First Baptist Church BROADCASTER

"Our focus at First Baptist Church is to increase our commitment to Jesus Christ and introduce him to others."

January 2026

The staff of First Baptist Church would like to ***thank you*** for your generosity this Christmas and throughout the year. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from each of us to all of you!

On January 31st, Kit Ripley, an International Ministries Global Servant, will facilitate a mission immersion workshop at our church. The afternoon will include interactive games, poetry, and visual art, while giving us a taste of the kind of restorative work Kit is doing in Thailand. More information and a sign up will be available soon, as spots are limited.

Happy New Year!

You are invited to a special time of prayer on Wednesday, January 7th at 5:30pm. We will pray for each of the requests on our "Wrapping Things Up in Prayer" Christmas Tree that has been brightening the parlor since the Christmas Tree Festival last month. Stay to participate in Bible Study as we continue to take a closer look at book of Luke.

This is our church's QR Code. Use your QR reader in your phone's camera to scan this. The link will take you to our website where you'll find recordings of our services, the weekly bulletin, the opportunity to give to our Church and missions, and more.

MISSION SPOTLIGHT: United Mission

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
Serving as the hands and feet of Christ

As American Baptists, we share a deep dedication that God has called us to participate in Christ's mission of healing, reconciliation, and hope. Everyday, across our churches, regions, and ministry partners, we see the Holy Spirit at work, raising up leaders, strengthening congregations, opening new doors for witness, and touching lives in ways only God can accomplish. One of the key ways we live out this shared calling is through United Mission, the collective offering that makes it possible for us to serve more effectively together. United Mission giving supports the wider American Baptist family, with 65% of our gifts staying in our region. United Mission is our covenant expression of unity — an acknowledgement that God has woven us into a single family for the sake of Christ's work in the world. Every gift, large or small, becomes part of a shared testimony of faithfulness, one that empowers ministry from the local congregation to the broader mission field. You can participate by designating part of your offering to United Mission on your offering envelope. Thank you for your support of United Mission.

Church United Pantry (C.U.P.) Item for the month: Body Soap

Pastor's Article: The Doldrums

The Doldrums:

1) Sometimes referring to mid-ocean journey pauses of sailing ships where the wind has stopped, and there is a feeling that you might be trapped forever.

2) Financially, it is a period of extended plateau or decline, in which even breaking even is considered a success.

3) Seasonally it is a type of weather that never seems to end, continuous rain, or continuous drought, or particularly continuous cold and dark combined.

When I lived close to Lake Erie, winter was a month or more longer than other seasons. Snow lasted almost 5 months, spring and fall lasted 2.5 months, and summer around 3 months. The shoveling of snow and leafless trees seemed endless, and no one wanted to get up and about in the cold and dark. The dictionary points out that there is commonly a sadness or boredom listed as part of Doldrums. Some people link it to the post-holiday blues. (I am not referring to Seasonal Affective Disorder or Depression — if you have these, talk to a Doctor). The joy of Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Year suddenly gone and Mid January to Mid February can cause a little pessimism. Perhaps you were already calling yourself unsuccessful in your pledge to run every day, or lose 20 pounds or do devotionals every morning.

In Disney's "Moana 2" the sea faring hero named Moana and her crew were not having an easy trip finding the center of the ocean, and so Moana sings a catchy tune of motivation, trying to lift spirits ironically called, "What Could Be Better Than This!" (I recommend a YouTube video).

We often find ourselves in "Monday" or "Doldrum" circumstances. But, in even these circumstances we can praise the Lord. Because our faith is not based a feeling of constant bliss, it is based on the truth that God did not leave us in our predicament. God acted to save us through Jesus, Messiah, and Savior. We couldn't fix our sin or world, but we know that Jesus has made a way to be saved, that the time we live in is temporary, and a glorious future awaits. If you see someone in the need of a pick-me-up, say, aren't you glad God did not leave us this way?

A popular bible verse mentions how we "Can Do All Things". Have you ever read it in its full context? **Philippians 4:12-14,** New Living Translation *12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ,[a] who gives me strength. 14 Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.*

Paul has hope during difficulty, and appreciates companionship in this time, and relies on his faith and hope in Christ. We should follow his lead.

With Love: Rev. Andrew Shields – Senior Pastor

First Baptist Daycare and Preschool

Happy new Year!! I thank God that we are blessed to see another year. May this year be better than the last with more blessings to come. I made a new year resolution that I would become closer to God and not let my worries get to me; just pray and put it in God's hands and focus on myself and my kids. I hope everyone had a blessed and safe holiday. May God keep blessing you and your families, too. Happy New Year!!

- Ebony Watkins - Assistant Wobbler Teacher

January Birthdays:

1st - Miss Jackee - Lead Toddler 1 Teacher
13th - Miss Savannah - Floater
14th - Miss Sandra - Assistant Toddler Teacher
15th - Miss Karen - Kitchen Assistant/Substitute

January Workiverseries:

15th - Miss Candy - Assistant Director and Lead Infant Teacher - 23 years!

First Baptist Daycare & Preschool Teacher of the Month: Miss Savannah

Miss Savannah joined the First Baptist Daycare & Preschool team on September 17, 2025. She attended high school at Lima Senior High School. She majored in early Childhood Education and earned her CDA. Miss Savannah has been teaching for almost four years and is our Floater. She makes sure that our teachers receive much deserved breaks and fills in as necessary. She works well and demonstrates much patience with all ages of children! Miss Savannah does not have any children of her own or any fur babies. A few fun facts about Miss Savannah are that her favorite color is pink, her favorite treat is blue Laffy Taffy, and she also enjoys drinking Dr. Pepper.

General Fund Update

Giving in November exceeded budget by $6,225. Most of the "extra" giving reflects designated gifts to help offset maintenance expenses. **Thank You!**

Using actual, year to date expenses and income, we're roughly $1,733 negative through November though some of the plumbing invoices are still pending. Paying those invoices, using our carryover balance of $5,123 *and solid offerings in December,* should leave us very close to breakeven for the year.

Still, God continues to bless!

	October	November	YTD
***Giving:**	$20,751	$27,175	$225,449
Budget:	$20,950	$20,950	$230,450
Difference:	-$ 199	$ 6,225	-$ 5,001

*Giving includes Day Care reimbursements and is adjusted for prepaid offerings.

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