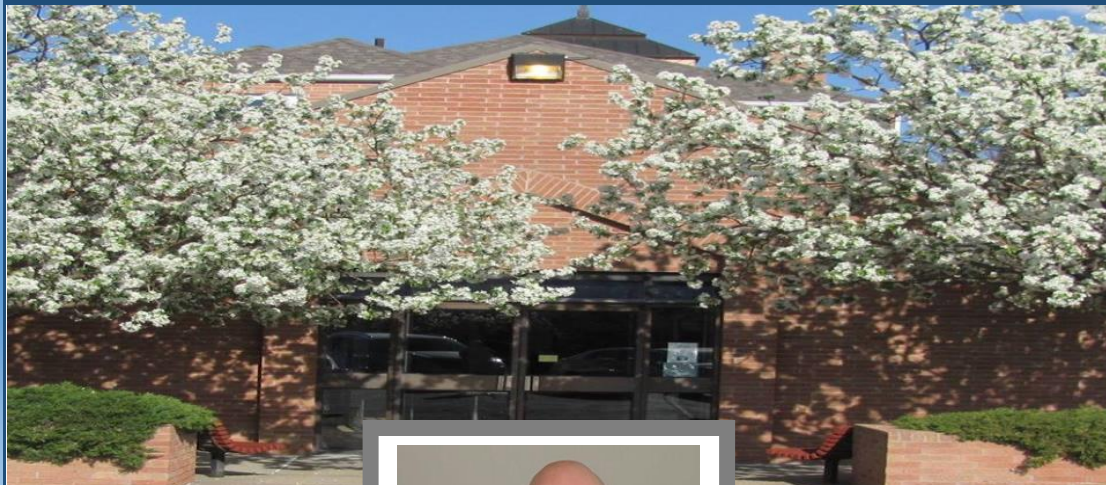


# The Home Visitor-July 2017

## North Platte First Baptist Church



North Platte First Baptist Church  
100 McDonald Road  
North Platte, NE 69101  
Worship Hours  
Sunday School 9 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.



Pastor Clint Walker

Office Hours  
M-Th 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m.-Noon  
308-532-6772  
cwalker@fbcnorthplatte.org  
www.fbcnorthplatte.org

### Crisis or Opportunity?

For nearly 150 years, First Baptist Church has been a part of what God is doing here in North Platte, NE. We have ministered to one another, we have reached out to our community in word and deed, and we have been a part of missions in our nation and our world. This is something to celebrate. We have been honored to be a part of God's kingdom work in our "little place" in the world.

Right now, there are people working on replacing an air conditioning unit for our church. They are working hard. I can tell because although they are across the church facility, the duct work makes every conversation, grunt and groan audible in my office like they are just a few feet away. The air conditioning unit is one of a few examples that have brought to light that we are facing some daunting challenges. How we face these challenges will determine our future. We are nearing a crossroads.

Each of the challenges we confront ahead has the possibility of being a crisis or an opportunity. We can try and deny our issues. We can face them with fear and falling into a survival mentality. Or, we can confront the issues in front of us directly, pray, seek God's will, exercise wisdom and discernment, and grow us forward with grace and passion.

The challenges we face right now include but are not limited to:

- **Financial concerns**—We are in debt for the parsonage. Our giving is barely meeting expenses. Our reserves are dedicated, and very limited. In the near future, we will need to make difficult decisions about how we spend our resources, and what services we are used to having that we might need to reduce or go without. We might also need to make some difficult decisions about what ministries we support, aligning our giving with our mission and vision (more about that later).
- **Participation concerns**—Our average attendance has declined from 211 in 2004 to 105 in 2016. Many of our members bring the asset of maturity, which is a blessing. But this asset of maturity also means that without significant changes we will have a more

precipitous decline in the future as people's abilities diminish, and some folks within our congregation will be promoted to their heavenly rest.

- **Concerns about clarity of purpose**—If we are to grow in the future, we have got to develop a clear vision, claim ownership of a vision that means something, and then have a passion for uniting together and fulfilling that mission. Having clarity of purpose will keep us from having a bunch of people working for their own kingdom. Instead we will unite to build God's Kingdom through what God calls us to do. We will learn to say YES to some things that are the best, and NO to some good things that do not fit with where we are going.

Now for some of you, these words may be hard to hear. They may trigger anxiety in your heart. For me, owning where we are, addressing challenges, and moving forward with prayer and passion offers great opportunity. We have the chance to live boldly into the future, planning on thriving instead of seeking to simply survive.

Buckle up your seat belts. You are going to hear a lot about "being intentional", clarifying "our mission", building on our strengths, and being externally focused from me (and hopefully others) in the days ahead.

God Bless!  
Pastor Clint

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# *Thank You*

### **Dear First Baptist,**

You guys are the BEST! We thank you for all you do in helping us feed the hungry in our area. Your donation of 5 bags of groceries on May 26, 2017 was so very much appreciated.

