



FIRST BAPTIST  
COLUMBUS  
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

**Evan Guse, Senior Pastor**  
**Daniel Kane, Worship Pastor**

## *From The Pastor's Pen*

Dear Church Family,

As I sit down to write this note, I just completed my fourth "Cottage Meeting" with a wonderful small group where we shared stories, hopes, dreams, and prayers for the family of faith at First Baptist. I have been touched, encouraged, and excited by each meeting so far, and can't wait to continue these sessions throughout January. In fact, I've been so blessed by these meetings that I've already decided such small group listening sessions will be a regular part of my ministry here at the church. You can hold me to this!

In his classic book *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives God's Word, but also lends us God's ear. We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them. So often Christians, especially preachers, think that their only service is always to have to 'offer' something when they are together with other people. They forget that listening can be a greater service...Christians who can no longer listen to one another will soon no longer be listening to God either."

So much talking, so little listening. I wonder how many family, work, community, church, societal, and world problems would subside if we just learned to listen again. As James 1:19 reminds us, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak." As we look to a new and exciting season at First Baptist, know that my ears, mind, and heart are open in what I've personally dubbed *Pastor Evan's Listening Tour*, the first service I owe to this wonderful church community. And as we listen to one another, may we hear the voice of God guiding us forward in love. That's probably enough talking for now...there's listening to do.

Pastor Evan



SEASON OF THE CHURCH:  
EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 6TH - FEBRUARY 13TH

**EPIPHANY**

We don't do a lot with epiphany. Maybe "Epiphany" as a season of the Church is an entirely new word to you. If so, you might be wondering what I'm even talking about.

Well, remember how the Christmas decorations weren't taken down until after the twelve days of Christmas were completed? Why is that?

We read in Matthew 2:1-12 the account of the Magi coming to worship Jesus. In most circles anymore, this story is included in the Christmas story. For years, though, this marked a new season in the Church's calendar: Epiphany. Meaning: the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles. You know how when you have an epiphany, it's a sudden realization of something? The same thing applies here. Jesus' revelation to the Gentiles through the Magi accompanies the realization that Jesus came to save all the world. As John 3:16 reads, "For God so loved the world, He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life."

As we've progressed through the "I Am" statements of Jesus, we are in fact practicing Epiphany. We are realizing over and over again just who this Jesus was and IS for you and me. Jesus is the True Vine, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, and so on. This realization causes great joy, wonder, and even transformation in our lives. And one of the main ways we see that transformation is through how, when, and why we pray.

Prayer has been a major focus of mine here in Columbus. Most, if not all, of my sermons thus far have come back to prayer in some way or another. Why is that?

Because prayer is how we practice the presence of God! Maybe that sentence seems weird. How do we practice the presence of God? We aren't God. Correct. But there *is* something to practicing, or training, our awareness of God's presence. Through prayer, we place ourselves in the conversation that God is constantly having with us and His creation. Through prayer, we remember that Jesus is Lord. Through prayer, we remember how we might live.

Like the Magi, we place ourselves before God to, yes, bring Him our offerings and gifts. But when we do, we are left changed by the realization that Jesus is far more than a little baby to be coronated. Jesus, in fact, changes everything.

As we proceed through this Epiphany season and prepare for Lent, you are invited to continue realizing who this Jesus is for you in all His many ways. Then, once Lent arrives, we will join together in prayer as we await the culmination of the life and ministry of Jesus. Revealed not on a throne, but in and out of the tomb.

Lent is a season of preparation and prayer, and we are excited to get to walk together in that process of beholding the King of kings through the simple acts of pausing, rejoicing, asking, and yielding.

Peace,  
Pastor Daniel

# Around The Church ...

## Thank You!

To our Beloved FBC Church Family;

We would like to extend our sincere heartfelt THANK YOU for all the cards, phone calls, emails, texts, and personal expressions of condolences we received on the passing of Linda's mom, Gwen Nelson, on December 19th. The most amazing part of this outpouring of love from our "church family" is there were approximately 20 people that made the 1 1/2 hour trip one way to the funeral home in Salem to share their love and condolences in person with us.

