



September 15 - October 15, 2021

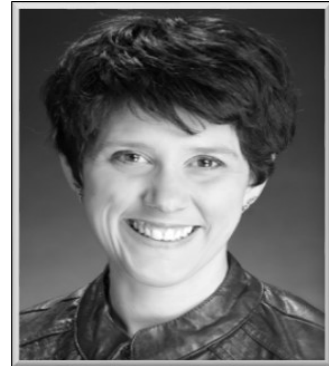
First Things

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Who We Are: FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.

What We Do: We are learning to live the life that Jesus would live if Jesus were living our life through:

- *meaningful worship and study*
- *valuing and loving others through service*
- *embracing God's created diversity*
- *intentional connections to our community*
- *caring for one another through all of life*



Rev. Lara Escoffre joined our pastoral staff, in December 2012, as the Pastor of Preaching and Teaching; in June 2015, Lara transitioned into the role of **Lead Pastor**. Lara has a passion for preaching and teaching God's word and for walking with people as they discover who God has created them to be. Lara is active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Mid-Michigan Health Advisory Council, and Faithwalking. She and her husband, Laurent, have three children: Lola, Chloe and Devin.



PRAYER PARTNERS

(Newest requests are bolded)

For those that grieve: The Donna Stamper Family (Kathy Burch's sister), The Harold Bergman Family (Roger's father), The Cindy Wong Family, Donny's family (Cayden's father), Kristy's family (Rashott cousin)

For the health needs of many of our church family: Karen Boucher (hospitalization/pneumonia/asthma), **Kathy Burch** (Covid recovery), **David Hitchcock** (injection), **Jenn Hitchcock** (surgery recovery), **Bob Hodges** (dementia), **Shawna Kobel**, Pat McCourt (recovery, strength, phantom pain), Isabelle Mellon Marsh (pregnancy), Nancy Metz (cancer-chemo), Joe Mortensen (dementia), Anne Poindexter (stroke recovery/strength, Elaine Poindexter (dementia), Tansley Rogers, **Dick Seamster** (emphysema), Preston Streeter (A-fib), **John Walter** (stents/recovery), Marcia Williams (migraines)

And the needs of loved ones: Judi Barden (stroke recovery), Jeff Beeman (chemo/Metz friend), Tonya Gillespie (job prospects), Hunter Grove (cancer/prayers for family), Kaisyn Josiah (Bushell preemie nephew), Josh (Legionnaires disease), Kevin Cuthbertson (cancer recovery), Jerry Knouse (Kathy Burch bil - stroke/surgery), **Kelly Kobel** (early labor), Kristy (Jim Kent's daughter-brain aneurism), 'Buck' Kuebler (Renna Yuill extended family-surgery recovery), Michelle (cancer), Shelley Page family: (Ben & Nancy Page/dementia/find new home, Julia/recovery/OT, **Sue Trombley**/cancer), Reta (Ben Schultz' mom (cancer-no treatment), Tom (L. Schultz' grandpa dialysis not working), Sharon Ingram (dementia), Shirley (Marcia's sister-parkinsons), Cable Steffen (cancer), Trishyan (rare heart complications due to Covid vaccine), Michael (Shawn Williams' friend), Zack (Marci Roger's friend's son-rare skin disease)

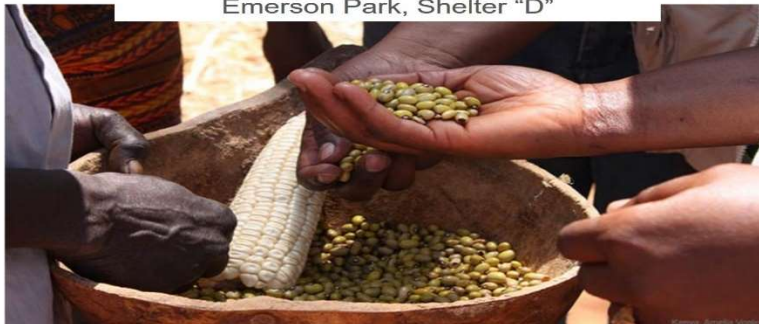
Prayers for Open Door and Shelterhouse (At capacity and staff is tired)

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer: Please contact the church office by phone: 835-6731 or via email: office@midlandfbc.com.

www.crophungerwalk.org/midlandmi

Midland Area CROP Hunger Walk

October 3, 2021 @ 1:00PM
Emerson Park, Shelter "D"



LETTER FROM PASTOR

When my daughter, Lola, was younger, like many children, she had a favorite movie that she liked to watch on repeat. While I am a self-proclaimed “movie buff,” I must admit that my tolerance for watching the same movie on repeat was almost non-existent. But, out of love, I would restart whatever her new favorite movie was. Then, for my sanity, I would leave and go find something else to do.

