

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402  
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**MAY 2024**

**Volume 90, Issue 9**

## *Steadfast and Joyful*

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

In May of 1824, the virtually deaf composer Ludwig van Beethoven premiered his Ninth (and final) Symphony in Vienna less than three years before his death. Although he shared the stage as honorary director, the musicians of necessity watched the baton of their actual director, who could actually hear and respond to the music. The composition concluded with the powerful movement known as “Ode to Joy,” and when finished the hall erupted with a series of five standing ovations. The patrons waved their hands and handkerchiefs in the air so Beethoven could see their applause.

An ocean and continent away, that same month a small band of Baptist believers finalized their plans for the creation of a church. In the frontier Ohio town of Dayton they were meeting regularly at the inn that was the home of William and Lydia Huffman, an establishment that our history book says became known as the “Baptist tavern.” On Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> a council gathered to examine the 8 hopeful members who wished to begin official work as a duly recognized church. Since there were 9 ministers present, there were 9 sermons that weekend! A Sunday service was held at the courthouse, after which the newly minted congregation walked down Main Street to the Great Miami River, where Lydia Huffman was baptized as the first new member.

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Vienna and Dayton couldn't have been much further apart at that time. One was a storied capital of historic Europe, an epicenter of culture. The other was a small outpost in a new state of an emerging country with its fresh hopes and dreams. The established churches of European ancestry looked down upon Baptists as dissenters and upstarts, and the Baptists generally returned the favor by viewing the major denominations as having grown spiritually cold and irrelevant. The early Baptists didn't even countenance music in their worship until some years later when a few brave souls rose to their feet in song, and turned the tide in favor of a sung future.

Dayton has come a long way in 200 years, and so has our congregation. From primitive beginnings we grew into a progressive center of our city's worshipping community. We built one of our denomination's more remarkable houses of worship, a kind of Baptist cathedral. Our congregation has endured the shifting tides of the culture of our own city, mirroring its industrial growth as well as its later decentralization.

*(cont'd)*

(Continued from page 1)

We don't often refer to it these days, but a phrase stands out in our church's official covenant. It says that "we shall strive to be steadfast and joyful Christians." We have declared ourselves to be a people who believe God's word continues to unfold. To be steadfast means to hold tenaciously to our faith through the challenges of the times. To be joyful means that God's Spirit enables us to sing through it all!

And so in our bicentennial month we adopt as a theme that great hymn derived from Beethoven's Ninth, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." At the conclusion of our May 12<sup>th</sup> service we will unveil an Ohio Historical Marker that speaks to the ways our congregation has been steadfast through two centuries in Dayton. And on May 26<sup>th</sup> we will joyfully celebrate our Founders Day, a memorial that even precedes that weekend's national holiday.

We may well wonder what our future holds—it may be as different as our present is from our origins. Yet our future can remain connected to our roots if we strive to be steadfast. And our future can be bright as if we strive to be joyful! May God's unfolding word continue to fill us with the light of day, and may our hearts unfold like spring flowers before our jubilant God.

--Pastor Kent



Bicentennial Celebration  
1824 - 2024

### March 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	37.00	250.00	172.01
Pledges	207794.00	13973.00	51948.50	62758.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	4100.00	13750.00	13360.00

## Bicentennial Keepsake

On Sale thru May 26th



We have a special keepsake to commemorate The First Baptist Church of Dayton's Bicentennial. It is a beautiful wooden replica of our church (5"3/8" high x 7 1/2" wide). A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall where you may sign up for how many keepsakes you would like to purchase. The price is \$10 each and may be picked up after payment. We are blessed and honored to follow those who have led the way in the Dayton community for 200 years. May we be a blessing to those in the future of First Baptist Church of Dayton.

