



FIRST BAPTIST
COLUMBUS
JOIN OUR *Family* OF FAITH

Rev. Evan Guse, Senior Pastor
Tyler Griffin, Associate Pastor
Hannah Eberts, Worship Director

From the Senior Pastor's Pen

What actually makes a church healthy?

It's an interesting question because many of us instinctively answer it with things we can measure. Attendance. Giving. Programs. Buildings. Music. Children's ministry. The list could go on.

Those things matter as they tell us something. But they don't tell us everything.

As we've spent the summer walking through the book of Acts, I've been struck by how Luke measures the life of the early church. He certainly records numbers from time to time, but he seems much more interested in something else. He keeps pointing us back to Jesus; not to ask whether the church is getting bigger, but whether God's people are becoming more faithful.

Are they devoted to Him?

Are they open to the work of the Holy Spirit?

Do they share life together?

Do they love generously?

Are they willing to obey, even when obedience is uncomfortable?

Those aren't always easy things to quantify, but they may be the things that matter most.

As I look around First Baptist, I'm grateful because I see many of those things taking place. I see people quietly serving behind the scenes. I see meals delivered, prayers offered, generosity shared, children welcomed, and people continuing to show up for one another with love and care. I suspect these are exactly the kinds of things Luke would notice if he were observing our church today.

The sanctuary renovation has reminded me of something, too. I'm excited to worship back in that space, and I believe it will serve us well for years to come. But if the past few weeks have taught us anything, it's that the church was never the room. We've gathered around folding chairs, portable sound equipment, and familiar faces, and Christ has met us there just as faithfully.

Buildings matter. They help us carry out ministry well. But they are never the center. Jesus is.

As we move toward the fall, my prayer isn't simply that our calendar fills back up. My prayer is that we continue becoming the kind of church we encounter in Acts. Not perfect people, but ordinary people learning to follow an extraordinary Savior together.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Evan



FBC News

As July is coming to a close, I am reflecting on my time serving at camp this summer and all the fun, exciting things the kids were able to participate in each week. It was a privilege to serve this summer as the camp pastor and share with over 500 campers Christ's love. Leah made over 1,600 fizzy drinks, there were 100's of games and activities, tons of great meals, and 5 weeks of camp. However, my favorite number of all, we had at least 34 decisions for Christ this summer! Praise the Lord! With countless other seeds planted, watered, and nurtured. God is good!

I'm so excited about things happening around here at the church building! Our Forward in Faith Campaign has been moving right along with the roof replacement, and now the work in the sanctuary. It is coming right along. The new lighting and sound will be a wonderful upgrade once it is all finished and fine-tuned. I know First Baptist has a great history of quality when it comes to this work type of work and we are building upon that firm foundation.

It's hard to believe that summer break is coming to a close and school is getting ready to start back up! With school starting back up, I'm excited to share that this year we will be having a "Backpack Blessing" on Sunday, August 2nd, during morning worship. We are asking that all of our students, teachers and school staff bring their backpacks or school bags to service with them that morning. During the service, we will pray a special blessing over them as they begin the 2026/2027 school year.

On that same note, we will again this year be passing out lemonade and cookies for Richard's Open House on Monday, August 3rd from 5-7pm. This year, they have also asked if we could do this for a Sensory Open House from 1:15-2:15pm. This is for students with special sensory needs. If you are able to help with either of these or both, be sure to sign up at the welcome desk in The Gathering Place. If you're unable to help in that way but want to still be involved, we still need LOTS of cookies! You can sign up to bring cookies as well. However you can serve, it is appreciated!

Whether it's a warm smile, a glass of lemonade, a prayer, a simple "hello" or a homemade cookie. These may seem like small, insignificant gestures or another "service project" to us. Perhaps to a family who is new to the neighborhood, a child who is scared about starting school again this year, a mom who worked all day and is struggling- these small, insignificant gestures could make a stressful, worrisome night, just a little bit better. It is truly a blessing to be able to serve alongside you in ministry. Praying God's Most Gracious Blessings,

Pastor Tyler

Around The Church ...



