



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402  
(937) 222-4691 • Email: [fbc@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:fbc@fbcd Dayton.org) • Website: [www.fbcd Dayton.org](http://www.fbcd Dayton.org)

**OCT/NOV 2023**  
Volume 90, Issue 2-3

## Ohio Baptists in Fellowship

By Pastor Kent Berghuis



What do Baptist leaders do when they get together? They eat a lot! That's the first lesson from my recent participation in the Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio. Tuesday and Wednesday, October 10-11, I enjoyed fellowship with pastors and other church leaders from around the state at a conference hotel in Worthington. Several of the meetings were held over meals in the dining room. But I was glad to discover that the content was even better than the food.

At the Regional Ministries Luncheon on Tuesday I learned about the Ohio Leadership Academy which helps train people for ministry. This is a certificate program, offering content much like a seminary, without the formal degree requirements. I was surprised that the leader of the OLA, Seth Fallon, was previously one of my seminary students. This made me remember both that it's a small world, and that I'm getting older! There is a similar program right here in Dayton called the Urban Leadership Academy, led through Omega Baptist Church by Dr. Leatha Camille Still. Programs like this help fill educational gaps for pastors and lay leaders and round out their practical experience.

Not long after that luncheon the Missions Banquet began at 4:30! (What is this, the early bird special at a retirement center?) A highlight was hearing from ABC missionaries Bill and Ann Clemmer, who I knew from a church I previously pastored. The Clemmers have done tremendous work in Congo and South Sudan. Bill focuses on medical work, while Ann has led in the establishing of ministries to many street children.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Halloween/Harvest Party .....	2
Jr/Sr High November Donation Drive .....	2
All Saints Sunday .....	3
Thanksgiving Lunch .....	3
For Our Cards and Prayers .....	4
Adult Sunday School Offerings .....	Insert
Additional News and Photos .....	Insert

Evening Worship was highlighted by a message from Zina Jacque, an associate pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Washington, D. C. A gifted speaker, she likened our ministries to people to making sure the spark plugs of a car are firing together properly. Her progressive voice was well-received.

Later in the evening a group of likeminded pastors, including Jason Hentschel, visited a local establishment to continue our conversations into the night. It was good to connect informally with these pastors from Middletown, Delaware, Hillsboro and Wyoming to share thoughts and feelings and to know we are not alone in the ministry.

Wednesday over breakfast I met with people from the Dayton Area Baptist Association to discuss what we could do to help revive our own local organization. We have a significant history with DABA, but since the onset of the pandemic the organization has struggled to fill a slate of officers and activities have diminished. I will be praying about what role I might have in working for our local fellowship of Baptist churches to be strengthened.

A final meal was held on Wednesday noon. With bellies and minds already quite full, we heard one more message from Executive Minister Mark Click. Conversations continued around the venue through the afternoon until I finally arrived home in the evening.

*(continued next page)*



(continued from page 1)

As I reflect on these meetings, I feel encouraged. There is good work to be done in fellowship with other churches, and there are many who want these good works to succeed. While there is diversity in our backgrounds and points of view, there is also a common heritage and unity in the Spirit. Let's remind ourselves that we are part of something larger than ourselves, and that we are not alone. That is nourishing for the soul, even more than the many meals that tend to define our notion of fellowship!

--Pastor Kent Berghuis



## FBC Halloween/Harvest Party

Sunday, Oct. 29 @ 11:15am  
**FOOD – CANDY – GAMES – COSTUMES**  
**TRUNK 'R TREAT – ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The Board of Christian Education is hosting a Halloween/Harvest Party for everyone on Sunday, October 29 starting shortly after morning worship at 11:15am. We will gather in the fellowship hall for food, and then head outdoors (weather permitting) for fun and games and s'mores.

**Trunk or Treat:** We have also decided to once again include a Trunk or Treat component to our usual party games, where we welcomed folks to decorate their cars/trunks and pass out candy to our kids as they paraded through the parking lot. There is a red clipboard with a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for those who plan to participate in the Trunk or Treat.

**Costume Contest:** All are invited to come dressed in/put on their Halloween costumes/fall attire as we celebrate the new season with food, games and fellowship! And there will be prizes for best costumes in the following categories:

- Best Fall attire
- Best home-made
- Silliest/Funniest
- Most Creative/Original
- Best Group (two or more people comprising a group – e.g., Avengers, TMNT, etc.)
- Best Retro

**NOTE:** There will not be Sunday School or Second Hour activities for children and youth at the 11:30am time, BUT there WILL be Adult Sunday School offering on the Alternatives to Violence Project led by Rev. Joe Henry in the Chapel. Those attending his class are all welcome to join the party at any time afterwards.