## Historical Marker Dedication

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Sunday, May 12 will mark a special day in our ongoing 200th Anniversary Celebration. That morning as part of our worship service we will dedicate an Ohio Historical Marker. It will stand on our property near our front steps at the intersection of Monument and Ludlow. The marker tells some of our history and will commemorate our congregation's bicentennial. We plan to conclude our service outdoors at the location of the marker where a representative from Ohio History Connections will help us unveil the new sign. The sign will be similar to others you can find in our area, like the ones at the Dayton Woman's Club, Dayton Art Institute, Masonic Center, and more. For more information, visit [www.remarkableohio.org](http://www.remarkableohio.org). The marker was mostly paid for through a grant, with the sign's text and the installation provided by us. So be a part of history and join us for worship this Mothers Day!

## Garden Report

### *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

By Farmer/Pastor Dave  
(See photos in insert)

The second verse of this great hymn pretty much sums up the last few weeks: 'Summer and winter, spring-time and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.' Typical weather in Ohio meant for a balmy Good Friday as Charlene Bayless and I prepped the Love Your Neighbor Garden for the spring planting by pulling winter weeds. However, snow and freezing temps pushed off our planting day until April 12, still a good day by the almanac. By that time we had witnessed the sun and moon in a choreographed dance to bring darkness upon the earth. In the midst of the day the stars and planets Venus and Jupiter were revealed briefly.

Warmer temps and full sun made a great day for the planting (and harvesting) crew. Julia Wolfe, Lucas and DeAnn Owens, and Ted Greenwood were on hand to plant onions, garlic and potatoes. Even though they were newcomers to the planting process, Pastor Dave now certifies them as Spring Garden Planters and Weeders. The kale survived the mild winter and has been flourishing the past couple of weeks. We were able to harvest about 8-10 pounds of fresh kale leaves to deliver to the House of Bread. Operating in the test kitchen, Carolyn Mowry made a quiche out of the fresh chopped kale and certified it as delicious enough to consume. Next time, I want to be a taste tester!

Thanks to all for your help. Hope to see more of you on **May 11 at 10:30 for the planting of the summer garden.** We plant, God grows!

### Kale Quiche (Crustless)

By Carolyn Mowry

[9-inch pie plate, 350-degrees for about 40 min]

Add 3 C. chopped kale in greased pie plate  
Add 4 oz grated cheddar  
Fry & dice 2 strips bacon, add some onion as bacon finishes (pat on paper towel to absorb grease), then add to pie plate.

For liquid mixture beat 4 small eggs with 1 C Bisquick and 2 C milk. Pour liquid over the ingredients in the pie plate. Make sure all the kale is tucked down under the liquid. Bake and enjoy!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### May Celebrants

- 2 Lanie Henry
- 3 Lavanda Ferguson, Mary Ann Paloncy
- 4 Tina Rose
- 9 Mark Craig, Jeanne Kallenberg
- 10 Merriann Craig
- 11 Amy Radachi
- 12 Kate Landis
- 13 Jadon See
- 14 Phyllis Barker, Donna Miles Curry
- 18 Ed Rhodes
- 23 David Taylor
- 24 Adam Hawkins
- 29 David See
- 30 Alina Brown
- 31 Mary Malone



## Welcome New Members!

On Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 the Right Hand of Fellowship was received by:

### Abby Cox

*Abby joined by Baptism.*

*Her faith partners are Michael & Jeannette Cox.*

### Reagan Crowley

*Reagan joined by Baptism.*

*Her faith partner is Emily Crowley.*

### James Cutlip

*James joined by Baptism.*

*His faith partner is Jerome Stueart.*

### Deborah Harshman

*Debbie joined by Statement of Faith.*

*Her faith partner is Ginger Tiffner.*

### Abigail Owens

*Abigail joined by Baptism.*

*Her faith partner is Nathan Owens.*

### Benjamin Ryan

*Benjamin joined by Baptism.*

*His faith partner is Jaimee Ryan.*

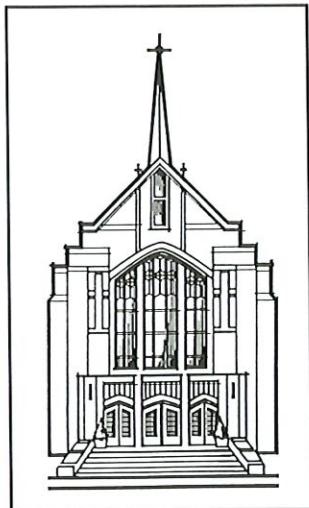
### Meredith Ryan

*Meredith joined by Statement of Faith.*

*Her faith partner is Michelle Smith.*

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*Celebration of Life*  
Rev. Jim Earnest

