



From the Pastor's Pen

As we begin to walk through Lent together, we are invited to slow our pace just enough to notice what God is doing beneath the surface of our lives. Lent calls us to humility, to repentance, and to renewed trust in the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ who meets us right where we are. In many ways, that feels like a fitting description of this season in the life of our church.

I want to begin by simply saying “Thank you.” Your generosity, your prayers, and your willingness to step forward together have been a powerful witness to God’s faithfulness among us. Through our Forward in Faith campaign, nearly \$150,000 has already been given, with more than \$160,000 pledged and still to come, including the Sacred Places Indiana grant. That brings us to an incredible place of progress toward our \$460,000 goal. These numbers are not just statistics, but signs of a church family trusting God’s leading and investing in the future of ministry at First Baptist.

While we have not set a traditional “Commitment Sunday,” we do want to encourage you to prayerfully consider making your pledge or communicating your intended gift by March 31, 2026. Gifts can be fulfilled through the end of the year, whether monthly, quarterly, or in another way that works best for you. This simply helps us plan wisely as we begin taking the next faithful steps together.

One of the things I love most about this campaign is the spirit of creativity and sacrifice I am already seeing. Recently, First Baptist gained the ability to accept vehicle donations as a way of giving toward the church. Emma and I were grateful to be the first to participate by donating an unused vehicle. Through our nonprofit partner, the vehicle will be sold and the proceeds will directly support the work ahead. It is just one example of how generosity can take many forms, and I am continually inspired by the ways you are responding to God’s invitation.

God is doing beautiful things in the life of our church right now. On February 22, we had 15 children in worship and more in the nursery, a joyful reminder that the next generation is not just the future of the church, but a vibrant part of who we are today. We also celebrated an incredible outpouring of compassion through our Love Chapel special offering, with gifts exceeding \$13,300. Pastor Tyler and I were more than happy to take pies to the face to celebrate your generosity. And yes, I survived wearing an IU hat (and tutu), although my head still burns a little.

It has also been a true blessing to officially welcome Hannah as our new Worship Director. Already, we are seeing pieces begin to fall into place in meaningful ways, and I am grateful for how God continues to shape our worship life through faithful servants.

As we journey deeper into Lent, I want to invite you to consider how humility shapes our response to God. Jesus did not come in power or spectacle, but in compassion, mercy, and grace. He came to redeem, to forgive, and to call us into everlasting life. When we humble ourselves before the Lord, we rediscover what it means to live with open hands and trusting hearts.

At First Baptist, we often say that Jesus changes everything. I believe we are seeing that truth unfold right now, not only in big moments, but in the quiet faithfulness of a congregation choosing to walk forward together. Thank you for being part of this story. Thank you for your love for Christ, for one another, and for the mission God has entrusted to us.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Evan



FBC News

As I began writing this, I realized that a year ago today (February 23rd) Leah and I were having our candidate weekend here at First Baptist and I preached my first sermon from the pulpit. It is hard to believe that it's already been a year! It has been a true blessing for Leah and I getting to know each of you and for being so welcomed into the FBC family. It has been a great year of fun, fellowship and spiritual growth.

I also want to share that as I am writing this, I think I can still smell a hint of whipped cream, even though I have washed my face and hair several times since Coffee Fellowship on Sunday! Your love for our community is evident by your generosity, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to be one of your pastors. Evan and I would happily take pies in the face and even wear a tutu for such a worthy cause! Thank you for supporting our annual FISH offering for Love Chapel.

I want to thank all of those who have participated in our Wednesday evening Bible study, Epic of Eden. I hope that it has deepened your understanding of the Old Testament and of God's character and His love for you. I especially want to thank those who provided our meals and desserts each week; you kept us well fed! Thank you! As that study comes to a close, Men of Faith has begun an 8-week study on the Names of God. Taking a deeper look into the meaning of God's names and what they meant for God's people then and what they mean for us today.

I hope you are getting your teams assembled for Trivia night on March 6th! Chris Kallal from SBYCamp will be our host, and it will be a great night of fun. Bring your favorite snacks to share! If you don't have a team, that's okay too! Come that evening and we will team up everyone who doesn't already have a team assembled. It will be all kinds of trivia, so study up on your obscure knowledge and fun facts!

