

Weekly Meetings and Events

Sunday

- 9:30am Sunday School
- 10:45am Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship

Monday

- 7:00pm Men's Group

Tuesday

- 10:00am Caring Crafters
- 6:00pm Young Adults

Wednesday

- 6:30-7:45pm Adult Bible Studies
- Soakin Up The Son
- "Salt & Light" Youth

Pastors and Staff

- Frank Brand, Senior Pastor
- Weston Eckert, Youth Pastor/Admin.
- Howie Nord, Praise Team Leader
- Keith Hoffman, Men's Ministry
- Roxanne Taylor, Women's Ministry
- Stephanie Hunt, Event's Director
- Carissa Yarnell, Children's Director



- "Explore the Bible" (Adults) with Lois Preston @ Education Building
- "The Gospel Project" (Grades 6th-12th) with Weston Eckert @ Fellowship House
- "The Gospel Project" (Adults) with Jennifer Brand @ Education Building
- "The Gospel Project" (Adults) with Mike Lasater @ Fellowship House
- "Gospel Project" with Carissa Yarnell (K-5th Grade) @ Education Building
- "Gospel Project Young Adults" with the Smiley's @ Education Building

Greeters

Anyone that would like to be scheduled as a greeter, please contact Jeanne Telesmanick.

12/3 –Kay Gray and Staci Cicero

12/10 –Rose Tripp and Rebecca Brown

12/17 –Julia Burley and Diana Pinto

12/24 –Gina Queen and Charley Wolters

12/31 –Nancy Hoffman and Michele Bell



Have you ever been helped by our Care Ministry? Did you know that our church has a Care Ministry? Our care team offers rides to doctor appointments, meals, phone calls, visits, cards, etc. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Susie Shetrone at 239-910-4523.

If you want to be a blessing and participate in our Care Ministry, please contact Susie.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Join our men Mondays at 7 pm in the Fellowship House for a time of prayer and encouragement. Food is served the first Monday of the month.

Join our men Saturday, December 30th from 4-6 pm at Lions Park (For Myers) as dinner is served to our homeless community.



Don't forget! Online giving is now available! Log onto firstbaptistestero.com and click the online giving tab in the top right corner of the page. Once you register, giving is as simple as a click. For more information, contact Pastor Weston.

December 2017

Welcome to First Baptist Church of Estero

20300 Trailside Dr. Estero, FL 33928

(239) 992-0881

www.firstbaptistestero.com

The Connection



Christmas Services and Times

- December 3rd at 6 pm –Christmas Carol Service
- December 10th at 6 pm –Blue Christmas Service
- December 17th at 6 pm –Choir Christmas Cantata
- December 24th at 6 pm –Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The national goal this year is \$160 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. Our church goal this year is \$4,000. If you wish to give, please use the specially marked Lottie Moon offering envelopes which can be found in the pocket of each sanctuary seat. Our Lottie Moon offering will be collected each Sunday in December.

Missions Update Corey and Katie Garrett Serving with SIMS in Senegal

Please pray for our missionary family, the Garretts, as they continue to serve the Lord in Senegal, Africa. Although ministry has been difficult at times, some encouraging decisions have recently been made. Corey shares, "The highlight of this fall was getting to celebrate the baptism of two new Wolof believers here in Kaffrine! The journey of these two men coming to know Jesus is a remarkable story of over ten years of ministry by many members of the local church, several missionaries, and countless prayer warriors." Please continue to pray for the Garretts! Pray for the two new Wolof believers. Pray for the four new missionaries joining the Garrett's team in Kaffrine. Pray for paperwork to be finalized with the Garrett's adoption of two boys Will and Jake.

If you would like to find out more about the Garrett's ministry, visit <https://coreyandkatie.org>.



Blue Christmas

December 10th at 6 pm

The Christmas season can be an overwhelming and sad time. A time when everyone around you is experiencing joy yet you are feeling no joy. Is this blessed time filled with stress and sadness because you are experiencing a financial loss, a devastating health report, or broken family relationships? Perhaps your heart is aching as you grieve the loss of a loved one that won't be with you this year. There will be a special time when we will honor the memory of loved ones no longer with us.

