



FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

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

From the Pastor's Pen

Can you believe it's almost December and time for Advent? This season invites us to pause and remember the steady, faithful work of God in our lives. It reminds us that Christ comes to us not in rushed moments, but in the quiet places where our hearts are open and attentive. As we move through this season together, I hope you find space to slow down, to reflect, and to draw near to the hope that Advent holds.

This year, Advent also comes at an important moment in the life of our church. On Sunday, November 23, we introduced a new initiative called *Forward in Faith*. This capital campaign is shaped around four key areas that will help us care for our building and strengthen our ministry. The first is repairing our flat roof and sealing our windows. It is not glamorous work, but it is important work. These repairs protect the spaces where we worship, gather, and serve, and they allow us to steward well what God has entrusted to us.

The second area is a full update to our sanctuary audio, visual, lighting, and livestream systems. Much of what we currently use has reached the end of its lifespan, and these upgrades will help us create a worship space that is clear, welcoming, and functional for many years to come.

The third area focuses on refreshing our children's ministry spaces. We want families to know that their children are cared for and that this church is ready for the next generation the moment they walk through our doors. Updated flooring, lighting, paint, and furnishings will communicate that clearly.

The fourth area is the creation of two outdoor pickleball courts and a landscaped gathering space at the site of our current volleyball court. This will give our church family room to connect and fellowship, and it will also open our grounds to our neighbors in a simple, friendly way. We want our property to be more than something we maintain, but be a place where relationships form and ministry happens.

We are grateful to begin with \$80,000 already awarded through Sacred Places Indiana and \$50,000 set aside from our General Fund. These early commitments give us a strong foundation as we take our next steps. In the coming weeks, you will receive more information by mail. I encourage you to read through the material, pray about it, and consider how the Lord may be calling you to participate. If you have questions or would like to talk more personally, I would be glad to meet with you.

Alongside the campaign, Advent brings several opportunities for worship and celebration. On Sunday morning, December 21, our choir will lead us in a Christmas Cantata as part of our regular worship service. This is always a meaningful time to hear the story of Christ through music and Scripture. We will also gather for our Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. This candlelight service is one of the most cherished moments of the year, and I hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. My prayer is that this Advent season strengthens our trust in the God who comes near and leads us faithfully into the future.

Pastor Evan

Can you believe it? The holiday season is upon us! We are hearing Christmas music in retail stores, restaurants are advertising their unique holiday specials, our neighborhoods have the wonderful glow of Christmas lights, and our own church building will soon be adorned with beautiful decorations. Christmas has always been a favorite time for me. I love the snow and the glow of a Christmas tree in the evening when it's quiet and dark, sipping some tea by the fireplace. But, some realities of this season are darker evenings and colder weather; we see bare trees whose leaves have fallen and been swept away. This time of year can be difficult for many, from remembering Christmas' past to the melancholy that comes with the dark and cold. What I hold to in this season is the promise of the Messiah. The Promised One of old, God made flesh, the Light of the World. If this season brings you to a place of grief or gloom, choose to see Christ in the world around you.

I can see Christ in the light of decorations
I can see Christ in the generosity of others
I can see Christ in the joy of my nieces and nephews as they unwrap their gifts
I can see Christ in the changing season, knowing He never changes
I can see Christ in the lighting of the advent candles
I can see Christ in the songs we sing
I can see Christ in the promise of His coming
And I'm reminded of Christ's promise of His second coming

This Christmas season, when the weight of shopping, picking out the right gifts, the busyness, the cooking and the cleaning, the harsh reminder of loss, the seemingly never-ending darkness, or any other burden, I hope you can hold on to the promise of the Messiah. God made flesh to dwell among His people, our Immanuel. Our Savior who came to seek and to save the lost. Our Redeemer who paid our debt. The One who was, who is, and is to come.

"As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.' All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through His prophet: 'Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'"' -Matthew 1:20-23

From our home to yours, Leah and I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year! May you hold to the promise of Christ and see Him throughout this season and all year long.

Pastor Tyler

Around The Church ...



Christmas
Cantata

Sunday, December 21 at 9:30am

 **FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS**
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH
3300 Fairlawn Drive, Columbus, IN 47203



Christmas Eve
December 24 at 7pm
3300 Fairlawn Drive, Columbus, IN 47203

 **FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS**
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

Advent Flowers

Let us know if you'd like to donate funds for a Christmas poinsettia/plant in commemoration of someone you love! The deadline is December 14th. The poinsettia/plant can then be taken home to enjoy the Sunday after Christmas. Funds can be sent to the Church Office or mark your offering envelope accordingly - \$10 per plant.