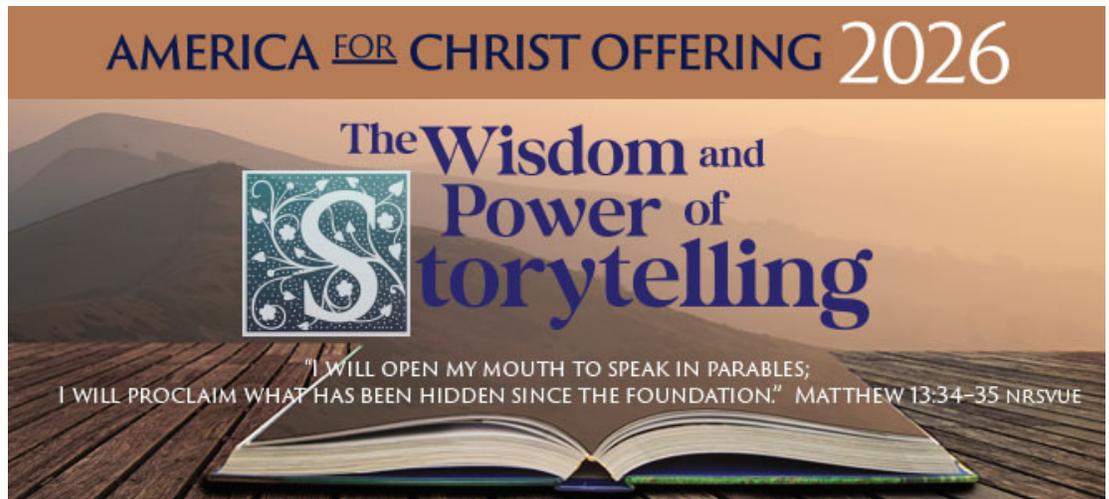
It's never too early to be thinking about summer camp! Registration is open and you can get your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews signed up today! I will have the privilege of serving as the Summer Camp Pastor for SBYCamp again this year, so your kids will have a familiar face with them. You can register online at sbycamp.com.

It is a great joy to serve as one of your pastors. I pray God's Most Gracious Blessings for you and your family over the next month,

Pastor Tyler

Around The Church ...

During the month of March we will be collecting for the America For Christ Offering. Please mark your offering envelopes accordingly.



Men of Faith will be doing the study: "The Names of God" (Thurs. at 9:00 am)



Easter Lilies

We will begin sign ups on March 8th for any who want to purchase a lily to commemorate a loved one. Cost is \$10. The deadline is March 29th. Flowers can then be taken home to enjoy after Easter service.

February 19: Yahweh- The God Who Is (Exodus 3:7-15)
February 26: Elohim- The Creator God (Genesis 1:1-5)
March 5: El Shaddai- The Almighty God (Genesis 17:1-4)
March 12: El Roi- The God Who Sees (Genesis 16:7-13)
March 19 (SPRING BREAK- NO STUDY)
March 26: Jehovah Shammah- The God Who is Present (Ezekiel 48:30-35)
April 2: Jehovah Rapha- The God Who Heals (Exodus 15:22-27)
April 9: Jehovah Mekoddishkem- The God Who Sanctifies (Exodus 31:12-17)
April 16: Abba- Father God (Mark 14:32-38)

Directory Update

We are again updating our directory and need any updated information or changes to address, phone, or email by March 29th. Please submit any changes to secretary@fbccolumbus, or by phone at 812-376-3321.

Ladies LIGHT will begin a Lenten Study (3 week study)

Women's LIGHT Bible Study: will begin a Lenten study on Thursday, March 12, 19, & 26 at 9:00 am. Join us! There will be no Bible study on Holy week (March 29-April 5).

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.



Lifeline will be here for screening on Monday, March 9th in Fellowship Hall.

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



CarePortal

We are excited to announce that First Baptist will be partnering with CarePortal! CarePortal is an organization that partners with our local Bartholomew County DCS (Department of Child Services) to provide resources for children in foster care and families at risk who are working with DCS.

If you would like to be involved in this ministry, or would like to know more about it, plan to stay for a short informational meeting following morning Worship on Sunday, March 1st.



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
- Walkers
- Bedside Commodes
- Canes
- Elevated Commode Seats
- Four Quad Canes
- Rollator Walker
- Crutches
- Suction Handles for shower wall
- Wheel Chairs

Please contact the church office or call Judy Rhude (812-764-9175) if any of this equipment is needed.

Around The Church ...

FISH Offering Challenge!

Our Pastors challenged the congregation to raise \$10,000 for the Love Chapel FISH Offering during the month of January and that goal was exceeded!

A total of \$13,336.04 was collected! Thank you to all who made this possible.



