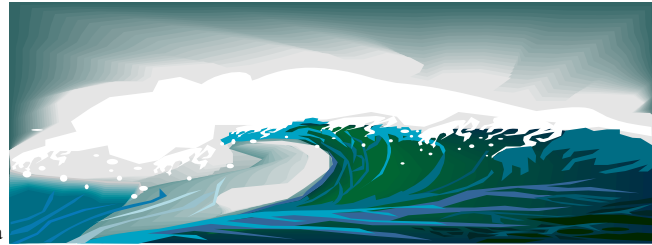




The *March 2023*  
Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



Is it me, or has the month of February just flown by? The older I get the more I think about time flying by and as we prepare to begin a transition from winter to spring, I cannot help but think about the little birds that are popping up everywhere you look. I was walking to church last Sunday and the birds were singing. There were about five birds darting around the church yard just after 7:30 a.m., and I thought spring is just around the corner.

The Scripture tells us that the Lord sees the birds and takes care of them. I find it funny that the Lord takes care of all the birds and all the other little creatures we do not even think of that often, by ensuring they have what they need to survive. The Scripture tells us ***“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”*** (Matthew 6:26 ESV).

I was reading on futurepets.com where wild birds should “begin showing interest in their surroundings and start to eat on their own by 15 days.” Before, that, they are totally dependent on someone or something else providing what they need. On that same website, it says that as baby bird owners, if we provide “live food (meal worms) and grass, twigs, etc. in the nest” it will stimulate a real environment and the bird will begin to explore and its nature kicks in to survive. If we were to spread seed on the bottom of the nest, it encourages the bird to eat on its own. I thought, boy here’s a little parable of sorts for us.

I see a comparison in our relationship with the Lord. In the beginning after we are saved, we have a need to learn to serve God as we find ourselves being nursed in the Word. And, it takes some time to move from the milk to meat. The Bible says, ***“I fed you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready. In fact, you are still not ready”*** (1 Cor. 3:2, NIV). Paul was telling the Corinthians, you just do not understand the spiritual things that I have tried to teach you. And that is true for a lot of us today. As spiritual attacks come at us in this life, we have to be able to rely on what God’s word says to us about those circumstances or trials. In this very moment, we need to draw strength. This strength comes from the solid food of Scripture.

Just like the little birds, we want to fend for ourselves. We want to fly and do our thing. But, we have to grow a little. As we grow, we find our little feathers, gaining strength. Eventually, we will be pushed out of the nest and either fly or hit the ground. As the season of spring is in the near distance and the birds begin to wake us with morning songs, let us remember God’s promise to take care of us and meet our needs just as the birds have their needs met. We have some growing to do. Sometimes in that growth, things can be difficult and sometimes not fair. However, as long as we grow, we are moving in the right direction.

A Church family helps you grow. Being around like-minded people helps you grow. People who know what it is like to be an overcomer can help you grow. Above all else, knowing God loves us, will help us more than we can even believe.

In His Service,  
*Pastor Toby*



We have had a good group through February with an average of 17 kids attending for Wednesday and Sunday evenings. We are still studying in the Old Testament.

We had a blast at the Senior High Convention! There were 16 of us taking part in the activities. The kids really enjoyed the day. Many thanks to Tom Stephenson and Tammy Stump for driving and staying to help herd the group.

We are preparing for our Youth Dinner on March 19 at 5:00. This is where the kids prepare and serve everyone a meal. No cost - donations only for this. It's our way to say Thank You for loving the Youth.

We will be moving into the Easter season by the end of the month. I'm hoping to encourage all the kids to be a part of the Sunrise Service. Considering only about 6 of them come who are affiliated with FBC, this will be a big adventure. Please keep us in your prayers.

I hope you enjoy the pictures from the Senior Convention!

