



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

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**JUNE 15, 2023**

**Volume 89, Issue 10**

## Genesis of the People of God

*By Pastor Kent Berghuis*



With our congregation's bicentennial approaching next year, how should we tell our story? What characters and episodes from our history give our narrative as a group a sense of meaning? From stodgy, primitive Baptists to imaginative, progressive leaders our history contains a variety of sources that might inspire us in different directions. To figure ourselves out we often have to return to our origins, as our beginnings help us understand our identities.

This summer we will focus our sermon themes on the Old Testament Lectionary readings from the book of Genesis. Beginning with Abraham and Sarah we follow God's call and promise to bring about a family in a new land. The beginning of the nation of Israel is in view, with Abraham being called the father of the people. The story continues on through Isaac and Rebecca, and then Jacob, Leah and Rachel and the rest of that complicated family.

What ties these stories together? God's calling entails a promise of descendants and blessings. It is sealed in the concept of a covenant, a kind of binding set of promises. God's covenant is something on which God's people can depend, since God is to be trusted. There is also the obligation on the part of God's people to do their part in the covenant. This requires obedience, walking by faith and believing that their relationship with God will result in the promised blessings to come.

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But no one obeys perfectly or exercises faith completely. Abraham and Sarah question God's promise and bring about the birth of a son, Ishmael, through one of their female slaves, Hagar. When the promised son, Isaac, comes into the promised family, Hagar and Ishmael are cast aside. But God chooses to care for the castaways, too, proving the covenant to be larger than even the human understanding of it. Isaac will have two sons, Jacob and Esau—and the unethical Jacob is allowed to basically steal the formal privileges of the covenant from his elder brother! Somehow through all the human conniving, God is gracious and blesses all sides of these very human conflicts in ways appropriate to each and to God's overarching plans.

Numerous lessons for us arise from these ancient stories. We can trust God to be faithful and have a larger plan than what we can merely see. We may fail at times and not do what a covenant partner should, but God can overcome even our own failings and keep the covenant on our behalf. And indeed, that is what Christ, the true heir of all God's covenants, will do. He keeps the covenant on our behalf through his perfect faithfulness, and inherits all God's blessings as a result. He shares God's blessings with all of us who join in faith to him, making all of us heirs of God's ancient promises.

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And as a church, we are also heirs of those who shaped our beginnings. We can trust that God has done and will do much more than they, or we, could ever imagine. And we can keep following along faithfully, even in our human frailty, knowing that it is God's promise and God's work that is being accomplished through us.

--Pastor Kent



## Chancel Choir

*At June 4 service before summer break.*



*Yummy food offerings for their picnic on June 8.*



## Heritage Committee: Call for Volunteers!

The Heritage Committee is gearing up for the church's big Bicentennial Year in 2024. We have many projects that we could use volunteers to help on:

- Help sorting pictures and materials for archiving. We need people who are likely to know the names of the folks in pictures. Stay tuned for some specific workdays coming up in August.
- Second is scanning and cataloguing of the many photos that have been collected. While the originals will be eventually placed in the archives at Wright State, we need scanned versions of the pictures to use in our updated church history and to create a digital church "photo album". Guidelines for this have been developed.
- If you already have some digitized photos that are ideally labeled with date, event and names of people if possible, can you send to Donna.

Contact Donna Miles Curry ([donna.curry@wright.edu](mailto:donna.curry@wright.edu) or 937-470-5643) if you need more information or can help us out.

And stay tuned... we hope to have a master list of dates to be saved for all the events planned for the Bicentennial Year celebration.



For now... **SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Memorial Day Weekend**  
**Sunday, May 26, 2024**  
**Founders Day Service and Banquet**

### May Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	75.00	110.00	375.00	802.00
Pledges	19650.42	17691.50	98252.10	103603.50
Non-pledged Contributions	3666.67	4321.67	18333.35	17357.35





## Garden Report

### About Purple Garlic

Last spring we planted something new in the garden - purple garlic. You may ask what purple garlic is used for. Of course it is to ward off purple vampires (think Count von Count on Sesame Street). Actually garlic has been used through the ages by clerics to ward off evil spirits but during the middle ages monasteries started growing garlic for the health benefits. Garlic is a unique vegetable that is antiviral, antibacterial and antibiotic. The taste of purple garlic is usually sweeter and milder than white garlic and it contains more of the compound allicin which boosts the body's immune system. The Sanskrit word for garlic is *mahoushuth*, which means panacea, or "cure-all." Eaten raw on salad or used in cooking, there's nothing better than a spoonful or two of minced garlic!! Looking ahead to next month, I forecast a harvest of onions and potatoes in our near future.

