

PM Service & Communion | Sunday, Sept 14 | 6pm

At this PM service we will worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper. Also Pastor Nate will unveil the Board's recommendations to amend the constitution to transition to an Elder-Deacon model of leadership.

New Adult Sunday School Classes | Sunday mornings | 9:30-10:15am

- East Overflow (co-ed adult) - The Letters of John - Led by John Schmid
- West Overflow (co-ed adult) - *Good and Angry*, by David Powlison
Led by David Williamson
- Fireside Room (young couples or parents with kids in the house)
Systematic Theology: Sin, Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality - Led by Pastor Nate Archer
- Women's Class (conference room) - *Loving God with All Your Mind*, by Elizabeth George
Led by Pam Jacobson
- Young Adult Class (room 122) - 1 Peter - Led by Jake Herrera (for graduates—early 20's)

Wednesday Programs | Wednesday nights | 6:30-8:00pm

Get the whole family involved starting Sept 3! All programs are from 6:30-8:00pm with the exception of the Women's AM Bible study from 9:15-11:15am. PM nursery is available.

- Men's Bible Study—Ephesians (East Overflow)
- Women's Bible Study—*Philippians, Living for Christ*, by Lydia Brownback, books cost \$10 (am: Fireside room, pm: West Overflow)
- Youth Group—6th-12th grade (Willis Center)
- Adventure Club—1st-5th grade (Downstairs)
- Gophers—4 years to K (Room 126)

Christmas Concert Choir Rehearsal & Sign-up | Sept 9 | 6pm

Join the Christmas Concert Choir as we prepare for the upcoming season! Sign up at the Welcome Center or show up Tuesday, Sept 9 at 6:00pm in the sanctuary for our first rehearsal to try it out.

Women's Day Retreat | Saturday, Sept 20 | 8:30am-6pm

We are excited to be hosting a Women's Day Retreat here on September 20, titled *A Word Fitly Spoken*. The cost is \$25, which includes a craft. Breakfast, drinks, and afternoon snacks will be provided, but we ask you to bring a sack lunch. When signing up at the Welcome Center. Please choose 3 out of the 5 workshops that you want to attend. Sign up before Sept 17. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Youth Group Bonfire at the Williamson | Friday, Sept 19 | 6pm-8pm

Join us for a bonfire, games, and fellowship! There will be snacks and drinks provided. Drop off and pick up your students at the Williamson's house, 2492 Campground Rd. Hastings. Invite friends! Grades 6-12 welcome.

Interested In Serving?

We have many ministries that you can serve in. If you are interested please contact the office (office@fbcmiddleville.net) or Pastor Zach (zachs@fbcmiddleville.net).

Upcoming Dates

Sept 14 | PM Service & Communion
Sept 13 | Men's Breakfast in the Café (main floor) | 8-10am
Sept 19 | Youth Bonfire at the Williamson's | 6:30-8pm
Sept 20 | Women's Day Retreat at FBC | 8:15am-6pm
Sept 27 | Women's Bootcamp Workout in the Willis Center | 8-9:30am
Sept 28 | Small Groups kicks off
Oct 4 | Youth Group Fall Frenzy at Daniel Ramey's | 5-8pm
Oct 5 | AM Communion

AM SCHEDULE

9:00-9:30: Coffee in the Large Foyer

9:20-9:30: Drop off window for elementary age Sunday School kids

9:30-10:15: Adult Sunday School (6-12 grade classes starts at 9:30 also)

10:30-11:45: AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Adult Sunday School Classes

Sundays 9:30-10:15 AM

East Overflow Class - Open to all adults, co-ed - East Overflow (room 101)

1st & 2nd Peter - Led by John Schmid

West Overflow Class - Open to all adults, co-ed - West Overflow (room 102)

Questions About Angels & Demons - Led by David Williamson

Family Class - For parents with kids in the house or young couples - Fireside Room (111)

The Holiness of God by R.C. Sproul - Led by Brian Newhouse

Women's Class - Conference Room (room 118)

Loving God with all your Mind - Led by Pam Jacobson

Young Adult Class - For graduates through early twenties (room 122)

1st Peter - Led by Jake Herrera

Sunday Children's Programs

See AM Schedule Above for Times

Nursery: For kids under age 2, during Sunday School & during the AM service.

Pre-School Ministry: 2 & 3 year olds will meet in room 125 for Sunday School & room 127 for the AM service. 4 & 5 year olds will meet in room 125 for Sunday School & the AM service.

Elementary Sunday School: K-5 grade (Downstairs) — See AM Schedule Above

Youth Sunday School: Middle School (Willis Center) — High School (Willis Center)

Kidz Blast: K-3 grade (Downstairs) — Kidz Blast kids will stay with their parents in the service during singing and then are dismissed for Kidz Blast before the sermon

Wednesday Programs

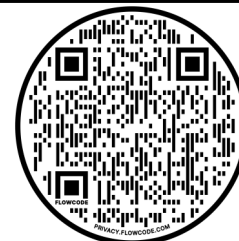
Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00PM

- **Men's Bible Study**—Ephesians (East Overflow)
- **Women's AM Bible Study**—9:15-11:15 AM (Fireside Room) *Philippians*, book cost \$10
- **Women's PM Bible Study**—6:30-8:00 PM (Fireside Room) *Philippians*, book cost \$10 (Nursery available for the PM study)
- **Youth Group**—6 to 12 grade (Willis Center)
- **Adventure Club**—1 to 5 grade (Downstairs)
- **Gophers**—4 years to K (Room 125)
- **Nursery**—3 & under, for parents attending a study or helping in ministry

Giving Is an Act of Worship

Thank you for supporting the ministries of FBC with your faithful giving! You can place your tithes and offerings in the box in the small foyer. Contact the office if you would like giving envelopes. You can set up online or reoccurring giving at fbcmiddleville.net/giving. Tip: Minimize service fees by using you bank routing number rather than using a credit card. Also, many banks offer automatic check services.

fbcmiddleville.net/giving



GOD'S GREAT IDEA

Why Marriage is Good for People, Kids, and Society

First Baptist Church • Pastor Nate Archer
9/7/25 • 10:30 AM

- Marriage is a forgotten secret to most people today.

