



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

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## Our Community in the Community

*By Pastor Kent Berghuis*

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A church is a community—we have things in common, especially our faith, and we express that in unity together, which is what the word itself basically means. We are also a community within broader communities. When we represent our church outside our regular functions we generate new connections with others we meet.

Recently several of us had the chance to sing in a community chorus that was organized and rehearsed by our Music Director, William Henry Caldwell. We joined in with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus as well as other select singers from the region for a special concert recognizing the contributions of African-American musical traditions in the performing arts community. The chorus rehearsed in our church building for a month of Tuesdays, and then we rehearsed twice and performed twice at the Schuster Center the first week of June. By the conclusion of all that my voice was finally back in some kind of singing shape!

It was enjoyable not only because of the fine music that was being produced, but also for the new relationships that were being cultivated. I've met many of these people before, but this gave further chances to interact and join our spirits in making something beautiful together. We got to appreciate the many talents and gifts spread out through our community of excellent musicians, as well as our incredibly skilled directors, including not only William but Jeremy Winston and the DPO's Neil Gittleman.

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One meaningful observation was watching Neal in action behind the scenes. Here is one of our areas best of the best musicians, with a powerful resume and career as a conductor and musical director. When it was time for William to rehearse the choir, Neal would sit at the piano and pound out the notes like any regular accompanist would. When chairs needed to be set up, there he was setting them up, taking down tables, and sweeping the floor. He would be the last one out of the building, carting his box of music and supplies with a smile on his face. How wonderful to see the humility and work ethic of talented people like that!

The concert came off very well, with the music turning the Schuster Center into an energetic, high-end worship venue. Soloists from our choir Cyerra Pemberton, Samantha Leal and Melody Williams brought the crowd to their feet with their soaring soprano voices. William was in rare form, bringing the chorus to the best it could be in such a short time.

So many of the chorus members remarked about how they enjoyed rehearsing in our beautiful building. We see many of them here from time to time as they visit for worship or special events. And our choir has become an entry point for people to become part of the regular life of our congregation, too.

Participating in the broader community blesses those of us who participate as well as those we encounter. Things like this chorus, or our participation in the Pride festival, help us get exposure as a church and to learn more about what's going on around us. We knit ties that help us find unity together. And that's what community is supposed to be all about.

--Pastor Kent

*FBCD singers at community chorus at Schuster Center*



Back row: Michael Cage, Brad Kallenberg, Artrell Allen, Kent Berghuis  
Front row: William Henry Caldwell, Jeanne Kallenberg, Samantha Leal, Cyerra Pemberton  
(Melody Williams not pictured)

# Garden Report

As Pastor Kent said in his recent sermon, we scatter the seeds and some fall on rocky ground while others fall on fertile soil. That pretty much sums up our church garden when we say "We plant, God grows." Of course we provide some nurture and caretaking by watering and weeding but ultimately which seeds will sprout and thrive are a mystery. Take for example the seed that found its way into the hole drilled for the anchor rod in the parking block. There was just enough water and soil at the base to sprout a single plant. In the fertile soil of our garden we see lots of evidence of God's work. Sunflowers are coming! Squash are coming! Tomatoes are coming! Soon will be a harvest day and a day of rejoicing.

We plant, God grows!  
Farmer/Pastor Dave



## Order a Group Photo

We are taking orders for the large group photo that was taken in front of the church on Sunday, May 26, the Bicentennial/Founders Day Celebration. If you did not get a chance to purchase that day, please clip out the order form, enclose payment of \$20, and either mail it to the church or place it in an offering basket on Sunday. We will take orders through July, but orders will not be processed until paid.

### GROUP PHOTO ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

How many photos? \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 each)

Payment options:

Cash \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ E-Giving \_\_\_



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 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!

Registration forms are available online at our website [fbcd Dayton.org](http://fbcd Dayton.org) or at the church. Our VBS Planning Team has been hard at work. 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).



## Firepit Fellowship

Friday, July 19 @ 6pm

Dorothy Lane American Baptist Church (960 W Dorothy Ln) is inviting us to their "Firepit Fellowship" every 3rd Friday of each month throughout the summer beginning at 6:00pm. The next one will be on July 19th. Hotdogs, snacks, marshmallows and drinks are provided, but you can bring something to share if you wish.

## CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, July 21 after Church  
Indian Riffle Park - Shelter #1  
(2801 Stroop Rd, Kettering)



We are having a casual dress Sunday on July 21st so that we can leave for the picnic from the church. The Deacons will provide chicken and drinks and the congregation is asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts to share. Please RSVP if you plan to come! (The restrooms are a short walk from the picnic shelters and play area.)

## Update on El Salvador Mission Partnership Return Trip 2024-25



Since 2010 we have enjoyed a mission partnership with First Baptist Church and St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Springfield and Iglesia Baustista Dios Compasivo in Ahuachapan, El Salvador. And as part of maintaining that partnership we have periodically had a group travel to Ahuachapan and surrounding areas to nurture relationships and see firsthand the good work the folks there are doing. We had a trip planned for the Spring of 2020, but the pandemic forced us to cancel. We have continued to provide financial support for the work in Ahuachapan, but have yet to return in-person. However, we are now sensing the ability and opportunity to once again make group trips possible, beginning with a trip at the end of this year.