We all talk about our "church family" and what they all mean to us, but when you go through one of life's trials such as the passing of a loved one, it really comes home to you that this just not something we say lightly--"church family!"

We love and appreciate you all!

-Linda & Larry Mayfield

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Dear FBC,

Thank you for allowing our quilt guild to use your meeting rooms. It really makes our monthly meetings enjoyable.

Adella Haugland,

-Columbus Star Quilters

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FBC,

Thank you so much for decorating cabin 2 for Bethlehem Lights! The event was a huge success and over 2,000 people came to see the lights!

-Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp Staff

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To my FBC family,

A heart-felt thanks to all of you who visited, texted, sent cards, and most of all prayed for me as I was recuperating from knee surgery. Your concern and encouragement were wonderful gifts. I particularly appreciated the "You will be glad you had it done." from those who had "Been there, done that." Those words were a great help on the "down days". Kerry & I are so blessed to be a part of this loving and faithful congregation.

-Alice Richmond



Mark your calendar for screening to be held on Monday, March 25th in Fellowship Hall. Lifeline Screening has conducted over 10 million screenings since 1993. Screenings available are:

- **Carotid Artery Disease** (through an ultrasound to check for buildup in the arteries, a leading cause of stroke.)
- **Atrial Fibrillation**, or AFib (through a 6 lead electrocardiogram to screen for AFib, which can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure.)
- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (through an ultrasound to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of a life threatening aneurysm.)
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease**, or PAD (an ankle-Brachial Index test performed using a blood pressure cuff on the arms and legs.) PAD increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.

To schedule your appt, call 1-800-640-6307 or visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](http://LLSA.SOCIAL/HC).



# Other News...

## Meet With Pastor Evan

Sign up in the Gathering Place (or call the church office) if you would like to set aside time to become better acquainted with Pastor Evan and his family. Please indicate how would you like to connect with Pastor Evan (i.e. home visit, coffee, Church Office, etc.)



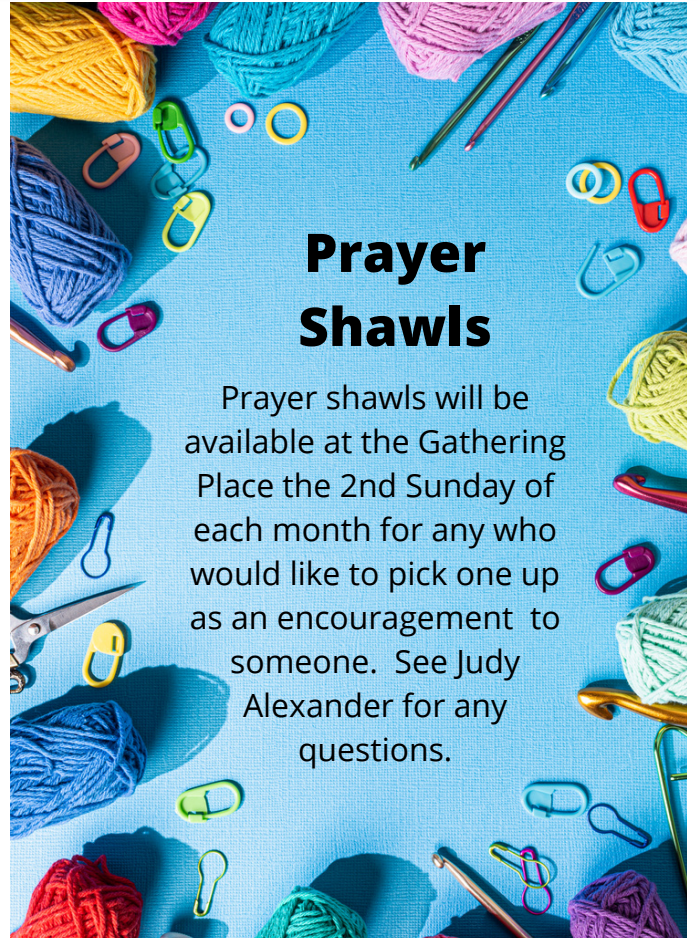
## Scholarships Available

The First Baptist Church Foundation is accepting applications between now and April 1st for two scholarships.

