



From the Pastor's Pen

February often feels like a quieter month. The rush of the holidays is behind us, the new year has begun to settle in, and winter still has a firm grip on our part of the world. It is a season that invites patience, reminds us that not all growth is loud or fast. Some of the most important work God does happens beneath the surface, often in ways we do not fully see yet. In many ways, that feels like a fitting way to describe this season in the life of our church.

One of our recent joys has been sharing the news that we have hired Hannah Eberts as our new part-time Worship Director. This has been a long and prayerful journey, and I truly believe God has been faithful every step of the way. Hannah brings a great blend of musical skill, kindness, and spiritual maturity that will be a blessing to us all. She has a deep love for worship in all its forms, from hymns and choral music to contemporary praise. I am excited for how she will honor the rich musical heritage of First Baptist while also helping us grow into the future God is shaping for us. In her full-time work, Hannah serves as the Assistant Director at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp, where she has been on staff for more than a decade. She and her daughter, Evelyn, live just outside of Westport, and we are so glad they are becoming part of our church family.

I am also deeply grateful that Lois Griffith will continue serving as our Choir Director for the foreseeable future. Lois has been a steady, faithful presence in the life of our church, and her continued leadership will provide both continuity and care during this transition. It also gives Hannah the gift of time to learn the heart of our choir before eventually stepping into that role herself. All of this is something to celebrate, and I am thankful for both of these women and the ways they are serving God through music among us. *(You can view the full announcement in the next few pages.)*

Another place where God's faithfulness has been so clearly visible is through our *Forward in Faith* capital campaign. Since sharing the vision of this campaign, more than \$100,000 has already been pledged or given. That is a remarkable testimony to the generosity, trust, and shared love for this church that lives among us. This campaign is not simply about roofs, windows, technology, or buildings. It is about stewarding the spaces where ministry happens. It is about caring for what God has entrusted to us so that future generations can worship, learn, and serve in this place.

If you have not yet had a chance to hear the message where I shared the full vision for *Forward in Faith*, I encourage you to take a few moments to watch it [HERE](#). You can also learn more about the capital campaign by visiting www.firstbaptistcolumbus.org/forward. Wherever you are in the process, thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your willingness to walk this road together.

As I look at all of this, I am reminded of the quiet ways God so often works. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). God is not in a hurry, but He is steady and faithful, showing up day after day to guide and sustain His people. My prayer this month is that we would notice His faithfulness in the ordinary, trust Him with what we can see and what we cannot yet see, and continue walking forward together in confidence that He is at work among us.

With Love,

Pastor Evan

There's something about the interruption of snow that changes everything. Roads empty. Schedules open up. The usual rush of life is replaced with forced quiet. Schools close, meetings are postponed, and suddenly we find ourselves doing something we rarely do, waiting. For 2 ½ days, Leah and I were at home, playing games, taking down Christmas decorations, working puzzles, watching tv, and spending quality time together. Snow slows us down whether we like it or not. What if, in those moments, God isn't trying to inconvenience us, what if He's inviting us to rest?

We live in a culture that celebrates busyness. Full calendars are worn like badges of honor. Productivity is praised, while stillness often feels unproductive or even uncomfortable. Yet God consistently calls His people to slow down. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) isn't just pretty, poetic language, it should be a way of life. Snow can create space for stillness.

When the world quiets, we're reminded that we are not in control, God is. God didn't ask for my permission to send the snow; He simply let it fall. In the same way, God sometimes presses pause on our lives so that we can lift our eyes back to Him. Not because we've failed, but because we've forgotten how to rest.

Slowing down allows us to notice what we usually miss, the beauty of God's creation, the laughter of children, the warmth of our home, the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit, the quiet whisper of the Lord. Slowing down strips away distractions and invites us to listen. And the beautiful truth is, God does some of His best work when we slow down. Rest is not wasted time; it can be a sacred space. It's where our souls are restored, our priorities can be realigned, and our trust in Him is deepened. Just as snow blankets the ground and prepares it for what comes next, seasons of slowing down prepare our hearts for what God wants to grow in us.

