

September 2023 Newsletter



FBC RAMSEY

TO KNOW CHRIST &
MAKE HIM KNOWN

Abide

Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

John 15:4

2023 R3 Women's Conference

September 16, 2023 ~ 9:00-3:00

Doors open at 8:00 with coffee bar ~ light breakfast

Early Registration \$25 - Deadline Sept. 12

\$30 after deadline or at the door

Includes conference materials & lunch

T-shirts available for pre-order on website



Keynote Speaker

Laurie Acker of

smallchurchministry.com

BREAKOUTS INCLUDE :

- How to have a Quiet Time
- Memorizing Scripture
- Going Deeper in Bible Study
- And more... (topics subject to change)
- Abiding in Hard Times
- Abiding as a Wife & Mom
- How to Abide in Forgiveness

Register online: www.fbcramsey.org/r3womensministry
or call (618) 704-7655



First Baptist Church of Ramsey ~ 2756 US Hwy 51 ~ Ramsey, IL 62080

FROM PASTOR JEFF

“I am the vine and you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in Him will produce much fruit for without Me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5

This year we decided that we would grow a few garden plants. Usually, our summer is so crammed with activities and travel, that it is not possible for us to do it but this year was a little different. We knew we would be closer to home all summer, so we decided to give it a go. So, I built a planter box, found buckets, filled with soil, nutrients, water, and put them in the sun. I was faithful in watering them and making sure they got every chance to grow and produce. Among other things I planted 8 tomato plants (mostly Cherry tomatoes) and all of them were a different kind. Then it started to happen.

You can relate the excitement and joy I felt when that first tiny little green ball popped up on the first plant. But then another one and then another one and then before you know it, I had tomatoes galore! Except for 2 plants. These 2 plants were the biggest, greenest, lushest plants I had. They quickly ruled the space they consumed and looked quite impressive compared to the other ones. But no fruit.

Then one morning, I finally saw what I had been waiting for, 3 beautiful green spheres of promise. I was so excited. Every day I went out and looked at them, admiring them, willing them to grow until one morning I went out and... They were gone! I was so angry and frustrated!!!! Then I spotted the culprit. There were 2 squirrels hanging out in a tree mocking me and pointing their grubby little fingers at me and laughing at me. After a while, that plant just stopped producing anything. It was still green and lush and beautiful but.... nothing.

The other one was the biggest, most beautiful plant I had ever grown. It was huge and green and impressive. But no fruit. I should have taken it and put it on the porch so others could see how impressive this plant was, but I didn't. I just went out every morning combing through its branches searching for something, anything but to no avail. (The ironic thing is the plant that look the sickest, the weakest, the most pitiful gave us the most tomatoes and they were also the sweetest ones too.)

As I was sulking over the lack of fruit, I was reminded of this verse. (I am not sure from where, but I have heard recently) They are many people who soak in every ounce they can of God's word, music, Bible studies, and whatever else they can get their hands on. They eat and eat and eat at God's table and they talk to them, they are impressive. They can quote scripture, tell you of the latest conference they attended, bedazzle you with all their christian apparel, and from the outside looking in they seem to be the one to emulate and follow. But sadly, there is no fruit. They have made Christ a lifestyle and forget to make Him their life.

Others look impressive and you have seen fruit in them in the past but somewhere along the way their fruit was robbed from them and eventually the facade was easier to maintain than to actually produce any fruit in their lives. So, they sit in quiet frustration wishing there was something more.

Then there are some who seem they are just beaten and bruised. Life has been rough and they show it. But somehow, they continue to grow and produce over and over and over again. The struggles in their lives have produced something far greater than anything this world has to offer. They abide in Him and He has blessed them abundantly.

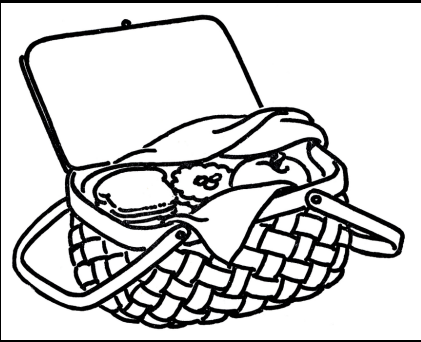
Following Him,

Pastor Jeff

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, September 10 @ 4pm

We will gather at the Ramsey Lake State Park-Stokes Memorial Shelter. The church will provide the meat, table service, drinks and condiments. Bring side dishes and desserts. Also bring lawn chairs and lawn games. Join us for a fun time and fellowship!