Saturday, May 18, 2024  
10:00 AM  
First Baptist Church of Dayton



*Celebration of Life*  
Mary K. Lee

Saturday, May 25, 2024  
Noon – 3:00 PM  
Englewood MetroPark: East Park  
Shelter Name: Patty  
4361 W National Rd, Vandalia OH 45377

For Our Cards  
and Prayers



Glen Babb	Arthur Merkle
Clara Black	Shirley Nash
Gerald Busch	Mary Ann Paloncy
Don Brown	Susan Parent
Linda Ginter Brown	Judy Smith
June Collier	Roger Stephens
Earnest Family	Anita Suro
Lavanda Ferguson	Anne Veghte
Bill Harrell	Harold West
Ray Landis	Dorothy Williams
Gene Lee	Sharon Wingham

**Military Duty:**

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



# Adult Sunday School



**MAY & JUNE 2024**

## **First Baptist Through the Years**

Led by Pastor Kent Berghuis & Angie Berghuis

May 5 - 19 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Chapel

During May Pastor Kent and Angie Berghuis will be presenting stories from our church's history during the adult Sunday School time. The class will meet for three Sundays from May 5-19. Pastor Kent will share an overview of the congregation from its beginnings to the present time. Angie has prepared a review of 1924, our centennial year, as told through articles that appeared in our local newspaper. She will share historical insights from the heyday of the church half-way between its founding and today. Come get a sense of who we are through where we've been, and think together of what it means for who we shall be in the future as well.

## **Sermon Talkback**

With The Rev. David Coggins

May 5 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Choir Room

We continue to offer sermon talkbacks on the first Sunday of each month in the Choir Room. We hope you'll join us and share the questions, insights, challenges, etc. from your hearing of the morning's sermon.

## **Philippians**

Led by Dr. Brad Kallenberg

June 2, 9 & 16 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Chapel

*Philippians* is one of the "prison epistles" written by the Apostle Paul to a congregation that he planted in northern Greece during his second missionary journey. The format of this adult Sunday School class will be interactive as we learn (and practice) a variety of ways of listening to Scripture together. Over these three weeks we will seek to get better at "reading in communion" in hopes that we begin to hear what God may be saying to us who gather at Monument and Ludlow this Eastertide, 2024.



# Education/Youth Sunday

Sunday, May 19, 2024  
Teacher/Graduate Recognition



Each year we take time in worship to recognize those who have served in the education ministry of our church—Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School volunteers, Children’s Messengers, and others. And we celebrate those who are graduating from high schools or universities.

**CALL FOR GRADUATES!** If you or someone in your family will be graduating this spring, we would be happy to include you/them in our list of graduates. Contact the church office ([fbc@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:fbc@fbcd Dayton.org)) with the graduate’s name, institution of learning, and degree if applicable. Also it would be helpful to know if you/they will be present in worship on that Sunday.

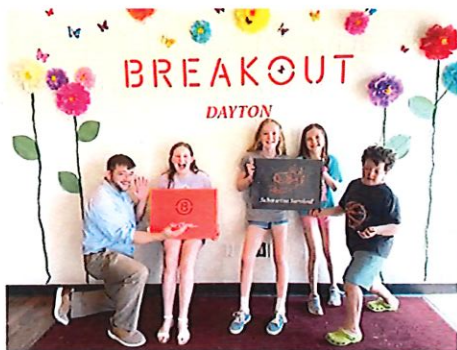
## BYF Gatherings in May 2024

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join our Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) gatherings, where we share in food, fellowship, reflection and fun times. With Mother’s Day and Founders Day/Bicentennial celebrations taking place on the second and fourth Sunday of May, respectively (our usual gathering times), we will have just one formally scheduled gathering in the month of May:

**BYF Gathering @ FBC Dayton**  
Sunday, May 19 @ 12:15-2:30pm

Also, we would like to be sure to have updated information for our youth participants, and ask that parents turn in a new completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation Form for 2024 for each youth to Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) / 937-631-3579). Print copies are available on the table near the church office. Friends are always welcome, but we ask that they also turn in a BYF Form.