Blessings,

*Ann*



# Sr Hi Convention

**GAMES!**



**snacks!**



**Fun!**



**Worship!**



# Baptisms!



Mike DeLong

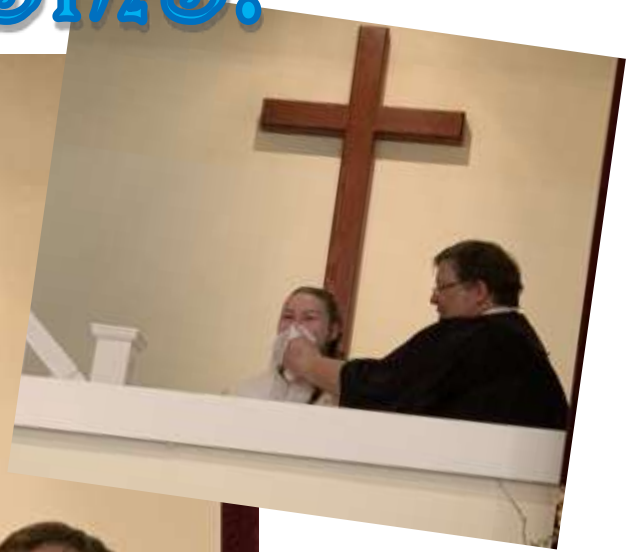
# Buried with Christ



Brent Confer



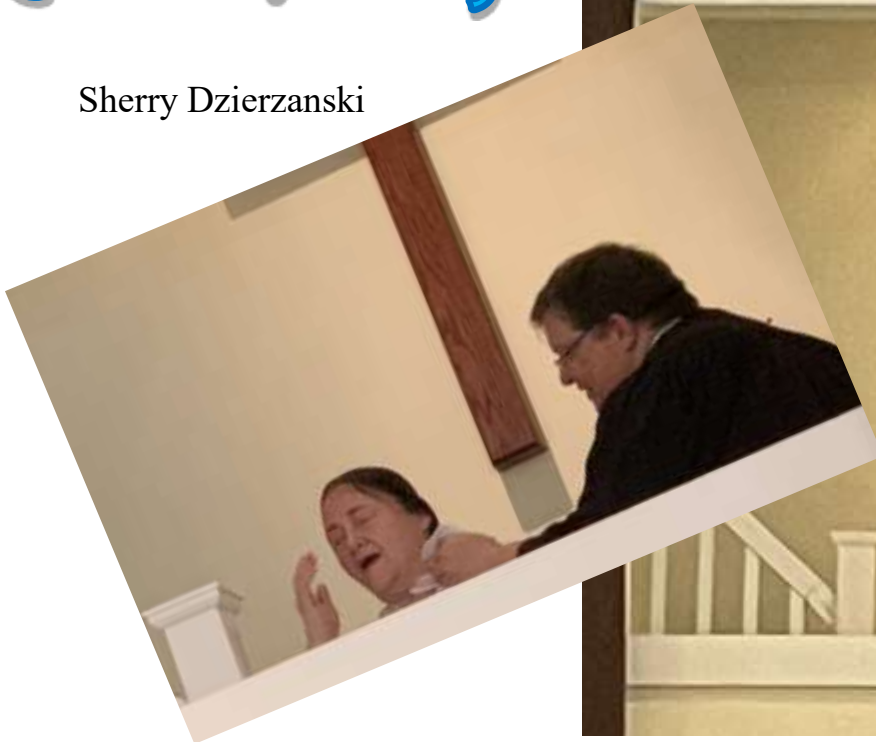
# Baptisms!



Skyler Varney

# Raised from the dead

Sherry Dzierzanski



# Welcome to First Baptist!



## Meet our newest Members

*Amy Williams*

*Skylar Varney*

*Mike DeLong*

Joined at the end of our service on February 12.

We are so glad you are with us!



## More New Members!

*Scarlett Mullins*

*Brent Confer*

Both joined at the end of our service on February 19.

Welcome! Welcome! To All!

If you are interested to learning more about First Baptist Church, our beliefs, baptism, or membership, please contact Pastor Toby.

**We love Jesus and we love you!**

# All Life Is Precious!



Thanks for giving!

# About FBC



## Gratefully Answered Prayer

Tyler and Michelle Ritchie were able to come to church recently. (they live in Morgantown).

Tyler had been in our prayers for a long time after his stroke. What a blessing to see our prayers answered! He gave a small testimony of the power of God's healing in his life.

