



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

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Hazy Days of Summer

By Pastor Kent Berghuis



Recently I've taken to monitoring the Air Quality Index (AQI) on my I-phone's weather app. Smoke drifting down from uncontrolled Canadian wildfires has frequently darkened our skies this summer, creating an unpleasant haze somewhere between the color of rust and mustard. I have some allergies, and have noticed my eyes burning more than I might expect while outdoors on certain days. Fortunately it has been basically tolerable, though there are warnings that those who have respiratory problems might experience difficulties on the worst of these days. I heard one meteorologist describe the amount of particulates we are breathing in as being roughly the equivalent of smoking cigarettes.

I don't like haze, and much prefer clarity. Some years ago I was hiking up a small mountain where there was reported to be a fine view of the area. By the time I reached the summit, a fog had gathered that made it impossible to see much past the trail I had just ascended. I remember feeling that it was a kind of metaphor for a situation in my life at that moment, where I was unsure of what to do, which direction to take. I would like to know such things, not merely to fly by instruments.

But as the Scriptures put it in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "We walk by faith, not by sight." For our spirituality as Christians, the instruments by which we fly are our theology—composed of a combination of our understanding of Scripture, Christian traditions, and experiences through which God has led us.

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We believe, and we seek guidance, but faith requires us to walk forward even when the sight lines are elusive. Earlier in that passage, it is discussing the trials the apostle and the early Christians were enduring, and Paul says in 2 Cor 4:17-18: "This slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."

On cloudy days I've sometimes had to remind myself that the sun is still shining. The sunshine is there in all its glory beyond the clouds, and those clouds have simply obscured our view. Time will pass and the clouds will move on, we shall see the sun again, as sure as the earth is turning. And we even need the rain as part of the water cycle and the circle of life.

I'm not sure how much we need the smoke and the haze it brings. Yet nature's fires also have a way of cleansing the natural order, preparing the forests and soils for new growth. Our human discomfort in the midst of nature's forces is a reminder of how small we are compared to the great patterns of the weather. And it's also a reminder of how much we humans seek to dominate it and perhaps even foul it up with our part in the negative impacts of a changing climate.

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Hopefully the hazy days of this summer will clear away. And hopefully whatever is obscuring your vision today will pass soon enough. In the midst of these times may you see your way to walking by faith and not by sight.

--Pastor Kent



101st Birthday Celebration for Rev. Jim Earnest

Sunday, August 6 @ 11:30am

In recent years we have done drive-by parades to celebrate Rev. Jim's birthday, but this year we invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, August 6th for a special celebration of his 101st birthday. All are welcome!



Back to School Celebration

**Sunday, August 13
11:30 AM**

As the summer break comes to a close, we wanted to host a time of celebration for our children & youth, celebrating summer adventures and looking forward to the coming school year. On Sunday, August 13, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall after worship and share in pizza, snacks, freshly made popcorn, and more. There will even be some back-to-school prizes. We'll also be welcoming our newest incoming youth to Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF).

If you'd like to share photos from your summer adventures in a slideshow, please send them to Pastor Jason at jalspaugh40@gmail.com.

Always Learning

By Pastor Jason Alspaugh

As a subscriber to *The Christian Century* magazine, I receive regular emails about topics in current and past issues that provoke reflection. The most recent email was entitled, "Always Learning," and simply asked readers to consider what they have been learning lately. The assertion was that an essential aspect of life and faith is that we are *always learning*, not just from our study of the Bible, but also from our reading of books and writings (ancient and contemporary), from the deep and often serendipitous conversations we have with fellow travelers, from our day to day encounters, and more.

Part of my role with First Baptist is to help cultivate and facilitate space for such learning to take place for all ages; and as I look forward to the beginning of another season of learning this fall, I want to invite you all to help me and the Board of Christian Education focus our efforts by sharing your ideas, interests, and needs. I'd like to know not only what you have been learning, but what you would like to learn, what you feel the need to learn, and even what you might like to teach. I want to continue offering meaningful classes on Sunday mornings, but my hope is that, as part of the wider Dayton community, we would come up with learning opportunities beyond Sundays that are beneficial to those within and beyond our congregation.