Grow on,  
Farmer/Pastor Dave



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### July Celebrants

- 2 Lydia Watson
- 4 Melissa Mikesell, Roger Stephens
- 5 Aidan Owens, Laura Rhodes
- 6 David Curry
- 7 Carolyn Mowry
- 9 Tim Holmen
- 10 Eli Powell
- 12 Marin See
- 15 Todd Petry
- 18 Nancy Kerr
- 21 Hannah Gockel
- 23 Tom Lasley
- 25 Anita Suro, Clark Whittaker, Kay Wingham,  
Sharon Wingham
- 27 Marlene Hopper, Ray Landis, Theresa Taylor
- 31 Daryl Bogan, Martha Burtenshaw



*(Is your birthday not listed? Please contact the church office and update our records.)*



RAIN OR SHINE

## CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, June 25, 2023

After church until 5pm

Oak Grove Park in Centerville

1790 East Social Row, Centerville 45459  
(Rt. 48 South to Social Row, turn left)

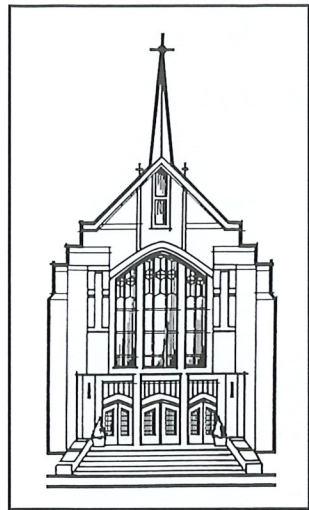
Main dish & beverages provided  
Bring sides and desserts

**GAMES – FISHING – PLAYGROUND**



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*Our Condolences*

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Mary Ann Paloncy and family on the death of Elmer Paloncy last month.



*For Our Cards  
and Prayers*



- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Gerald Busch       | Mary Malone      |
| Florida Dixon      | Arthur Merkle    |
| Jim Earnest        | Nash Family      |
| Luke Earnest       | Mary Ann Paloncy |
| Neil Earnest       | Susan Parent     |
| Lavanda Ferguson   | Judy Smith       |
| Bev & Bill Harrell | Taylor Family    |
| Ray Landis         | Anne Veghte      |
| Lasley Family      | Harold West      |
| Gene & Mary K Lee  | Dorothy Williams |

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Kyle Kline, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson



## Happy Pride 2023!

Pastor Jason Alspaugh

A word of thanks to all who helped with our participation in Dayton Pride at the start of this year's Pride Month. On Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> we gathered at the church to raise our Progress Pride Flag, sharing our hopes for what people would think when they saw it flying in front of our church. There was hope that LGBTQIA+ folks would see a place where they are welcomed and loved, hope that they'd see a message counter to all the hatred they face, and hope that we would just fly the flag all the time. I prayed that God would bless our hopes and that we would match our hopes with love and action. May it be so!

We then gathered to march in the Pride Parade from St. Clair St. to Court House Square, waving to the crowds of smiling, cheering people along the way, wishing them a "Happy Pride!" We then joined our folks over at our booth on the Square and spent the afternoon talking with festival-goers, sharing about our church, and sharing messages of love and affirmation. The overall theme for us this year was "Beloved," and we simply wanted people to know that they were loved by God, and by us. It was wonderful to join with so many organizations from the community, including lots of other churches, to celebrate and support our LGBTQIA+ family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you, First Baptist, for reaching out!







## Our Welcoming & Affirming Statement

First Baptist Church of Dayton is a Welcoming and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and the commandments to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we embrace and respect all people—every sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic condition, all refugees and immigrants, those of all physical and mental abilities, all household compositions, those of diverse political and theological backgrounds and beliefs—and we invite those who desire to participate equally and fully in the life, ministry, fellowship, worship, leadership, responsibilities, and blessings of our church family to join us. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, as God's beloved, you are worthy and welcome!