## Jr./Sr. High Sunday School November Donation Drive for House of Bread

In a recent Sunday school class we talked about ways to help others in the community, and we agreed to start by gathering items for a local place of outreach like House of Bread. And so, during the month of November our Jr./Sr. High youth will be hosting a donation drive for House of Bread ([houseofbread.org](http://houseofbread.org)), collecting items on their General wish list. Items include:

- Pasta noodles – elbow, penne, shells and Pasta Sauce
- Rice – white or brown
- Peanut butter and jelly – plastic containers
- White sugar
- Cream Soups for cooking – cream of chicken, potato, mushroom
- Corn Meal or Corn bread mixes
- Salad Dressing – ranch, French
- Mayonnaise and Relish

Look for our youth and a donation bin in the Fellowship Hall and other places in the building. If you would like to make a financial contribution, you can go to their website and click on the "Donate" button. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

## BYF Gatherings in Nov/Dec

Our Baptist Youth Fellowship continues to gather on the second and fourth Sundays of each month (unless otherwise noted). And so, in the month of November we are planning to meet on **November 12 & 26**. And our last gathering of **2023 will be on Sunday, December 10**.

We will meet in the upstairs dining hall after Sunday school on these dates for lunch (12:15pm). And we'll spend the rest of our time enjoying fun and fellowship. Pickup will be at 2:30pm.

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer with our BYF sometime, or host lunch or a gathering, please speak with Pastor Jason. And RSVP's are not required, but certainly helpful for planning purposes. Just text or email Pastor Jason to give him a heads up at 937-631-3579 or [jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org).



## Garden Report

Another gardening season comes to a close and this year was a bountiful one! People have commented to me how amazed they are at the quantity of produce we harvest in that small space. In the absence of rabbits this year we definitely harvested more kale and green beans. So here is the tally: 1 pint minced garlic, 15 baskets kale, 40 pounds red potatoes, 15 pounds onions, 8 squash, 18 cucumbers, 20 tomatoes, 250 cherry tomatoes, 40 peppers, and 20 baskets green beans. Fourteen deliveries of the fresh produce were made to the House of Bread for use in their lunch program. Thanks to all those who helped this year: Johnny Davis, Linda Thomson, Pete Thomson, Peggy Coggins, Ted Greenwood, Bob Kerr, Jonathon Wolfe, Jason Alspaugh and members of the BYF.

We plant, God grows!  
Pastor/Farmer Dave



## All Saints Sunday

November 5, 2023

We invite everyone to submit the names of any loved ones who have died, to be celebrated on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5, at our 10:00AM worship service. You may send an email to [fbcc@fbccdayton.org](mailto:fbcc@fbccdayton.org) or call the church office with the name(s).



## Thanksgiving Lunch

Sunday, November 19, 2023, 11:15am

The Board of Deacons will provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and drinks. **Please bring a side dish and/or dessert!** Also RSVP by Monday, Nov. 13.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### November Celebrants

- 4 Clara Black
- 7 Sydney Owens
- 8 Pete Thomson
- 9 Diane Charron, Sharon Kohnle
- 11 Zachery Williamson
- 14 Jennifer Craig
- 16 Matthew Burtenshaw
- 18 Kylie (Thorn) Stanley
- 20 Elaine Rasco
- 25 Kimberly Bogan
- 27 Ida Lou Sensel Hawkins
- 28 Barry Schlaile
- 29 Barbara Bogan
- 30 Debby Menzel, Jonathan Taylor

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



## Stewardship Campaign 2024

“200 Years of Giving”

November 5 – 19, 2023



## Preservation of Light

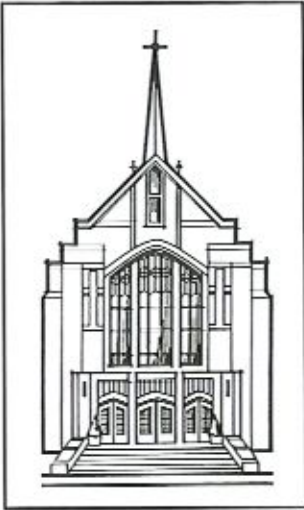
*Our campaign to preserve the stained-glass windows of First Baptist Church of Dayton now has a*