After a few weeks, and a few dozen times of hearing the film, I would usually give in and sit down to watch the feature a second time. To my amazement, I would be amazed at how little I remembered! While the film had been on repeat, I was only catching pieces of it. So, to my surprise, there were often whole scenes I had completely forgotten about!

I cannot help but wonder how many of us have similar experiences with the Bible. We catch a verse here and a story there but rarely do we dive into a book or the entirety of the Scriptures from beginning to end. Does it matter that we don't know what comes before or after?

That question led me to create our next sermon series, starting October 17th, called “Doers of the Word.” In the “Doers” series we will explore the five short chapters of the book of James from beginning to end. This method, I believe, will help us gain a greater understanding of the author's over-arching purpose.

So, perhaps you are wondering: “Why James?” Not only is James short enough to study in the five weeks of the series, but I was drawn to this book by one scholar's summary of the “letter.” In the IVP Bible Background commentary, Craig S. Keener says that the author of the book had attempted to address the socio-economic tensions of his day. It seems to me that James' audience found themselves wondering what it meant to be “kingdom people” when the situation of the world around them was “pulling” them in different directions.

This idea, I believe, is one many of us can relate to! Whether it is politics, the health crisis, economic uncertainty or what sports team you are rooting for, it is easy to get “sucked into” the high emotions of the world today. How do we be “Doers of the Word” in a world like this? Hopefully, throughout this series we will find out!

I want to remind everyone that I am offering a “Message Engagement” class this quarter. I believe this class will provide us the perfect place to talk about what we are learning and how it applies to our lives. I hope to see you there!

~Rev. Lara Escoffre

MISSION & MINISTRY



8,123 miles have been recorded.

**Congratulations, WE MADE IT all the way
from Midland to Jerusalem, and then some!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this summer activity!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE - Budget Year to Date August 2021

2021 Budget:	\$ 245,565	
General Fund Receipts	\$ 164,425	67.0 %
General Fund Expenses	\$ 147,608	60.1 %
Receipts over Expenses	\$ 16,817	

The church expenditures year-to-date are under budget by \$16,920.23.
Income is under budget by \$103.19.

The year-to-date budget surplus is \$16,817.

All of the ministry expenses are at or under budget except for Stewardship and Finance. S&F is slightly over budget since we did not budget for on-line processing fees for donations to the church, but this will be a relatively minor budget expense. Mission payments are on track year to date.

~Roger Bergman, on behalf of the S&F Team



We'd like to send Warm Birthday & Anniversary Wishes

September BIRTHDAYS

2 James Pope
2 Michael Walker
11 Leona Seamster
11 Mary Lou Sperry
13 Bob Hodges
15 Annette Bushell
15 Ruth Pangborn
17 Richard Seamster
18 Roland Wallace
19 Kerry Smith
22 Betty Spiker
23 Scott Lippoldt
27 Ceonni Williams
28 Kaily Metz

October BIRTHDAYS

3 Laura Clark
Jim Hitt
5 Laura Neil
6 Larry Root
8 Patrick Caldwell
9 Dave Mitchell
13 Chi-Long Lee
16 Karen Walker-Freeburg
18 Debbie Hitt
27 Lauren Neil
29 Andrea Snoddy



September ANNIVERSARIES

1 Bob & Becky Hodges
5 Ed & Pat Clark
15 Dave & Pam Jezowski
15 Andrew & Lauren Neil
20 David & Jenn Hitchcock

October ANNIVERSARIES

4 Roger & Louise Bergman
11 James & Carol (Johnstone) Beavers
19 Gale & Thayer Bradish
19 Allen & Sharon Ross



CALENDAR - 2021

Regular Schedule

ABIDING SCRIPTURES

SEPTEMBER - GENESIS 32:22-33:17

OCTOBER - 1 TIMOTHY 6:11-19

Sundays	10:00 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1st Sunday of each month
	11:15 AM	Sunday School Classes for All
Mondays	3-5:30 PM	Take Note!
	6:30 PM	Team Network Mtg-Media Rm - 2nd Monday
Tuesdays	7:30 PM	Men's Prayer Breakfast - M's Cafe
	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - 3rd Tuesday
	6:30 PM	Property Management Meeting - Media Rm - 1st Tuesday
Wednesdays	7:00 PM	Youth Zoom Meetings w/Karen Boucher
	7:00 PM	Enhanced Spiritual Care (Stephen Min.) - Media Rm - 3rd Wednesday
Thursdays	10:00 AM	Facebook Prayer Time & Sunday School w/Karen Boucher
Saturdays	9AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - 2nd Saturday

