First Baptist Church BROADCASTER

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

March 2026

Holy Week Schedule

3/29: Palm Sunday - Kids and Youth should plan to arrive early to wave palms during the worship service. The children of the church and their families are invited stay after worship for a Palm Sunday Ice Cream Sundae!

4/1: No Bible Study

4/2: Maundy Thursday - Dinner will begin at 5:30. The Christian Ed Board will provide chicken and you are asked to bring a side or dessert to share. A worship service including communion will follow in the sanctuary.

4/5: Easter - He is Risen! Easter breakfast will be provided beginning at 9am.

Please RSVP on the inserts in your bulletin or by calling the church office if you plan to attend any of the events.

We have our Core Values. We have our Mission Statement. We have our banners with a description of what we believe. Now we need to implement these things. Where is God leading First Baptist?

On March 21, Saturday from 11am to 2pm, First Baptist will host Rev. Mark Eaton, the Southeast Regional Minister of American Baptist Churches of Ohio. He will be helping us find our direction for 2026 and beyond. This is meant to be a positive, uplifting, and revealing time of discovery. We would like to have ALL ages and ALL people involved with our church family participate. Members, non-members, those on the fringes just interested – all are welcome. There will be a light lunch provided and child care provided. Please contact the office to RSVP for the event.

The First Baptist Daycare and Preschool invite you to attend their Spring Program on April 8th at 6:30pm. Come and see the joy and enthusiasm of our kids! Please bring cookies or another dessert to share.

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.

Pastor's Article: Hope - Even When Surrounded by Those With a Dystopian Outlook

There is a large component of literature and popular culture (including teen movies, sci-fi books, disaster blockbusters, and classic novels) that describe a future with significant differences from today. It could be teens with superpowers persecuted by the government "X-men Origins", it could be a zombie apocalypse "The Last Ship", a soon to be released environmental disaster scenario "Project Hail Mary", or even something classic like HG Wells' "War of the Worlds". They are sometimes called "Dystopian Futures", and may have a serious tone like Orwell's "1984", or a comedic feel like "Idiocracy". They describe what things would be like under these future scenarios. Some are written as warnings, some in response to a political or moral issue of the day, and some are based on technology, or magic, or strange "what if..." scenarios.

It is normal to wonder about the future, personally, and collectively. But we as Christians have a faith and a promise that guides more and knows more than those in the world. For many though, wonder turns to worry, and worry turns to anxiety, and then there are true struggles. This can affect us mentally, socially, and physically. If your outlook toward the future seemingly shows nothing positive up ahead, hold on to the promises of scripture. As Christians we are called to serve the Lord as long as we live, and when we die we find ourselves in the presence of the Lord in heaven. So the "to live is Christ, to die is gain" perspective taught by the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:21 makes all the difference. In the New Living Translation it reads, (Philippians 1:20b-23) "**And I trust that my life will bring honor Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I do not know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live**." In this perspective worry can be less prevalent and curiosity about the future has a context. When we live life with hope for today, and hope for tomorrow, and hope for the future, we live life trusting in Jesus in all circumstances. This is a simple thing to say, and to turn it into reality it takes focus. That is why we are called to be "keeping our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), and to "pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Smile, and keep up the good work, and share your faith with a friend.

Sincerely, Rev. Andrew Shields, Senior Pastor

If you've ever thought of joining our First Baptist Family, but aren't sure what is involved, talk to Pastor Andrew Shields and he will be more than happy to answer your questions. We would love to have you as a member!

This month's mission focus is the America for Christ (AFC) Offering. Each year American Baptists come together to sustain ministries that bring healing, hope, and transformation to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico. Through AFC, the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) are able to support a wide range of ministries, including faith-based innovation and community development, education and training for emerging and established church leaders, and discipleship and faith formation across generations. By working together through ABHMS, American Baptist Churches have been able to accomplish great things.

This year's AFC theme is "The Wisdom and Power of Storytelling." Throughout the gospels, Jesus taught his disciples through stories and parables and we continue this by sharing his teachings and our own testimonies. There are so many stories to be told of God's goodness and blessings that, as Pastor Andrew recently quoted, it wouldn't be enough even if "could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made." In coming weeks, we'll share some of these stories from ABHMS in the bulletin. Your support helps the American Baptist Home Mission Societies to strengthen the bonds between generations, empower faithful storytellers, nurture hope, and build bridges that carry God's truth and goodness into the future, so that many more will hear the stories of Jesus. You can help by praying for the America for Christ Offering and the mission of ABHMS, and by designating part of your offering toward this mission on your envelope.

A mission update from Samaritan's Purse: 12,205,900 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were collected in 2025. Thank you to everyone who contributed to that wonderful opportunity to share the Good News of Christ!

A mission update from the Lima Rescue Mission: in 2025, they provided 13,071 meals and 3,654 nights of shelter, which does not include an average of 15-20 men in transitional housing who are learning to budget monthly expenses with assistance of the Rescue Mission. After a successful summer, they are looking to expand their popular summer camp to include teenagers and have included teen programing in their after school schedule. Thank you for your support of this important ministry to our local community.

Church United Pantry (C.U.P.) focus for the month: Toothpaste and Individually Wrapped Toothbrush

January Financial Update

It was a typical January; semi-annual expense payments, adjustments for a new year and yes, a lost Sunday due to a snow day. That all makes the raw numbers look a bit gruesome; Receipts were $16,377, Expenses were $23,467 for a $7,090 deficit.

The rest of the story, however is that offerings on the first Sunday of February offset the "lost" snow day and that January Expenses included $5,000 for first half taxes and the purchase of two PC's, items that while budgeted, do skew the monthly numbers due to timing. All things considered, it was a good month.

God is Good and continues to bless!