**Go Fund Me page:**

<https://www.gofundme.com/ff/preservation-of-light>

## September Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	75.00	109.00	675.00	1407.00
Pledges	19650.42	14555.50	176853.78	171043.50
Non-pledged Contributions	3666.67	1665.67	33000.03	30699.03



First Baptist Church of Dayton *Courier* (USPS 193/500). Published monthly by the First Baptist Church of Dayton, 111 W. Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402. Periodicals postage paid at Dayton, OH. *Postmaster: Send address changes to First Baptist Church of Dayton Courier, 111 W. Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402.*



### *Welcome New Members*

On Sunday, October 22, 2023 the Right Hand of Fellowship was received by:

**Ryan & Kate Bradley**

*Ryan joined by Letter from Grace Community Church, Marion NC, and Kate joined by Letter from Church on Main, Blacksburg VA. Their faith partners are Brad & Jeanne Kallenberg.*

### *Congratulations!*

We extend our best wishes to **Camilla Black and Matthew Botkin** who were married on October 18, 2023. Rev. Jason Alspaugh officiated.



### *For Our Cards and Prayers*



Glen Babb	Lasley Family
Gerald Busch	Gene & Mary K Lee
Florida Dixon	Arthur Merkle
Jim Earnest	Nash Family
Luke Earnest	Mary Ann Paloncy
Neil Earnest	Susan Parent
Lavanda Ferguson	Judy Smith
Greenwood Family	Ginger Tiffner
Harrell Family	Anne Veghte
Tim Holmen	Harold West
Ray Landis	Dorothy Williams

#### **Military Duty:**

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



## Upcoming Sunday School Offerings

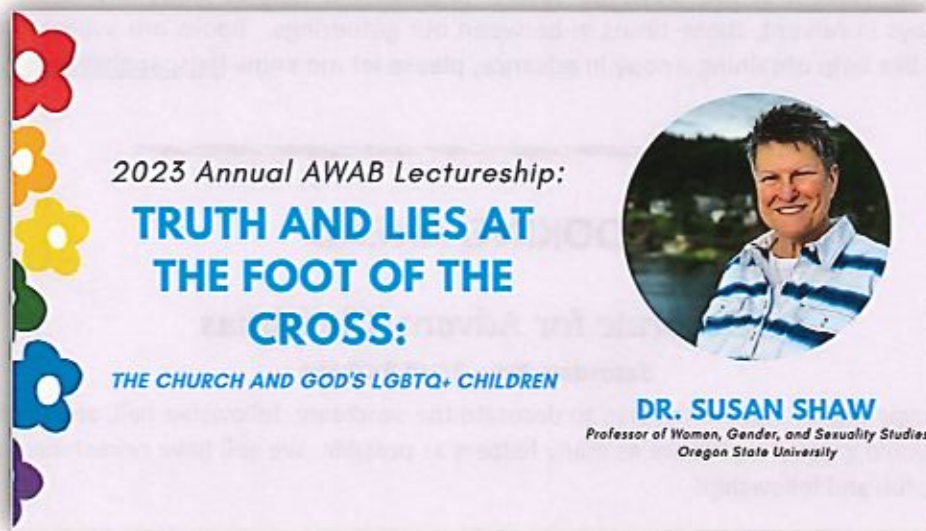
### Adult Sunday School

#### Sermon Talkbacks

First Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm (beginning Nov. 5)

1st Floor - Chapel

The Board of Christian Education has heard the desire among some to have opportunities for congregants to converse with the pastors about their sermons in an open forum. This has often been called a "sermon talkback." And so, we have decided to give this a try, offering such talkbacks on the first Sunday of the month in the Chapel. The first talkback will then take place on All Saints Sunday, November 5 with Pastor Kent. We hope you'll join us and share the questions, insights, challenges, etc. that the sermon may have left you with.



November 12 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Chapel

Last year the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB), of which we are a member congregation, began sponsoring an annual lecture that would speak to the Church, society and LGBTQ+ concerns. These can be attended in-person, but they are thankfully also available to watch via livestream and recorded. And here we are offering an opportunity for folks to view the recording of this year's lecture. We hope you'll join us, and share your questions and responses to this year's message.