So, the next time snow falls, or your life is interrupted by some unforeseen disruption and your plans change, resist the urge to rush or complain. Instead, receive it as a gift. Take a breath. Say a prayer. Sit in the quiet. Maybe, just maybe, God is using it as an opportunity to remind us that slowing down is not falling behind, it's walking in step with Him.

Pastor Tyler

Around The Church ...

Welcome Hannah Eberts!

On behalf of the Church Council, I am delighted to share some wonderful news: *We have hired Hannah Eberts as our new part-time Worship Director at First Baptist Columbus.*

This search and interview process has been underway for more than a year, and we are deeply grateful for how God has faithfully led us to this moment. We truly believe Hannah is an answer to prayer. Many of you may already recognize her from when she led worship on December 28, as well as from her presence in worship in recent weeks.



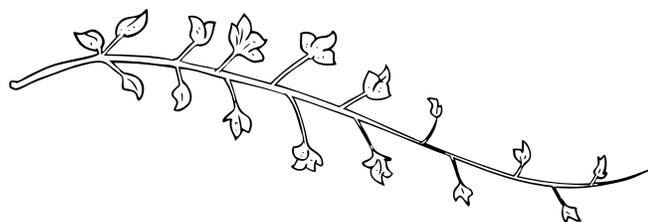
Worship Director

Hannah currently serves as the Assistant Director at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp, where she has been on staff since 2014. She will continue in that role while also serving here at First Baptist. Hannah and her daughter, Evelyn, live just outside of Westport.

Hannah brings a wide range of musical gifts, including strong vocal leadership and skill on guitar, piano, and flute. She also brings a deep love for many styles of worship, from classic hymns and choral arrangements to contemporary praise. We are excited for how she will honor First Baptist's rich worship heritage while also helping us step confidently into the future. We are also grateful that Lois Griffith will continue serving as our Choir Director for the foreseeable future.

This will allow Hannah time to participate in and learn the heart of our choir before eventually stepping into that role as well. Hannah's first Sunday leading worship will be February 8. Please join me in welcoming Hannah and Evelyn with warm hearts and open arms as they become part of the First Baptist family.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Evan Guse



Around The Church ...

Scholarships Available

The First Baptist Church Foundation is accepting applications between now and April 1st for two different 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, 2025 to be considered. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

Scholarships For American Baptist Women's Ministries (IN/KY)

- Deadline: February 15, 2026.
- What it covers: Books, tuition, room, and board for undergraduates in American Baptist Churches in Indiana/Kentucky.
- You must have one letter of recommendation from a non-family member.
- You must get your school to send a copy of your most recent transcript.
- The scholarship has several important parts that all need to be turned in by February 15th. Please read the entire application carefully.
- Every blank on the application MUST be filled in.
- Where to find info: There is a new form every year. It is available at www.abc-indiana.org.



Mark your calendar for screening to be held on Monday, March 9th 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.)

To schedule your appt, call 1-800-640-6307, visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC, or scan the QR Code to the right.



Around The Church ...

Marriage Retreat at SBYCamp

Song of Solomon 3:4

I have found the one whom my soul loves

Step away from the noise of everyday life and invest in your marriage. This weekend retreat offers space to rest, reconnect, and rediscover the joy of God's design for marriage- just married couples! (don't bring the kiddos to this one)

When: Two Options:

Feb 13-14 5pm-4pm - \$150 per couple

Feb 12-14 5pm-4pm - \$225 per couple (only \$75 to add another full day!)



Scan the QR Code to register or get more info. This event is sponsored by the Southeast Baptist Camp.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas decorations this year, both the putting up and the taking down. Also thank you to our strong guys for doing the heavy lifting. -The Ladies of the Flowers

Dear Friends,

Thank you to my First Baptist family for the visits, cards, calls, prayers & goodies while I was rehabbing after my latest fall. I appreciate all of you! I will be watching on-line for a few months and hope to be back in church soon.

