

# The Challenger

## Ministerial Staff

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NO. 01

I would have to say Jack is our family athlete. And yes, he got it from his mother. (I'm okay with that now.) Poor Jack. His status means if there is a sport or activity where elimination is the name of the game (i.e. dodgeball, air soft, or snowball fights), everyone on Jack's opposing team is aiming for him, because they figure once they get him out, it will be easier to beat the rest of his team. Makes sense in dodgeball. Unfortunately, we play the church game the same way. Sometimes we feel other members of our church family are obstacles to our getting what we want because they hold such sway and carry so much weight. Rather than try to work with them and benefit from how we're all wired differently, therefore, we work to eliminate them, or at least their influence. Then others who are more passive can fall in line to where we think they should go. We act that way because so often it works. And it's more comfortable when it works. If we can get rid of the strong personalities that are different than us as well as their groupies, soon we can have a church filled with people who are just like us – who think the same way, act the same way, and hold to the same priorities.

But what if that's not how God wired the church? What if one of our strengths isn't that we're unified because we're all so much the same, but we're unified because our differences are being knit together by the Holy Spirit, maintaining the colors of our diversity in such a way that He's able to use us to weave a beautiful pattern?

If you're like me, I just made you snarl. I wrote the D-word, diversity. You and I snarl because typically, when the movers and shakers in our culture use the word “diversity”, they're demanding their right to sin in the grossest ways possible. After all, that's “just who they are,” and you better be okay with it or else. Ironically, in all their supposed value of diversity, they're working extremely hard and paying billions of dollars to eliminate anyone who believes differently than they do. That's not God's diversity. He demands we have a set of scriptural beliefs and morals in common. He demands we have the same Lord and Savior as our foundation. He demands we use the same Bible as the pair of glasses with which we view the world. None of us is encouraged to go out and “find our own truth” that works for us. Saying that, once we understand the acceptable boundaries of the playing field, we are meant to blossom according to how He created us and not be so uncomfortable or threatened when He created others to be different. When we do that, we'll discover those differences are actually part of what make us blossom in the first place. Nothing like different people serving as that little extra sandpaper to teach us how to blossom with His ability to love, or with lessons in peacefulness, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and faithfulness!

Anyone in the church serving as a threat to your agenda or standing? Sure, God didn't put them there to compliment your weaknesses instead of acting as your dodgeball target? Unlike how we hear it everywhere else when powers that be are trying to exclude us since we don't fit their agenda, in Jesus' body, we really are all in this together! Let's embrace the New Year ready to function accordingly.

In His Grip,  
Pastor Fred

First Baptist Church  
411 N Warren Ave.  
Winslow, AZ 86047



Food Box Distribution is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday.

This is a FREE service to anyone who needs it - Sponsored by The Most Excellent Way Bible Study.



**Men's Prayer & Fellowship Breakfast**  
**Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 AM**  
**Activity Center**

Senior Adult Lunch/Potluck  
Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 AM  
Activity Center



**Youth Winter Retreat**  
**January 13<sup>th</sup> – January 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**"Walking on Water"**  
**Springerville, AZ**  
**Food, Sledding, Games, Broom Ball, Fire Pits, and Bible Study**  
**See Pastor Ted for details!**

**Quarterly Update**  
**And Potluck**  
**Sunday, 01/29/2023**  
**12:00 PM**  
**Immediately following the morning worship service.**

Please bring enough for your family and to share.



**Mark your calendar!!**

- 01/01 New Year's Day
- 01/01 No Morning Bible Study Classes
- 01/01 10:30 AM Morning Worship Service
- 01/01 No Evening Bible Study
- 01/01 No Youth University
- 01/03 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 01/03 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/03 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/04 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 01/04 7:15 PM Youth Night
- 01/05 6:00 PM The Most Excellent Way
- 01/08 3:00 PM Deacons Meeting
- 01/08 5:30 PM TWICE FED RESUMES
- 01/08 6:00 PM Evening Bible Study
- 01/08 6:00 PM Youth University
- 01/09 6:00 PM Men's Potluck
- 01/09 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/10 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 01/10 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/10 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/11 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection – Activity Center
- 01/11 7:15 PM Youth Night
- 01/12 3:00 pm Food Box Distribution
- 01/12 6:00 PM The Most Excellent Way
- 01/13-01/15 Youth Winter Retreat
- 01/14 8:00 AM Men's Prayer & Fellowship Breakfast – Activity Center
- 01/15 5:30 PM TWICE FED
- 01/15 6:00 PM Evening Bible Study
- 01/15 No Youth University
- 01/16 No School – WUSD Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 01/16 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/17 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 01/17 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/17 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/18 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 01/18 7:15 PM Youth Night
- 01/19 6:00 PM The Most Excellent Way
- 01/20 11:30 AM Senior Adult Potluck/Luncheon – Activity Center
- 01/21 10:00 AM Leadership Vision Meeting
- 01/22 5:30 PM TWICE FED
- 01/22 6:00 PM Evening Bible Study
- 01/22 6:00 PM Youth University
- 01/23 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/24 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 01/24 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/24 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/25 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 01/25 7:15 PM Youth Night
- 01/26 3:00 pm Food Box Distribution
- 01/26 6:00 PM The Most Excellent Way
- 01/29 12:00 PM Quarterly Update and Potluck
- 01/29 No Evening Bible Study
- 01/29 No Youth University
- 01/30 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/31 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 01/31 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/31 2:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center