

THE OAK LEAF

First Baptist Church of Aurora

August 2025

We are a community of Christ followers sharing the hope of Jesus.

15 Oak Ave. Aurora, IL 60506 630-897-9310

worship@firstbaptistaurora.org

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What's Happening

AUGUST 8-9



First Baptist Church of Aurora, IL 60506

Community: GARAGE SALE GIVEAWAYS

START DONATING YOUR ITEMS NOW

ANY LARGE ITEMS PLEASE CONTACT THE MISSION COMMITTEE TEAM

Odessa # 630-989-9522 Brian, Kelly, Huk
phone numbers in church directory

EVERYTHING IS COMPLETELY FREE

The sale will be open from 12:00-6:00 both days.



Congratulations to Kele Ramosa and Jordan Fisher on their marriage! There will be a wedding shower to celebrate their marriage on August 17th after the worship service down in Mason Hall. Cake and drinks will be provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.



Congratulations to Natalie Johnson and Jeremy Robinson on their engagement! The First Baptist family is invited to join Natalie and Jeremy in celebrating their marriage with a

wedding shower following the worship service on September 14th. The celebration will be downstairs in Mason Hall. Cake and finger foods will be provided. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. The couple is registered at Target and on Amazon.



QR code for their Target wish list.



QR code for their Amazon wish list.



Ladies Lunch

Ladies, please join us on Saturday, August 16th, at noon for lunch. All ages, friends and children are welcome to attend. The main dish and beverages will be provided. Our lunch will have a Hawaiian theme. Bring your favorite dish to share and a friend if you'd like! There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can text Stephanie or Pat. Please indicate how many will be attending. For questions, call Pat Schwartz at 630-429-5395 or Stephanie Lodor at 331-212-2013. We hope to see you there!

Scrapbooking Night

Join us every 3rd Wednesday from 6-8 for a fun night of scrapbooking! Our next scrapbooking night is August 20th! Bring your own supplies and a snack to share if you'd like. Contact Rebecca Hanson with any questions.



Would you like to join us for a fun night at the Kane County Cougars game?! We are asking to see how many would be interested before buying tickets. The game we are looking into is Friday, August 29th at 6:30. The theme of the game that night is "Peanuts" (Charlie Brown). Meet up time and cost TBD. There is an "interested" sign up sheet on the bulletin board. If you have any questions please see Bob Moncrief or Connie Sutphin.

Youth News

The youth of First Baptist of Aurora have been busy with camp at Blackhawk Baptist Camp in Oregon, IL. The youth group went up to Quest in Green Lake, WI the week of June 22nd. And VBS was the week of July 7th. You can see pictures of Blackhawk and VBS on the next couple pages. Pictures of Quest coming next month.

We have more events coming up for all students from 6th grade through 12th grade.

Sunday, August 24th, 6-8 is Benediction Sunday where we say farewell to all our graduating seniors.

Sunday, August 31st, 5-8 is Kick-off Sunday where we welcome our incoming 6th graders. You may get messy or wet, so bring an extra change of clothes!



And that's a wrap! Blackhawk Baptist Camp 2025 has come to an end. There were lots of games, crafts, praising God, learning about God's love, friendships created, and s'mores eaten. Fun was had by all! We hope to see old and new faces next year. Follow us on Facebook and watch for next years schedule!







Rev. Clara Barbara Rosine Sigle Thompson of Montgomery, Illinois was born on November 16, 1930, to Karl and Maria Sigle in Chicago, Illinois and departed this life peacefully on Monday, July 14, 2025. She remained devoted to family and service to others throughout her lifetime.

As a teenager, Clara attended the Salvation Army's Irving Park Corps, where she played piano, tiple, and accordion as well as trumpet in the Corps' band. At 19 she entered the Salvation Army's training college and served in corps in Rockford, Illinois and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Clara later attended Judson College, where she met her husband-to-be, David Thompson, while she was earning her B.A. in Religious Education and he his Master of Divinity degree. They married in 1957 and had five children: Sharon, Jonathan, Edwin (Ted), William, and Wesley.

Clara worked diligently alongside David in the churches he pastored in Highland, Illinois; Zenobia, Illinois; Chillicothe, Illinois; Gosport, Indiana; and Montgomery, Illinois. She regularly directed adult and children's choirs, taught Sunday School classes, and led Vacation Bible School. She was a proficient piano player and accompanied worship services in every church in which she served. She liked "peppy" songs and put a southern gospel touch to familiar hymns.

Following David's sudden death in February 1977, Clara enrolled at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois and began taking classes toward her Master of Divinity degree. This was a courageous decision, not only because she was working through devastating grief while raising five children alone but also because she was one of only two women attending the Seminary at the time. She graduated in 1981 and became ordained in the American Baptist Churches USA. She served as Assistant Pastor at First Baptist Church in Aurora, Illinois and subsequently as Assistant Pastor at Fourth Street Methodist Church in Aurora. Among her duties, she especially enjoyed planning special worship services and visiting the sick and elderly.