-Donna Moore

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, kind acts and thoughts, cards, and notes. *Psalm 143:8*

In Christian Love, -Ramona Harlow

Join Us!

If anyone would like to join us on the flower team please let me know. All are welcome.

-Deanna Glick

For the Love of Brunch

Join us every 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:45 am, the ladies will be getting together for brunch! For February, it will be Thursday the 19th. The restaurant is located at 1606 Central Ave. Let Dortha know you are coming. 812-341-7811. Join us!

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

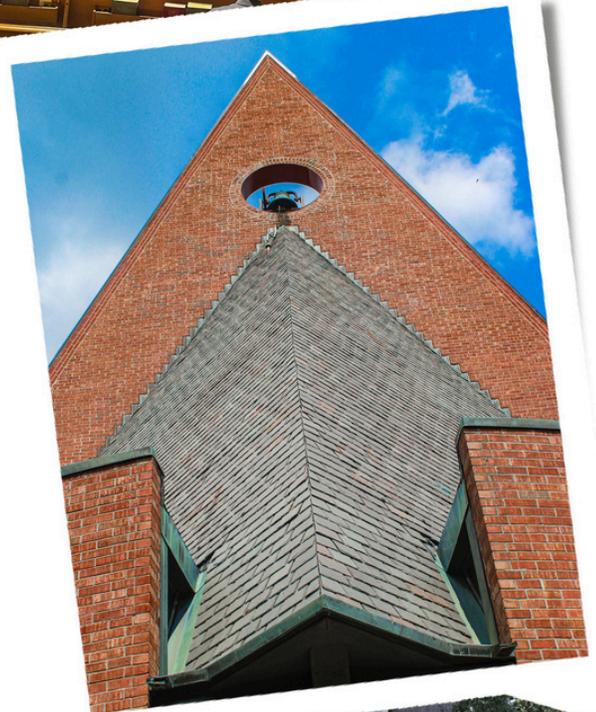
God has been faithful through every generation of our church. Caring for our shared life honors the legacy we have received and strengthens the foundation for the ministry ahead.

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 as of early December, over \$150,000 is already committed toward our \$460,000 goal. This amount comes in large part 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. For questions or for further information, please contact the Church Office or visit www.firstbaptistcolumbus.org/forward.

First Baptist Church

Pastoral Care Team

Feb. 1st: Lyman & Corbie Snyder
Feb. 8th: Ron & Peggy Lane
Feb. 15th: Dortha Anderson & Mandy Reed
Feb. 22nd: Heidi Jones & Stephanie Olson

Emergency Responder Schedule

Feb. 1st: Judy Rhude
Feb. 8th: Cole Bennett
Feb. 15th: Jean Williams
Feb. 22nd: Lindsay McIntosh

New to First Baptist?



Info Session on February 8th
(Immediately following service)

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.

Mark Your Calendar for Trivia Night!

Save the date of Friday, March 6th at 6:30 pm for Trivia Night. Sign up at the welcome desk if attending and also if you would like to bring snacks. Plan to bring a friend and join us!

Welcome Little One!



Kira Sue King is here!
Born to proud parents
Kenny & Jessica King
and sister Kalena.

Kira was born on
January 17th and
weighed 7 lb 4.9 oz.

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, February 1st. 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. ~ Dick Miller, Eliza Fee
3. ~ Jeff Seeley, Oliver Adams, Jan Carlstrom
5. ~ John McKay
10. ~ Cecil Workman
12. ~ Larry Alexander, Barry Ferrill
13. ~ Sharon Semer
15. ~ Bill Baker
17. ~ Chris Nelson
18. ~ Stephanie Olson
21. ~ Peggy Lane, Anita Yancey, Stephanie Adams
22. ~ Jan Reed
23. ~ Deb Lilly
25. ~ Cliff Frady
27. ~ Shorty Whittington
29. ~ Sharon Downin

The Body of Christ Prays For...

Sue Hoffman, Rollin Strode, Mandy Reed, Bill Griffith, 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 February

- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 17- Council Meeting (5:30 PM)
- 24- Abigail Circle (6:30 PM)

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

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

