



Faith Partners in Compassion Update

First Baptist entered into a partnership with four other Columbus congregations at the close of 2021 to support displaced families recently evacuated by the United States military and State Department from Afghanistan. This interfaith partnership includes FBC, First Presbyterian, First Christian, Saint Bartholomew and the Islamic Society of Columbus, and is working in partnership with Exodus Refugee Resettlement and Catholic Charities. Each of the Christian congregations will support one family in their resettlement to Columbus. The Islamic Society of Columbus is supporting the churches and families as the Muslim faith community of connection. Well over 99% of Afghani's are Muslim.

The four families have been fully vetted by the United States State Department and qualify for the relocation opportunity because of their support of our United States military during the prolonged Afghan war. In supporting a family, we are responding to Jesus' call to "love our neighbor", "welcome the stranger or alien among us" and show compassion toward those who left their homeland under duress and trauma.

A recent press release, shared with The Republic read in part:

The Afghan families being resettled in Columbus left their homeland under harrowing conditions. Members in families like these had helped the American military, who in turn promised to support them. In a way, the partner congregations are seeking to be a part of fulfilling that promise.

To date FBC has established a Project Team consisting of Cliff and Sue Putterill, Liz Lipson, Jeff Caldwell, Bob Rhude and Pastor Dan. Cliff Putterill serves as the Coordinator of the team. A Family Support team, co-led by Liz Lipson and Sue Putterill, has pulled in many additional volunteers to help with everything from food, clothing, household goods, education, employment and cultural orientation. We wish to thank the congregation for your strong participation in this initiative.

In joining the partnership, FBC is assuming some financial responsibility. The goal is for the family to become fully integrated into the community and financially independent as soon as possible. This, however, will be a process. To help fund the mission the Church Council has designated \$10,000 in prior mission giving and applied for a grant from the FBC Foundation. In addition, we have designated our Christmas/4th Quarter Mission Offering to this cause, inviting the congregation to contribute toward this need between now and Sunday, Jan. 9th.

Opportunities will continue to provide in-kind giving, and to volunteer time and skills as we move forward. Your prayer support of the family and our partnership is greatly appreciated. If you have questions please reach out to one of us.

Pastor Dan Cash

Cliff Putterill, Coordinator



SEASON OF THE CHURCH: CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 25TH - JANUARY 5TH

12 Days of Christmas

My family watched "A Charlie Brown Christmas" almost every year when my brother and I were little. In fact, we even presented it as our Christmas Program at church, twice. My family loves Charlie Brown. And for good reason! Some of those kids are wiser than I will ever be. Example: "This really brings Christmas close to a person."

Linus' cold and hollow echo voices what I heard some of you say about the "commercial racket" (Lucy) of Christmas as well. I understand. It's why we've used a resource that says the same thing. We want Christmas to feel "Close to Home." It needs to be real, not aluminum. But let's be honest. I don't know if we'll ever escape the High Holiday of Black Friday.

However, as individuals, families, and the Church, we can find ways of giving a little love to a tree overshadowed by the surrounding forest.

As we head into January, Christmas continues. You know the song 12 Days of Christmas? It's actually true! These first few days of January continue the Christmas season, so the first Sunday of January will actually continue our "Close to Home" series! Then, we'll head into a season of renewed ministry as a result. The Peanut Gang learned about that through a "not-bad-little" tree. How might January provide that epiphany for us? Peace.

- Pastor Daniel



Around The Church

Prayer Time

We will have a prayer time at 9:10 a.m. in the Prayer Room every Sunday prior to the worship service. Everyone who is interested in the opportunity to meet with the Pastoral staff and Worship Team leaders each Sunday for prayer are welcome. Prayer for our worship service and the people leading the service, as well as other needs brought to the group, will be the focus of that time.

Second Hour Opportunities in January

- The Adult Study Fellowship (ASF) Class meets in Fellowship Hall using The Journeys quarterly curriculum.
- A Discussion Format Group meets in the Chapel, reviewing the morning's sermon and worship themes.
- The Youth Class meets in the Youth Room (lower level)

New "Men of Faith" Study begins Jan. 7

"How the Bible Came to Be" is the title of our next 5-session Men of Faith study. Have you ever considered how the Bible came about? What was the process? The timeline? The sources?

We will use scriptures as part of our resources, but we will also have to rely on scholars who have written about the formation of sacred writings, which were then gathered together and formalized as the Bible. This study comes with a participant guide and is open to all men of the church or community. Men of Faith meets on Fridays at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall over donuts and coffee.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume on January 6 at 9:30 a.m. with a new study, "The Beatitudes." All ladies of FBC are invited to join us!

Winter Vespers Services (Online)

This month I'm inviting you to join me in something new – a midweek online Vespers Service. I will share the service via Zoom with any and all who want to connect. You can do so from the comfort of your own home. We will meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on January 12 and 19. This will be about a 30-45 minute time of connection, devotion and prayer. I will offer an in-person vespers on Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. (in advance of our Annual meeting which begins at 6:30 p.m.) I hope you will join me. Look for more information in the weekly Enews and other FBC communication mediums. – Pastor Dan

Around The Church



We want to thank you for your many expressions of kindness and appreciation over the Christmas season. The year-end gifts, cards and greetings helped to make our season bright.

