

The Connection

20300 Trailside Drive Estero, Florida 33928

239-992-0881

**SECRET
CHURCH**
KNOW HIS WORD. KNOW HIS PERSECUTED.

First Baptist Estero will be hosting a Secret Church simulcast **April 20th at 7pm** in the sanctuary. Secret Church is our version of “house church” where we meet periodically for an intense time of Bible study—lasting 6+ hours—including a time of prayer for our brothers and sisters across the globe who are facing persecution and for those who still have not heard the gospel.

This year’s topic: the apostle Paul was astonished that some followers of Christ in his day were “turning to a different gospel,” and he pleaded with them not to be deceived by those who wanted to “distort the gospel of Christ.” These warnings given to the church in the first century are just as relevant today for the church in the twenty-first century.

For the good of our souls and for the sake of the church’s mission, followers of Christ need to ask, “What false gospels are being taught today?” and “How can I recognize the true gospel among so many counterfeits?” Answering these questions will be the aim of Secret Church 2018, “Cults and Counterfeit Gospels.”

We will consider the claims of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, and other groups that claim to teach the truth. We will also explore more subtle distortions of the gospel, including prosperity teaching that is rampant across the church. In the end, our goal is to walk away from this Secret Church not only enabled to discern false gospels, but also equipped to share the true gospel with people around us and with peoples around the world.

Childcare is available. Sign up in the cafe to reserve your spot!

Vacation Bible School

Our summer Vacation Bible School will be held June 11th-15th. The cost to attend is \$15.

Vacation Bible School Training

Interested in helping during VBS this year? Register online to attend our Regional Training Event! Come and get an overview of the material and see all the aspects of VBS presented. Come and learn about sharing the gospel with children, guiding behavior, reaching families, missions, bible study, VBX, music, crafts, recreation and of course snacks! This is for high school students and adults who are willing to serve. Register at flbaptist.org/next-generation/. Any questions, see Jennifer Brand and Carissa Yarnell.

Deacon of the Month

Richard Burley

Richard can be reached at 239-340-1285.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Come join us April 22nd at 7pm for Worship Night in America at Germain Arena. Come hear your favorite Christian artists!

Tickets are \$15. RSVP with Pastor Weston at 239-220-2012.

CARE MINISTRY

The Care Ministry welcomes you to join and see how God blesses and multiplies even the smallest acts of kindness for His glory. The next Care meeting is Sunday, April 15 following the morning service. For care needs, questions, or to volunteer, call Susie Shetrone at 239-910-4523.

YOUNG ADULTS

The young adults meet every week to fellowship together and to study God’s Word. They meet Sundays at 9:30am for the Gospel Project and Tuesdays at 6pm at the Smiley’s house for Bible study. For more information contact Steve Smiley at 615-969-0402 or the church office.

First Quarter Business Meeting will be held April 29th at 6pm.

Youth Group Baked Ziti Fundraiser

Come support our Youth Group! Our youth will be holding a Baked Ziti Fundraiser on **April 8th** following the morning worship service. Proceeds from this fundraiser will assist our Youth Group with attending Whisper Mountain Camp this summer. For questions or to purchase your ticket, please see Pastor Weston or call him at 239-220-2012.



Psalm 119 Bible Study

Even the most mature believers face dark nights of the soul. During those times, God feels distant, His Word dry, and the vibrant intimacy we knew before seems absent leaving us wondering, “Where is the Lord in this?” In Psalm 119, our study aims to introduce viewers to the words of King David who experienced similar seasons of life. Serving as the anchor for the study, Psalm 119 demonstrates the power of God’s Word in the lives of believers and its ability to provide a warm blanket for the soul.

Join us **Sunday nights at 6pm** as we study Psalm 119. Childcare is available. Sign up in the cafe.

Building and Grounds

Church family,

The building and grounds team is continuing to work towards getting our facilities back in order after Hurricane Irma. Just an update on a few exciting things:

- The Fellowship House roof will be replaced in April.
- The Cottage is empty and ready for demolition. Estero Fire & Rescue will do some training in the building over the next six weeks and then it will come down.
- The new fence work around the trash can area was completed.

Please continue to pray for our team as we strive to restore the Fellowship House. We are acquiring bids for the foundation work as well as the new flooring.

Choir

The choir will resume rehearsal April 15 and will sing through May. If you have ever thought about trying the choir, now is the time! We’ll be singing simple, fun songs and it will be a great few weeks of worship. Also, there will be a choir picnic/jam session at the Bloss’s house on Saturday, May 5 to wind up the season.

Men’s Ministry

Join our Men’s Ministry every Monday night in April as they study the topic of *Discovering God’s Unique Design for You*. God has a purpose and design for each of us. Do you know yours? Come find out Mondays at 7pm!

Special Guest Speaker

Pastor Mark Gonzalez will be preaching at First Baptist Estero May 6th at 10:45am. Join us for an encouraging message as Pastor Mark preaches on sharing God’s heart one truth at a time. Pastor Mark Gonzalez has served as a pastor for 24 years and currently serves as Director of Missions for the Royal Palm Baptist Association.

PASTOR AND STAFF

Frank Brand, Senior Pastor

Weston Eckert, Youth Pastor

Howie Nord, Praise Team Leader

Keith Hoffman, Men’s Ministry

Roxanne Taylor, Women’s Ministry

Carissa Yarnell, Children’s Director

WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School

10:45 am Morning Worship

6:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday

6:30 pm Midweek Service