



FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

Evan Guse, Senior Pastor
Daniel Kane, Worship Pastor

From The Pastor's Pen

What a wonderful and blessed season of Advent we have experienced here at First Baptist. I pray you have set aside time during these weeks to prepare your heart for the continued arrival of Jesus Christ in new and meaningful ways. No matter where we find ourselves, God is with us, and that is "good news of great joy for all people."

As the calendar turns to a new year, we are presented with a time for fresh opportunities and new beginnings. We continue in a time of new beginnings here at First Baptist as my family enters our second full month of living and serving in Columbus. As your new Senior Pastor, one of my highest priorities for this year is to meet with you and hear your stories, history, ideas, hopes, prayers, and dreams for the future of our church family.

In the coming month, there will be a series of opportunities for you to share with me and for us to grow in relationship through small-group "Cottage Meetings." Each meeting will be in the Chapel for 90 minutes maximum and limited to 12 people to allow for adequate sharing. There are many dates available and you only need to attend one as they will all be of the same focus, just a different assortment of people.

Come prepared to answer the following questions: How did you start attending First Baptist and why have you stayed? What do you believe is the greatest challenge and/or opportunity facing First Baptist? If people, resources, and failure weren't concerns, what would you like to see happen at First Baptist in the next 2-3 years?

You can sign up for a meeting that works with your schedule at the Welcome Desk. For those who head to a warmer climate in the winter months, there is a dedicated Zoom meeting and you can email me at eguse@fbccolumbus.org for the link. In addition to these meetings, there will be a sign-up list for those who would be interested in a home visit or one-on-one meeting as I get to know the congregation. I would appreciate you still attending a Cottage Meeting, but would love to connect with you above and beyond these opportunities to get to know you better.

I am so excited for the year to come at First Baptist and what the Lord desires to do among us as we humble ourselves in service to God, one another, and our community. Happy New Year...I look forward to growing with you in 2024!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Evan



SEASON OF THE CHURCH:

CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 25TH - JANUARY 26TH

Beginnings

Does the phrase “Neighborhood Visits” ring a bell for anyone?

I remember when I first arrived here, now almost four years ago, we decided to try what we called “Neighborhood Visits” as a way of 1) getting to know each other a little bit better and 2) providing an opportunity for us all to just spend time with people again. If you remember, I showed up right at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and we weren’t able to see each other for a long time!

As we have been decorating for Christmas over the last few weeks, one of the recurring jokes regards whether or not I had to take a class in seminary or college for any of the assorted decorating tasks we undertook. I mention that because its not the only case that has warranted conversations regarding my preparation for real-life ministry. Who would’ve thought that my first ministry position coming out of college would hold so many different chapters in less than four years. The Neighborhood Visits were just the beginning.

Yet, here we are again, holding Cottage Meetings throughout January. As Pastor Evan lists the questions we’ll be discussing, it took me back to our Neighborhood Visits and the conversations we had at that time. A time that was so unknown, where it felt like all momentum was lost from any previous projects or emphases. It was difficult! And I can certainly tell you that I never took any classes in “leadership during a pandemic.” However, as the last few years have unfolded, as we’ve learned more about ourselves through these different chapters, we find ourselves on the threshold, once again, of dreaming about our future by taking stock of the past. Beginnings are cyclical. *Time* is cyclical! It’s a big reason why I love Advent and Christmas so much. Our life as the church during these cold and ever-darkening days are lives of intentional defiance! We stand up, against the oncoming longest days, by lighting candles and putting up ever-green signs of life that can withstand the cold so that, just as our trees stand tall, so too do we!

As we’ve progressively decorated throughout this Advent season, I think that’s the thing I’ve taken away from it the most: Advent and Christmas are days of hope even if we don’t know what it is we are hoping for! That’s what the Cottage Meetings are about. No wrong answers. Just hope. Just beginnings.

That can easily sound like we’re building a list of New Year’s resolutions, which we all know rarely go fulfilled. Instead, think of it as a blank slate. January is a chance to carry the momentum of our Advent hope into a new year filled with promise and the trust that God will bless the best prayerful brainstorming which comes out of our times together.

I’m really looking forward to what will feel like Neighborhood Visits “Take 2.” Because this time we don’t have a pandemic holding us back! This time we have all the time and access in the world to get to continue working together for the best future of FBC. See you soon.

Peace,
Pastor Daniel

Around The Church ...

Thank You!