Thank you all!

Leigh Henline  
First Presbyterian  
Grace Ministries  
Food Pantry

### **To My First Baptist Church Family,**

Thank you so much for coming to our wedding. It meant a lot to us to have my church family share this special day. A special thanks to Pastor Walker and to the ladies of ABW. You did a fantastic job. God bless you all!

Traci and Adam Lucas

### **Dear First Baptist Family & Friends,**

Thank you for the ongoing prayers, visits, cards, comfort and love that we received after Deloyce's passing. The meal that was prepared by the FBC ladies was truly appreciated. Many kindnesses (too many to mention here) have been shown to us during this difficult time. It warmed our hearts to have so many of you participate and be present for the celebration of his life.

Kay Robinson and Families

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Mission Quilting

First and second Thursdays of every month.

July 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

## Epicenter Trip to Denver

July 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

2 p.m.

## Nebraska Pride Chorus

July 9<sup>th</sup>

\*During worship service

## Middlers' Time

July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Backyard Barbeque with the French's

5 p.m.

More information to be mailed out

## Agape Fellowship

July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Hosted by Waltemath's

Agape Room

7 p.m.

RSVP to 308-520-1424 by July 15th

## Heritage Sunday

July 23<sup>rd</sup>

\*During worship service

Commemorate FBC 50 year members

## Executive Board

July 25

7 p.m.

## Pastor Clint's Installation

August 13

\*\*During worship service



### Children's Church Begins in July

As we look toward what God is calling us to do, once of the things that we must embrace is that God is leading us to be an intergenerational church that seeks to love and serve the whole family of God. With this in mind, we began the process of re-launching Children's Church during our worship time. This will begin on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Children will be dismissed from worship under the leadership of a rotation of two adult leaders. They will have a chance to sing, learn something about the Word of God, and engage in a faith-building activity. For July our rotation of leaders include:

|           |                  |                |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| July 16   | Jennifer Walker  | Denise Nutter  |
| July 23   | Monica Huff      | Ruth Wohler    |
| July 30   | Erna Todd        | Larry Todd     |
| August 6  | Jennifer Walker  | Marilyn Cogley |
| August 13 | Leann Drullinger | TBD            |
| August 20 | Margene Phares   | Bob Phares     |
| August 27 | Amy Engel        | TBD            |

## Financial Report




The following are the First Baptist Church's financial figures for May 2017.

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund                     | \$16,963.55 |
| Other Missions/Special Offerings | 0           |
| Building Fund                    | 1647.00     |
| Global Missions                  | 95.00       |

*Please continue to prayerfully and generously support the ministry of our Church.*



# July 2017

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri                            | Sat   |
|--|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
|  |  |  |   |   |                                | 1   |
| 2<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:15 am Worship   | 3<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Cub Scouts<br><br>Church Offices Closed        | 4<br><br><br>Church Offices Closed  | 5   | 6<br>8:00 a.m.<br>Men's Breakfast<br>9:00 am<br>Ladies' Breakfast<br>1:00 p.m.<br>Mission Quilting<br><br>Epicenter Denver Trip | 7<br><br>Epicenter Denver Trip | 8<br><br>Epicenter Denver Trip  |
| 9<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:15 am Worship<br><br>Nebraska Pride<br>Adelines<br><br>Epicenter Denver Trip              | 10<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Cub Scouts                                    | 11   | 12<br><br>6 p.m.<br>Epicenter Pizza Night                 | 13<br>8:00 a.m.<br>Men's Breakfast<br><br>1:00 p.m.<br>Mission Quilting   | 14                             | 15  |
| 16<br>8:30 am<br>Welcome Coffee<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:15 am Worship<br>3:00 Centennial Park                       | 17<br>6:30 pm<br>Inter Church Reserve<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Cub Scouts | 18   | 19<br><br>Epicenter Project<br>Night<br>More Info to come | 20<br>8 a.m.<br>Men's Breakfast<br><br>1:00 pm<br>ABWM Meeting  | 21                             | 22<br>5:00<br>Middlers<br>French's Home<br><br>7:00 p.m.<br>Agape Fellowship<br>At the Church |
| 23<br><b>HERITAGE<br/>SUNDAY</b><br><br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:15 am Worship<br><br>2:00 p.m.<br>Birthday Celebration | 24<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Cub Scouts                                    | 25<br><br>7 p.m.<br>Executive Board  | 26<br><br>Epicenter<br>6:45 Cody Go-Carts                 | 27<br>8 a.m.<br>Men's Breakfast   | 28                             | 29  |
| 30<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:15 am Worship  | 31<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Cub Scouts                                    |  <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; background-color: #002060; color: white; margin: 10px 0;">Just A Reminder</div>  <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">The church offices will be closed on July 3 &amp; 4 for the holidays.<br/>HAVE A GREAT FOURTH OF JULY!</p> |   |   |                                |   |

