



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

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**DECEMBER 2023**

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## A Life of Service to God

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

Recently in church I spoke of my uncle, Rev. John Moes, who passed away at the age of 102. He was very sharp even in advanced years, even preaching a sermon in a church on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had a bit of what Deuteronomy 34:7 says of Moses, that “his eye was not dim, nor his strength abated.” Well, he was indeed growing frail, yet he shared love and joy with his family to the end.

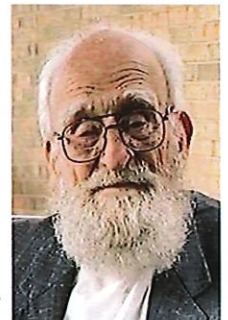
As I watched his funeral via livestream as family memories paid tribute, I remembered many of my own experiences with him and my aunt, Elaine. I recall visiting their Christian Seamen’s Center in Seattle where they led a fruitful ministry for sailors who brought the big container ships into port. Those Asian workers found a home away from home with John and Elaine, whom they referred to as Mom and Dad. John would lead Bible studies with them, encourage them in their family lives, and share the gospel however he could.

In his younger days John had been a pastor in Iowa, planting a church in the city of Waterloo. One of his attendees was a young nurse in training at a local hospital. When Elaine’s brother came for a visit, she played matchmaker and the two young people fell in love. Those were my parents, and that’s how my Minnesota father found his way to marrying an Iowa farmer’s daughter and I got to grow up where I did.

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My grandmother’s family had homesteaded in the dry soil of Conrad, Montana when she was just a child, though the family returned to Minnesota when the land gave out. As the turns of life would have it, John and Elaine (Elaine was her daughter) ended up going out to that town for John to be pastor of the church my grandmother attended as a child.



My parents had brought me there in a pickup camper when I was a child during that era, and we retrieved a large stone from the abandoned homestead and took it back to my grandmother in Minnesota. In 2019 when I visited Glacier Park I stopped in Conrad and visited John’s church, meeting a best friend of his daughter and paging through church history items to see bits of family heritage still evident there.

These brief recollections encourage me to be faithful in life and ministry even as my Uncle John and Aunt Elaine were. And here in Dayton we have a similar legacy in our own centenarian minister, Jim Ernest, who has blessed many of our lives along the way. Could I still have over 4 decades of life and ministry ahead? It seems hard to fathom, but these saints have made it so. *(continued next page)*



(continued from page 1)

A comment from Uncle John's funeral sticks with me. One of his preacher grandchildren said that John provided an example of what it looks like when one spends a lengthy life growing more like Christ. While not everyone gets that chance, it certainly is a beautiful possibility. I hope we will all give ourselves over to serving God, and hear Christ say to us those blessed words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

~Pastor Kent



### RMMO ABC/USA Offering

The Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering (RMMO) is a congregational offering collected annually in December from participating congregations. RMMO funds are distributed as "Thank You" checks to ABC-USA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as to surviving spouses. A certain portion is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. We all remember the pastor or missionary who made a difference in our lives. With leadership, listening, wisdom, condolence or just the right prayer when needed most, their selfless service has a lasting effect. This offering is a way to give back. Please give generously this month.



#### October Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	75.00	116.00	750.00	1523.00
Pledges	19650.42	18460.50	196504.20	189504.00
Non-pledged Contributions	3666.67	2408.67	36666.70	33107.70

#### November Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	75.00	150.00	825.00	1673.00
Pledges	19650.42	14200.50	216154.62	203704.50
Non-pledged Contributions	3666.67	6483.27	40333.37	39590.97

### Decorate for Advent/Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 2 @ 9:00AM

On Saturday, Dec. 2, 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 in time for the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3.

### Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 10 @ 10:00AM

This special service will consist of scripture readings of the season interspersed with Christmas hymns and carols. The music will feature our wonderful organists Gregory Land and Alan Kimbrough, and the Chancel Choir singing carols by Alfred Burt and John Rutter, plus many more seasonal favorites. Mark your calendar and bring friends and family to this special Sunday service!

### Koinonia Christmas Party

Friday, Dec. 15 @ 7pm

You're invited to attend the Koinonia Christmas Party at the home of Daryl & Barbara Bogan (7610 Rolling Oaks Drive, 45459) on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7PM. Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share!

### Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 10am

Pageant rehearsal dates:  
Sundays, Dec. 3 & 10 in the sanctuary after worship service.

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 contact Pastor Jason at [jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org).