**We will observe the Lord's Supper
on Sunday, September 3rd @ 6pm**



REHOBOTH ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, September 9 @ 4pm
at FBC Altamont

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

On Friday, September 22nd, we will go to China Buffet in Litchfield for lunch. We will meet at the church parking lot and leave at 10am. Come and enjoy a great time of fellowship!

TOGETHER
we can reach
OUR HOME
with The Hope
of the
GOSPEL

MISSION ILLINOIS OFFERING
& WEEK OF PRAYER
September 17-24
Our church goal \$1200



Sweet Monday ladies were blessed to have Marissa Carroll share her story and pictures of her recent Mission Trip to Kenya.

FROM PASTOR MATT

Colossians 4:2a says, “Devote yourselves to prayer”. As school has begun, I am focusing on the power of an active prayer life. Our heavenly Father invites us to have an ongoing relational conversation with Him. I would encourage you to make it a priority to seek the Lord out each day. Praise God that He listens and responds!

In August, the Youth Group held our Summer Extravaganza Carnival! It was a great time playing games, eating food, and putting the fun in funnel cake. Congratulations to our Ringmaster Anna Benoff! We were able to serve our school staff lunch and they all were very thankful. We had the opportunity to gather in front of our school building and pray for this school year. On Wednesday nights we talked about being examples of living for Jesus despite being teenagers.

Mission Kids also kicked off for the school year and it was a great time! Mission Kids is a meaningful time for our children to dive deeper into God’s Word, learn how to live for Jesus, fellowship with others, and find ways to serve. Be in prayer for our leaders and our children who are involved with this ministry that God would give them a great year of learning more about God’s love.

September is a month that is full of various activities for FBC Ramsey. Fellowship of Christian Athletes (Anyone) begins on the 5th at 7:30am for Junior High and High school students. FCA will continue to meet on the first and third Tuesday for the school year. Our first Lighthouse for 7th-12th graders will be held on the 22nd. Lighthouse is an event that includes dinner, open gym, games, a time of worship, and a message from the bible. Finally, on Wednesday the 27th the Youth Group and adults will gather at 7am in front of the school for See You at the Pole.

May God continue to allow us to make an impact in the community of Ramsey for His glory and grace.

Pastor Matt

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

We are collecting specific items each month of the year as we work towards completing boxes in October. Thank you for your support of this ongoing ministry.

September Items:

- Small toys
- Small stuffed animals
- Be in prayer about giving money towards shipping and purchasing extra items.

Pictures from the Youth Extravaganza Carnival

Anna Benhoff was crowned Ringmaster!!



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Addie Eddy | 14 Matthew Summerlott |
| 2 MyKaela Shouse | 19 Jenn Philbrick |
| 3 Sandy Worker | 20 Anna Benhoff |
| 4 Becky Eddy | 20 Leo Thoele |
| 4 Joe & Amy Hill | 24 Candi Hayes |
| 5 Bob Hoffman | 24 Jessica Runge |
| 5 Paul & Dee Temmen | 25 Gerald & Laurna Casey |
| 5 Ron & Charlotte Blunt | 26 Brailee Lockart |
| 6 Matt & Tasha Oller | 30 Richard Carruthers |
| 9 Amy Hill | 30 Shirley Lay |
| 12 Brett Eddy | |

SEPTEMBER FOOD PANTRY

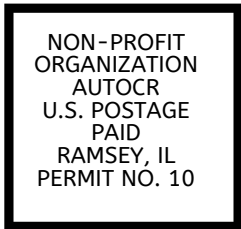
Pancake mix, Syrup
Dry Cereal
Gravy, Biscuit &
Muffin Mixes
Canned Soup
Applesauce

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Return Service Requested



Jeff Shouse, Pastor
PastorJeff@fbcramsey.org

Matt Philbrick, Pastor of Students
PastorMatt@fbcramsey.org

SEPTEMBER 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Men's Bible Study 7:15 am Mondays	29	30	31	1	2
3 Deacons' Mtg 5pm Lord's Supper 6pm	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 FCA 7:30am	6 All Activities 6pm	7	8	9 Rehoboth Annual Mtg. 4pm FBC Altamont
10 Church Picnic 4pm Ramsey State Park	11	12	13 MK/Youth 6pm Business Mtg. 7pm	14	15	16 R3 Women's Conference 8-3
17 Bible Study 6pm Personnel Mtg 7pm	18 Week of Prayer	19 FCA 7:30am	20 All Activities 6pm	21 Mission IL Offering	22 Sr Adult Lunch Litchfield Lighthouse 6:30-9pm	23
24 Bible Study 6pm Budget Mtg 7pm	25	26	27 SYATP 7am @ school All Activities 6pm	28	29	30