Your First Baptist Church Staff:

*Dan Cash DeDee Reilly Jones Laura Friedrich
Donna Jull Carla Williams Maryferal
Dorthea Anderson Ashley Gee Melissa Brunning*



FBC Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Join us as we recap last year and look ahead to 2022.

2022 Church Council

Council Chair – Jim Reid
Vice Chair – Scott Babb
Treasurer – Bill Baker
Asst. Treas. – Stephanie Olson
Fin. Secretary – Charlotte Oestreicher
Asst. Fin. Sec. – Gretchen Seeley
Clerk/Membership Clerk – Terri Ketterling
Christian Ed – Carolyn Pool
Evangelism – Jan Carlstrom
Family Life – Keith/Teresa Arbuckle
Missions – Cliff Putterill
Stewardship – Danny Burton
Worship – Elyse Snider

2022 FBC Foundation Board

Linda Foster
Larry Mayfield
Kerry Richmond
Mallory Slaton
Ro Whittington

Around The Church

Photo Directory Updates

Printed pictorial directories are available in the church office with a suggested donation of \$5. Please note that these are name/photo only, not meant to replace the Contact Directory Laura updates periodically. The intention with the Photo Directory is that members will be able to “put a face with a name” particularly for those who engage with us online or don’t recognize full faces due to masks!

Additionally, the online directory is complete! You can find it on our website:

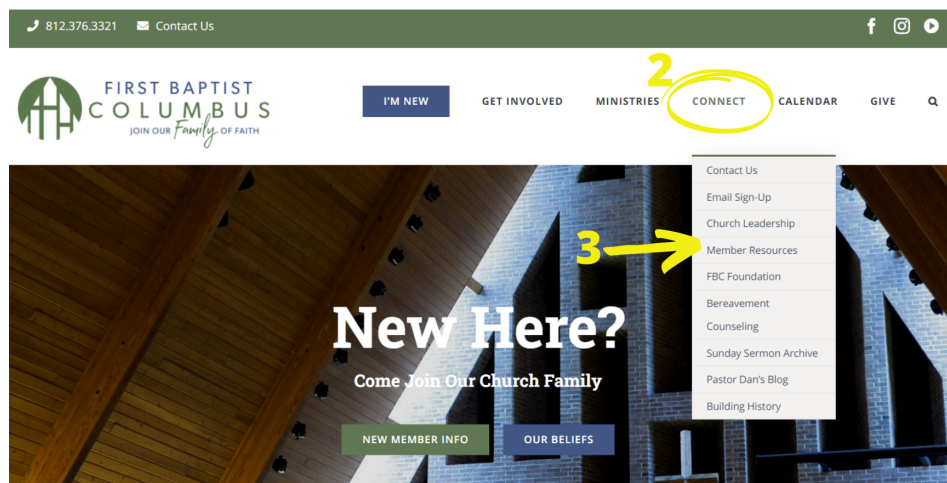
<https://firstbaptistcolumbus.org/about-us/member-resources/>

The online directory includes both names, photos, and contact information all in one place.

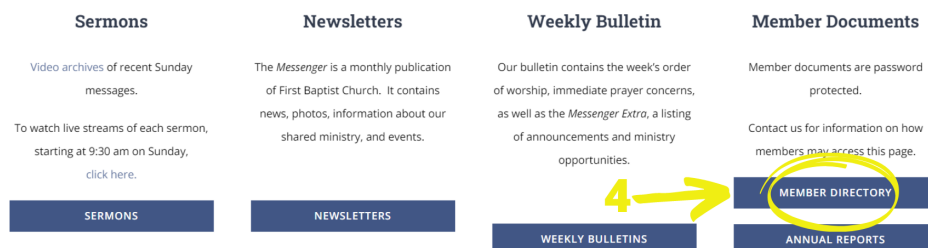
This visual shows you each step to take, including entering the password *fbcfamily* (all lowercase). From there, you can view any photo taken or submitted. Email Pastor Reilly if you’d like to submit a photo.

Online Photo Directory Access

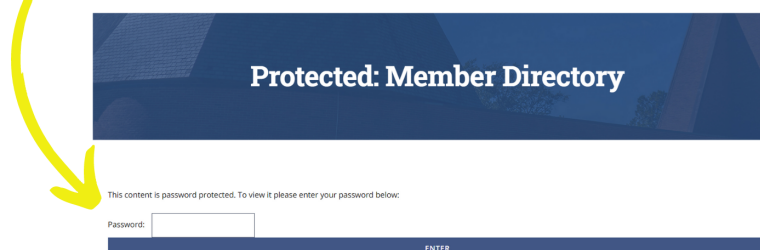
1 Go to www.firstbaptistcolumbus.org



Once on this page, go to "Member Documents" then "Member Directory"



5 Enter password: **fbcfamily** (all lowercase)





MISSION

FOOD FOR OUR LOVE CHAPEL

January is the month that First Baptist Church collects funds to purchase food for Our Love Chapel. We are currently serving 1300 - 1500 families each month through the pantry, and the need continues to increase.