## Graduate Recognition

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the following Graduates of the Class of 2023!  
They were recognized during our worship service on Education Sunday, June 4, 2023.

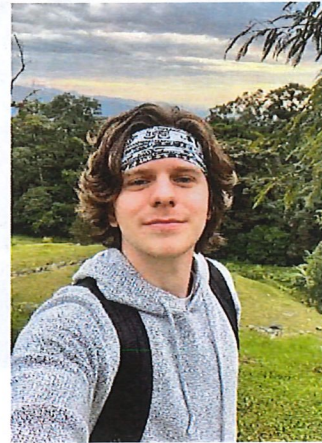
### Hannah Craig

Wayne High School  
Attending the University of Cincinnati  
majoring in Social Work



### Noah DeRochie

Cedarville University  
Two BA degrees  
International Studies and Marketing



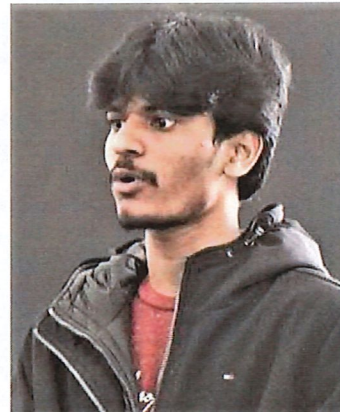
### Jenna Hoschouer

Otterbein University  
BA in Sports Management



### Tarun Joga

University of Dayton  
Masters in Computer Science



### Marley Leach

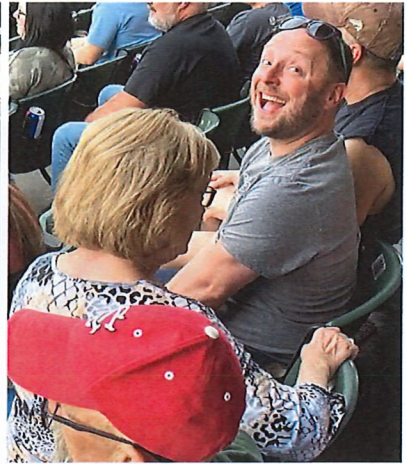
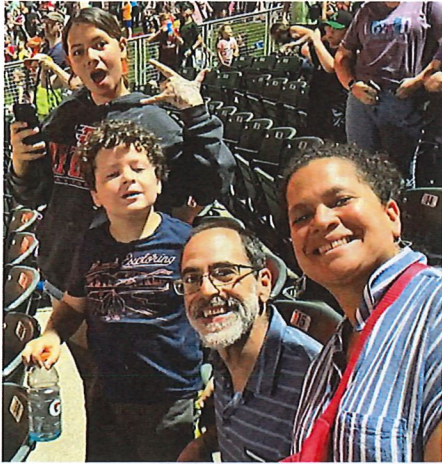
Marcus High School  
Flower Mound, Texas  
Will attend North Texas College in the fall  
Parents are Aimee & Chad Leach  
Grandparents are Diana & Ron Petry





## Photos from the Dragons Game Outing

Friday, May 19, 2023





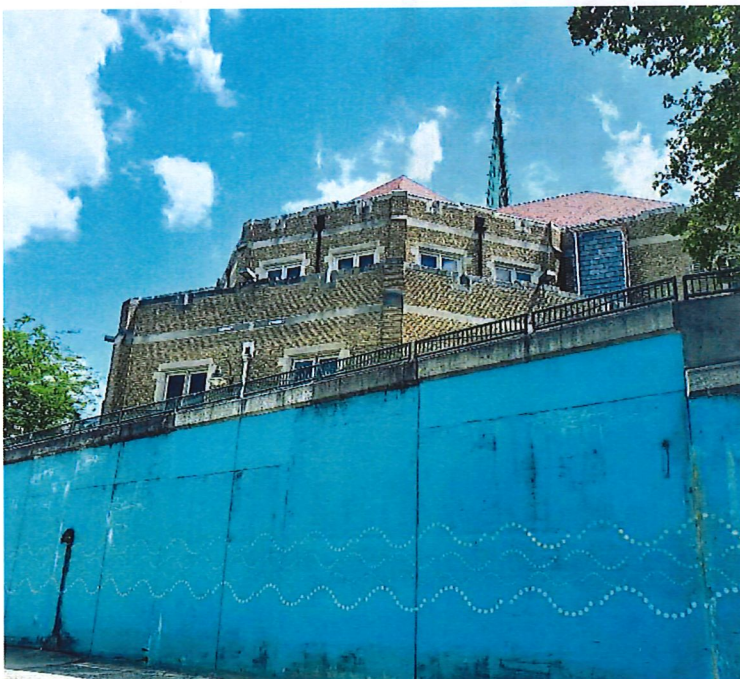
## Photos from the Wright Family Program on Sunday, June 11, 2023

Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center – Led by Angie Berghuis



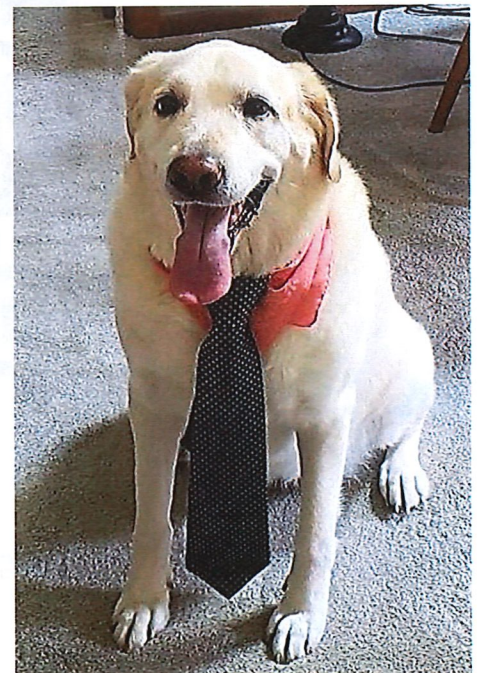
## What's Behind a Great Church?

Photo by Jerome Stueart



## Violet Coggins

Dressed up for Mother's Day service





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**Did you know you can give online?  
With E-Giving you can!**

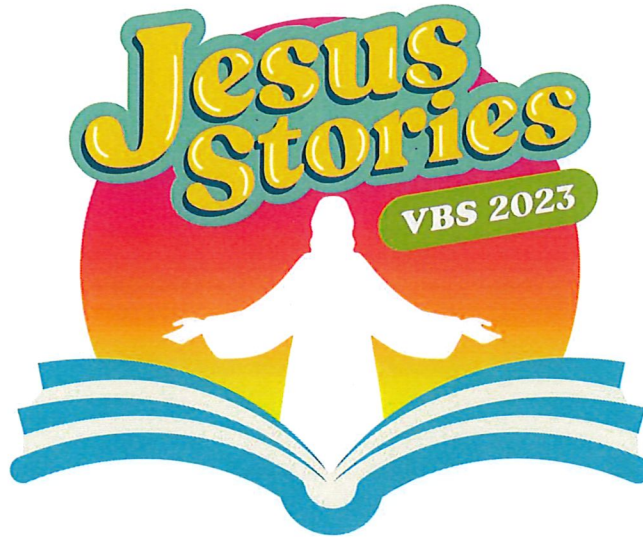
- **Donate in seconds!**
- **Rest assured your donations are 100% secure.**
- **Set up recurring donations.**
- **Your donations enable us to plan with confidence.**

**Scan the QR code to donate now!**



Link: <https://giving.ncsservices.org/App/Giving/ncs-3873>





## Vacation Bible School 2023 – Jesus Stories

July 17-21, 2023

9:30am-Noon, M-Th

9:30am-12:30pm, F

PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Join us for a fun week of Vacation Bible School with music, story times, crafts, games and more, as we explore stories *about* Jesus and stories (parables) *by* Jesus.

Early registration is encouraged, and the form is online at [www.fbcd Dayton.org](http://www.fbcd Dayton.org) (hard copies are available at the church office).

If you'd like to be a part of our VBS planning and/or leadership team, there are still plenty of opportunities to do so. We will need volunteers to:

- Design and decorate our VBS spaces ahead of time
- Register and welcome kids each morning
- Help lead opening and closing music with the kids (children & youth are invited to help here, too)
- Lead our kids around to the various stations during VBS (assisting with crafts, etc.)
- Serve as story-tellers
- Help plan and lead games with the kids

There are lots of ways to be involved. If you're interested in helping out, please speak with Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org)) or Janet Landis, chair of Christian Education.