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
Sep 26 (Sun) -	12:15 PM	Youth Fellowship
Oct 3 (Sun) -	1:00 PM	CROP Walk Event - Emerson Park, Shelter "D"
Oct 10 (Sun) -	10:00 AM	Consecration Sunday
	11:15 AM	Sunday School Classes for All
	12:15 PM	Youth Fellowship - Activity to be determined
Oct 24(Sun) -	12:15 PM	Youth Fellowship - Activity to be determined



First Baptist Church

915 E. Sugnet Rd.

Midland, MI 48642

Phone: (989) 835-6731

Email: office@midlandfbc.com

Website: www.midlandfbc.com



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



CONSIDER OUR SHUT-INS

Joyce Phillips 989-832-2940
40 Rosemary Court, Midland, MI 48640

Ruthie O'Dell 989-259-7303
Brookdale Assisted Living, 4004 Waldo Ave, Midland 48642

Shirley Sevens 989-832-3010
4815 Russell St, Midland, MI 48640

Elaine Poindexter - Room 205B
Masonic Pathways,
1200 Wright Ave, Alma, MI 48801
Phone: 989-466-4637
Visits must be arranged in advance: 989-466-3016



Dear Friends at First Baptist:

Thank you for your faithful support over the years! Please pray for the Guatemalan translators I work with as they navigate 1 & 2 Timothy, James, Philippians and Colossians. Praise God with us as we celebrate the imminent publishing of the New Testament in two different languages in Columbia.

~Love, Chaz & Helga Mortensen

P.S. Dad (Joe) had a fall on Wednesday and will be going to skilled care. Please pray for him and for Kathy.

October-November Newsletter deadline is October 11.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to Debbie Hitt and her **Rally Day Team**, for a lovely **Family Reunion** celebration on Sunday, September 12. The food, fellowship, and games were fun for all!!

Sunday School Teachers are settled in to fall classes, 11:15 am -12:15 pm, as follows:

K-2 - Barb Neil and needed Co-teacher (Contact Barb if you would like to give this a try!); "Simply Loved" curriculum

Middlers (3-7) – Andrea and Trevor Snoddy; "Be Bold" curriculum

High School (9-12) – Debbie Hitt and Karen Boucher; curriculum yet to be determined

Adults – Pastor Lara; Sermon Talk Back
Substitute Teachers are needed!

Be sure to enjoy coffee after worship on Sunday mornings, thanks to the **Coffee/Refreshment Team**. The **Children's Conversation Team** has Sundays covered through December, and **Take Note** has a vivacious group of singers and bell ringers now meeting on Mondays after school. New participants are always welcome to join in!

We would like to form a **Preschool Care Team** - need 4 to 5 adults, and 4 to 5 teens on a rotation to care for children ages 1 – 4 years. (Contact Louise Bergman.) This would begin after the Children's Conversation, and extend through the end of worship. Our hope is that parents of our little ones will be heavily involved, so they can get to know other small children and their families. A **Bonus Hour** of care during Sunday School time will be considered, with its own rotation of 3 to 4 people, or a dedicated caregiver, if need for this is expressed.

Life Group Team – Is it time to revitalize this ministry? Contact Louise Bergman, if you would like to be involved as a planner, participant or leader.



DATE	*TIME	**WHO	LOCATION	NOTES
Sunday 9/26	12:15pm – 2:30pm	All Youth	FBC	Lunch provided
Sunday 10/3	12:15pm – 3:00pm	All Youth	CROP Walk Emerson Park	Lunch provided Pick up at church
Sunday 10/10	12:15pm – 2:30pm	All Youth	FBC	Lunch provided
Sunday 10/24	12:15pm – 2:30pm	All Youth	FBC	Lunch provided
Friday 11/5 – Sunday 11/7	TBD	7 th – 12 th Graders	Camp Lael Lapeer, MI	Cost and details to follow once announced by the camp
Sunday 11/14	12:15pm – 2:30pm	All Youth	FBC	Lunch provided
Sunday 11/21	12:15pm – 2:30pm	Senior High Youth	Thanksgiving baskets at Aldersgate Church	Lunch provided
Sunday 11/28	12:15pm – 2:00pm	All Youth	FBC	Lunch provided Shortened time due to Hanging of the Greens
Sunday 12/12	12:15pm – 2:30pm	All Youth	FBC	Lunch provided
Sunday 12/19	12:15pm – 2:30pm	All Youth	Christmas Party at the Hitts House	Lunch provided Pick up at the Hitts House

***Please check the time as there may be changes due to activity prior to, or after, Youth Group.**

****Please check the “Who” column as the activity may be suited for a specific age range.**

Louise Bergman, Christian Education Team Chair