relationships, and our witness in the community be impacted? I hope you will join us for worship to find out! ~Rev. Lara Escoffre

Christian Education

"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."

T. Roosevelt

I use this quote to open my writing because when I was called to FBC, just a year ago (Jan. 6) I wanted to be sure everyone knew that I will love and care for them before anything else. My hope is that has been the case. Yes, I come well educated and experienced, but it's the relationships that mean more to me which is why I spent so much time building relationships with our youth. What a great group they are, and how they have blessed my life as I am also so very proud of them all. Proud in the way they take academics seriously, their honesty, their creativity, their willingness to try new things, and all with great sense of humor. Again, to them it doesn't matter the number of years of experience I have, it's our relationship that's the most important.

These relationships also go to our congregation as I've been able to offer my love, but better yet receiving such love back in many ways. I also have the opportunity to love and care for our C.E. Team, who love and care for this congregation deeply and want to be sure they offer what is best for all with regards to spiritual growth.

And talking about caring, the staff here are always open, honest, loving and only want what is best for this congregation. We have grown as a team because we have the same goals to love and care for this congregation and offer our best in the name of Jesus.

I think Teddy Roosevelt had it right when he offered this quote. It really doesn't matter how much you know, but rather how much you love and care for another. The "know" is simply a bonus in how we live our lives.

Serving and loving together,
~Karen Boucher



Our ANNUAL February Business Meeting is scheduled for directly after service on February 9, 2020. Please plan to attend.

MISSIONS & MINISTRY

Come with your passion & be ready to serve!

What a happy, healthy new decade for a new initiative! The Mission & Ministry Team would like to encourage ALL of YOU to follow your passion in order to serve the community.

We learned from the Community Story Study that our neighbors are experiencing challenges in meeting both physical and relational needs. They are seeking for community & relationships! So, how could you help? To start, how about answering this question: Where is your passion?

Over the coming weeks, we invite you to pray about these things then come to our Business Meeting, Sunday, February 9, ready to share if there is an existing or new outreach which you would be willing to champion in 2020.

For your consideration, our traditional outreach events at FBC are as follows:

- June - Last day of School
- July - Ice Cream Social - mid July (Tue / Wed) (Janice Wallace to lead)
- August - Block Party
- September - Back to School Breakfast
- October - Halloween Carnival
- November - Sharing Tree
- December - Bell Ringing (Salvation Army)

Don't see one you have a passion for? Let us know where you see an opportunity! We have funds available for new initiatives.

Please also consider, who are the people in your life or the organizations FBC is connected with that would be willing to work along side us for these initiatives. There is nothing that says that these things have to be accomplished through FBC's membership alone. The best ministry can be done working along side another person, not just serving them. Let's start thinking! See you February 9!

~Cindy Wong, Missions and Ministry Team Chair



December Bell Ringing Snap Shots Sweet Acts of Kindness, Lots of Laughter, Dialogue and Fun!

It is FBC tradition and under Elaine Parson initiative, we serve the community with 1 day of Bell Ringing for Salvation Army Red Kettle Program to raise money donation at the Walgreens Pharmacy on South Saginaw Road. This year on December 7th, all donations will be matched up to \$2000. We have four groups of new volunteers and a father & daughter combo did a double shift duty (day & night shift). Below are the most memorable highlights of some bell ringing experience & how they engage with community.

1. A couple of seniors who were teasing about us being “Santa’s helpers”, and asked us to be sure Santa knew about their good deed. I told her I

would make sure she was on his good list, and she started to laugh and say that was a change. We all had a good laugh at that.

2. A very sweet individual who delivered homemade soup. She gave us the soup in take-out containers and baggies of crackers, spoons and napkins. She said she goes around to every bell ringer and brings them hot soup.

3. A customer gave us greetings on the way in, and on the way out, she presented each of us with a little gift of peppermint bark that she purchased in the store. This happens in multiple shifts by different customers.

Verbatim from Bell Ringers

"The girls have so much fun ringing the bell, it is a family fun!"

"Great experience for my son to experience and he rang the bell loud & hard"

"Please sign us up next year, we love to do it again."

"it is my tradition to do it every year. Thank you for setting this up."