#### About the Lecture:

We've all heard how everyone's equal at the foot of the cross. That doesn't seem to apply to LGBTQ+ people, however, according to many Christians. In fact, the disgust and hatred of LGBTQ+ people among many Christians is so great that they eagerly accept, tell, create, and repeat lies and falsehoods about the queer community and work actively to limit, roll back, and deny civil and human rights to LGBTQ+ people. Surely, however, of all places, the foot of the cross is a place for truths. On the cross, Jesus sided with the marginalized, oppressed, and despised. The resurrection was God's affirmation of that choice, and, in his "coming out" of the tomb, Jesus offered hope, possibility, love, and welcome. We'll explore truths and lies at the foot of the cross, drawing from the latest headlines, biological, medical, and social sciences, gender studies, and theological and biblical studies and make a specific case for Baptist welcome of God's LGBTQ+ children.

**NOTE: There is no Sunday school during 11:30am scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 19 as there is a Congregational Lunch planned for the day.**



## 2023 Advent Study

### “Advent at the Welcome Table: An Offering of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love!”

Led by Pastor Jason Alspaugh (et al)  
Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm  
November 26 – December 17  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Chapel

The Season of Advent does not actually begin until December 3<sup>rd</sup>, but the fourth and last Sunday of Advent takes place on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>; and it'll be amazing if we all just show up for two worship services in one day 😊. And so, I am intentionally beginning this year's Advent study a week early in order to cover the four themes of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love that we traditionally celebrate in our worship life. And this year we'll

be using a book entitled, “Advent at the Welcome Table,” to guide our time of study and reflection. It is also useful throughout the weekdays in Advent, those times in-between our gatherings. Books are available on Amazon.com and elsewhere, but if you'd like help obtaining a copy in advance, please let me know ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org)).

---

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Decorate for Advent/Christmas

Saturday, Nov. 25 @ 9:00AM

On Saturday, Nov. 25, beginning at 9:00am we plan to decorate the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and exterior of the church for Advent/Christmas and would greatly appreciate as many helpers as possible. We will have refreshments available. Join us for this time of preparation, fun and fellowship!

### The Mitten Tree

During the Advent/Christmas season, we ask that you honor the gift of Christ with gifts for those in need. You may bring gifts of hats, mittens, gloves & scarves to place on our Mitten Tree for kids and families served by the Dayton Christian Center. The Mitten Tree will be set up in the narthex at the front entrance of the church by Sunday, Nov. 26.

### 2023 Christmas Pageantry

This year I am working on an order of worship for Sunday, December 17 that will incorporate different parts of the Gospel stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. We will still have a part of the service entail a fairly traditional Christmas Pageant, and we'll need folks to play the parts of Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, etc. But there will also be more in terms of annunciations, proclamations, and praise that come from the Gospels. I will be contacting various people with specific ideas, but for the pageant part we will still need to rehearse. And so, we will hold **pageant rehearsals on Sundays, December 3 & 10** in the sanctuary after worship. The pageant is a fun thing for our kids and youth, but we are also open to adults taking part as well. If you'd like to be in the pageant or help out in any way, or just have questions, please let me know ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org)). ~Pastor Jason

### Poinsettia Orders

If you wish to contribute toward our annual display of poinsettias for Advent/Christmas, please notify the church office via email, phone, or on a yellow card on Sunday. You may contribute in memory of loved ones or to honor special people. Gifts of \$20 will help to defray the cost of the plants. Checks can be made out to First Baptist Church and note Poinsettias on the memo line. **Orders and payments are needed by Wednesday, Nov. 22.**



## MEMBER NEWS

### *Happy 96<sup>th</sup> to Gerald Busch!*

Gerald (Gerry) Busch celebrated his 96th birthday on October 3 and we wish him a blessed year! During a recent visit Gerry said he has had a very blessed life. He has certainly made a significant impact on our community through his work at UD and the City of Kettering. Gerry served two terms as Mayor of Kettering and during his tenure he was instrumental in visioning and fundraising for the world renowned Frazee Pavilion. His second floor apartment at One Lincoln Center is just across the street from the Frazee so he can now listen to all of the concerts from the comfort of his living room.



Mayors Richard Hartmann (left) and Gerald Busch (right), along with Assistant City Manager Peter Horan, were driving forces behind the Frazee Pavilion, during their respective tenures.

### *Congratulations!*

#### Matthew Botkin & Camilla Black Wedding



#### New Members Ryan & Kate Bradley





## Trustee Note

The project to place the bollards in the parking lot was completed the week of Sept. 25, 2023. Photos courtesy of Pastor David Coggins.



## Florida Wildlife

Photos by Pastor David from his recent trip