*Photos from BYF/Baptism Class Outing to Breakout Games & Graeter’s 4/14/24*





## Youth Summer Camps 2024

For several years now we have participated in two different summer camps for youth who have completed grades 6-12. Youth are welcome to participate in either or both camps, but we do ask that they be active in our church/youth group. Pastor Jason and other adults from our church act as chaperons and leaders, taking our groups to camp and being with them throughout the week. Through the Board of Christian Education our church provides generous financial support to send our youth to these camps. And this year, they have expressed a desire to cover 100% of the cost of camp, which is AMAZING! If you'd like to support our camping ministries, you can simply earmark donations to the church for "BYF Fund." If your youth(s) would like to register for BYC and/or Quest, if you have questions, etc. just contact with Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) / 937-631-3579). Pastor Jason will also be scheduling orientations for both camps soon!

### **BYC**

**June 30 – July 5**

**Laurel Ridge Camp - Laurel Springs, NC**

BYC is a progressive, youth-centered camp organized each year by a group of Alliance of Baptist and UCC affiliated churches from Ohio, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee. Adults from each of these covenanting churches plan and lead every aspect of camp. This year's theme will focus on stories of the early Church from *The Book of Acts*. And through youth-led worship, small group times, interest groups, games and more, we will explore what it means to be in such community today.

### **Quest**

**July 14 – 19**

**Green Lake Conference Center – Green Lake, WI**

**&**

**BYF Post-Camp Retreat – Lake Sullivan, IN**

**July 19-21**

Quest is a youth camp organized by camp staff under the leadership of Director Heather Henson. It is designed in such a way that both youth and leaders from a variety of churches can have time to learn and explore the week's theme together amongst peers. The theme this year is JOY, focusing on Isaiah 22:12-13 as our theme scripture. Each day we'll be exploring how we find JOY, authentic joy, even in the midst of struggles, hardships, and difficulties. Like our BYC camp, there are times for fun and games together, such as large group field games, high ropes, small groups, and free time to explore the wider Green Lake Conference Center grounds.

**NEW!** The Tyson family has generously offered our group the use of their lake house on Lake Sullivan in Indiana. And so we are adding on two more days to our Quest Camp journey to have a post camp retreat with our youth.

*Save the Dates!*

## VBS 2024

*Church Stories: All Aboard!*

July 8-12 @ 9:30am-Noon

Grades PreK-5

This summer we are following up our 2023 theme—*Jesus Stories*—with stories from the Early Church and stories from our own local church. As we celebrate our Bicentennial year, one of the interesting pieces to our history is a connection to the chapel car ministry that took place between 1890 and 1946. And so, we're integrating stories of this ministry into our VBS curriculum. We'll have a great time together with games, crafts and music; and in hearing these stories of how people have sought to share the Gospel of God's love. All aboard!

A VBS Planning Team has started work, but if you are interested in helping out with VBS in some way, please contact Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) / 937-631-3579) or Janet Landis ([janetcwl218@gmail.com](mailto:janetcwl218@gmail.com) / 937-901-6871).



