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

December 2025

\*\*\*ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER\*\*\* We will meet on Sunday, December 14th directly after the morning worship service. Please plan to attend.

Be sure to join us December 2nd at 6pm for the Hanging of the Greens. We will decorate sanctuary, narthex, the and fellowship hall for the Advent season. People of all ages and decorating abilities all are welcome! There will be cookies!



### O Come, Let Us Adore Him.

We hope you'll join us at 7:30pm December 24th for on our Christmas Eve Candlelight service with special music by the First Baptist Christmas Choir. The Deacons will host a fellowship hour following the service.

During worship on December 14th, we will have a special Children's Parable. We hope you'll be there and bring your kids to participate and help us learn more about the miracle of Christmas and God's greatest gift!

## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and it's always a good time to pray!

For the 53rd Annual Christmas Tree Festival, First Baptist is decorating a tree called "Wrapping Things Up in Prayer." Be sure to visit the Allen County Museum, December 3rd through 7th, to see the tree and contribute your prayer requests and praises. In the coming weeks, we will have a special prayer vigil to pray for each contribution. While you are at the Christmas Tree Festival, be on the lookout for trees decorated by First Baptist Daycare and Ruth Whitney Ministry.



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: Retired American Baptist Churches USA clergy and missionaries have dedicated themselves faithfully in worship, in service, and in mission. Gifts to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering 2025 (RMMO2025) are distributed to eligible retired clergy and missionaries - a

tangible expression of our enduring gratitude for their service. You can contribute by designating a RMMO donation on your offering envelope and by praying for the recipients. The RMMO2025 thanks you for your support.

Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Cor 16:14

Church United Pantry (C.U.P.) Item for the month: Toilet Paper

### Pastor's Article: Starting Shy Does Not Mean You Have to Stay that Way!

It is very common to be shy. But, when possible, we can learn to be bold. Bold for the gospel, bold to pray for others, bold to share the story of our salvation, bold in sharing the truth of God's Word, and bold in standing firm against those who follow the world, instead of following the Lord. Let me share some ways in which many are shy.

- **Too Shy to Sing:** No one is a professional singer with perfect pitch that I know, but that does not mean we cannot sing along to Christian Radio, or sing along at church, or teach a fun song to children or family members. How tragic if children and families know no Christian songs because their saved family members are too shy to sing. Learn to be bold, and ask for the Lord's help. (Isaiah 12:5)
- **Too Shy to Pray**: It might seem like there are professional praying people, but there are not. Praying is knowing who you are talking to and being in relationship with the Lord that you are speaking to. I do not expect anyone to be an expert, but it is such a blessing to hear a prayer from someone who seems to prays often. Lots of scriptures give us examples of prayer, but I encourage you to not use exclusively prewritten prayers. Pray with people, pray for people, pray in public, pray out loud. We can pray and be a blessing. We do not have to draw too much attention to ourselves. God loves to hear from us, the more often, the better. (Mark 11:24)
- Too Shy to Speak: Public Speaking is high on the list of things that make many people nervous. Often though the size of the crowd you are speaking to is only a few. Talking about Jesus, sharing your experiences of faith, and sharing what God has done for you are all wonderful things to speak about. Do your family members know your stories? Does your spouse? Practice on them, and then share with others. Sometimes it might be bible study, or small group, or Sunday school, or a family room gathering. I love to hear stories, and sometimes I love sharing stories. People won't know you, unless you let them hear you. (Esther 4:14, Exodus 4:12)
- **Too Shy to Stand Out**: Often it is intimidating to be different, but when we are born again, we are different. Some people don't want to cause a scene, but there are things that matter to Christians, and we can be in a position to stand up for what is right. You do not have to be mean when you stand out. When you stand up for what the bible teaches, you may find that you are not as alone as you think. Clearly, we pick our battles, but if you feel the Holy Spirit asking you to stand out, or stand firm, it is good to be obedient and be bold. (Luke 8:16, Matthew 5:16)

Whether it is a spiritual gift, or a natural trait, or a way you were raised, you can grow past shyness, and grow more and more capable. The church, and Lord, are willing to use you and your willingness to help share the gospel and be a light to a world in need of Jesus and a world that needs examples of boldness. Pray that God will use you and I am confident that this is exactly what will happen.

In Love, Rev. Andrew Shields

# First Baptist Daycare and Preschool

November was a month to be thankful for the things you have in your life. I am grateful for the opportunity to watch the babies that come into my classroom grow and learn new things. Each day presents new challenges to overcome and I always look to God to help guide me to make the best decisions for each child.

As the Christmas season draws closer: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Miss Julia Riepenhoff - Infant Assistant Teacher

December birthdays... Upcoming events...

7<sup>th</sup> - Miss Kassi - Director 3<sup>rd</sup> - Christmas Program @ 6:30p

19<sup>th</sup> - Mr. Caleb - PM Toddler Assistant 19<sup>th</sup> - Class Christmas Parties/ Gift Exchanges

29<sup>th</sup> - Miss Chloe - Substitute 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> - CLOSED Christmas Break

### First Baptist Daycare & Preschool Teacher of the Month: Miss Bali

Miss Bali joined our team on August 21, 2025. She attended high school in Isreal. Miss Bali has been teaching for one year and is the Assistant Teacher in our Pre-K 1 classroom. She works well with all ages of children, too! She enjoys playing video games, beading and watching Survivor in her free time. Miss Bali does not have any children of her own.



She does have a dog named Lily. Lily was adopted on Christmas Eve and is the first family pet. She is now 7 years old. Miss Bali comes from a family of four where she is the oldest. She has two younger brothers and one younger sister. Her brothers have special needs; which makes every day interesting for the family! A few fun facts about Miss Bali are that her favorite color is pink, her favorite treat is Peanut M&M's, and she enjoys drinking Caramel coffee.

### **General Fund Update**

Giving in September and October was very near the budgeted level though still running behind the budget year to date. Our *actual expenses* through October are close to budget. *Using actual, year to date expenses and income*, we're roughly \$9,093 negative through October. We do expect additional plumbing repair expenses in November but also expect to have additional designated giving to help offset most of those expenses. Using our carryover balance of \$5,123 and solid offerings in *November and December*, we should be close to breakeven for the year.

#### Still, God continues to bless!

Grateful V		September	October	YTD
to God	*Giving:	\$19,937	\$20,751	\$198,323
	<b>Budget:</b>	\$20,950	\$20,950	\$209,500
	Difference:	-\$ 1.013	-\$ 199	-\$ 11.1 <i>7</i> 7

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

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