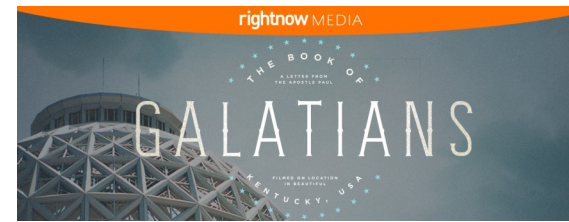
No one is exempt from pain which can make the Christmas season difficult. As we come together and acknowledge our pain, we will cry out to the One who understands and offers comfort in our times of trouble and sadness. There is light in the midst of all the darkness.

Save The Dates:

- 12/3 –Christmas Caroling at 6 pm
- 12/7 –Women's Christmas Party at 6 pm
- 12/9 –Children Caroling at Life Care Center
- 12/10 –Blue Christmas Service at 6 pm
- 12/17 –Choir Cantata at 6 pm
- 12/22 –Youth Christmas Party
- 12/24 –Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm
- 12/25 –12/29 –Church office closed
- 12/27 –No Wednesday services
- 12/31 –No evening worship service

Women's Ministry

Wear something sparkly as our Women's Ministry celebrates Christmas. Join their Christmas party December 7th at 6pm in the Fellowship House. Contact Roxanne Taylor with any questions.



Churchwide Small Group

Are you available Sunday nights in January? If so, join our churchwide small group! This 4 week churchwide small group will study portions of the book of Galatians. Each Sunday will have a twelve minute video followed by a time of Bible study and discussion. See below for questions and information relating to our Galatians study:

If someone asked you to explain the gospel, what would you say? What is the good news of the Christian faith? Writing to the Galatians, Paul made it clear how easily we can be tempted to turn toward fraudulent gospels, especially those that teach we can earn God's love through our works. Though they may have the appearance of truth, they are lifeless and leave us empty in the end.

In this small group study, Kyle Idleman dives into the book of Galatians which contains some of the clearest explanations of the gospel in the New Testament. Through biblical study and engaging lessons, Kyle shows that true freedom is found in surrender and not self-dependence. Because our gospel is not one based on our works, but faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

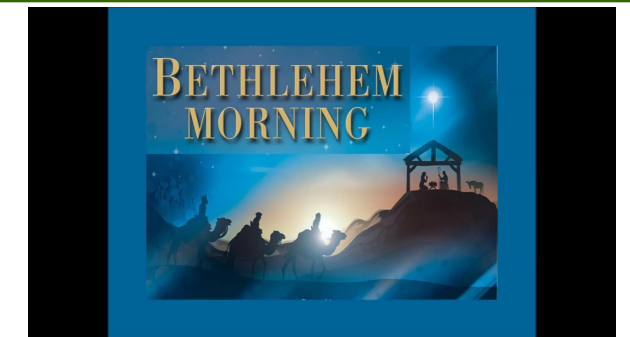
Join us at 6pm every Sunday in January.

Youth Ministry

Afterglow –December 20th from 8-9 pm. Pizza will be provided. Cost: \$1

Youth Christmas Party –December 22nd from 5-8 pm. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and come ready to play Christmas games! Door prizes, game prizes, and ugliest Christmas sweater prizes will be awarded. Invite your friends! Dinner will be provided. Cost: free! Our Christmas party will be held at Pastor Weston's house. His address is 9174 Estero River Circle Estero, FL 33928. Gate code: 5110

Homeless Meal –December 30th from 4-6 pm.



Join us as we celebrate in music the birth of our Savior. The choir will present BETHLEHEM MORNING on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 pm.

Hurricane Irma Assistance

If you are in need of any financial assistance due to Hurricane Irma, please contact the church office at 239-992-0881.

Children's Ministry

Christmas Caroling at Life Care Center

The children will be going to sing Christmas carols to the residents at the Life Care nursing home again this year. On Saturday, December 9th we will meet at 1:30 pm just inside the main entrance. We will walk the halls caroling to the residents in their rooms. Afterwards we get to enjoy free ice cream in their parlor. Youth and adults who want to come along are welcomed and encouraged to join us! Contact Carissa with any questions.

The address of Life Care Center is 3850 Williams Road Estero, FL 33928.



Our next round of Small Groups will take place February 5th –March 25th. Look for more information in next month's connection for studies and locations.