Overall, it was a blessed day all the way around with lots of banter, laughing, having fun and hoping to make a difference. Lots of giving and receiving all around that day. ~Submitted by Dena & Cindy

PRAYER PARTNERS

For those that grieve: The Kelly Hodge family, the Verda Rider family, and Cindy Houghtaling Family (Louise Bergman's sister-in-law).

For the health needs of many of our church family: Rayshell Anderson, Kathy Burch, David & Jenn Hitchcock, Ruthie O'Dell, Joyce Phillips, Anne & Elaine Poindexter, Bruce Rogers, Andrea Ross, Preston & Karolea Streeter, Marcia Williams, Bob Winchester

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), David & Susan Brown (missions opportunity), Cam Lippoldt (surgery and recovery), Ginger Coon/Carol Duncan (relatives of Skyler S. seizures/heart problems), Tyler Jenkins (Raetz' great-grandson-epilepsy), Lewis King (cancer/hopsice), Joe Mortensen (recovery-strength), Rick Raetz (cancer), Tim Richard (leukemia), Ben Schultz' mom (cancer), John Yuill

And the needs of Friends: Arlie McMahon (heart attack), Lee Pastor (cancer), Fran Pepin's brother in law (cancer)

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.

Team Network is responsible to the congregation, and seeks God's direction for administering the Church Program, strategic planning and visioning, oversight of staff, balancing the power of the lead Pastor and team leadership

Team Network Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 13, 2020

Attendees: D. Pellegrom, A. Ross, C. Williams, A. Shumake, Rev. Lara Escoffre, L. Crosby, C. Wong, B. Neil

Meeting was opened at 6:32 PM with prayer by Dave Pellegrom. We discussed Luke 2:41-52 (Jesus as a boy).

Covenant review item was 'We value Truth and Honesty' and was read by Cindy.

ACTIONS:

- Dave Pellegrom – find someone to lead the financial audit.
- Rev. Lara Escoffre/Shelley to submit for Grace Dow foundation \$2000 scholarship.
- Allen to take lead on setting up a meal with community leaders for community story study
- Allen to issue the final community story study report that contains the congregational feedback.

MOTION/DECISIONS:

1. The minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting were accepted as written.
2. Agenda for the Annual Meeting was created and is contained in separate email.
3. Discussed leaders for the financial audit. Dave Pellegrom to ask persons for LDT.

DISCUSSIONS:

4. Community Story Study:
 - Growth will be organic in nature as people and teams feel led to community activities.
 - Take Note held a second dinner with parents and it was very well attended. Hosting dinners and interacting with parents came out of the study.
 - The Parents Night Out needs more hands.
 - Suggestion to invite people who have not put a sticker on areas of interest, that are hanging in the Chapel, to do so.
 - Suggestion that if we do the Thanksgiving dinner again, then consider next step to extend to the neighbors.
 - Theme for AFC this year is Love Your Neighbor, which is a good fit to this study.
 - Suggestion to host a dinner with the community leaders. It was tabled last year. Allen to look again at hosting a meal.
 - Need to issue the final report that contains the feedback from the congregation. Allen to take the lead to generate the final report with the input.
5. Scholarship discussion:
 - We are able to ask for a \$2,000 scholarship from the Grace Dow foundation. Team discussed what to put this toward. Decision to put to Take Note (\$500), Missions (\$1000) and Property Management (\$500)

INFORMATION:

1. March speaker is Missions.
2. Annual meeting is February 9, 2020
3. February Team Network meeting is February 17, 2020
4. Since Rev. Lara will be away on sabbatical starting in May, we decided to move the spring business meeting to April 19. That means the Harlow Fund selection and the financial audit need to move up.
5. Property Management: Gave permission for Allen to sell the 9 stainless containers that sit on the shelf by the dish washer.
6. Music has set up a new connection from the iPad to the computer using existing hardware.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



ENHANCED SPIRITUAL CARE

Do you know someone that needs one-on-one care? FBC has a group who is committed to calling on members on a regular basis. That group is known as **Enhanced Spiritual Care (ESC)**, a dedicated and caring group of folks who provide care with a high level of confidentiality. Members of the ESC are assigned to one member of the church who would benefit from regular visitors. This ministry is available for anyone who would like an assigned person to call on them; they do not have to be a shut-in, just someone who needs a listening ear. So, do you know someone or are someone who would like to avail yourself of someone from this group? If so, please advise Pastor Lara Escoffre, and she will match this person with one of the ESC members.

