



FIRST BAPTIST  
COLUMBUS  
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

Rev. Evan Guse, Senior Pastor  
Tyler Griffin, Associate Pastor

## *From the Pastor's Pen*

This fall we've been walking through our sermon series "A Covenant People" and reflecting on what it means to live faithfully as the church. We've been reminded of the importance of walking together in love, advancing the kingdom of our Savior, and seeking the spread of the gospel. These can sound like lofty ideas, but they take root in the ordinary, everyday lives we live.

This month, I want to encourage you to think about readiness. Are you walking through life prepared for whatever God may bring across your path on an ordinary day? We cannot predict what we will encounter each day, but we can ground ourselves in Scripture, in prayer, and in attentiveness to the Spirit so that when the opportunity arises to love or to serve, we are ready.

Not long ago, I was driving Clayton home from an activity when I noticed a woman walking slowly along the side of the road. In the split second where I had to decide whether to stop, I had every reason not to. I was tired, I had other places to be, and more than enough excuses. Yet the Spirit nudged me to pull over. She told me she was on her way to work, unable to find a ride for the day and had been passed by exactly 262 cars before I pulled over. That 15-minute ride became a blessing for both of us as we made our way to her factory job. She thanked me for stopping, but I was just as thankful, for her story and for the reminder that God invites us to be present in ways that are often unscheduled and unexpected.

I do not share this story to toot my own horn. In truth, left to myself, I would have kept driving. But faithfulness to God does not always look like traveling to the ends of the earth on mission. More often, it looks like showing up with the heartbeat of God in our ordinary lives, as we drive familiar roads, walk through the grocery store, love our families, and live simply for the glory of God. It is in those ordinary moments that God multiplies our small acts of faithfulness.

I think back to my days as a hospital chaplain and in EMS, where I often found myself walking into situations with no idea what I was about to encounter. Time and again, I felt that God had prepared me, not only with hands to be helpful, but with a spirit ready to carry His presence. That is still my prayer today. Whether I am serving as a pastor, a husband, a father, a friend, or even a stranger to someone in need, I want to be a person who carries the presence of Jesus in my bones, in my spirit, in my words, in my actions, and in my thoughts.

As we look to the future of our church, our families, our community, our nation, and our world, the needs can sometimes feel overwhelming. Where do we even start? I believe God's answer is simple: we start right where we are. Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." This is the way of the kingdom.

We are called not to grand strategies or lofty visions, but to ordinary faithfulness. We are called to be present to Jesus and to others, right where we are, in the power and love of the Holy Spirit. May we, as a covenant people, live with that kind of readiness; one small act of faithfulness at a time, trusting God to take what we offer and multiply it for His glory.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Evan*



## FBC News

September has been such a great month in the life of our church! God has been moving in many different ways, and I'd like to share some highlights with you.

On September 7th, we had the joy of taking three of our 6th graders to an ABC IN/KY sponsored youth event called Fuse at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp. Everyone had a wonderful time, and it was such a blessing to see our students growing in their faith while connecting with each other and other young believers.

On the 9th, five from our congregation spent the day at Indian Creek Baptist Camp, learning about the exciting things Jordan and Mindy are leading there. It was encouraging to hear about the incredible ways God is working through their ministry and all the upgrades they have made and are planning to make over the coming year.

This month, I've also had the privilege of helping to co-lead Men of Faith. What a joy it is to be back with this awesome group of men, walking alongside each other as we grow in Christ. We appreciate Bill and all the time and effort he puts into his Bible studies for us. Leah and I have also thoroughly enjoyed singing with the choir. It has been refreshing to worship with such a gifted and passionate group of people and have fun while doing so!

Another highlight was our Children's Ministry Info Session on Sunday the 14th. We had 18 adults in attendance and several others who couldn't be there but are still interested in serving. If you are interested in serving the children of FBC, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Pastor Evan. There are so many areas where you can get involved—teaching, helping, setting up, and even being a prayer partner. Our children's ministry is growing, and there is a place for everyone to be a part of what God is doing!

On the 21st, I had the opportunity to teach the Adult Sunday School class. Thank you to everyone who participated and for the warm welcome into the class. That afternoon, we also enjoyed our Hot Diggity Dog Party at the Whittingtons. It was such a blast! A huge thank you to Ro and Shorty for hosting us and to Keith and Teresa for all their behind-the-scenes work.

Throughout this month, Pastor Evan has been continuing in our sermon series, A Covenant People. For three weeks he has shared with us the importance of the Body of Christ. As Leah and I are settling in here at First Baptist, it has been inspiring to see so many of you putting your God-given talents, skills, and gifts to work for His Kingdom.

In Romans 12:4-6 Paul writes, "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."

This is such a beautiful picture of what it means to be a covenant people. Just like the human body cannot function without every part working together, the church cannot thrive unless we all use the unique gifts God has given us. Some may be called to teach, others to serve behind the scenes, others to encourage or pray, but all are essential.

What I have witnessed this past month at First Baptist is Romans 12 in action: people stepping up, serving faithfully, and using their gifts to strengthen the body. It's a reminder that God has placed each of us here on purpose. You matter. Your gifts matter. And when we come together in unity, Christ is glorified, and His mission moves forward.

As we move into October, let's continue to celebrate the work God is doing among us. Let's each ask: How can I use my gifts to serve the body of Christ here at FBC? Together, we are living out our covenant as God's people. In Christ,

Pastor Tyler

## Around The Church ...

### Abigail Circle

It is time once again to resume the monthly meetings for Abigail Circle starting on Tuesday, October 28th at 6:30 pm. All women are encouraged to attend!

