



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

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

July 2017

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

July Church Calendar

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

Sun., June 2 – Communion shared and July birthdays celebrated.

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. – **Adult Sunday School**, led by Joe Underwood. This six-part series is titled “The Unbreakable Promise: God’s Covenant With Abraham, Moses and David.”

Tuesday Bible study is on recess until September.

- Because of the July 4th Holiday, the **Women’s Bible Study will not be held**. On July 11, the Women’s Bible Study will meet at the home of Marian Larson (12047 S. Elk Run, Apt. S105, off Cherry Bend Rd. in Traverse City.

AB Women’s Missions Group is on recess until September 12.

Thurs., July 20 at 7 p.m. **FBC Beach Bums baseball game** – Bring a friend! Support FBC missions! Tickets are \$10 – see Tana for more information.

Sat., July 22 at 11 a.m. – Memorial service for Margaret Underwood followed by a light lunch.

Sun., July 23 – **Church Council** meets following worship.

Sun., Aug. 6 – **Communion Shared** and August birthdays and anniversaries celebrated.

Wed., Aug. 16 – **FBC/Beach Bums Baseball, 7 p.m.**

Pinterest Parties will resume in September



Walking in God’s Truth

*A Word from
Pastor MaryBeth Robertson*

*“Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth;
Let my heart be undivided in reverence for Your name.”
Psalm 86:11*

As I drove to Camp Lake Louise recently, I checked my GPS frequently. I was following a new route: unfamiliar territory with lots of curves and hills. Was I even on the right road?! At times, I wasn’t sure!! From time to time it is important for us to pause, reflect and assess what has happened, where we’ve been and whether we continue to head in the right direction. I have been with you at First Baptist for almost 18 months now. Where have we been in these months? Are we continuing in the right direction? How are we - you and I - different than we were in January 2016?

I value your suggestions, recommendations, as to where you understand God is calling FBC in ministry. What are we doing well? What are we not doing that we should be doing? We read in Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” At our July 23 Church Council meeting, we will be adopting a revised FBC mission statement. What is our mission and purpose? Please talk with Church Council members with your ideas!

I also value and need your commitment in carrying out our ministry. At the ABC-USA Biennial Convention, June 30-July 2, I have been asked to answer two questions, “Of what importance to the local church is the ministry of each person?” and “Of what importance is the ministry of each person outside the church?” Without YOU, FBC’s ministry cannot be effective and grow.

As I consider how we at FBC continue to “head the right direction” in ministry, I return to our need for

spiritual transformation. In a previous sermon I phrased this as “putting on your own mask first.” Each of us must be well grounded in our understanding of God as Creator/Father, Savior/Redeemer Son and Guiding Spirit. Each of us must take time regularly to read and study God’s Holy Word. Each of us needs regular conversation with God through prayer. With the psalmist, we say “Teach us Your ways, O Lord, so we can walk in Your truth.”

Spiritual transformation requires more than Sunday morning worship. You’ve heard the statement, “A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.” I believe our ministry as God’s people at FBC is only as strong as our personal, individual connections with God. Ministry to and with others comes from a deep love of God and an overwhelming desire to live as Jesus taught. This summer we’ll be reminded of practices we can incorporate into our lives to deepen our relationship with God. As we become more knowledgeable of these practices, we will be challenged to become “doers of the Word, not hearers only” (James 1:22). Join me as we begin this journey!

Yours in Christ -

Pastor MaryBeth



July Birthdays

- July 1 – Sigrid Duell and Maxine Spitzza
- July 3 – Garrett Hulett
- July 16 – Emily Zuniga
- July 18 – Nick Hulett and TJ Segerlind
- July 23 – Tom Mansfield
- July 25 – Lexi Ackerman
- July 26 – Marley Greaves

FBC Financial Update (through June)

YTD General Fund Income: \$30,595.26
 YTD Expenses: \$24,948.23
 YTD Missions Offering: \$8,893.75

Upcoming Sermon Titles and Scripture

Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.



