

Join us for Worship This Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Established 1870



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

Furthering the Good News of Jesus and Reaching New People for the Kingdom of God

JUNE 2015

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank *Summer Opportunities*

I believe it's safe to say that winter is finally behind us. We now head to the four months with little threat of snow and we can enjoy - dare I say it - summer? For our family this will mean weekly (or more frequent) trips to the beach and enjoying the nice weather and activities at F & M Park. For you and your family it may mean a different type of activity. Regardless, most of us are happy with the change of weather. (From what I saw the other day online, we may be in for a cooler summer than normal.)

For our church family, this summer will provide many opportunities to engage in conversations while working to fulfill our mission: *To further the Good News of Jesus and reach new people for the Kingdom of God.* I believe to do this we must faithfully **GATHER** together to **GROW** in the Gospel so we can **GO** share the Good News with others. Though this is an individual task, to some extent it's also something that we, as a church, must intentionally do together. It's been my prayer that as we've explored the Good News of Jesus, you've been challenged with practical ways to GO and share the Gospel with others. We're all looking for something to give us meaning, but Jesus is the only one that will give us meaning for the long haul. Furthering the Good News of Jesus has been our focus during the past few months.

We've made good progress and we could just sit back and relax this summer, knowing we've done some really good things during the past six months. But, if we did this, we would quickly realize that we may unintentionally repeat the past where status quo and comfort became the norm for our church. We can't go back - we must press onward to fulfill our entire mission! We must all strive to GO out into our neighborhoods, to families, friends, and our community where we can be hope to the hopeless, love to the unlovable, and be a welcoming people to any and all. This is how we show the Gospel to a world that isn't necessarily looking for it.

Yet, as our mission statement reads, we cannot just be about furthering the Gospel, but we also must go out and "reach new people for the Kingdom of God." I hope that you will join us starting June 7, as we begin to explore what Jesus meant when he taught about the Kingdom of God.

Our passages of Scripture for this series will be the *parables*, a word meaning stories that Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God. If we are going to faithfully and effectively fulfill our mission, we must not only understand the Gospel we offer people, but also what it means to be a part of the Kingdom of God.

As we move forward to our brighter tomorrow we'll learn that the Kingdom of God is not just something we get someday in heaven, but instead it's something we can bring to earth today. This is one of the promises found in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." I believe we will also see how practical and important it is for us to be Kingdom-minded people here in Traverse City. The Kingdom of God has many implications and ramifications for how we live today.

Unlike some of our past series, this one will also include a built-in "practice" event to help us try to do everything we've been learning the past six months or so. On July 19 we will be joining forces with a group of people from Prairie Baptist Church in Kansas to try and "reach new people for the Kingdom of God." This group is from the church that Rev. Bob and Marilyn Shaw attend during the winter months. We plan to host a Family Summer Bible School from July 19 to July 23 each evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., titled *Camp Discovery*. This five-day adventure will be for those going into kindergarten through the 6th grade. The parents will be invited to remain at church for their own gathering.

Here is where we get to practice. We need people to work alongside the group in a variety of ways: assisting with crafts, music, joining in each age group, providing snacks, and greeting people. All of us need to intentionally invite others to join us for this great event. We're hoping that by having this event in the evening we can reach those who aren't able to join the other great summer youth events that our sister churches in Traverse City are offering.

It is up to us to go out and invite your friends, family members, neighbors and others to join us for this great series of gatherings in July. Most importantly I hope you will pray for all those who'll attend *Camp Discovery*.

For The Gospel and Kingdom of Christ,

Pastor Jeremy

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June Church Calendar

Junior Church – Bring the kids as new and exciting lessons, projects and music are underway! Children meet downstairs during worship.

Adult Sunday School – each week beginning at 9:15 a.m. and led by Margaret Underwood

Each Thursday at 6 p.m. – Weekly Prayer and Bible Study.

Sun., May 31 – All-church potluck following brief church business meeting – grilled hotdogs will be provided. June birthdays and anniversaries will also be celebrated.

Mon., June 1 – Pinterest Party beginning at 5:30 p.m. with snacks. For more details, see the FBC website or call 946-4727. Pinterest parties will resume in September.

Sat., June 6 – Growing Through Grief workshop at FBC from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., facilitated by Pastor Jeremy and in collaboration with Munson Hospice/Munson Healthcare.

Sun., June 7 – Communion Sunday. All are invited to a baby shower for Julie Wilsey following worship.

Tues., June 9 – Beach Bums baseball game- cost is \$10 per seat with all proceeds going to One Great Hour of Sharing mission. Please see Tana Wilsey for mor details.

Sun., June 24 – Father's Day

Please note --- The AB Women's missions meetings and the Pinterest parties will resume in September.

