

SUNDAY SCHOOL HANDBOOK



First Baptist Church

617 Public Ave., Beloit, WI 53511

608-365-8455

www.firstbaptistbeloit.org

FORWARD

The purpose of this handbook is to share information concerning Sunday School and other Youth Activities with new members as well as long time members. It is our earnest hope that this handbook will answer many of the questions that often arise.

This handbook is dedicated to the many Sunday School teachers, past and present, who touched, and are touching the lives of children with the word of God.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Danielle Rogacki and Jenny Yeadon - Chairpersons
Kevin Hayden
Robin Huffman
Tim Huffman
Dawn Jones
Kent Maxted
Bev Nelson
Crystal Rebone

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Sunday School Superintendent – Linda Jolly

4 Kindergarten – 2 nd grade	TBD
3 rd – 5 th grade	Judy Huffman and Kent Maxted
6 th – 8 th grade	Sue Strickler and Barb Bach
High School	TBD

Adult	Rick Bach
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(This class meets at 9:00 AM in the Parlor)

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SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

NURSERY –

The nursery is for infants up to 4 years old unless they can attend Sunday School. The nursery is staffed by a paid adult. The nursery hours are from 10:00 AM to 11:20 AM. Parents wishing for their child to be bottle fed or diapered must provide the necessary supplies. No snacks or treats are allowed.

4 KINDERGARTEN – 2nd GRADE

The students will sing songs, learn simple prayers, do craft projects and will learn Bible stories.

GRADES 3rd - 5th –

The lessons are Bible based and there is an emphasis on student involvement. The content level and retentive expectations are higher at this level.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (6th, 7th & 8th) –

Various resource books which are issue based, constitute the daily lessons. The emphasis is on class discussion.

SENIOR HIGH (9th - 12th) –

In this class the students are to relate the Bible to their life. Important issues facing the students are to be addressed.

ADULT CLASS –

This class is an in-depth study of the Bible with an emphasis on How the Bible applies to contemporary issues.

GOALS FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children in the Sunday School of First Baptist Church shall:

1. develop an understanding of and reverence for the Bible.
2. learn about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
3. learn an appreciation of and exposure of hymns of the church.
4. learn the responsibilities of church membership.
5. learn the beliefs and history of the Baptist Church.
6. learn to respect all people.
7. learn the values of the Christian Way.
8. develop a personal faith and commitment to the church of Jesus Christ.

PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

We are often asked the question, what can I do as parent to help?

Listed below are some of the ways that you can support Sunday School and our Youth Program.

1. Make Sunday School/Church a part of your life on a regular basis. Parents are the models for their children.
2. Volunteer to teach or to serve as a substitute teacher.
3. Volunteer to help with the children on Special Sundays.
4. Volunteer to transport children for a church-sponsored outing.
5. Volunteer to share your craft expertise or other talents.
6. Volunteer to chaperone for activities.
7. Volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School.
8. Volunteer to help with the musical pageants. You can help the children by sewing costumes or helping the children with their singing or speaking.

FIRST BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

GOAL

We strive to create an environment where everyone can learn, share and grow.

DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLINE PROBLEM

A discipline problem is an act (s) by a child that interferes with educational, and/or spiritual activities of the class.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

- STEP 1 - The teacher should attempt to determine the basic cause of the misbehavior and try at the classroom level to resolve it. The teacher should talk in private, one on one with the student and clearly explain the problem and the behavior modification that needs to take place.
- STEP 2 - The teacher shall inform the Superintendent that student's behavior is unacceptable. The Superintendent will speak with the student and may have the student stay with her for the duration of the class period. The Superintendent shall notify the parents of the child that their child's behavior is a matter of concern. The Superintendent shall also inform the Minister about the problem.
- STEP 3 - If a child's behavior does not improve, then the child will be suspended from Sunday School for one Sunday. A meeting of the parents, Superintendent and Minister will be held. At the meeting, an acceptable solution will be reached by all parties.
- STEP 4 - If a child's behavior remains unacceptable, then the matter will be taken to the Board of Christian Education. The Board of Christian Education may suspend a student for up to one year.

BAPTISM CLASS

The Baptism Class is open to young adults age 12 years and older. The purpose of the class is to help prepare the young adult for baptism. The class is taught by the Minister with support from the Diaconate and other select Church Boards.. The class will meet on Sunday mornings from 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM. The class will start 7 Sundays prior to the Sunday before Palm Sunday. The Baptism will take place on the Sunday before Palm Sunday.

In the class the students will learn:

1. basis Christian theology.
2. principles of the Baptist faith.
3. how to read and interpret the Bible.
4. the responsibilities of church members
5. how to develop a personal statement of faith.

