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

November 2025

First Baptist Church Family Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you. 1 Thessalonians

On Sunday, November 16th, the Diaconate will host our annual Thanksgiving dinner after worship. Old Barn Out Back is catering the turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and rolls. Drinks will also be provided. Please RSVP by calling the church office and plan to bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to add to our feast!



Christmas Eve, the First Baptist Christmas Choir will be singing "Christmastime." Who is the Christmas Choir, you might be asking? YOU ARE! The melody is a blend of a catchy new song and a classic carol that will be easy to pick up. We will be singing with a recording that you will be able to practice with on your own, in between the two rehearsals we will be scheduling soon. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the church office.



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: Thanksgiving Gift Cards



This month the Diaconate will purchase gift cards for local families in need, including families of our Daycare kids and students of West Middle School. The goal this year is to donate twelve \$50 gift cards to help provide the families a Thanksgiving meal. You can help by donating to missions this month and designating your donation for the Thanksgiving gift cards and by praying for the recipients. Thank you for your support.

Church United Pantry (C.U.P.) Item: Shampoo and Conditioner

Pastor's Article: The Unexpected Teacher

There are many things that I have learned outside of my years of school. If you are at all like me, you too have learned from these "Teachers" of unexpected lessons. There are many events, circumstances, people, and more that we would never have expected that have, in retrospect, taught us a great deal (or maybe are currently teaching us). These unexpected lessons and the unexpected teachers can help us grow and mature.

Throughout the Bible we see words like: discipline, training, refining, sharpening, pruning, and shaping. These are not always pleasant circumstances, but are almost always necessary to change us, and our perspective, into being a "more like Christ" person. Growing often comes with growing pains. Training comes with soreness. Sharpening is a rough sort of polishing. Pruning requires loss of part of what we were. Discipline is often a sharp redirection to the correct way.

This could be the subject of a very long book, but let's stick to two very useful examples. Two unexpected teachers of unexpected lessons are an unexpected life event and an unexpected (and very opposite from us) "sibling."

1) Life Event: Consider a serious and perhaps life-changing event. For example, a tornado or hurricane that happens to you, and not far away. Today, as I write this, a category 5 hurricane is affecting the Caribbean, with huge storm surges, floods, rainfall, and landslides. If you were to barely avoid drowning in a flood or storm surge, and only had the tattered clothes on your back, and perhaps even lose a family member, you will have been taught several things. Perhaps, this could include that the appliances, furniture, and electronics of your home are of far secondary importance to the people you love, and even your pets. If you apply this to your future, you may have far different priorities in the following decades than you once did. This life event, or any number of unexpected life changing events, will definitely have taught you.

Lots of scriptures could show this to us. For example the sons of Noah, had a very life changing experience with the flood. Their surroundings, and their future were very different from what they would have been if they did not experience the flood. They went from being the odd ones out, to caring for, and being roommates with, a collection of odd animals, to later becoming the patriarchs of history. Read about them from Genesis 6-10.

2) An Opposite Sibling: Have you ever met someone who is SOOOO different from you that it seems to cause you untold annoyance? This may be a real sibling, who you definitely did not ask for, and who is either intentionally or unintentionally being different from you. But, you are with them, A LOT, and in time, you can grow used to them, and even value how they provide a different perspective, and successfully live out different priorities. This is also true for our brothers and sisters in Christ. You may think, how could another person in the church be so opposite as me? But, as you are with them, A LOT, you realize they bring very different gifts to the church than you do. They have been given different roles, and bring unique wisdom to the body of Christ that you could not. You can learn that the different body parts of the church are not to be rivals with each other, but each are there to do different tasks. Why expect an eye to act like an ear, or foot acts like a heart?

Romans 12:3-8 talks about the Gifts of Grace, and how to live humbly as a church body, and how differences among the members are both needed and intentional. Loving others who are busy doing what they are called to do, while simultaneously doing the work that we are gifted and called to do, helps us move seamlessly.

As you can tell, saying this is true and putting it into practice are two different things. It only takes a moment to say, but it will take you a lifetime to put this into practice.

