

This Week's Services

April 22, 2018

Worship Services: 8:30, 9:50, 11:05am

"Life Lessons from the Life of Jesus"

Mark 3:1-19

Pastor Barry Seifert

Attendance

Attendance	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>2017 Avg</u>
Sunday School	252	229
AM Services	469	452
Prayer Mtgs.	15	

Who's On Deck

Ushers

Ed Miller, Blair Backes, Darin Brandt, Richard Bubach, Bradley Howe,
Lance Makeeff, Gary Orluck, Darryl Strube, Dupe Tomomewo

Greeters

8:30 Jerry & Judy Spitzer
9:45 Blair & Annette Backes
11:00 Judy Hall

Information Desk

Marlene Brooks

Children's Church, Ages 3 & 4 (9:50am)

Liz Tilton

Nursery Workers Emilee Arriaga

8:30 Twyla Dishon, Esther Redington
9:45 I – Amy Butler, Macy Lindquist, Everlyn Sawe
T – Laura Melander, Aiden Quick
11:00 I – Bonnie Athouriste, Amanda Hammond, Carol Vix
T – Marcus Cornell, Royce & Maria Thex, Tiffany Wheeler

First Word

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Accepting Adversity as a Path to Growth

"If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength!"
– Proverbs 24:10

Psychologist Larry Crabb writes about a frightening experience he had as a child... One Saturday afternoon, I decided I was a big boy and could use the bathroom without anyone's help. So I closed and locked the door behind me and felt very self-sufficient. Then it was time to leave. I couldn't unlock the door. I tried with every ounce of my three-year-old strength, but I couldn't do it. I panicked. The thought went through my head, "I might spend the rest of my life in this bathroom." My parents heard my scream.

I wasn't aware of it right then, but Dad raced down the stairs, ran to the garage to find the ladder and leaned it against the side of the house just beneath the window. With adult strength, he pried it open, then climbed into my prison, walked past me, and with that same strength, turned the lock and opened the door. "Thanks, Dad," I said—and ran out to play.

That's how I thought the Christian life was supposed to work. When I get stuck in a tight place, I should do all I can to free myself. When I can't, I should pray. Then God shows up. He hears my cry—"Get me out of here! I want to play!"—and unlocks the door to the blessings I desire. Sometimes he does... Do we even like him when he doesn't open the door we most want opened—when a marriage doesn't heal, when rebellious kids still rebel, when friends betray, when financial reversals threaten our way of life, when loneliness intensifies and depression deepens?

The choice is ours. Either we can keep asking him to give us what we think will make us happy—to escape our dark room and run to the playground of blessings—or we can accept his invitation to sit with him, for now, perhaps, in darkness, and to seize the opportunity to know him better and represent him well in this difficult world.

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First Baptist Church
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Coming This Week

April 22 - 28, 2018

Sunday	8:00 am	Pre-Service Prayer with Pastors
	8:30 am	Classic Worship Service
	9:45 am	Adult Sunday School
	9:50 am	Contemporary Worship Children's Church
	11:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages
	11:05 am	Contemporary Worship
	3:00 pm	Holy Land Discoveries
Monday	4:30 pm	Adult Prayer Meeting
	5:00 pm	Zumba
	6:00 am	Men's Bible Study, FBC
Tuesday	7:00 am	Men's Prayer, FBC
	7:00 pm	Men's Bible Study, FBC & Dakotah Rose
Wednesday	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study
	2:00 pm	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Men's Unscripted Group, FBC
	7:00 pm	Deacon Board Youth Ministry Committee
Thursday	1:30 pm	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Awana Choir
	7:15 pm	Sr. High Youth
Friday	2:00 pm	XYZ
	3:30 pm	Preschoolers/Moms Playdate
	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study Men's Bible Study, FBC
Saturday	7:00 pm	Celebrate Recovery
	8:00 am	Soup Kitchen, FBC Serving
	8:30 am	Men's Basketball
	2:30 pm	56 Club

Keys to Building a Strong Life

Is there really a need to study doctrine? Isn't it sufficient if I simply love Jesus? In the view of some people, doctrine is not only unnecessary but also undesirable, and may be divisive. There are, however, several reasons why such study is not optional. Correct

doctrinal beliefs are essential to the relationship between the believer and God. Thus, for example, the writer to the Hebrews says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" (Heb. 11:6)." (Millard Erickson, "Introducing Christian Doctrine")

Upcoming Events

• **Celebrate Recovery:** Meets on Friday nights starting at 7:00pm. This is a biblical, balanced program to overcome hurts, hang-up, and habits.