Some of the more experienced folks who have traveled in the past, including Diane Ashman, have met to discuss a trip that would take place just after Christmas, December 2024 and run through about January 5, 2025. This trip will in some ways feel like a restart, since we have not been there for several years now, and a good part of the work will involve getting reacquainted and discussing new ministry projects. **For now, we need to know who in our congregations would like to commit to going on this 2024-2025 trip. And we would like to know by September 1, 2024. If you are interested and would like to know more, please speak with me/Pastor Jason.**

### Kids Sunday School Teachers Needed for Summer

We are seeking volunteers to help with our Kids One-Room Sunday School Class (preK-5) this summer (June 9 thru Sept. 1). There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Note that there are two slots for each Sunday—one for the person who will teach, leading the reading/discussion of scripture; the other for the person who would provide a craft project to help the kids connect with the lesson. Please speak with Pastor Jason or Janet Landis, chair of CE. They will also be on hand to provide resources, supplies, etc., throughout the summer.

### Dayton Public Hospital Initiative

Please share with residents of the City of Dayton that the Clergy Community Coalition – which opposed the closing and destruction of Good Samaritan Hospital – is supporting a November 5, 2024, ballot issue for a Dayton Public Hospital. Petition signators are those registered to vote in Montgomery County who are residents of the City of Dayton. Charlene Bayless has petitions and information: email [chandghbayless@aol.com](mailto:chandghbayless@aol.com) or call 937-293-8794.

## *FBC's Board of Missions Shines Its Spotlight on~*

### EASTWAY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE and DAYTON CHRISTIAN CENTER



*By Jamie See...* As part of the 2024 budget, the Evangelism and Mission Board budget was approved for a \$5000 increase in funds. With the increase, the Board had several discussions about new community initiatives and organizations that could be supported by First Baptist Church of Dayton.

During the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, Jamie See presented about Eastway Behavioral Healthcare, a not-for-profit mental health agency, where she has worked for 23 years. She discussed the three child residential treatment programs that are owned and operated by Eastway:

**Northcutt Residential Treatment Center for Boys:** provides a safe, healing environment for elementary school-aged boys who are victims of trauma. Services include therapy, socialization and recreation, on-site educational services, and healthcare. Northcutt is a 24-bed facility located in North Dayton.

**The Ranch of Opportunity:** serves girls from 13-17 years of age and uses therapeutic techniques such as caring for and working with horses and barn animals in an equestrian facility to help recover from severe childhood trauma. The Ranch is a 30-bed facility located in Washington Court House.

**The Heritage of Hannah Neil:** uses evidence-based programming to treat boys and girls aged 5-11 on a 22-acre property. Tremendous care has been taken to create a comfortable, colorful, creative environment designed to nurture a strong sense of belonging and security to assist in overcoming trauma. Hannah Neil is a 40-bed facility located in Columbus.

After presenting the three programs, Jamie requested an annual donation of \$500 per program, totaling \$1500 per year, to assist with activities for the children that go above and beyond programming/schooling. Specifically, the money will be used to fund a summer cookout at each location to include bouncy houses, water slides, carnival games, etc. and fun outings in the community. The motion for \$500 per program annually was approved by the Board.

If anyone is interested in making an individual tax-deductible donation to Eastway Behavioral Healthcare to support the child residential treatment programs, please speak with Jamie See.



DAYTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

*By Jeannette Cox...* Thank you for supporting the Dayton Christian Center! The DCC is a local ministry of the Baptist Home Mission Society. For over 100 years, it has shared love and support with children and families living in West Dayton.

DCC's history is intertwined with FBC's history. It began in 1908 as a Bible Study outreach to Hungarian immigrants. In 1919, DCC's current mission began: caring for children while their parents work. The DCC settled into its current home on West Riverview Avenue in 1951.

Today, DCC remains committed to meeting the needs of West Dayton families through its daycare, preschool, afterschool, and summer camp programs. Children aged 6 weeks to 12 years receive top-quality childcare, healthy meals, and educational support. They also have many opportunities to learn about Jesus through the songs, stories, and warmth shared by spiritual director Rev. Marva Hughes.

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The DCC has recently welcomed Yvonne Watkins to the Executive Director role. Ms. Watkins, who formerly served as the Assistant Executive Director, prioritizes building strong relationships with children and their families. Through her leadership, the DCC has begun an exciting partnership with the Hope Zone of Omega Baptist Church. The DCC has also begun hosting regular family engagement events focused on topics the families choose, such as literacy, mental health, exercise, and healthy eating.

As I've served as FBC's representative on the DCC's board of directors, I've learned that DCC's work is often difficult. Many of the children and families DCC serves live in poverty and/or have experienced significant trauma. I've been inspired by DCC's staff's passionate commitment to helping their children and families build strong relationships, mindfulness, and resilience.