First Baptist Daycare and Preschool

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philippians 2:13

God is certainly at work in our Daycare and Preschool! The school year is off to a great start. We recently opened another preschool room and are working with a new curriculum to make sure our kids are receiving the best education possible. The staff's goal is to help the children in their care develop to their fullest potential, not only socially, mentally, emotionally, and physically, but most importantly: spiritually. Please pray for the Daycare staff, students, director, and board that we would have the desire and power to do what is God's will for each of us. Thank you for your support of this mission of our church to our community.

- Laura Hawkins, chair of the Daycare Board

November birthdays...

29th - Miss Candy - Assistant Director; Lead Infant Teacher

November workversaries...

6th - Miss Michelle - Lead Pre-K - 1 Teacher - 25 years

Upcoming...

25th - Thanksgiving Feast @ 11a 26th - 28th - CLOSED - Fall Break



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General Fund Update

As shown below, giving in August and September was very near the budgeted level though still running about 6% less than the budget year to date. Our *actual expenses* through September are about 1.5% (\$2,814) under budget. *Using actual, year to date expenses and income*, we're roughly \$8,563 negative. Our \$5,123 carryover balance will cover about 60% of that shortfall. We still need a solid fourth quarter in both expenses and income to avoid dipping into our Memorial Funds to balance the year.

Still, God continues to bless!

		August	September	YTD
Grateful to God	*Giving :	\$22,277	\$19,937	\$177,173
	Budget:	<u>\$20,950</u>	<u>\$20,950</u>	<u>\$188,550</u>
	Difference:	\$ 1,327	- \$ 1,013	-\$ 11,377

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

LIMA, OHIO 45805

451 N. CABLE ROAD

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Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10am - 1pm

Sunday Worship Schedule

- ♦ 9:30 am Adult Bible Review
- ♦ 10:30 am Morning Worship
- **♦** After Children's Parable: B.L.A.S.T. (Not every class meets every week.)

Age 0-2 In Cuddle Cove

Age 2-4 in The Big Room

Age 5-10 in Class Room # 12

Age 11-14 in Youth Room

Wednesday Bible Study 6:15 pm

November 10 — John 20-21

November 11 — Acts 1-3

- ♦ Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall
- ♦ Youth and Kids meet in the Youth Room

November Birthdays

- Nov. 2 Susan Pirtle
 - 3 Myron Sneary
 - 4 Don Alsept Jr
 - 4 Patti Tuerck
 - 10 Filsan Ayele
 - 11 Ray Hayes
 - 13 Barb Gudakunst
 - 17 Greg Cattell
 - 17 Karen Semple
 - 21 Bob Laman
 - 22 Reece Chafin
 - 22 Gina Gudakunst
 - 25 Eli Mathewson
 - 26 Debbie Hayes
 - 28 Gay Williams
 - 29 Janet Hutchinson

November Anniversaries

- Nov. 1 Steve & Jodi Gudakunst
 - 2 Mark & Annette Komminsk
 - 17 Don & Mindy Alsept
 - 18 Tom & Sue Honegger

If your special day is not listed, please let the church office know.

Bible Reading Plan

November 1 — John 1-2	November 12 — Acts 4-5	November 23 — Acts 27-28
November 2 — John 3-4	November 13 — Acts 6-7	November 24 — Romans 1-3
November 3 — John 5-6	November 14 — Acts 8-9	November 25 — Romans 4-7
November 4 — John 7-8	November 15 — Acts 10-11	November 26 — Romans 8-10
November 5 — John 9-10	November 16 — Acts 12-13	November 27 — Romans 11-14
November 6 — John 11-12	November 17 — Acts 14-15	November 28 — Romans 15-16
November 7 — John 13-15	November 18 — Acts 16-17	November 29 — 1 Cor. 1-4
November 8 — John 16-17	November 19 — Acts 18-19	November 30 — 1 Cor. 5-9
November 9 — John 18-19	November 20 — Acts 20-21	

November 21 — Acts 22-23

November 22 — Acts 24-26

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105 NLT

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!