## Christmas Eve Worship Services

Sunday, Dec. 24

~Morning Service~

10:00AM



~Evening Candlelight Service~

*Starts with a music presentation at 5:30PM*

Our evening candlelight service will be extra special this season because our guests for the pre-service music, which is always special, will feature guitarist Ryan Bradley who recently joined our church and will play Advent favorites. And, the fabulous Aurelian Oprea, principal violinist and acting concert master for the Dayton Philharmonic will play special music for the organ and violin. He will be accompanied by Gregory Land. So, all roads will lead to historic First Baptist Church of Dayton this blessed holiday season.

## BYF Gathering in December: Christmas Party w/ HCC



Our Baptist Youth Fellowship continues to gather on the second and fourth Sundays of each month (unless otherwise noted). In the month of December we are planning a special **Christmas Party** gathering with the youth of Harmony Creek Church on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30-7:30pm**. We will be meeting at **Harmony Creek Church**, which is located at **901 E. Stroop Road** in Kettering (which is the same building as Good Shepherd Lutheran). In years past our youth have enjoyed doing a Silly Gift Exchange, and so we are planning to do this again as part of our time together. Gifts should be wrapped so as to look anonymous, and nothing should cost more than \$10. This will be a festive gathering, and the last of 2023 for our BYF, so we hope to see as many folks as possible. RSVP's are not required, but certainly helpful for planning purposes. Just email or text Pastor Jason to give him a heads up ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) / 937-631-3579).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### JANUARY CELEBRANTS

- 1 Karen Bailey
- 3 Chris Pipenger
- 9 Jeffrey Perkins
- 10 Connie Holmen, John Parent
- 14 Jack Mikesell
- 16 Michelle Sutton
- 17 Darris Forgy
- 19 Edward Molen
- 20 Michelle Smith
- 22 Debbie Reichard-Smith
- 27 Lila Pattison
- 29 Kevin Babb, Steven Wolfe
- 31 Sam Radachi



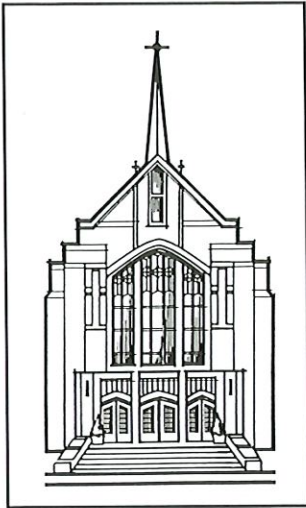
## Holiday Office Hours

- Friday, Dec. 22 – Close at 1pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 26 – Closed
- Wednesday, Dec. 27 – Open 10-2
- Thursday, Dec. 28 – Open 10-2
- Friday, Dec. 29 – Open 10-2
- Tuesday, Jan 2 – Closed

## Annual Reports Due Jan. 5

Annual reports for 2023 are due by Friday, January 5, 2024 from all Board Chairs, Committee Chairs, and pastoral staff. Please email reports to Linda Blair at [fbcd@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:fbcd@fbcd Dayton.org). Thank you.





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### Condolences

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Gene Lee and family on the death of long-time member Mary K. Lee on November 12, 2023.

Our condolences are extended to the family of Florida Dixon who passed away on November 11, 2023. She was also a long-time member of First Baptist Church.



### Thank You

From Rob Brown: Thank you for all of the prayers you've offered in my behalf. They were deeply appreciated.

### For Our Cards and Prayers



Glen Babb	Lasley Family
Gerald Busch	Gene Lee & Family
Dixon Family	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

Next Session is December 3<sup>rd</sup>

1st Floor – Choir Room

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 Sunday, December 3 with Pastor Kent. We hope you'll join us and share the questions, insights, challenges, etc. that the sermon may have left you with.

#### 2023 Advent Study

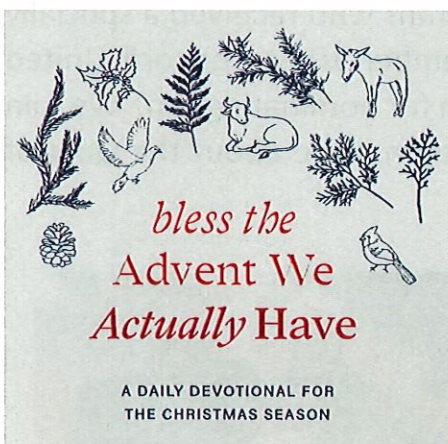
### ***"bless the Advent We Actually Have"***

Led by Pastor Jason & Pastor David

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, but the fourth and last Sunday of Advent takes place on Christmas Eve, December 24; 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 Kate Bowler's devotional, "*bless the Advent We Actually Have*" to guide our time of study and reflection. It is also useful throughout the weekdays in Advent, those times in-between our

gatherings. This is a free resource that will be available in limited print on the table by the church office. Or, to save a tree, you can view it online at:

[https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/blessthisadvent/?mc\\_cid=57b36ea5bd&mc\\_eid=6e8da80b2a](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/blessthisadvent/?mc_cid=57b36ea5bd&mc_eid=6e8da80b2a)



## Adult Sunday School (continued)

### Exploring Church History

Led by Dr. Roy Vice  
Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm  
January 7-28, 2024  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Chapel

This series of lecture will focus on the era between 1100 and 1300. It will cover St. Bernard of Clairvaux and the Cistercians and then move on to St. Francis of Assisi and St. Antony of Padua, the patron saint of lost things. The Dominicans focused on combatting heresy and intellectual study. St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Albertus Magnus were two Dominicans who helped to create Scholasticism, which combined the thought of Aristotle with Christian Theology. This era also saw the rise of the first universities and a huge growth of cities. Finally, Europe expanded in the Reconquista in Spain and the Crusades in the Middle East. The legacy of this conflict between Christians and Muslims is still with us today.



### The Rev. Jim Earnest Receives a Quilt of Valor

Congratulations to the Rev. Jim Earnest, who was among the veterans who received a specially made quilt from the Quilt of Valor Foundation on Friday, November 10 at Concord United Methodist Church. A special word of thanks to Linda Ginter Brown for nominating Jim. We join in celebrating Jim and thanking him for his service in WWII. To learn more about the Quilt of Valor Foundation go to [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org).

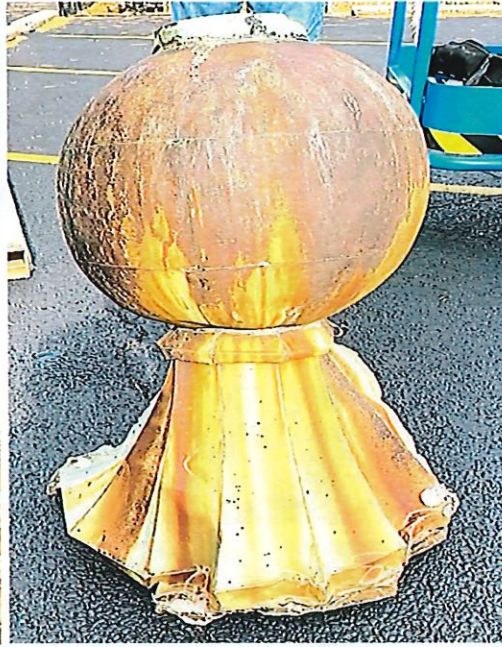




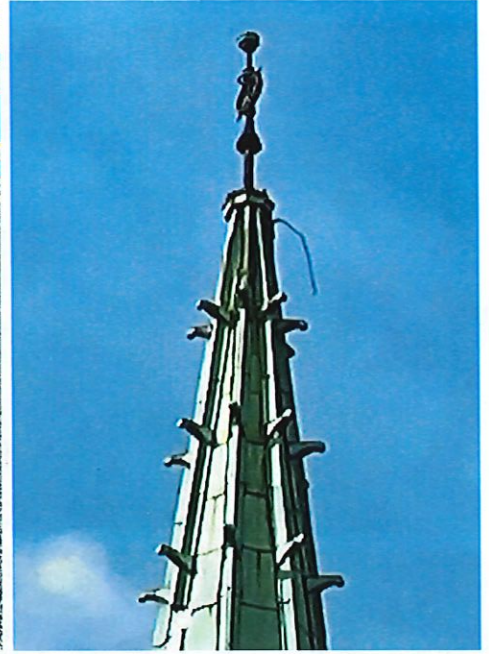
# Steeple Work Progress Report: Slow but Steady *from Jon Wolfe, Chair of Trustees*