July 2 – Guest Pastor: Bob Shaw

July 9 – Growing Closer to God
 Scripture: Hebrews 10:22

July 16 – Growing Closer to God: Inward Practices
 Scripture: Joel 2:12-13

July 23 – Growing Closer to God:
 Outward Practices
 Scripture: Colossians 3:1-2

July 30 – Growing Closer to God: Family Practices
 Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:23-31

Upcoming FBC/Beach Bums

Baseball Games:

- **Thurs., July 20 at 7 p.m.**
- **Wed., Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.**

Cheer for the Beach Bums, support FBC missions and bring a friend! Tickets are \$10; please see Tana Wilsey for more information. Consider purchasing additional tickets



for friends, family, neighbors or others. This is an excellent way to extend goodwill and introduce others to our FBC family!

July Fourth Memories

By Marian Larson

When I was a child during the Great Depression, the Fourth of July was certainly different than today's celebration. Fireworks were certainly NOT a part of the depression budget, but from somewhere my much-older brothers found an old barrel and who knows where they came by the dynamite. In celebration they sent that barrel skyward in a mighty blast, scaring the cows into not giving milk, the horses rampaging across the pasture, the chickens quit laying, and the dog hid out for a week.

There were other ways to celebrate: the ice cream freezer was being turned in the shade of the old crabapple tree, and the big old rooster that had been strutting his stuff was no longer around. You knew that fried chicken was fresh, as mother had just done the deed that very morning! Maybe there was company coming with a chocolate layer cake or apple pie.

I don't think I knew what the Fourth of July was really about back then, but in 1776 some guy named Jefferson drafted a document for the 13 Colonies that became the birth of American Independence.

Now we know. We are celebrating those freedoms our nation has fought so hard to maintain ever since 1776.

Our Journey By Velma Wiebe

"We often are concerned about how things turn out. God seems more concerned about how WE turn out!"

When making a trip, preparation is always the first step. First, we need to pray about it. (Proverbs 3:6)
Are we at peace with these plans? (Isaiah 26:2,3)
We need to discern whether or not the trip is necessary: (2 Peter 3:9-11)

We need to check the readiness of our motor: (our heart) (Matthew 15:18-20)

We need to continually watch what we say: (Psalm 19:14)

A trip is always more enjoyable with the fellowship of travel companions: (1 John: 1-7 and Malachi 3:16)

God is sure to tell us the right way to go: (Psalm 48:14)
God wants a special relationship with us along the way: (Ephesians 3:14-21)

We must ask and believe that the Holy Spirit will provide power to overcome our trials: (John 14:13,16)

Recently, during a time of discomfort, I quoted 2 Corinthians 9:8 several times. Shortly thereafter, I felt much better and enjoyed the day.

"We don't need to see eye to eye to walk arm in arm!"

Looking for a Used Desk or Sofa?

*We're rearranging the pastor's office. The sofa and desk are available to anyone who will move them out of the church!
Please see Pastor MaryBeth if interested.*

Where Would God Be Leading YOU?

In John 15:15, Jesus tells us, "No longer do I call you servants (slaves), for a servant doesn't know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."

Opportunities for serving as Jesus' hands and feet at FBC include:

- ◆ Children's Church teaching team
- ◆ Serving as a greeter on Sunday mornings
- ◆ Coordinating a men's fellowship group; attending men's fellowship
- ◆ Buying and/or giving out Beach Bums game tickets in support of missions and a way of connecting new people with FBC
- ◆ Rephrasing the FBC mission statement and revising the FBC logo
- ◆ Church cleaning and church/parsonage yard care
- ◆ Sunday coffee preparation

There is a ministry for YOU, when you open your heart to the Lord. Please see Pastor MaryBeth or Zeke Fleet for more information about these or other suggestions for service.

Sorry for the inconvenience!

A major riverfront construction project is underway at Boardman Place Condominiums, on the west side of FBC. Workers are accessing the site through our parking lot, making parking difficult. Thanks for your patience; the work should be completed by mid July.



2 Corinthians 3:17

**“For the Lord is the Spirit, and
wherever the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is freedom.”**

Have a joyful and safe Independence Day holiday!



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