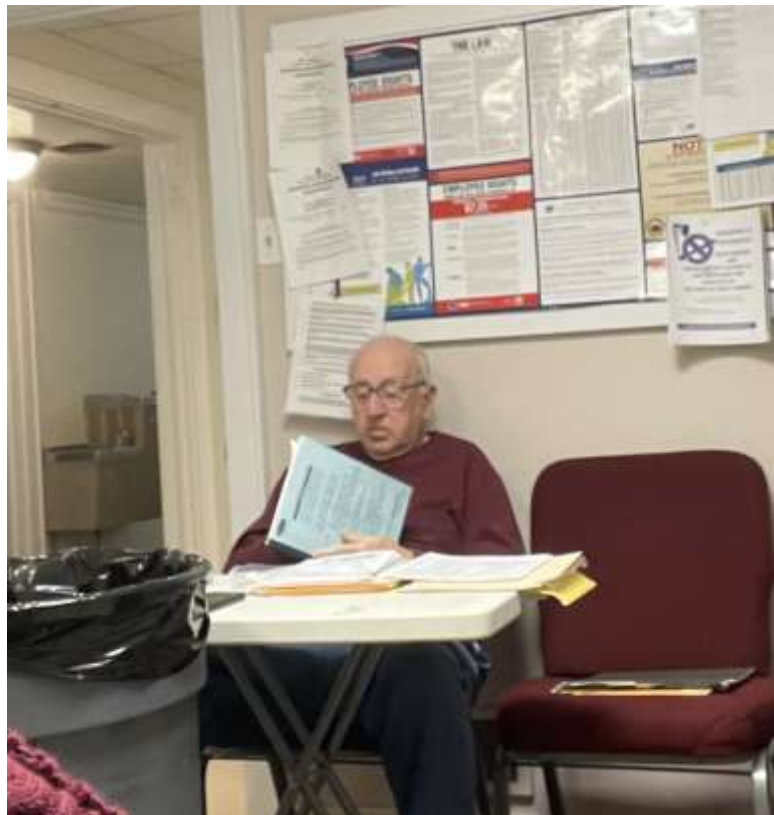
*Thank you, Lord!*

## Still Helping

LOTS of paperwork to go through and sort as we started the New Year.

Trustee John Stephenson took a few days to go through the file cabinet that houses the trustee paperwork to purge and reorganize it.

Thank you, John, for a job well done!





# Mens Fellowship





## Eric & Yuree Lembke

ERIC and YUREE will serve at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School & College (KKBBSC) located in Mae La Refugee Camp near Mae Sot, Thailand. Young adults, mainly from the Karen ethnic group, attend the school to pursue a degree in ministry to serve as Christian leaders within the refugee camps and internally displaced persons in areas along the Thai/Myanmar border. Eric and Yuree's ministry will focus on working with refugees through education, discipleship, and evangelism. At the school, they will teach English and ministry classes. They will also travel to villages in the Karen State, Myanmar, with KKBBSC students and staff to teach and conduct Bible classes.

Eric and Yuree will be speaking at our service on March 12 during the morning worship service. Please come and hear their mission message of hope

# Grace UPON Grace

**John 1:16-17** (NRSVue)

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**America for Christ Offering 2023**



American Baptist Home Mission Societies



[www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

Photo by Frederic Bergeron on Unsplash

## **Kodiak Baptist Mission**

Located in Kodiak, Alaska, Kodiak Baptist Mission believes that the beauty surrounding us is a gift from God, and the best way to use it is to share it with our community and beyond.

Drawing upon our history and our consistent faith in Jesus Christ, Kodiak Baptist Mission seeks to be an example for our community and the world in the way that we love our neighbors through a holistic approach to education, as well as the dedication of time and resources to strengthen families.

From 1893 to today, Kodiak Baptist Mission has pioneered approaches to holistic education and domestic, rural missions right here in Kodiak. Through devastating fires and tightening state mandates, we have stayed firm in our faith and love of God.

Today, we have the best summer camps and after school programs in Kodiak. Our programs enable children to make positive choices and decisions, keep them safe and respectable, establish a spiritual foundation in their lives, and assist families to live, work, and grow together in Christ.

**Please give today!** [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)



# Souper Bowl Collection



Thank you!!



# 18-35 Gathers Together for Fun Times



18-35

In Community Kitchen

in community kitchen

18-35

# 18-35 FUN FUN FUN



# And FOOD!

## Focus on Sunday School:



Do you ever get thirsty for water?

Well, sure. We all do. But did you know there is a *Living Water*?

Jesus was walking to Galilee and had to go through Samaria, which was not considered a nice place to be. He was so hot and thirsty! Soon He came to a local well that was used by the towns people. They would come each morning to the well, lower the bucket down and draw up the water they needed each day to use in their homes. Mostly it was the women's job to keep water at the house.

On this day, though, it was closer to noon. Everyone was gone except one Samaritan woman. The towns people didn't think she was very nice so she would go at noon to miss being around them. But this day was different!

Jesus spoke to her and asked for a drink. She couldn't believe her ears! How could He speak to her - a Samaritan woman - and He was a Jew! They hated each other!

Then Jesus in His beautiful way explained He knew **all** about her. He was willing to give her something better than **just** water - He would give her the *Living Water* of eternal life. If she just believed in Him.

We can have that special *Living Water* too! Just love Jesus.