SBYC 2026 CALENDAR

WINTER/SPRING

REGISTRATION OPENS: JANUARY 1

MARRIAGE RETREAT: FEBRUARY 12-14

LADIES RETREAT: MARCH 13-14

FUSE: APRIL 19

CABIN LEADER TRAINING: MAY 8 & 11

DONATION OPEN HOUSE: MAY 31

SUMMER CAMPS

STAFF TRAINING: MAY 26-JUNE 6

JUNIOR CAMP: JUN 7-12

TEEN CAMP: JUNE 14-19

CAMP GOOD NEWS: JUNE 21-24

JR/SR CAMP: JULY 12-17

PRIMARY CAMP: JULY 19-22

FAMILY CAMP: SEPTEMBER 4-7

FALL/WINTER

FUSE: SEPTEMBER 20

BETHLEHEM LIGHTS: DEC 4, 5, 11, & 12

SNOW JAM WINTER CAMP: JAN 29-31, 2027



 SCAN ME

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

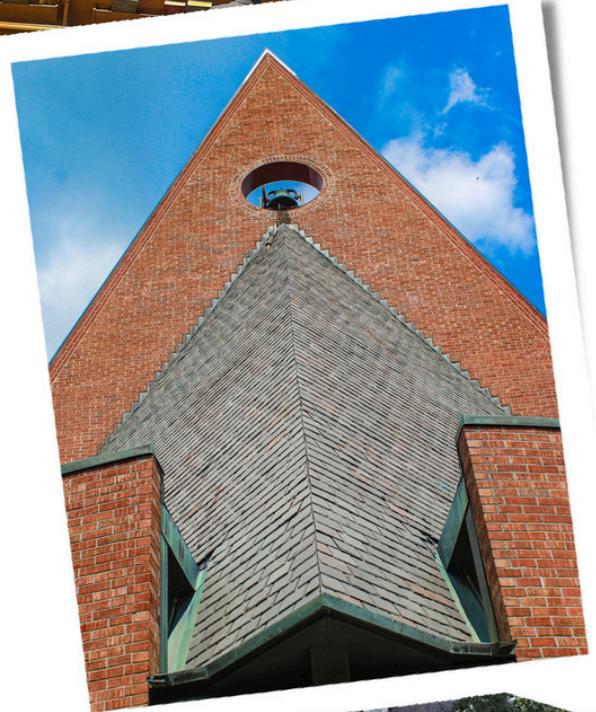
God has been faithful through every generation of our church. Caring for our shared life honors the legacy we have received and strengthens the foundation for the ministry ahead.

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 COLUMBUS

SPRING CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

APRIL 10-12, 2026

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST YOUTH CAMP

3127 W. COUNTY ROAD 800 S., GREENSBURG, IN 47240

SUNDAY WORSHIP WILL BE HELD ONLY AT THE CAMP ON APRIL 12

ALL MEALS AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE PROVIDED AT NO COST.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED SO WE CAN PREPARE WELL FOR EVERYONE.



Register by picking up a form at the Welcome Desk or by clicking [HERE](#).

Donate Your Vehicle to First Baptist Church

Contact the Church Office for more information



First Baptist Church

Pastoral Care Team

Mar. 1st: Bob & Jean Langdon
Mar. 8th: Linda & Jim Reid
Mar. 15th: Paula & Tim Pickup
Mar. 22nd: Kerry & Alice Richmond
Mar. 29th: Lyman & Corbie Snyder

Emergency Responder Schedule

Mar. 1st: Judy Rhude
Mar. 8th: Jean Williams
Mar. 15th: Cole Bennett
Mar. 22nd: Lindsay McIntosh
Mar. 29th: Judy Rhude

Baby Dedication



Jad Eden Greycen Noel was dedicated to the Lord here at FBC on Sunday, February 8th with parents Jerto & Myriata and brothers Marc and Rashad.

Wednesday Meal & Bible Study

The last session of the current study will be Wednesday, March 4th. The meal will begin at 5:00 pm. The next study will begin on April 8th. More info at a later date.

For the Love of Brunch

Join us every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:00 am, the ladies will be getting together for brunch! For March, 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!

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, March 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

March Birthdays

1. ~ Carolyn Pool
2. ~ Dan Cash
7. ~ Marsha Daugherty
11. ~ Marcia Battle
14. ~ Anita Burton, Elyse Snider
15. ~ Thomas Vickers
16. ~ Donita Compton, Heidi Jones, Bryce Olson
18. ~ Gretchen Seeley
19. ~ Mike Riley
20. ~ Paulette McClintock
21. ~ Becky Stephens
22. ~ Ron Brondyke
25. ~ Amanda Reed
27. ~ Paula Pickup
29. ~ Donna Tull
30. ~ Judy Alexander, Carolyn McIntire

The Body of Christ Prays For...

Carol Burton, 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 March

- 1- Care Portal Meeting (following worship)
- 6- Trivia Night (6:00 PM)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 17- Council Meeting (5:30 PM)
- 19- Ladies For the Love of Brunch (11:00 AM)
- 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



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JOIN OUR Family OF FAITH