Love Chapel is a Christ-centered, faith based outreach ministry of the Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches that offers emergency food, emergency shelter, client follow-up and outreach, medication assistance thru the Medication Assistance Program, job search and referrals, financial assistance for rent, utilities, and GED testing, holiday food baskets, and prayer and chaplaincy ministry.

January is our turn to help fill the food pantry. We raise funds and shop for needed items as specified by the Pantry Coordinators, and then deliver them to the pantry in early February. Please send all donations towards this effort to the church office before the end of January.

Clarity needs YOU!

Make a difference by volunteering!

Volunteers are needed for all Clarity pregnancy centers:

Columbus - Nashville - Greensburg - Seymour - North Vernon - Shelbyville

A variety of volunteer positions and schedules are available.

Details: claritycares.org/volunteer

*thank
you*

To my FBC family,

I just want to thank you all for the prayers, notes, love, hugs, and kind words, (and even some homemade bread and jam) you offered at the loss of my mom. As so many of you know, it means so much to both Jeff and me to have your love and support at any time, but especially during such a loss. You all mean so much to us! And special thanks to Pastors Dan and Daniel for making the trip to Louisville to her visitation and funeral. Love you all!

Beth and Jeff Caldwell

Many thanks to our family of faith for the cards, phone calls and well wishes for the passing of Carl Irps. We are blessed to have such wonderful friends to surround us.

Ryan, Heidi, Reilly and Kayla
Jones

Thank you to my First Baptist church family for the cards, calls and so many prayers for my surgery and my recovery. It was a blessing to be in church again on Dec. 12!

God bless you all,
Peggy Lane

This Month's Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

Jan. 2 - Dot McMath & Dortha Anderson
Jan. 9 - Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed
Jan. 16 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman
Jan. 23 - Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher
Jan. 30 - Kerry & Alice Richmond

Serving in the Nursery:

First Sunday: Susan Hoffman
Second Sunday: Adams
Third Sunday: Fee
Fourth Sunday: *Open*
Fifth Sunday: *Open*

Children's Sunday School

2-4 Year Olds -

Teachers:

First Sunday: Larry Calfee
Second Sunday: Susan Carter/Charlotte Oestreicher
Third Sunday: Carol Poe
Fourth Sunday: Heidi Jones
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Helpers:

First Sunday: Slatons
Second Sunday: Susan Carter/Charlotte Oestreicher
Third Sunday: Jennifer Kelley
Fourth Sunday: Open
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Kids Connection:

First Sunday: Marcia Cheek
Second Sunday: Linda Reid
Third Sunday: Beth Caldwell
Fourth Sunday: Deanna Glick

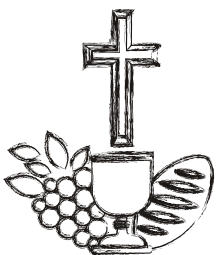
No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.



January Coffee Fellowship (following worship) - January 30

Last names A-H are invited to bring treats to share.

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, January 2

For those of you who join us for worship via live stream, we invite you to have something available to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.

January Birthdays

6. ~ Marcia Cheek
7. ~ Jesse Langdon
8. ~ David Akers, Bobbie Walker
9. ~ Linda Rea
12. ~ Jerald Hatton, Stillman Whittington
13. ~ Connie Baldwin
15. ~ Frank Eldridge
16. ~ Elliott Adams



17. ~ Wayne Lovelace
22. ~ Emily Nelson
23. ~ Grant Slaton
24. ~ Scott Crowder, Cara Chitwood
26. ~ Ken Greenlee, Ryan Jones
28. ~ Daniel Greene
30. ~ Marian Miller

The Body of Christ Prays For...



- Ramona Harlow, Beth & Dick Miller, Tim Pickup, Jon Carlstrom, Peggy Lane & all those who are homebound or in nursing care centers.

Looking Ahead

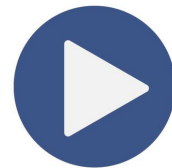
Jan. 6 - Women's Bible Study resumes (9:30 am)
Jan. 7 - Men of Faith Bible Study resumes (7:00 am)
Jan. 12 - Online Vespers (7:00 pm)
Jan. 15 - Newsletter Deadline
Jan. 18 - Church Council (7:00 pm)
Jan. 19 - Online Vespers (7:00 pm)
Jan. 26 - In-person Vespers (6:00 pm)
Jan. 26 - Annual Meeting (6:30 pm)
Jan. 30 - Coffee Fellowship following worship (Last names A-H are invited to bring treats to share)

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am
(in-person worship & Live Stream)

2nd Hour Learning - following worship at 10:45 am

Live streaming available for Sunday Services

In addition to watching our streaming service on our website, the service is also streamed to Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30
firstbaptistcolumbus.org

