

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

AUGUST 2015

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

Pastor Jeremy's Think Tank *Dare to Dream*

Studies suggest that all of us dream while asleep but only a few of us remember those dreams when we awake. I'm not one of those who remember dreams, nor am I even aware that I dream. Over the course of my adult life I can only remember a handful of dreams and most of them are close to being nightmares. I won't go into details in this article but let's just say my dreams involve running around Hamilton, Ohio, where people are chasing me in underground tunnels.

In some parts of the world today dreams and visions are still important. In the Muslim world people who come to know Jesus are primarily converted because Christ appears to them in a vision or dream. Even on our side of the world some are interested in dreams and they seek counseling to have dreams interpreted for them.

Throughout history dreams were one of the ways a deity could communicate with individuals. In fact, we read in the Old Testament that God revealed himself many times through dreams of individuals. Take some time to read the following stories: Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, Ezekiel and even in the New Testament with Joseph the earthly father of Jesus.

In Proverbs 29.18 we read these words, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint." If you have a King James Version Bible the verse reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Now, I am a fan of the NIV reading, which on a side note is also the NKJV reading, because it emphasizes the revelation of God that ties to our ability to truly live. In Scripture, every time God revealed himself in a dream it was to provide a revelation. Think of the word "revelation" meaning information or truth to those who would listen. It was God's way of sharing himself with others.

If you remember, a year ago we went through the book of *Nehemiah* to learn about envisioning a better and brighter future. Crucial to the work being done was Nehemiah who dreamed and envisioned with the people, providing assurance that their present reality could be better. The same is true of us. Our future can be brighter than our present as long as we stay connected to God's revelation, His Word and seek His revelation and presence concerning our next steps and what His ministry through us as First Baptist Church will look like for His Kingdom. Now is the time to start to dream.

For a few reasons, I believe we're now able to dream and seek God's will for our next steps. First, we now have emergency funds to cover our church expenses for five or six months. In fact, at the July Church Council meeting, we started to explore the possibility of capping our reserves at our present-day levels in order to fulfill our mission of "Furthering the Good News of Jesus and Reaching new people for the Kingdom of God" more effectively and boldly. We're no longer in survival mode. Now is the time to start to dream.

Secondly, I believe we have a clearer understanding of our mission after we took some time to look at what the Gospel means and to answer the question of what the kingdom of God is like. These answers, or partial answers, can guide us to interact with others, but we still must dream of how we will intentionally create space for conversations to happen between our church and the community. Now is the time to start to dream.

Lastly, we have some opportunities coming up that naturally provide the time and space to dream about future ministries. In mid-September we'll have someone in from the American Baptist Foundation help us put specifics into what will become our Endowment/Legacy Fund policy. Part of the process of creating our Legacy Fund, which the Church Council has been working on for months, is deciding how the interest from the fund will be used. It is my hope that our time together will balance ministry that can be done for those of us inside the church with those who have yet to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now is the time to start to dream.

Another opportunity we have to dream together of future ministry is the creation of the 2016 church budget. I realize it's only August, but this is the time I start praying and dreaming about the next year. You can too. The purpose of our budget is to pray and dream about what we believe God is asking us to do in our community and church. Now is the time to dream together for God.

As with any good dream we have, these opportunities will propel us forward to do the necessary work to bring dreams to reality. This happened in the time of Nehemiah and can happen today.

Let's Dream Together,

Pastor Jeremy

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August Church Calendar

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

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

Thursday Evening Prayer and Bible Study – Meeting each week at 6 p.m. Join us as we seek Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

Tues., Aug. 4 – Ladies' Bible Study series begins. Marilyn Shaw will lead the sessions each week from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., focusing a book by Kelly Minter titled "What Love Is."

Sun., Aug. 16 – Brief all-church meeting prior to coffee time. Agenda includes an update of our church life and approval of the new nominating committee.

Aug. 20 and Aug. 21 – Church will be used for rehearsal and wedding of Amber Mansfield and Steven Yarber.

Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. – Church Council to meet following Prayer and Bible Gathering to discuss our Statement of Faith document

Looking ahead . . .

Sun., Sept. 6 – Labor Day Sunday

Tues., Sept. 8 – AB Women's Missions meeting at noon at the church

Mon., Sept. 14 – Pinterest Parties resume at 5:30 p.m.

Sept. 18 and 19 – Church will be used for a rehearsal and wedding

Oct. 2 and 3 – Church will be used for a rehearsal and wedding

Oct. 5 – Pinterest Party at 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 10 – Annual Fall Craft and Baked Goods Fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Oct. 18 – Pastor Appreciation Sunday

All church attendees (regulars and visitors) are asked to complete and submit a weekly "Connection Card."