### 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.

### Medical Equipment Available for Loan

Durable medical Equipment is available at the church to lend to church family and friends as needed. Items available:

Transport Wheel Chairs, Bedside Commodes, Elevated Commode Seats, Rollator Walker, Suction Handles, for shower wall, Walkers, Canes, Four Quad Canes, Crutches, and Wheel Chairs.

Please contact the church office if any of this equipment is needed.

### Bible Study

Ladies LIGHT Bible study will begin the study of Philippians on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. All ladies are invited to attend.

## exiles & hope

A New Men of Faith Study  
Beginning October 23

## Wednesdays at First Baptist Church

Dinner - 5:00pm  
Bible Study - 5:30pm  
Choir Practice - 7:00pm

Starting October 29<sup>th</sup>

# Around The Church

## Thank You

This is a letter of love and appreciation to the family of First Baptist Church. With an abiding love in our hearts for all we have shared through the years and the love shared with us on our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, we humbly express our thanksgiving for your presence, your many sincere expressions of love, for fond remembrances, for gifts, for the hard work of the Family Life/Hospitality Team and for Pastor Evan and the Church staff.

Sixty years in ministry and in marriage is a long time invested in the plan and purpose of God. We were blessed to share a celebration of that time with you, our Church Family, with our family of relatives, with Emmaus community friends, our friends from other churches, and dear friends who have shared the journey of life with us. You have truly blessed us and we will cherish the intangible gifts you have shared with us.

Our love in Christ to all,  
Jan & Jon Carlstron



www.givewater.com/tasteofcolumbus

AVAILABLE NOW

TASTE OF COLUMBUS

October 2, 2025  
5:00pm-8:00pm  
The Commons  
300 Washington St., Columbus IN 47201

purchase tickets at



(For adults only)

## Worship at the Park.

Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 2-4:30 pm at Donner Park. Join Love Chapel for a community-wide worship service at 2 pm with food/music/fun following at 3 pm. Everything is free!

## Chancel Choir

TO BLESS NOT IMPRESS. This is the theme of the Chancel Choir this year. The first people to be blessed are the choir members themselves. Many new and returning choristers have filled the loft, ready to work hard and sing joyfully for our Lord. Our aim is to sing at least two times a month, bringing words and melodies that bless your heart. Continue to pray as the committee searches for the right person to fill the spot of Music and Worship Director.

Lois Griffith, Interim Choir Director

# Around The Church ...

## Christmas Market

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for this year's Christmas Market, taking place on Saturday, November 22nd (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) from 10-3 pm. To have a successful Christmas Market we need your participation!

Additionally, if you have friends who are artists/crafters who might like to participate, please have them contact Jerald Hatton for any questions. Applications are available at the Gathering Place or through email.



Begin collecting now for your shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The deadline to return your filled boxes is November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Items not allowed are :** SOAP; candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

There are still several of boxes *are available in the Gathering Place. Pick yours up today!*

For gift ideas, or info about Samaritan's Purse, scan the QR Code.



# Leadership

## Pastoral Care Team

Oct. 5th: Ron & Peggy Lane  
Oct. 12th: Paul & Carol Poe  
Oct. 19th: Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed  
Oct. 26th: Heidi Jones & Stephanie Olson

## *Emergency Responder Schedule*

Oct. 5th: Lindsay McIntosh  
Oct. 12th: Judy Rhude  
Oct. 19th: Cole Bennett  
Oct. 26th: Jean Williams

# Trunk or Treat



Join us on October 31st  
from 5:30-7:00 pm for our annual  
Trunk or Treat.

**Sign up in the Gathering Place to  
decorate your trunk and bring  
candy for the event!**

**Invite your friends and neighbors!**



## Thank You

*A special thank you to Jim & Linda Reid who were able to deliver the many boxes of recycled books and material given by this church.*

Love Packaging is a program that recycles Christian material to provide free Christian literature to pastors, missionaries, and teachers in developing countries with the aim of spreading the gospel.

There is now a box in the library downstairs for any donations.

# Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, October 5th. 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

## October Birthdays

2. ~ Larry Calfee  
6. ~ Lois Brondyke, Linda Foster,  
Joyce Orwin, Valerie Sims  
7. ~ Dave Seal  
9 ~ David Reed  
10. ~ Norma Arnold

11. ~ Ro Whittington  
16. ~ Jenna Flannery  
21. ~ Carol Burton,  
Ashley Lowman  
22. ~ Olivia Williams  
23. ~ Susan Carter

23. ~ Matt Hamon  
24. ~ Madeline Guse  
28. ~ Paige Williams  
29. ~ Scarlett Carlstrom  
31. ~ Lois Griffith

## The Body of Christ Prays For...

Janet Bailey, Dorothy Abney, Susan Carter, Tim Pickup, Priscilla & Roger Day, Bobbie & John Walker, Daryl & Dot McMath, Joyce Sutton, Jenny Wilkerson, John & Liz Lipson, Jon Carlstrom, Marge Betz, Anita Burton, Dick & Beth Miller, Ramona Harlow, Claude Wright, Jr. "Bub", Anita Yancey, Allen Rea, Larry Alexander, and Roger & Ben Glick and all persons who are homebound & in nursing care centers.

## Looking Ahead to October

5- Communion (9:30 am)  
7- Church Council (5:30 pm)  
15- Newsletter Deadline  
22- Congregational Quarterly Meeting (6:00 PM)  
26- Coffee Fellowship A-H (10:45 am)  
28- Abigail Circle (6:30 pm)  
29- Wednesday Meal & Bible Study (5:00 -6:30 PM)

## Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Prayer Group: Weds. at 12:30 pm in Prayer Room
- Choir Practice: Weds. at 7:00 pm
- LIGHT Ladies Bible Study: Thurs. at 9:00 am
- Men of Faith Bible Study: Thurs. at 9:00 am

**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)