The **E. Don Tull Scholarship** is for a graduating high school senior planning to attend an institution of higher learning full-time next year and is in the amount of \$1,000.

The **Foundation Scholarship** is for any full-time undergraduate student and is also in the amount of \$1,000.

Applications and instructions may be obtained from the church office or the church website (Connect/FBC Foundation). They are due back to the church office or a Foundation board member by April 1, 2024 to be considered. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.



## Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls will be available at the Gathering Place the 2nd Sunday of each month for any who would like to pick one up as an encouragement to someone. See Judy Alexander for any questions.

## More Scholarship Opportunities

Applications for the **ABWM Scholarship** are due by February 11, 2024. This is a one time \$500 scholarship for undergraduate, single students, including those pursuing vocational and technical training. The Indiana ABWM Church & Community Committee will review all applications and scholarships will be granted on the basis of faith-based dedication, financial need and scholastic ability. If you are interested, please pick up the application form and instructions from the church secretary.



# Other News....

## Mission Opportunity

Soozi Ford will be traveling to Hungary in February with several staff from International Ministries, including Kristy Engel, one of the global servants supported by First Baptist. The group will be meeting with ministry partners who are working among displaced persons and learning about the various ways they are serving. ***Kristy has asked the team to bring two items that can be used in the medical clinics she will be working with over the next year: vitamins for adults and children (NO gummies!) and muscle rub, such as Ben Gay or Voltaren (gel or cream.)*** Please bring to the church no later than **Sunday, February 11th**, and place in the designated box in the lobby. Soози appreciates your prayer support as she prepares for this adventure and as she travels. Thank you!

## White Cross Gifts of The Heart



Through White Cross, these special recovery kits provide both tangible assistance to people in need and show that SOMEONE truly cares. These are sent to Church World Service, which sees that they are sent to those in need.

*The staff at FBC would like to thank you all for your generous Christmas gifts. ❤️*

*We are blessed to be part of this church family!*

*Evan G  
Donna Jull Drake  
Dorthe Anderson  
Mel Fields  
Soozi Ford Ashley Jee  
Carla Williams  
Meissa Branning*

### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- One 1-gallon Ziploc bag
- One hand towel (15"X28" to 16"X32")
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb (at least 6 inches) removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from pkg.
- One bath-sized bar of soap in the original pkg.
- One toothbrush in original pkg.
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

All items must BE NEW and fit in the Ziploc bag. A donation of \$2 per kit for the processing fee is appreciated. Drop off near the kitchen area by March 17th. Please contact Judy Alexander with any questions.

# Leadership

## Pastoral Care Team

Feb 4th : Kerry & Alice Richmond  
Feb 11th: Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed  
Feb 18th: Bob & Jean Langdon  
Feb 25th: Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher

## Serving in the Nursery:

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

## *Emergency Responder Schedule*

Feb 4th : Judy Rhude  
Feb 11th: Jean Williams  
Feb 18th: Judy Rhude  
Feb 25th: Joyce Briggs

## 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, February 25th. Last names I-Q are invited to bring treats to share.

# Communion

We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, February 4th. 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

## February Birthdays

1. ~ Linda Reid
2. ~ Eliza Fee, Scott Chitwood, Dick Miller
3. ~ Oliver Adams, Jan Carlstrom, Jeff Seeley
5. ~ John McKay
10. ~ Cecil Workman
12. ~ Larry Alexander
13. ~ Sharon Semer
15. ~ Bill Baker
17. ~ Chris Nelson
18. ~ Stephanie Olson
21. ~ Stephanie Adams, Peggy Lane, Anita Yancey
22. ~ Jan Reed
23. ~ Deb Lilly
24. ~ Pat Burns
25. ~ Cliff Frady
29. ~ Sharon Downin

## The Body of Christ Prays For...

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

## Looking Ahead to February

- 4- Communion (9:30 am)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 20- Church Council (7:00 pm)
- 25- Coffee Fellowship (10:45 am)
- 27- Abigail Circle (6:30 PM)

## 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
- Men of Faith Bible Study at 7:00 am
- Choir Practice at 7:00 pm starting 2/14/2024

**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](http://firstbaptistcolumbus.org)