Begin collecting now for your shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

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. *Boxes are available in the Gathering Place.*



Church World Service Offering in September

Instead of collecting the individual kits (hygiene kits, period packs, and school kits) for Church World Service throughout the year, we will designate September for a special offering and we will send the donations directly to them so that they can purchase whatever kits are needed. This will also save on expensive shipping. Thank you in advance for giving!

Richards Open House Hospitality Tables

Once again our church family will be providing cookies and lemonade for the Richards Elementary School's open house on *Monday, August 3rd from 5-7 pm*. To make this a success this takes a lot of people and lots and lots of cookies.

There are many opportunities to help out.

- If you are baking cookies please bring them to the church by 10 am on Monday.
- We will need volunteers at 10 am to package them in small paper snack bags.
- At 4:30 pm, we will need helpers to get our tents, tables, and trash cans taken over to the school and set up.
- We will need some help getting the lemonade made and transported.
- We will need people to help fill cups of lemonade and hand out cookies from 5-7 pm.
- We will need help with clean up afterwards.

If you have a FBC Logo shirt wear it and let folks know who we are and that we care about our community. Bring a lawn chair to sit when you can, and a smile. Sign up at the Gathering Place!

Volunteers Needed!

Our kids are growing, and we need you! If you have a heart for children and want to make a lasting difference, we'd love to have you join our Children's Church team. See Pastor Tyler for more information!

Around The Church ...

Join the Choir!

Beginning August 26th
from 7-8 PM

*All who love to sing
are invited. No special
skills required!*

Sunday Suppers

*Sign up in the
Gathering Place for
Sunday Suppers on
August 30th.*



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BACKPACK BLESSING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND



For all of our students:
Bring your backpacks to
Sunday worship!



For all of our teachers
and school staff:
Bring your school bags to
Sunday worship!

Join us for a special blessing during morning worship!



Around The Church ...

Attention All Women!

SAVE
THE DATE

**State
Woman's Day
is Sat. Oct. 10th
at FBC.**

Thank You

Dear FBC Family,
Thank you for your support since joining this amazing church family. I will greatly miss you all! I am adjusting well to Alabama and trying to get settled. Best wishes, Tammy Columbia

New Address Updates:

Tammy Columbia
3420 Rolling Meadow Drive
Foley, AL 36535

Ron & Peggy Lane
1901 Taylor Rd.
Columbus, IN 47203

Lyman Snyder (Temporary)
Compass Park Rapid Care, Rm 1144
690 Red Skeleton Circle
Franklin, IN 46131

FBC Library on Wheels

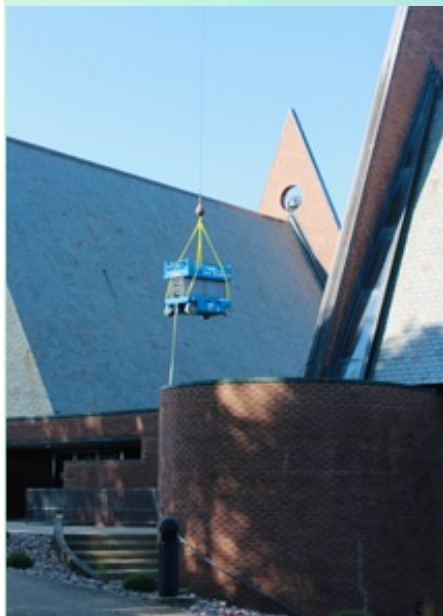
Beginning in August, a cart filled with library books will be available for check out each week in the Gathering Place.

There will also be a special section of children's books!

BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT!