This is a new tool that is used to connect and engage regular attendees and visitors through prayer requests and volunteer opportunities. The information will be kept confidential.

Financial Update

YTD General funds - \$43,685.67

YTD Expenses - \$33,165.45

YTD Mission funds - \$6,545.05

August Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Aug. 10 – Carla Wares Shepherd

Aug. 13 – Mike Hains

Aug. 15 – Charlie Strait

Aug. 22 – Dick Peplinski

Aug. 24 – Tim Singleton

Aug. 25 – Abby Mansfield Shier and Don Tanis

Aug. 30 – Jeremy Wares and Jan Stephens

Aug. 30 – Wedding anniversary of Mark and
Linda Montei

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



First Baptist Church

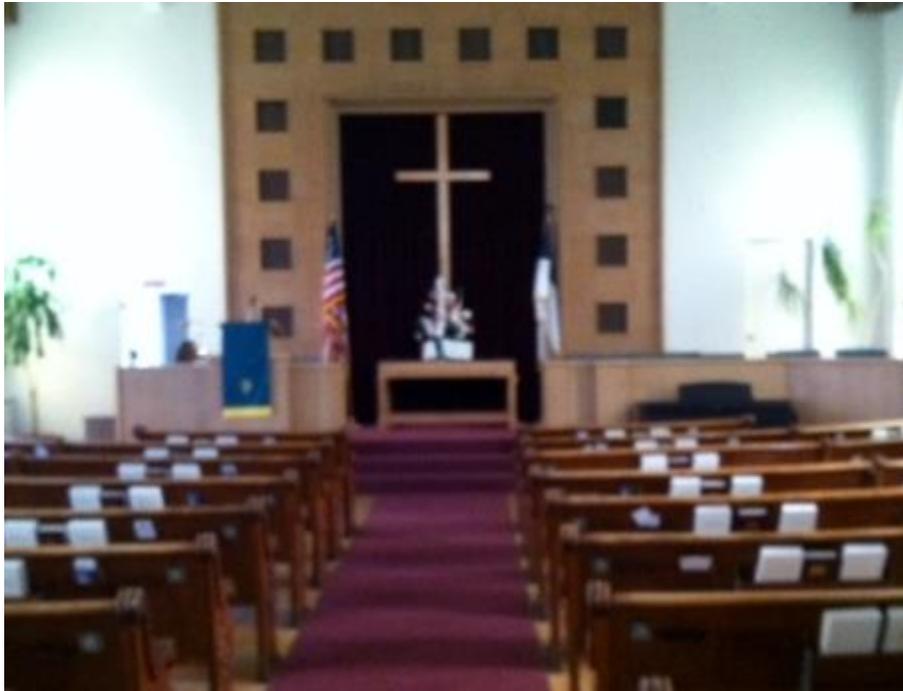
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Traverse City, MI 49696

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Recap of July 26 Church Council Meeting

The following is a brief synopsis of the most recent church council meeting:

- Approved repair of deteriorated bricks in the back of church near the access ramp
 - Approved bathroom faucet and sink replacement at parsonage
 - Flower garden on east side of church will be cleared and replanted. Existing plants are available to congregation on a first-come/first-served basis
 - A church savings account for rainy-day/special need funds will be created
 - A new nominating committee was named. Church approval will be sought on Aug. 16
 - Pastor Jeremy is updating our Statement of Faith document. Church Council will review the document on Aug. 27 and it will be made available to the congregation.
 - The annual Fall Craft/Baked Goods Fair is slated for Sat., Oct. 10. Suggestions for annual Christmas dinner/fellowship to be directed to Joe Underwood. A special meeting to discuss the 2016 budget to come.
 - Dave Wilsey updated the work and plans of the Pastoral Relations Committee.
 - Pastor Jeremy reviewed our recent Camp Discovery VBS. The event exceeded expectations with hopes of hosting a similar event in 2016. Letters of thanks will be sent to members of the Prairie Baptist Church group who assisted.
 - Pastor Jeremy's is a licensed counselor and is extending his certification to Michigan.
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Kid's Korner



What's going on at "Junior Church?"

Teachers Aleesha Spence and Mary Fleet have a dynamic agenda of vibrant and "hands-on" activities, all geared to teach our children about God and His Word.

Here are a few of these activities:

- Learning Bible verses and talking about ways these verses apply to the lives of our kids.
 - Prayer
 - Singing – and also practice of the FBC Kid's Bell Choir.
 - Games and Crafts
- Weekly "Big Picture" lessons about Bible stories and learning about the lives of real Biblical people.

If you have a child or grandchild, please invite them to join you at FBC and become a part of this great time of learning and fellowship!

Please see Aleesha or Mary for more details.