Blue Christmas Service

Join us on
Sunday, December 7, 2025
at 6:30 PM at the Commons

Sponsored by Love Chapel

Bethlehem Lights

DRIVE THROUGH LIGHT DISPLAY & LIVE NATIVITY



SBYCAMP.COM/BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem Lights

Join us at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp Bethlehem Lights, Dec 5th & 6th, Dec 12th & 13th @ 6 pm to 8 pm each night. There will be Christmas lights, a live Nativity scene, snacks, live music, and picture opportunities.

FORWARD IN FAITH

First Baptist Church 2025/2026 Capital Campaign

“Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”

Joshua 3:5

For generations, God has been faithful to our church. In worship, fellowship, and service, the Spirit has shaped us into a people who share God’s love and participate in His mission. We are grateful for the legacy we have received and the ministry that continues to grow here.

Forward in Faith is our shared commitment to strengthen this ministry for the years ahead. By caring for our building, renewing spaces for worship and discipleship, and extending welcome to our community, we take the next step in the work God has entrusted to us.

Together, we look back with gratitude and forward in faith.

Honoring Our Legacy

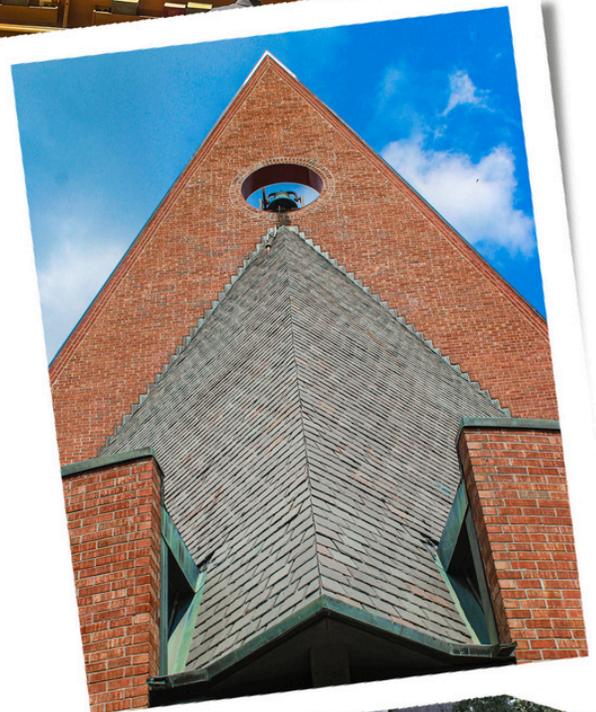
God has been faithful through every generation of our church. Caring for our shared life honors the legacy we have received and strengthens the foundation for the ministry ahead.

Strengthening Ministry

Worship, discipleship, and mission shape who we are as a church. Renewing the spaces where we gather helps us serve with clarity, welcome, and joy as we follow Christ together.

Welcoming Our Community

God calls us to share His love beyond our walls. Creating warm, inviting spaces reflects the heart of Christ and extends hospitality to neighbors who seek connection, care, and hope.



➤➤ Phase 1: Roof and Windows Repair - \$120,000

This work protects the building envelope by replacing our flat roof (not the sloped, slate roof) and addressing window failure points. These repairs prevent leaks and preserve the spaces where worship, fellowship, and ministry take place. Caring for the facility in this way honors the legacy entrusted to us and strengthens the foundation for the ministry God is continuing to grow here.

➤➤ Phase 2: Sanctuary A/V and Lighting - \$200,000

Our current system is aging and at the point of needing full replacement. This project renews the heart of our worship life by updating sound clarity, projection, lighting, and livestream quality, while honoring the beauty of our historic building. These improvements enhance accessibility and support meaningful worship for every generation. This work reflects our commitment to creating a space where the church can hear the Word proclaimed clearly, worship together with joy, and warmly welcome all into our beautiful sanctuary.

➤➤ Phase 3: Children's Ministry Spaces - \$20,000

Refreshing our children's classrooms and nursery with new flooring, lighting, paint, furnishings, updated toys and equipment, and a dedicated Mother's Room creates a warm and welcoming environment for families. These updates communicate care, safety, and belonging to the youngest among us and reflect our commitment to nurturing the next generation in their faith.

➤➤ Phase 4: Pickleball and Beautification - \$100,000

This project converts our worn and unutilized volleyball court into a welcoming outdoor space featuring two pickleball courts and a landscaped gathering area. Revitalizing this part of our property strengthens our visibility, improves our grounds, and helps us embrace our place in the neighborhood. These updates extend hospitality, create natural opportunities for connection, and provide a beautiful space where neighbors and friends can gather, play, and experience the warmth of our church family.