Many thanks and blessings to the angels who responded to Anita's medical episode during our Thanksgiving dinner, In particular, we express our gratitude to Judy, Rhude, Mike Compton, Cole Bennett, Joyce Briggs and Pastor Evan. Due to the grace of God and the quick action of the FBC medical team with the EMTs and CRH staff, Anita was home before dinner and is doing as well as can be. -Anita & Danny Burton

To my church family....a very large thank you for all the many ways you responded after my recent fall----prayers, calls, text messages, cards, food, visits, thoughts, concerns, hugs - I am improving daily and so so thankful for no serious "damage". So glad and thankful to have all of you in my life! Pray that each one has a blessed Christmas!
Love to all, Donna Tull

A big THANK YOU goes to all who participated in the Christmas Feast Packing Party at the Love Chapel Pantry on December 7! Thanks for volunteering your time and effort to help others during this season.

Thank you to those who prayed over our new home and filled our pantry! -The Guse Family

LOVE CHAPEL FISH OFFERING

The need to help families experiencing food insecurity continues to grow in our county. To help meet some of those needs, our church receives donations for the Love Chapel Food Pantry in January. *This FISH offering for Love Chapel reminds us of Jesus meeting the hunger needs of the crowds that flocked to hear his teachings.* All monies received will go toward the purchase of designated food items for the pantry in February. Please bring or send all donations for this special offering by the end of January. Check weekly e-news for updates.



Beginning in January, Cliff Putterill will assume the position of President of the Board of Directors of the Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches which includes Love Chapel. Cliff's years of volunteer service and as our Missions Team Leader for three years, give him a special perspective on the important work of the EA and Love Chapel.

Congratulations Cliff!




Love Chapel

Other News....

Plan to attend a Cottage Meeting!

Sign up at the Welcome Desk for a time to share your stories and get to know Pastor Evan in a small-group setting.

GAME NIGHT

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SNACK AND GAME FOR A FUN TIME WITH CHURCH FAMILY!

JANUARY 27, 6-8PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

Jan 7th : Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher
Jan 14th: Ron & Peggy lane
Jan 21st: Tim & Paula Pickup
Jan 28th: Jim & Linda Reid

Serving in the Nursery:

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

Emergency Responder Schedule

Jan 7th : Jean Williams
Jan 14th: Judy Rhude
Jan 21st: Lindsay McIntosh
Jan 28th: Judy Rhude

Children's Sunday School

2-4 Year Olds -

Teachers:

First Sunday: *Open*
Second Sunday: Susan Carter
Third Sunday: Carol Poe
Fourth Sunday: Heidi Jones
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Helpers:

First Sunday: *Open*
Second Sunday: *Open*
Third Sunday: Jennifer Kelley
Fourth Sunday: *Open*
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Kids Connection:

First Sunday: Marcia Cheek
Second Sunday: Linda Reid
Third Sunday: *Open*
Fourth Sunday: Deanna Glick

No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.

Coffee Fellowship



There will be a Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, January 28th. Last names A-H are invited to bring treats to share.

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, January 7th. 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.

Around The Church

January Birthdays

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 6. ~ Marcia Cheek | 16. ~ Elliott Adams |
| 7. ~ Jesse Langdon | 17. ~ Wayne Lovelace |
| 8. ~ David Akers, Bobbie Walker | 22. ~ Emily Nelson |
| 9. ~ Linda Rea | 24. ~ Cara Chitwood |
| 11. ~ Nick Porter | 26. ~ Ken Greenlee, Ryan Jones |
| 12. ~ Jerald Hatton, Stillman Whittington | 28. ~ Daniel Greene |
| 13. ~ Connie Baldwin | 30. ~ Marian Miller |
| 15. ~ Frank Eldridge | |

The Body of Christ Prays For...

Jeanette McKim, Myrna Shane, Anita Burton, Marcia Battle, Dick & Beth Miller, Ramona Harlow, Dan Greene, Claude Wright, Jr "Bub", Anita Yancey, Joyce Sutton, Roger & Ben Glick, Linda Mayfield & Family & all persons who are homebound & in nursing care centers.

Looking Ahead to January

- 7- Communion (9:30 am)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 16- Church Council (7:00 pm)
- 23 - Abigail Circle (6:30 PM)
- 27- Game Night (6:00 - 8:00 PM)
- 28- Coffee Fellowship (10:45 am)

Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group*: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 12:30 pm in Prayer Room
- LIGHT Ladies Bible Study at 9:00 am (beginning 01/04)
- Men of Faith Bible Study at 7:00 am (Beginning 01/05)
- Cottage Meetings @ various dates in January

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



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