CHURCH VAN

The church van is available to pick up children every Sunday. Please call the church office (365-8455) and either tell the Church Secretary or leave a message on the machine.

We are happy to pick up and return your children every Sunday or as needed.

BAD WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event that the weather conditions are not the best, the Minister and Chair of the Trustees will decide whether to hold Sunday services and Sunday School

The decision will be made by 8:00 AM

You can find out about services by dialing our church phone number (608-365-8455) and listening to the message on the answering machine.

1. If the announcement states that the service is cancelled, then the phone tree will be implemented and we ask you to contact family and friends.
2. If the normal announcement plays after 8:00 AM, then we will be having services and Sunday School.
3. If we are having services and if you don't feel comfortable driving to the church, then you should stay home.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is held during August for one week. It is open to children Pre-K through 6th grade. It starts at 6:00 PM and ends at 8:00 PM. A specific theme is selected with coordinated curriculum. There is at least one teacher and one helper for each age group.

The children will learn Bible stories, sing, work with crafts, play outside and other special activities. There is a break built in when treats will be served.

CHURCH CAMP

Camp Tamarack is the designated site of our summer Church Camps. Tamarack is located at E879 Golke Rd., Waupaca, WI and is a part of the American Baptist Churches.

Tamarack offers camping activities for individuals and for families. The usual dates are:

Primary Camp	Third week of June
Middler Camp	Fourth week of June
Junior Camp	First week of July
Junior High Camp	Second week of July
Senior High Camp	Second week of June
Family Camps	Fourth weekend of June

It is the policy of the church, to pay half of the expenses of a church member. To qualify for the church payment, the camp form must be turned in by the deadline. Campers who turn in their form after the due date may not qualify for the church payment.

The church bus is available to transport groups to camp. This is to be authorized through the Board of Christian Education and Minister.

Please note that campers may request that a friend stay in the same cabin. This request must be put on the camp form of both campers.

We have a firm commitment to the transforming power of a positive summer camp experience and it is our policy to encourage attendance.

YOUTH GROUPS

It is the intent of this church to offer Youth Group activities for grades 6th through 12th. There is currently one group which includes:

Middle School - 6, 7, 8

High School - 9 - 12

There are parent volunteers to lead the groups. In addition parents and other church members are encouraged to help with the groups. The group meets 1-2 times each month.

Every 3-4 years, there is a Youth Conference organized by the American Baptist Church. The trip is open to all young people in grades 9-12. The trip is funded by the person going, donations and money raised in projects. The deadline to turn in the form for the trip is December 30th.

CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The church offers scholarships to members who are attending post-secondary institutions. The guidelines and sample application form are provided.

Applications must be submitted by both first year students and those who want their scholarship renewed. Applications must be received in the Church Office by the second Sunday in April.

CHURCH LIBRARY



Be sure to take advantage of the church library. Each month in the Fellowship Builder a few books are highlighted. If you have trouble locating one of the featured books, you may contact Jana Maxted, Church Librarian.

The Parlor houses the books for adults. There is fiction by a number of well-known writers of Christian fiction. In addition, there are non-fiction books. Most, but not all, of these are self-help, inspirational, and devotional in content. Each book has a card in it which you can remove, sign, and place in the small file box. You can keep the book for as long as you like. When you return the book, place it in the basket; the church librarian will shelve it. This same procedure applies to the other media available for check out.

The books for teenagers are located in the middle school classroom. These books also include fiction and non-fiction and have been carefully chosen to include topics of interest to teens. **High school students should also use these same shelves.** They will be pleasantly surprised. The check out procedure is the same as it is in the adult section. However, when you return a book, place it on an empty shelf for me to find.

Grade school and preschool books are located on the bookcase across from the nursery. This collection includes books for toddlers too. These books can be checked out and returned by using the same method as used in the middle school classroom.

Other media for all ages can be found in the Church Parlor. The collection includes DVD, VHS and Weekly Sunday Sermons (on cassette tape). All of these are available for check out.

The **First Baptist Church Library** continues to be in the build up stage. Many books have been generously donated to the library. Contributions are still being accepted. You never know when a book you have passed along may touch someone else in a meaningful way.

2009 - 2010 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sunday, September 13	Rally Day
Sunday, December 13	Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20	No Sunday School
Sunday, December 27	No Sunday School
Sunday, January 3	No Sunday School
Sunday, January 10	Birthday Party for Jesus
Sunday, February 21*	Youth Group Worship Service
Sunday, March 27*	Palm Sunday Processional
Saturday, April 3	Easter Party
Sunday, April 11	Scholarship Deadline
Sunday, May 9*	Mother's Day
Sunday, May 16	Last Day of Sunday School/Graduation
Sunday, June 20	Father's Day
Second week in August Beginning on Sunday.	Vacation Bible School

*Sunday School Students participate during worship service.