While engaged in pastoral work, a colleague let her know that the Visiting Nurses Association in Aurora was starting a new hospice program and would need a chaplain. She interviewed for the position and received a phone call as soon as she got back home from the interview, informing her that she had been hired. Chaplaincy became Clara's joy and lifework. During her 12 years of employment with the VNA, she visited hundreds of patients and officiated dozens of funerals. She had a keen ability to connect with people from a wide variety of religious backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities, sometimes even traversing language barriers. She provided comfort to family members as much as to patients and personalized each patient's funeral to reflect the uniqueness of the individual. She saw her work as "doing something valuable." Clara retired from the chaplaincy at age 75 and continued to volunteer at the VNA for several years thereafter. While at the VNA, Clara began a grief support group. The group of 18 became closeknit friends who, along with others who were welcomed into the group over time, met for over 22 years in Clara's home, where they enjoyed meals and special programs that she planned. Clara was an avid reader and loved learning. She was an alumna of the University of Chicago's four-year basic course in Western Civilization and continued to take classes at the University for an additional eight years. Through this program she met her friend and companion, Harry Toomajian, who was a particular joy to her in the many years they spent together.

Clara enjoyed showing hospitality to others. In warm weather months, she had family and friends over to her renovated garage, which she nicknamed her "Ratskeller." She also frequently entertained her likeminded "Gang of Five." Her hospitality extended to animals, as she owned a number of rescue dogs over the years. Clara employed creativity in all she did, whether that was leading her young children in "Adventure Club" outings in the summer or having Sunday School classes visit congregations of different faiths. Clara valued inclusivity and equal treatment of women and those marginalized by society. She was proud of her diverse family. Of her family, she said, "you made my life worth living."

Clara was a first-generation German American and identified strongly with her German heritage. She could speak and write High German fluently and could easily converse with her cousins overseas in a flawless Schwäbisch dialect. She traveled to her family's hometown of Schorndorf a number of times throughout her life and brought various family members along so they could experience the beauty and culture of Germany. Any visitor to Clara's home was greeted with pictures of Schorndorf, Hummel figurines, and other German décor, not to mention her extensive collection of gnomes!

Clara is predeceased by her brother Adolph, sister Frieda, husband David, companion Harry, daughter-in-law Karen, and son-in-law Mitch. She is survived by her children: Sharon Olson, Jonathan (Jacqueline Christian) Thompson, Edwin (Ted) Thompson, William (Laura Grandau) Thompson, and Wesley (Meryl Zwanger) Thompson; her grandchildren: Krista (Brad) Chamberlain, Kara (Tanous) El-Kareh, David, Courtney, Georgia, Shaina, Sylvie, and Jasper Thompson, Julie Thompson Grandau, and Tray and TJ Olson; and her great-grandchildren: Lucas and Addison Chamberlain.

The family wishes to thank the Visiting Nurses Association for providing excellent in-home medical services to Clara during her latter years.

A memorial service will be held at Dieterle Memorial Home, 1120 S. Broadway, Montgomery, Illinois 60538, on Wed., August 6, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., followed by a meal. A visitation will be held at Dieterle preceding the service beginning at 9:00 a.m.

In honor of Clara's love for animals, please send memorials to Rover Rescue (<https://roverrescue.org> or PO Box 4074, Aurora, IL 60507), from which she adopted her last rescue dog, Quincy, or give to an animal shelter near you.

Classes & fellowship

Everyone is invited to join us for Sunday School, at 9:15, before the service Sunday morning. We offer three adult classes, and classes for children and youth.

Please join us for worship at 10:30 Sunday mornings. Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers. Kids Ministry is offered for ages 4 years through 3rd grade.

Youth Group

All students 6th-12th grade can join us for youth group at the church every Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00. Bring a friend and join us for games, a lesson, and snacks. See any of the youth leaders for more info.

Come join us for a coffee social in The Gathering Place, at 10 am every Sunday. We have specialty coffee, brewed coffee, iced coffee, and tea.

Wednesday Bible Study (6:30-7:30)

Want to learn how to study the Bible and grow in your knowledge of God's word? Want to make some new friends and enjoy the fellowship of God's people? Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 for our weekly evening Bible Study as we go deep into the book of Colossians each week.

Prayer

If you have a prayer concern, please contact the Prayer Chain at dbrun10589@aol.com or 630-292-0601.

Giving

If you have a financial need or concern, please contact Melissa at lundbergil@yahoo.com or at 630-370-3424.

There are 4 ways you can give to the ministry of First Baptist Church.

If you would like to give an extra offering to the Fellowship Offering, please indicate that on your envelope or check.

- 1) You can give during offering on Sunday morning or place in the box at the back of the sanctuary.
- 2) You can place your offering in the locked box outside the office, or the locked mailbox on the outside of the church.
- 3) You can mail your offering to First Baptist Church, 15 Oak Ave. Aurora, IL 60506.
- 4) You can also give through Subsplash using the QR code. You can also find a link to Subsplash under the "Give" tab on our website www.firstbaptistaurora.org



Celebrating with our church family!

Happy Birthday!

1st Rudy Rodriguez

1st Jean Bliss

4th Emma Finstrom

6th Don Hanson

7th Charity Andersen

8th Mackenzie Leathers

11th Rebecca Hanson

15th Theodore Lee

17th Delilah Andersen

17th Tim Hiscox

17th Brandon Rees

28th Sharon McCray

Happy Anniversary!

5th Kurt & Cindy Hall

16th Jeremy & Charity Andersen

16th Tim & Shelley Baltz

19th Steve & Becca Hall

28th Bob & Diane Moncrief

29th Brian & Odessa Davenport

We apologize if we have missed anyone's birthday or anniversary. Please contact our office if you would like to be added to the list. You may also contact our office if you wish to unsubscribe from our newsletter.