*It's amazing what you can learn in Sunday School!*

## **March Calendar**

- Mar 1 America for Christ Offering begins
- Mar 2 Deaconess Meeting; School of Christian Studies
- Mar 3 Movie Night
- Mar 4 Bible Conference
- Mar 5 Soup to Go; 18-35 Movie Trip and Dinner
- Mar 6 Mayberry Bible Study; Trustee Meeting
- Mar 7 Deacons Meeting
- Mar 12 Missionaries Eric & Yuree Lembke speaking
- Mar 13 BOCE
- Mar 14 Men's Fellowship
- Mar 16 School of Christian Studies; CIRCLE
- Mar 19 Youth Dinner
- Mar 20 Mayberry Bible Study; VBS Planning
- Mar 21 Finance Committee
- Mar 22 Anchor Articles Due
- Mar 23 School of Christian Studies
- Mar 27 Mayberry Bible Study
- Mar 28 Deacons Meeting
- Mar 30 School of Christian Studies



\* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00

## **March Birthdays**



**Ella Pistelli 3/1**  
**Kathy Frazier 3/2**  
**Amy Williams 3/3**  
**Gusta Arrington 3/4**  
**Helen Johnson 3/4**  
**Amy Bowles-Taylor 3/7**  
**Peg Lyons 3/16**  
**Zach Graham 3/21**  
**Rose Stevens 3/23**  
**Glen Stevens 3/24**  
**Rhonda Ritchie 3/29**  
**Adam Pistelli 3/29**  
**Sharon Adkins 3/30**

**Is your birthday name missing? Tell Susan**

## **Bible Book of the Month March 2023 1, 2 Peter; Jude**



## **CommUnity Kitchen**

- Mar 4 Glen & Rose Stevens**
- Mar 11 Kay Pursley**
- Mar 18 Mens Fellowship**
- Mar 25 Episcopal Church**

*Sign up for  
CommUnity Kitchen 2023!*



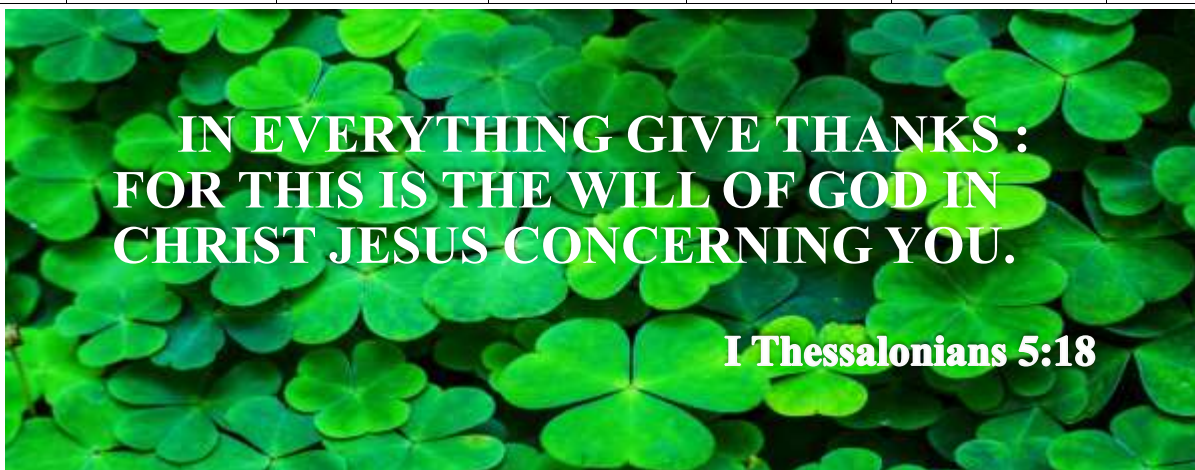
## CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Talia Martinez	2 Richard & Phyllis Massey	3 Robert Jim McCauley	4 Brad & Donna McCoy
5 Ed & Charlotte McCoy	6 Nancy McCoy	7 Fred & Robin McGoskey	8 Adam McGoskey, Tay- lor	9 Theresa McKown	10 Cassandra McKown	11 Carolyn Mellinger
12 Don & Phyllis Michael	13 Daryl & Roberta Miller	14 Sue Miller	15 Ben & Christie Mize	16 Joshua Mize	17 David & Mary Jo Moore, Hunter	18 Jon & Jane Moore
19 Eugene & Jessica Morgan, Aiden, Jazalyn	20 Terry Morgan	21 Patrick & Scarlett Mullins, Ryleigh, Emree	22 Rick & Cathy Murray	23 Megan Noble, Brody	24 John & Jennifer Ortt	25 Allen & Holly Palmer
26 Adam Palmer	27 Adam & Brittany Max, Kolton, Ella	28 Tyler & Jennifer Pitts, Owen & Isabella	29 Mick & Susan Price	<b>30</b> <b>Mary Proctor</b>	31 Kay Pursley	



**IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS :  
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN  
CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU.**

**I Thessalonians 5:18**