## FBC & Dayton Pride 2024

*The Strength of the Gem*

We are once again making plans to participate in Dayton Pride 2024, especially the Parade & Festival that will take place on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> (11am-4pm). There are lots of ways to help with walking in the parade, gathering/creating materials to share during the parade & festival, spending time at our festival booth to engage with folks from the community, and more. **If you would like to help with our planning, please contact Pastor Jason ([jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) / 937-631-3579).**

Here are some of the Pride events that might be of interest:

**Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm – Interfaith Service** at St. John's United Church of Christ (515 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)

**Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 6-10pm – Affair on Saint Clair: Rock this Block & the Faces of Pride Exhibit (6-9pm)** a photography exhibit celebrating the diversity with our LGBTQ+ community (136 N. Saint Clair Street)

**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> @ 11am – Dayton Pride Parade** – Come walk in the parade with FBC Dayton or cheer everyone on from the sidelines! (line-up starts at 10:30am on Jefferson Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. Parade kicks off at 11am, and travels west on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Main Street, one block north to 1<sup>st</sup> Street, and then east on 1<sup>st</sup> Street to the Main Stage on Saint Clair.). And stay after the **Parade for the Dayton Pride Festival (12-4pm)** on N. Saint Clair Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, where FBC Dayton will have our booth.



## RTD's National Rebuild Day – April 27, 2024 FBC Group



### Notes from the Heritage Committee

Things are really shaping up for the celebration of our 200th anniversary. We have special banners made, keepsakes for sale, historical displays in the fellowship hall, a historical marker to be dedicated on Mother's Day and many special activities Memorial Day weekend when we celebrate Founders Day!

Volunteers are wanted to help with the banquet for Founders Day Bicentennial Celebration on Sunday, May 26. We are having the banquet catered. It will be a buffet but could use at least 4 volunteers to help serve the food, some to help set the tables and room the day before, some to help clear and wash dishes/clean up. Please RSVP to Donna Curry if you can help ([donna.curry@wright.edu](mailto:donna.curry@wright.edu) or 937-470-5643).

*Please join the First Baptist Church of Dayton's  
Bicentennial Celebration on Founders Sunday, May 26!*

*~ Worship Service at 10:00am ~*

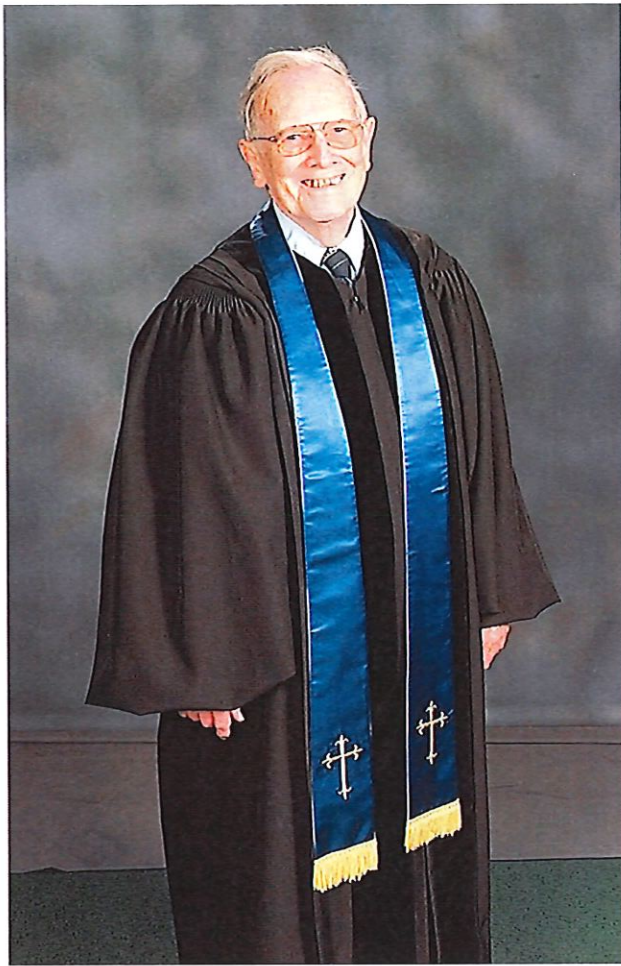
*~ Catered Lunch at 11:30am ~*

*The deadline for RSVPs is fast-approaching!*

*If you plan to attend the catered lunch,*

*we need your RSVP by May 17!*

*RSVP to Linda Blair at [lindablair@fbcd Dayton.org](mailto:lindablair@fbcd Dayton.org)*



**The Rev. JAMES WILLIAM EARNEST** born in Springfield, Ohio on August 10, 1922, and passed away on February 17, 2024 at the age of 101. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Merde (d. 1958) and Pearle Elizabeth (McKeag-d. 1972), sister, Lois Carson (d. 1988), wife, Glana Naomi (Hammer-d. 2008), daughter, Dorothy Alice (d. 1999), and son, William Paul (d. 2023). He is survived by son, James Neil (Margaret Ann), and son, Timothy Carl (Kim-d. 2023), nine grandchildren, and fourteen great grandchildren.

