

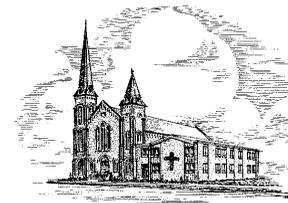


It is almost time for the 3rd annual BIG BLING! Sale. Please if you have any gently used jewelry and accessories that you would like to donate you can bring them into the church office, JTV in downtown Jackson or Westminster Presbyterian Church 2301 Ridgeway Road (1-5 weekdays, phone 517-787-4017). The sale will be held on Friday, November 16, during the Thanksgiving parade at the First Methodist Church from 3 pm to 8 pm.

Pledge envelopes are being processed and will be mailed out the week of October 15. If you do not receive one, please contact the church office. They will be due in the office by October 30. Thank you for your prayers and contributions.



The Jackson Right to Life Life Chain is approaching. It will be Sunday October 7 from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. They asked that we contact them if we will be having any volunteers. There is a bright pink sign up sheet on the back bulletin board. If we have anyone sign up, I will contact them and see where are church will be standing. Thank you so much.



Steeple Breezes

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSON
201 S. Jackson Street
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Greetings from the pastor:

At the time of writing this, we are finishing a series of sermons on forgiveness. I'd like to repeat a quote from C.S. Lewis that I shared during the first sermon of the series: "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive." Forgiveness is only worth exploring as a church if we take the time to realize things that we still need to forgive. I've tried to foster that thought process through the forgiveness rocks that we have invited the congregation to carry throughout the month. Hopefully having to identify someone or something with your forgiveness rock helped you in the forgiveness process.

If you're having difficulty thinking of something you need to forgive, try asking your spouse, family member, or close friend; I bet they will have a few suggestions. Realizing where unforgiveness still lays dormant in us is important, as we saw with the story of Jonah, because unforgiveness has toxic effects whether we notice it or not.

Forgiveness is hard because the pains we have experienced linger with us. As we saw with Joseph's story in Genesis 50, Joseph offers forgiveness to his brothers in the midst of weeping, not after the pain had disappeared. I hope that this month of sermons on forgiveness has helped you get off of the fence on whether or not to forgive someone or something that has happened in your life. Even though we prayer every Sunday the

Lord's Prayer, which reminds us that we both are forgiven and need to forgive, it can still be difficult. If you have been able to forgive someone this month, I bet you experienced what Lewis Smedes described: "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."

My prayer is that our church can be a place where you feel safe to share the stories of your past pains. I hope is that our church can be a place of forgiven people offering freedom and peace to those around us. Let's choose the path of forgiveness and make peace together.

Shalom,
Pastor Dallas

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can listen to Pastor Dallas' sermons and follow First Baptist Church online?

You can go to our church's website: fbcofjackson.org to hear the sermons and learn what is going on in our church.

We also can be followed on Facebook at [facebook.com/firstbaptistjxn](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistjxn).

If anyone has any questions, comments, concerns or further information, please contact the church office.

ABC OF MI ANNUAL GATHERING

Save the date! On Saturday, October 27, 2018, Falam Baptist Church in Battle Creek will be hosting the Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. This year's theme is "Who is my Neighbor: Searching for my neighbor through the eyes of Jesus." The event is open to all who wish to attend. Pre-registration is highly encouraged. You may register online at www.abc-mi.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS: An agreement has been made with Brown Floral Company to provide altar flowers for FBC when desired. The cost will be \$38 which includes a delivery fee. If you wish to order altar flowers, please contact Sue who will make arrangements with Brown's and will take note of any message you may want to have placed in the Sunday Bulletin.

Checks for the flowers should be written to FBC. Of course, you may also purchase flowers from any other florist of your choice being certain that your provider is aware that deliveries must be made when the church office is open (Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm). As always, if you prefer to design your own floral arrangement or bring in a bouquet from your garden, those are also options.

There are still some openings for Sunday during the rest of 2018 and Sue can help you with any Sundays in 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact either Sherry Dodge or Sue.

BLESSING BOX: Please remember our community Blessing Box the next time you are going to the grocery store. Anyone able to contribute non-perishable items are encouraged to bring them in so they can be shared with the less fortunate of the Jackson Community.

"Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "we have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:13-21

Please do not drive down the alley behind the church. There are falling bricks and it is unsafe. You are still able to park in the bank parking lot and enter through the back door. We just want to make sure everyone and their property remains safe. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- An Installation Service for Pastor Dallas is being scheduled and planned.
- The Furnival Scholarship Fund has been depleted.
- The position of Worship Leader is being created and defined.
- Estimates have been received for purchase and installation of audio/video/tech equipment in Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary.

OBTAINING ORDERS OR REIMBURSEMENTS



Expense Reimbursement

Since the first of this year, we have been using a business service to prepare checks and payroll. In a further effort to streamline the process, a new process was developed to handle your requests. A form was developed to be used for all financial transactions and is available at the church office or in a box next to the Christian Education Office.

Please help Mary White maintain what little sanity she has left.

- If you purchased something and need reimbursement, use the form.
- If you purchased something on the church credit card, use the form.
- If you purchased something and want in-kind credit, use the form.
- If you plan to order something, use the form.
- If you want the church secretary to order something, use the form.

The form needs to be completed and the receipt attached. *And please remember that all purchases in excess of \$100 must be approved by the team chair before purchasing or placing order.* . . it's on the form. There is only one form: the same form is used for all transactions. If you have questions, please see Mary White or call the church office.

Sunday Morning Prayer Time

On Sunday morning, Pastor Flippin has been asking the congregation if they have any prayer request that he does not know about. Our congregation has been very receptive to this and have shouted out their requests. Unfortunately, if a person is sitting in the back of the sanctuary or if you are using the hearing devises, you can't always hear the requests. So to help eliminate this problem, the sound tech operators will be providing two (2) mics for the ushers to use on Sunday mornings. So if you have a request, raise your hand and wait for the usher to get to you so you can give your prayer request. Thank you, Brian Manchester.

PRAYER BUDDIES

Beth Flippin offered a rare gift to First Baptist Church. . . prayer for the children in her second-grade classroom. A "tree" was placed in Fellowship Hall and we "picked a child" to pray for daily.



In addition to prayer, we are also able to provide a scholastic book for a child at a cost of \$1. A jar, dedicated to "Beth's Kids", collected enough money on the very first day to provide a book for each child this month. When Beth told her class about it, they were baffled! "Mrs. Flippin do you mean we get to keep the book forever and ever?!"

Beth told her class about it and the children were baffled! "Mrs. Flippin do you mean we get to keep the book forever and ever?!"

The remaining funds in the Albert and Veda Furnival Scholarship were awarded to Heather Cummings, Adam Johnson and Noah Woodruff. All three of the recipients have been active members at First Baptist Church.



Congratulations, Heather, Adam and Noah