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- Marriage was designed by God for the good of all mankind.

(Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6)

Q. Is marriage a Christian institution or a human institution?

A. It is a human institution, given by God.

-It is not a human invention, but it is for all humanity.

Marriage is part of God's original creation. The marriage union was designed by God and is meant to be heterosexual, monogamous, and sexual—essentially designed for procreation.

Genesis 1:26-28 - ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens

- Until recently, all societies shared a similar understanding of marriage that was grounded in the design of this world.

A DEFINITION: Marriage is [designed by God as] a sacred institution that publicly binds one man and one woman together in a lifelong, exclusive, sexual, and comprehensive union of lives, creating a new family unit, with mutual dedication and commitment to each other and to any children born from their sexual union.

The only definition of marriage that is not arbitrary is that of one man and one woman—because only that combination is intrinsically linked to the public good of the procreation of children.

- Because marriage is a God-given institution for all humanity, there are "public" purposes which are for the good of all society.

Children: Marriage keeps mothers and fathers together so that children grow up with their mother and father together in a committed family.

Women: Marriage (and a strong marriage-culture in general) protects women from irresponsible or predatory men who would have sex with them without a permanent commitment to them or the children that might be conceived.

Men: Marriage matures men, forcing them to grow up and take responsibility for themselves and others.

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Genesis 1:26-28 - ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:18-25 - ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” [...] ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Matthew 19:4-6 - ⁴ He [Jesus] answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵ and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

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“Marriage is generally used as a term for a social institution. Marriage always implies the right to sexual intercourse: society holds such intercourse allowable in the case of husband and wife... At the same time, marriage is something more than a regulated sexual relation... [T]he functions of the husband and father in the family are not merely the sexual and procreative kind, but involve the duty of protecting the wife and children, is testified by an array of facts relating to peoples in all quarters of the world and in all stages of civilization.”

—Edward Westermarck, *The History of Human Marriage*

“But marriage is just as much about the community as it is about the individuals, perhaps even more so. That’s why marriages are public ceremonies, whether in churches or before civil authorities, and are regulated by laws. Marriage is a societal agreement... No marriage is an island. Every marriage touches the community as a universally human community norm—a rule embraced by society for how we conduct ourselves sexually and domestically, and what we provide for children to meet their developmental needs. ... There are no truly private marriages.”

—Glenn Stanton and Bill Maier, *Marriage on Trial*, p. 54.

“...children raised in single-parent families are more than four times as likely to be poor than their peers raised in stably married homes.”

—Brad Wicox, *Get Married* (2024), p. 73

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Marriage decreases the chances that a child will live in poverty by 82%

In fatherless homes children are:

- 2 times more likely to be arrested for juvenile crimes.
- 2 times more likely to be treated for emotional and behavioral problems.
- 2 times more likely to be suspended or expelled from school.
- 33% more likely to drop out of school.
- 3 times more likely to end up in jail by age 30.

Compared to a married mother and father:

Children living with an unmarried mother and a (unmarried) biological father are 4 times more likely to be sexually, physically or emotionally abused.

Children living with their mother and her boyfriend are 11 times more likely to be sexually, physically, or emotionally abused.

Children living with their mother and an unmarried male are also 3 to 6 times more likely to be physically, emotionally, or educationally neglected.

The effects of marriage breakdown on children continue into adulthood:

Compared to intact families, children raised by single parents are 50% more likely to suffer poverty as adults.

Compared to intact families, girls raised by single parents are 2 times more likely to have a child outside of marriage.

[Statistics from William May, *Getting the Marriage Conversation Right*, loc 756-757]

The Secret of Marriage

Sept. 7 – God’s Great Idea

Sept. 14 – Why Marriage?

Sept. 21 – What God Has Joined Together: Jesus on Marriage

Sept. 28 – The Ultimate Marriage: Christ and the Church

Oct. 5 – Living the Secret of Marriage

Oct. 12 – Love and Respect

FBC Giving Update

September 7, 2025

Year to Date Budget: \$466,725.00

Year to Date Giving: \$450,362.09

Year to Date Shortfall: \$16,362.91

For the General Fund as of August 31 (35 weeks)

Weekly Budgeted Amount: \$13,335.00

20% of the FBC budget goes to Missions and Evangelism.

Capital Improvement Raised: \$53,693.88

You can give ONLINE or set up REOCCURRING giving at
FBCMiddleville.net/GIVING

Note: Reoccurring giving from your checking or saving account
(not credit card or debit) is the most beneficial to the church.



Guest Wi-Fi Password: GodisGood

Office Hours | Tues - Fri 9-3:30pm

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First Baptist Church Staff

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