Financial Update (through April 2015)

YTD General funds - \$29,973.99 (through May 24)

YTD Expenses - \$23,020.22 (through April)

YTD Mission funds - \$4,967 (through May 24)

June Birthdays and Anniversaries:

June 3 – Elsie Tanis

June 5 – Josiah Spence

June 7 – Todd Yeomans

June 9 – Mingo Garza

June 15 – David Bohnow

June 18 – Alyssa Wares

June 23 – Daniel Spence

June 24 – Aaron Mansfield

June 26 – Marilyn Shaw and Sarah Segerlind

June 27 – Toni Hulett and Margo Ackerman

June 28 – Bette Pritchard

June 29 – Lexie Wares and Sandy Hampel

Wedding anniversaries include Gary and Sarah Walters on June 6, Dan and Connie Bristol on June 8, Rev. Bob and Marilyn Shaw on June 14, Jim and Diane Cowley on June 15, Rev. Jeremy and Aleesha Spence on June 21, and Harold and Tana Wilsey on June 23

Please contact the church office if you have additions or deletions to the birthday/anniversary list.

*Join us following the May 31st
service for the all-church
potluck and hotdog roast!*

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PROVIDING RELIEF IN NEPAL

One Great Hour **Of Sharing**

American Baptist Churches and International Ministries partner with Baptists and others in Nepal to bring vital relief in the aftermath of April's earthquake.

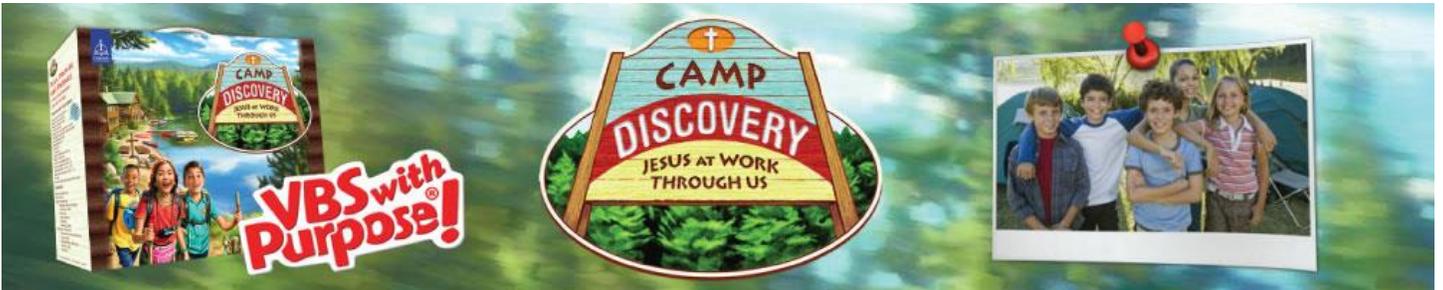
The National Emergency Operation Center announced that the official death toll has now reached 8,635 with 19,009 injured. An estimated 450,000 have been internally displaced by the quake and 8 million – more than a quarter of the nation's people – have been affected. As a first response to this disaster, \$25,000 in emergency relief funds from One Great Hour of Sharing have been released to trusted partners of American Baptist International Ministries in Nepal. **Additional relief aid is urgently needed to provide food, water, shelter and medical attention for the victims.**

Christian Community Credit Union has created a \$15,000 matching gift fund for Nepal efforts through One Great Hour of Sharing. This matching offer ends June 30, 2015.

Your tax-deductible contributions are needed to help our Nepali brothers and sisters. Please designate your gift for One Great Hour of Sharing – Nepal Earthquake Relief. This mission offering and your prayers for the families, victims and recovery workers in Nepal are much appreciated.

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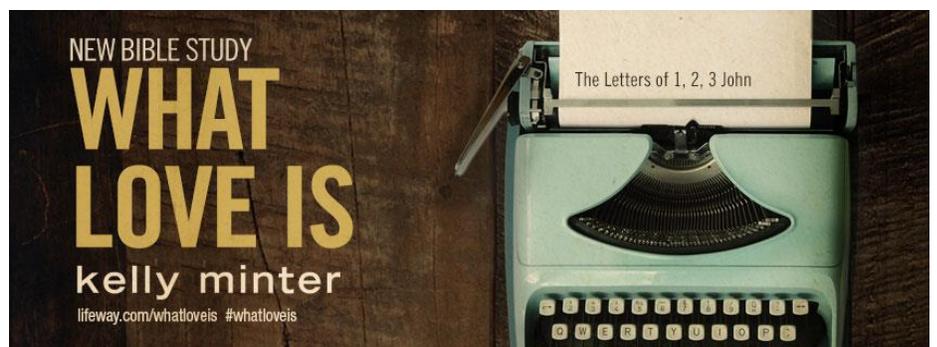
Looking ahead to these special summer events at First Baptist Church!



Mark your calendars for CAMP DISCOVERY – July 19 – 23 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at First Baptist Church. We'll join forces with a visiting group from Prairie Baptist Church for this Family Summer Bible School with Purpose - designed for kids, kindergarten through sixth grade – and their parents. Start thinking about how you can volunteer and possible friends, neighbors and family members who could attend. More information to come --- and please keep this important summer event in your prayers!

Consider these volunteer opportunities:
Crafts – Music – Snacks - Greeting

Plan to attend!
**The FBC WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**
*Moderated by
Marilyn Shaw*



This popular seven-week series begins Tuesday, August 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and will focus on a new Bible study by Kelly Minter, "What Love Is," from the Letters of 1, 2, and 3 John. The cost of the study booklet is \$12.99; please let Marilyn know if you plan to attend.