And so, in the coming weeks I invite you to talk about such things with me and members of the Board of Christian Education (Janet Landis (chair), Debbie Reichard-Smith, Roy Vice, Diana Petry, Michael Wadham, Doris Landis). Furthermore, I hope that you will plan to be a part of our learning community in some way...and invite others to join with us.

June Financial Report

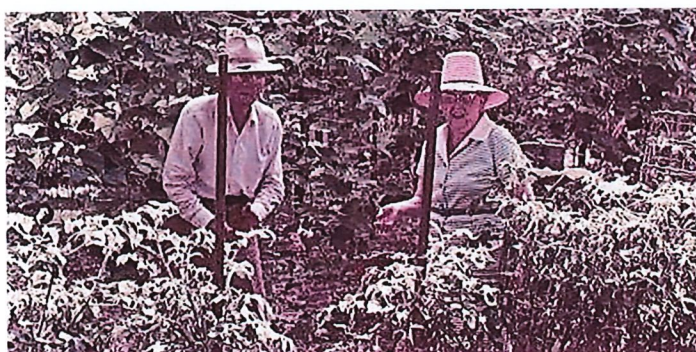
	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	75.00	70.00	450.00	872.00
Pledges	19650.42	16577.00	117902.50	120180.50
Non-pledged Contributions	3666.67	5941.67	22000.00	23299.02



Garden Report

Mama and Papa Daughtridge (grandparents) were always excited about July 4th approaching because it meant the first harvest of sweet corn (white Silver Queen) and butterbeans. If you have roots in the South, you know that when you add those together you get succotash! Add onions, okra, green beans and tomatoes and you have vegetable soup without the soup. Growing up I did look forward to those fresh veggies as part of any picnic on the Fourth. In Ohio our growing season is probably about 6 weeks behind the schedule in NC. At the FBC garden we look forward to the Fourth for the harvest of onions and potatoes, part of our spring crop. We have already been cutting some kale and as an added bonus we picked the first fruits of squash and zucchini. We were all sweltering in the 84+ degree heat as we harvested this crop bound for the House of Bread. As always the cooks were so appreciative of our efforts to support the mission to serve 200 meals every day to those in need. Thanks to Peggy, Linda and Pete for their labor of love! Thanks to Johnny for regularly baptizing our garden. Looking forward: we have blossoms on the green beans, cucumbers and peppers and small green tomatoes on the vine!

We plant, God grows!
Farmer/Pastor Dave



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August Celebrants

- 7 Greg Merkle
- 10 Jim Earnest – *Happy 101st Jim !!*
Matthew Little
- 11 Jack Radachi, Jamie See
- 13 Corine McMaster
- 14 Randy Compton
Anna Wildermuth
- 17 Michael Curry
- 18 Patricia Taylor
- 22 Griffin Leach
- 23 Shirley Williams
- 28 Allyson Black
- 30 Ashley McWain
- 31 Jason Alsbaugh, Dawn Kalbfleisch



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

Monthly Grief Support Group

Summer Schedule

Third Sunday: August 20

11:30 – 12:15

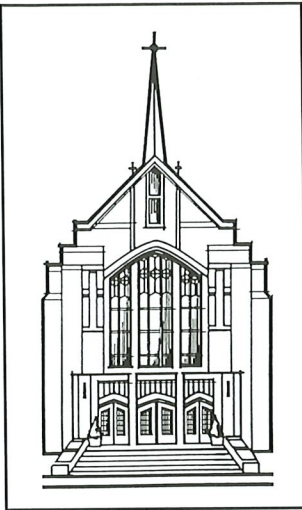
First Baptist Church

Pastor David and Peggy Coggins continue to lead a Grief Support Group on the 3rd Sunday of the month. During the summer months we will meet after church from 11:30-12:15 in the classroom next to the choir room. The format of the group will be interactive dialogue with personal sharing of grief experiences, coping methods and resources for growth. On August 20th we will be sharing a special memory of an experience in our own life, or an event shared with a loved one or friend. All are welcome.