Ball before removal



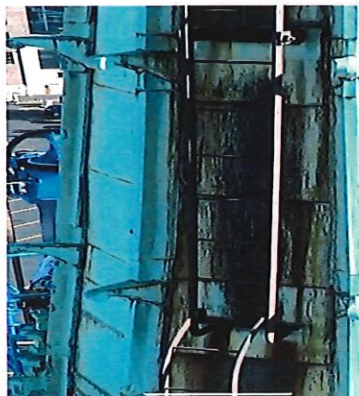
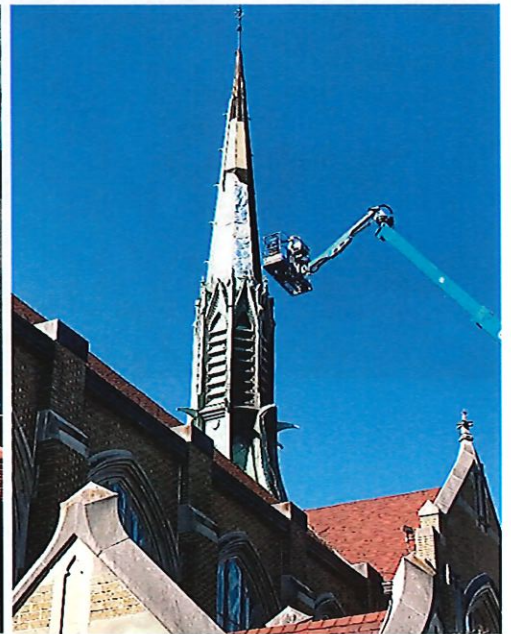
Copper ball removed



Copper removed at top of steeple.  
Large cables visible attached to lightning rod



Drone view looking west



Drone pic of ladder on the back of the steeple. At one time this was used to change a light bulb that was at the very top. Any volunteers to go up and change it?



One of the brave workers posing for the camera.



Photos from the Halloween/Harvest Party on Oct. 29...



Photos from the Church Women United event at FBC on Nov. 4...







# Celebrate the Advent/Christmas Season with Special Worship Services at FBC

All are invited to special music and worship events at First Baptist Church of Dayton during this Advent/Christmas season, with music that will range from classical to contemporary, including traditional carols and spirituals.



## **First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.** *Communion Sunday*

The season of Advent starts with a festive worship service in our beautiful sanctuary decorated for the holidays.



## **Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.** *Lessons and Carols of Advent*

The special service will consist of Bible readings of the season interspersed with music from the Chancel Choir, organists, and congregational singing of beloved Christmas hymns and carols.



## **Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.** *Children's Christmas Pageant*

Our children's Christmas Pageant will take place during morning worship.



## **Christmas Eve Morning Service** **Sunday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m.**



## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** **Music Prelude starts at 5:30 p.m.**

Arrive by 5:30 to hear the pre-service concert with special guests; service to follow.



# “200 Years of Giving” Stewardship 2024

God’s people have been giving to and through First Baptist Church of Dayton for 200 years! As we prepare to kick off our bicentennial year in 2024 we come once again with our annual stewardship emphasis. I’m sure you will want our church to have a strong, positive year ahead. So I thank you in advance for your generous support. I trust we will be committing and giving even as you and the many faithful people of this church have for generations. What a privilege to be part of that!

Looking back at our history I am often deeply moved by the commitment and generosity of our congregation through time. Members of this church helped found colleges and seminaries with their gifts. They have supported missions endeavors in extraordinary ways. They have built a magnificent building and funded gifted pastors and staff. Now the torch is passed to us to advance that legacy in our own generation.

This year’s inflation rate clocks in at about 3.7%. In order to continue supporting our ministries at the same rate we need to give that much more just to keep pace. Each household has its own economy, and not everyone can afford to give at the same rates. Many of you give of your time and talents in ways that exceed even a financial gift. I hope you will prayerfully consider what your part is in the life and ministry of our congregation, both in your personal commitment as well as your financial commitment.

Please return a commitment card by Thanksgiving so we know we can count on you for the coming year. Every gift matters, regardless of size. Some of you give regularly—can you consider increasing your gift to help us achieve our goals? Some of you may give occasionally, or have not given previously. Would you consider making a regular, planned gift on a weekly or monthly basis? Every increase helps us increase what we can accomplish. Even if you can’t increase your giving this year, we appreciate every gift no matter what.

Use the cut-off card below or a card available at church and turn it in during an offering collection, by mail, or return it any way you wish to the church office. Or you can email our financial secretary, [nkerr@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:nkerr@fbcd Dayton.org). You can use e-giving at [www.fbcd Dayton.org](http://www.fbcd Dayton.org) if that is most helpful for you.

First Baptist Church has done great things for God’s kingdom in the past 200 years. Hopefully it will do so for 200 more! But for today, what we accomplish depends on how much each of us gives of ourselves to the work of the ministry today. Thank you for being part of God’s good work here in our community!

~Pastor Kent

(PLEASE TEAR HERE AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE)

With a grateful heart for God’s boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian stewardship, I make this commitment to Christ’s church and the ministry of this congregation.

My/Our commitment is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month, or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

I understand that I may adjust this estimate of giving at any time by contacting the Finance secretary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship 2024

“200 Years  
of Giving”