➤➤ Spiritual and Missional Commitments - \$20,000

As part of Forward in Faith, we are also committing to outward mission and congregational spiritual renewal. Increased generosity through this campaign allows us to make missional giving a greater priority. A designated gift to Love Chapel enables us to share Christ's compassion with our community in a tangible way, supporting neighbors who face real needs. In addition, a churchwide retreat in April 2026 will give our congregation time to worship, rest, have fun, pray, and grow together during this important season. These commitments remind us that the heart of this campaign is not only about our building, but about the people God is forming and the mission we are called to share.

Campaign Principles

- We will complete all projects debt-free, moving forward in phases as funding allows.
- Every gift matters, and we will continue to pursue creative funding sources such as grants and partnerships to support this work.
- We will maintain an "As the Lord Provides" list, adding additional ministry projects and opportunities as God supplies the resources.
- We will seek God's leading through prayer as we step forward in faith together.

Total Campaign Goal - \$460,000

Through God's provision, we are grateful to share that \$130,000 is already committed toward our \$460,000 goal. This entire amount comes through the Sacred Places Indiana Grant and seed money from our General Fund, giving us a strong and hopeful foundation as we begin this journey. As our congregation steps forward in generosity, we look forward to bringing these projects to life and, with above-and-beyond giving, expanding our impact even further. More information about pledges will be shared soon. For now, we invite you to join us in prayer as we move forward in faith.

Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

Dec. 7th: Lyman & Corbie Snyder
Dec. 14th: Ron & Peggy Lane
Dec. 21st: Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed
Dec. 28th: Bob & Jean Langdon

Emergency Responder Schedule

Dec. 7th: Mike Compton
Dec. 14th: Judy Rhude
Dec. 21st: Cole Bennett
Dec. 28th: Jean Williams

Thank You

Thank you for the many years of loving support and care your church family has given Joyce West Sutton and Vena Tatem West. -Extended Tatem Family

Thank You: Proceeds from food sold at the Christmas Market raised \$630 for Love Chapel. Thanks for the donations of money and goodies for the support of Love Chapel.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thanks to all who purchased items and filled 94 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year, and thanks to Liz Lipson's promotion of it. Children will open them, experience joy, and receive an age-appropriate gospel message in their language. Only eternity will reveal the results of this worthwhile project of Samaritan's Purse.

LOVE CHAPEL OFFERING: Coming for the month of January is our annual offering for Love Chapel's food pantry. The entire offering will purchase food items that are most needed. More information to come in January's newsletter.

Wednesday Night Dinner & Bible Study

Join us every Wednesday evening for a meal at 5:00 pm followed by Bible study and choir. There will be a free-will donation taken every evening to offset the cost of the meal. (No meal or Bible study on November 26th.)

Dec. 3rd: chili, cornbread and salad bar

Dec. 10th: taco bar and salad bar

Dec. 17th: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and salad bar

Join us starting at 5:00pm for a great meal each week. Even if you are running late, the meal will be waiting for you!

Communion

We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, December 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

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3. ~ Robert Roney | 25. ~ Dortha Anderson, Larry Mayfield |
| 7. ~ Evan Babb | 26. ~ Larry Carter |
| 12. ~ Jane Riley | 28. ~ Roger Glick |
| 16. ~ Aubree Adams | 29. ~ Beth Caldwell, John Lipson |
| 20. ~ Charlotte Oestreicher | 30. ~ Pat Evans, Sam Snider, Adele Cordes,
Betty Lynn Hogan |
| 22. ~ Iris Huysentruyt | 31. ~ Mike Compton |
| 23. ~ Carla Williams | |

The Body of Christ Prays For...

The family of Sandi Lovelace, the family of Joyce Sutton, Donna Moore, Janet Bailey, Dorothy Abney, Susan Carter, Tim Pickup, Priscilla & Roger Day, Bobbie & John Walker, Daryl & Dot McMath, 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 December

- 7- Blue Christmas @ Commons (6:30 PM)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 16- Council Meeting (5:30 PM)
- 24-26 - Office Closed for Christmas

Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Prayer Group: Weds. at 12:30 pm in Prayer Room
- Wed. Meal & Bible Study: @ 5:00-6:45 pm.
- 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

FBC Apparel Store: We have an online store with FBC apparel, etc. for any who want to order. Here is [the link](#).

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