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The Courier

Our Condolences

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bill Harrell and family on the passing of Beverly Harrell, a 77-year member of First Baptist Church.



Thank You
from Roger Stephens

I want to express my thanks for your prayers and words while I am recovering from a broken leg. My wish is that I can attend First Baptist by the end of July. My sincere sympathy for Jason suffering from his achilles injury and wish him a complete recovery. We extend our prayers for the many persons on the prayer list. Amen.

For Our Cards and Prayers



Jason Alspaugh

Gerald Busch

Florida Dixon

Jim Earnest

Luke Earnest

Neil Earnest

Lavanda Ferguson

Harrell Family

Ray Landis

Lasley Family

Gene & Mary K Lee

Arthur Merkle

Nash Family

Mary Ann Paloncy

Susan Parent

Judy Smith

Taylor Family

Anne Veghte

Harold West

Dorothy Williams

Military Duty:

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

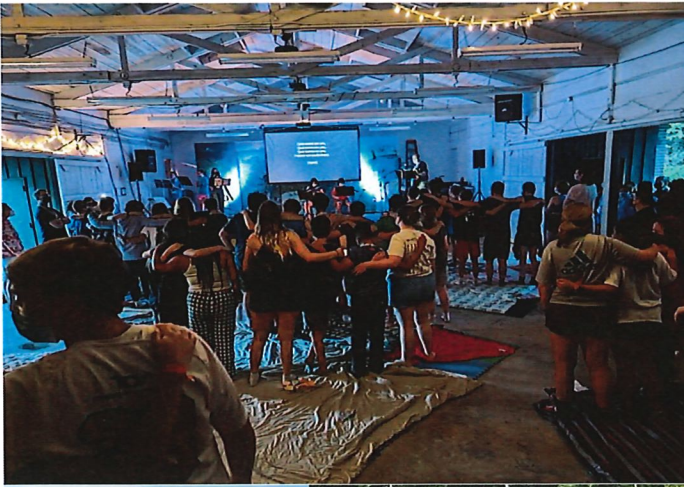
Summer Youth Camps 2023

Quest & BYC

Pastor Jason and our youth are all back from summer camping, and we just wanted to thank the church and Board of Christian Education for their continuing support for these outings. Below are some photos from our times at Quest Camp in Green Lake, WI (with Pastor Jason, Allyson Black, Meredith Ryan, Lucas Owens and Sydney Owens attending) and at BYC in Laurel Springs, NC (with Clo Ryan, Meredith Ryan, and Elijah Cox attending). To hear more of our adventures in camping, including how Pastor Jason's Achilles tendon ruptured, just speak with one us during coffee fellowship. Thank you again!





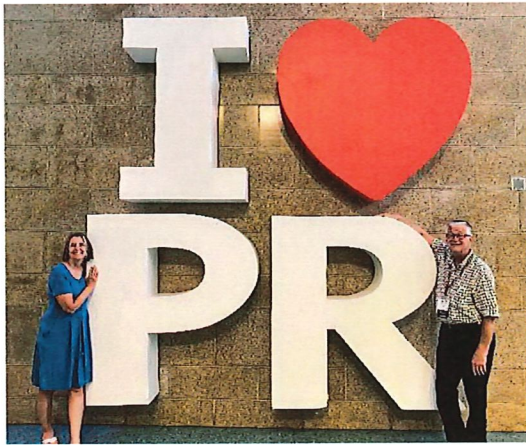



SUMMER
CAMP

From the Church Picnic held late June ~~



Ted and Gina Greenwood represented First Baptist Church of Dayton at the recent American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico where they met up with former church member, Rev. Jason Hentschel.



A rainbow in the hand is worth... ~~ Angie Berghuis with a rainbow in her hand after a rainstorm while on their way to see the Dayton Fireworks Show. (Photos by Pastor Kent)