SHUT-INS

Have an hour free this month? Consider visiting one of our Shut-Ins!

Doreen Cobb

The Medilodge, 1333 W. Grand River #131, Howell, MI 48842

Ruth O'Dell

521 N. Rustic Drive, Midland, MI 48640

Joyce Phillips

40 Rosemary Court, Midland, MI 48640

Anne & Elaine Poindexter

414 E. Sugnet Rd, Midland, MI 48642

Nate Poland

2737 W Wilder Road, Midland, MI 48642

Shirley Sevener

4815 Russell St, Midland, MI 48640



We'd like to send Warm Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

January BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Keith Freeburg
Janice Martz
- 6 Marcia Williams
- 7 Karolea Streeter
- 8 Dave Jezowski
- 10 David Hitchcock
Dale Moore
- 11 Noah Schultz
- 12 Renna Yuill
- 13 Karina Moe
- 14 Jo Clarke
- 18 Brendon Smith
- 19 Claire Caldwell
Lilly Caldwell
Pat Clark
- 24 Beverly Babb
- 25 Kathy Burch
- 26 Victor Atiemo-Obeng
- 28 Rhonda Vance
- 29 Michell Moe
John Williams

February BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeff Richards
- 2 John Holmes
- 12 Thayer Bradish
- 18 Sharon Houghton-Ross
Emily Richards
True Rogers
- 20 Marci Rogers
- 25 Rena Walker
- 26 Kelly Kloha
- 27 Corinne Bishop
- 28 Louise Bergman



January ANNIVERSARIES

None

February ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Dave & Bunny Mitchell
- 15 Thomas & Margie Seamster

January
2020



February
2020



CALENDAR - 2020

Regular Schedule

Sundays 9:30 AM
11:00 AM
Mondays 10-11:30AM
2:45-5:30PM
6:30 PM
6:30 PM
Tuesdays 7:30 AM
5:30 PM
Wednesdays 6:15 PM
7:00 PM
Saturdays 9AM-2PM

ABIDING SCRIPTURES

Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1st Sunday of each month
Sunday School - **Sunday School: January - June 14**
Staff Meeting (2nd Monday staff meeting is on Wednesday @ 11:00AM)
Take-Note Children & Youth Choir & Chimes
Team Network Mtg-Media Rm - 2nd Monday - Feb 10
Monday Night Bible Study - Media Rm (Every Monday but the 2nd)
Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
Stewardship & Finance Meeting - 3rd Tuesday - Jan 21 / Feb 18
Property Management Meeting - Media Rm - Feb 5
Enhanced Spiritual Care (Stephen Min.) - Media Rm - 3rd Wed - Feb 19
FBC Serves at Open Door - 2nd Saturday - Feb 8

JANUARY - LUKE 2:41-52

FEBRUARY - MARK 7:1-13

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
Jan 16	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Rm
Jan 17	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Rm
Jan 20	-	NO Take-Note - MPS Closed
Jan 24	3:00 PM	Youth Winter Escape Weekend at the Hitt's - See Deb Hitt for details Students return at 4:00PM Sunday
Feb 2	9:30 AM	Scout Sunday — Scouts Usher
Feb 6	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Rm
Feb 7	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Rm
Feb 9	10:45 AM	Annual Business Meeting
Feb 23	12NOON-2PM	Youth Fellowship - details to come
Feb 26	6:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel

USHERS

January	Jim Hitt Jo Clarke
February	Rhonda Vance Larry Root



Thank you for your love and support of the Chinese Christians in Midland. We appreciate you sharing your church facility with us.
In Christ, Charles & Lynn Kan



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the Bible and
the Culver's gift cards

♥ Alexa

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/>

February-March Newsletter deadline is February 10.

Date: Jan 15 – Feb 15, 2020

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



Communion served 1st Sunday of the Month

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...

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

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

Rev. Karen Boucher: Christian Education Minister (Cell: 774-627-5058)

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

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