• **Holy Land Discoveries:** Attend the second **Informational Meeting** this **Sunday, April 22 @ 3:00 pm** in the Upstairs Lounge.

• **XYZ:** A ministry program for people in the 50 plus age group will meet Thursday, April 26 at 2:00pm at First Baptist. David & Helen McCormack will share the program "God's Miracle in Missions." Refreshments will be served. Call the church office if a ride is needed.

• **Play Date Open Gym for Preschoolers and Moms:** Thursday, April 26, 3:30-5:00pm. For moms and Preschoolers ages 0-preschool 5 year olds. Snacks provided. Teen supervision for the kids and open play in the gym. The moms will do a short 15 minute devotional at 3:45 from the book, The Gospel Centered Mom. Suggested \$5 donation for the sitters. Open house atmosphere, come and go as your time allows. This event is preschool specific. Contact Larrissa Chavez with questions, at 989-296-9191.

• **56 Club:** For any 4th, 5th, or 6th graders will be meeting on Saturday, April 28th from 2:30 to 5:45pm. We will be going to Higher Ground, we will have our annual Pickle Spitting contest, Devotions, and Supper. The Kids will need \$10 for this event. Please sign up on the board by the upstairs Information Desk. Contact Elaine if you need more information at 626-1317.

• **Awana Volunteer Lunch:** All Awana volunteers and their families are invited to a pizza appreciation lunch on Sunday, May 6 at 12:15pm in the gym. Please sign up outside the Awana office or contact Christie Carr at 518-669-6053.

• **Soup Kitchen:** FBC group will serve at the Saturday Soup Kitchen on April 28 and May 26 from 8:00am to 11:30am at the Congregational UCC. Katie Kautzmann, katiekautzmann84@gmail.com.

• **Baby Shower:** Ladies you are invited to a baby shower for Virginia Countess, Friday, April 27 at 6pm at First Baptist Church. Hosted by her Church family and friends. RSVP: (203) 982-7913 (Bonnie) or rb.wellness.journey@gmail.com

Ministry Matters

• **From the Ground Up Coffee Ministry:** Specialty coffee served on Sunday mornings - Upstairs Lounge. 100% of the donations goes to our Missionaries as a gift at Christmas.

• **Sunday Bus Ministry:** Contact our bus driver, Jim, 500-3407.

• **Children's Church:** Is in need of committed volunteers to teach this summer during the months of June and July. Please contact Amber Pankratz at 701-240-0673 if you have a desire to serve our 3 and 4 year olds during the 9:50 service.

Prayer & Praise

Prayer Chain: Days 838-0405; Evenings 838-7474

Praise: "I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High." - Psalm 7:17

Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we are rescued from the eternal consequences of sin and we are delivered from the enemy of our souls: Satan. Give to Jesus the Victor's Crown for His redemption! It was costly beyond measure. "O Lord, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life." - Lamentations 3:58

Sympathy: We extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to Barbara Congdon and Adam & Christie Carr and family in the passing of Barbara's mother and Christie's grandmother, Shirley Curlander, on April 9, age 93, of Denver, CO.

Prayer: Pray for the release and return of Pastor Andrew Craig Brunson, an evangelical pastor from North Carolina who has been imprisoned in Turkey since 2016. He has been accused of "committing crimes on behalf of terror groups without being a member" and "espionage." Our government believes in his innocence and is working for his release. Brunson has lived in Turkey for 23 years and has served as pastor of a small congregation in Izmir.

Deployed: Qatar - James Booterbaugh, Paul Goossen, Roddy Looper; Korea - Ben Klingbeil

NCA Ministry of the Week: Al Foote, Ashley Baptist, Ashley, ND

FBC Missionary of the Week: Pray for an innovative project of **Reach Beyond** that broadcasts Gospel content into nations closed to the missionaries, primarily using radio and digital platforms. Pray for wisdom for leaders as they continually adapt to emerging technologies. Praise God for the 1 million plus people who are hearing and viewing the broadcasts in nations that missionaries cannot easily enter.