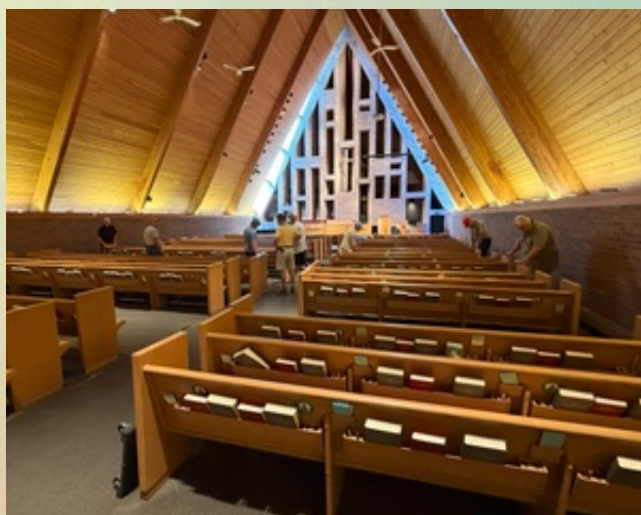


Around The Church ...



The progress we have made so far on the roof and sanctuary. Thank you for your support!


FORWARD
IN FAITH



First Baptist Church

Pastoral Care Team

Aug. 2nd: Dortha Anderson & Juanita Bush
Aug. 9th: Heidi Jones & Stephanie Olson
Aug. 16th: Bob & Jean Langdon
Aug. 23rd: Jim & Linda Reid
Aug. 30th: Paul & Carol Poe

Emergency Responder Schedule

Aug. 2nd: Judy Rhude
Aug. 9th: Mike Compton
Aug. 16th: Cole Bennett
Aug. 23rd: Jean Williams
Aug. 30th: Lindsay McIntosh

FBC Apparel Store

We have an online store with FBC t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, hats, and bags for any who want to order. Scan the QR code!



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.

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.

Save The Date!

Mark your 2027 calendar for our Church Retreat on May 14-16

Communion



We are tentatively rescheduling August Communion to Sunday, August 9th for hopefully our first week back in the sanctuary. 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

August Birthdays

1. ~ Ron Lane
3. ~ Anna DeHaven, Soozi Ford, Kerry Richmond
4. ~ Quincy Langenderfer
5. ~ Lori Cash
9. ~ Bob Langdon
- 10 ~ Debra Steele
13. ~ Alexandria Whittington
14. ~ Paige Babb, Tony Harden
16. ~ Forest Daugherty, Anna Emmert

- 18 ~ Ina Mae Aulby
19. ~ Nancy Wagner
21. ~ Barbara Campbell, Priscilla Day
Wanda Huffman
23. ~ Jim Bokleman
24. ~ Danny Burton
25. ~ Juanita Atkins
26. ~ Lyman Snyder
29. ~ Jennifer Kelley
31. ~ Dot McMath

The Body of Christ Prays For...

Lori Cash & Family, Dot McMath & Family, Carolyn Wright & Family, Julia Casey, Dennis Orwin, Harold Simpson, Lyman & Corbie Snyder, Forest & Marsha Daugherty, Carol Burton, Rollin Strode, Mandy Reed, Bill & Lois Griffith, Janet Bailey, Dorothy Abney, Susan Carter, Tim Pickup, Priscilla & Roger Day, Bobbie & John Walker, Jenny Wilkerson, John & Liz Lipson, Jon Carlstrom, Marge Betz, Anita Burton, Dick & Beth Miller, Ramona Harlow, Anita Yancey, Allen Rea, Larry Alexander, and Roger & Ben Glick and all persons who are homebound & in nursing centers.

Looking Ahead to August

- 3- Richards Open House (5-7 pm)
- 9- Communion (9:30 am)
- 15- Newsletter Deadline
- 18- Church Council (5:30 pm)
- 26- Coffee Fellowship I-Q (10:45 am)

Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
- Prayer Group: Weds. @ 12:30 pm in Prayer Room
- Choir Practice begins 8/26 @ 7:00 PM

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