He was a graduate of Stivers High School, Rio Grande College, Otterbein College (where he met his wife), Wright State University, Sinclair College. He received his ministerial education at Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH.

He was always a bi-vocational minister, wearing many hats for the Lord throughout the years—airplane mechanic, bus/truck driver, furniture mover, toolmaker, machinist, director, coordinator with Model Cities (one of three to rebuild Xenia from 1974 tornado). Serving in the South Pacific in World War II with the Army Air Corp,

Jim worked on airplanes and salvage missions, but also sought to share the Gospel with others there as part of the GI Gospel Hour. And back home he worked in the shop at NCR while serving in ministry in various capacities.

Rev. Earnest started his ministry at the support and promotion of Dr. H.S. Gessner at Franklin First Baptist in Franklin, OH. First licensed in 1947, he served, pastored, taught and counseled for eight decades in a variety of settings, including the Billy Graham Crusades, World Wide Pictures, interim pastorates, pulpit supply, and Camp Director for Camp Kirkwood in Wilmington, OH. His greatest joy was visitations to uplift and cheer others, leaving them feeling not alone and smiling before the sun set. He last served in this capacity from 2008-2014 as part of the Pastoral Staff at the First Baptist Church of Dayton.

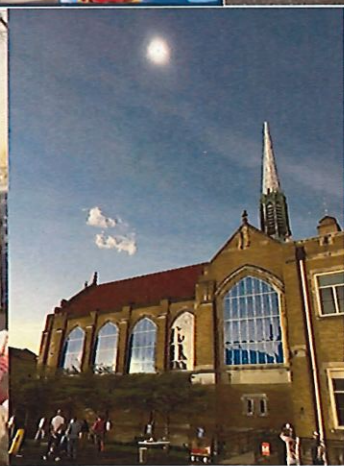
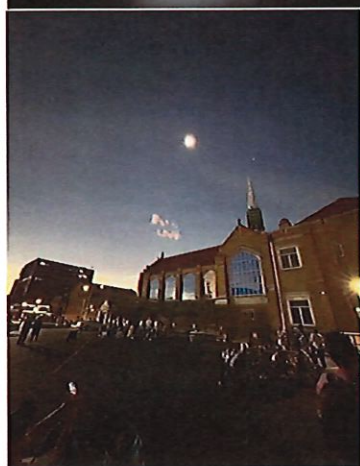
With connections to First Baptist Springfield where he was baptized at a young age, as well as Linden Avenue Baptist, Memorial Baptist, and First Baptist Church of Dayton, many in the Dayton Area Baptist Association and region have been blessed by Jim's ministry. As his son, Neil, put it, he "leaves a world of friends, colleagues." Having persevered through many of the world's woes like the Great Depression, WWII, and civil unrests for race, creeds, faiths, beliefs, social changes, ideological misguidances, we give thanks for the Rev. James W. Earnest, a most honest and faithful servant of God. May he rest in peace.

There will be a **Celebration of Life for Rev. Earnest on Saturday, May 18 at 10am at the First Baptist Church of Dayton** (111 W. Monument Ave, Dayton, OH 45402). All are invited to attend and share in table fellowship as we sing, pray, and share memories of Jim.

# SOLAR ECLIPSE BLOCK PARTY

Monday, April 8, 2024

christ episcopal church & first baptist church



## Your Trustees at Work

Not much to see on our building yet, but behind the scenes our copper fabricator has been reproducing copper for our steeple. The scaffold will be going up the first of May.



## Spring Garden Planters & Weeders