I'm grateful that FBC's mission board provides regular financial support to the Dayton Christian Center. If you would help as an individual, there are a number of opportunities to do so. Your financial contribution to the DCC's benevolence fund can make a huge difference in the life of a DCC child when a crisis, such as a house fire, upends their family's finances. There are also opportunities to assist with building maintenance and to provide afterschool tutoring in reading or math.

If you're interested in becoming more involved with the Dayton Christian Center, please reach out to me at [cox\\_jeannette@yahoo.com](mailto:cox_jeannette@yahoo.com) or contact the DCC directly at 937-275-7174.

To stay up-to-date with the latest happenings at the Dayton Christian Center, please follow DCC on Facebook or Instagram! --By Jeannette Cox



## Reaffirming by Rev. Jason Alspaugh

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month, and the celebrations in Dayton began on May 30<sup>th</sup> with an Interfaith Pride worship service at St. John's UCC, where we shared stories and blessings. I was invited to participate and offered an original poem entitled, "Thank You, God," which is included below. A couple of days later on June 1<sup>st</sup> a group of us gathered at the flag pole in front of the church building to bless and raise our Pride flag. I simply asked folks to share what they hoped people would see and think when they saw that flag flying in front of a church, a Baptist church. We hoped people would see a message of God's love, that they would know there was a place in the Church for them, and more. And I prayed that God would bless our hopes and calm any fears. With that being done, we made our way to places by St. Clair & Jefferson streets to line up for the parade and to set up our festival booth. This year the festivities were in a new downtown location because we had outgrown Courthouse Square, and still the streets were full of people celebrating welcome, love, inclusion, and pride.

As this month has gone on it is good to see more Pride celebrations happening in new places like Kettering and Lebanon. Some might think it's too much and unnecessary, but when you consider all of the ongoing discrimination and violence LGBTQ+ people face, you might understand how vital such gatherings are, and how important it is to reaffirm our commitment to being a Welcoming & Affirming congregation. That is what we do every time we raise a Pride flag, every time we march, every time we speak out, every time we offer a word of welcome and blessing and friendship—we reaffirm. Beloved, let us keep up this good work, and to God be the glory!







### Thank You God by Rev. Jason Alspaugh

for good pride  
 for sacred pride  
 the kind of pride  
 that lets us queer folks love ourselves  
 so that we can love others well

for those who delight in  
 the flamboyant,  
 the vibrant.

for people of faith  
 who would never try  
 to pray the gay away.

for the drag queens  
 whose wit and fierceness  
 give us boldness to say things like:  
 "Not today, Satan. Not today."

for transgender folks who dare  
 to be visible and vulnerable  
 despite threats of violence.

for those who have acted up  
 and spoken out,  
 knowing that silence=death

for angels who will dress like angels  
 and raise their wings  
 to shield us from hatred and harm

for those who choose  
 embrace over exclusion,  
 who know there is a wideness to God's loving-kindness.

For places of worship  
 where rainbow flags are finally raised  
 in true welcome

For all of this and more  
 I say  
 Yes,  
 Amen,  
 Blessed be,  
 and most all: Thank You, God!

## Music Notes

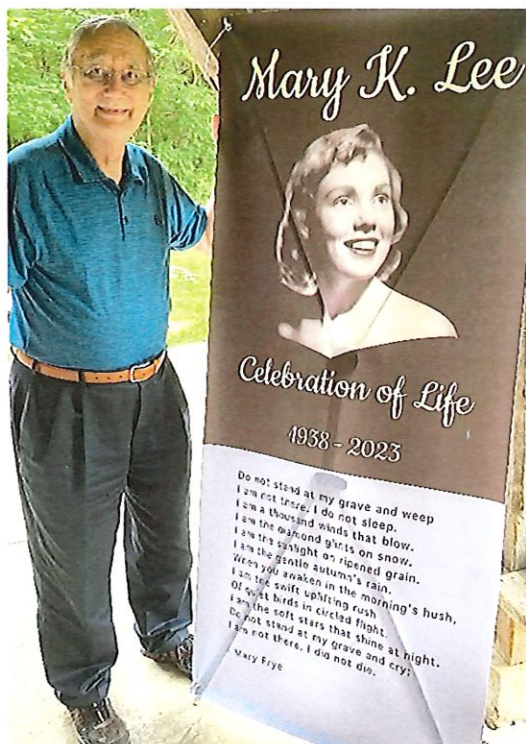
Outstanding Service Awards were presented at the First Baptist Sings concert on June 2, 2024. Recipients were Donna Curry, Connie Holmen, Brad Kallenberg, Linda Thomson, and Susan Wilson. *Congratulations all!*



Ray Landis was honored with a plaque for his many years of service as Choir Director from 2000-2016. *Congratulations Ray!*



## A Gathering at Englewood Park on May 25, 2024 In Memory of Mary K. Lee



# Founders Day Bicentennial Celebration ~ May 26, 2024

## The Worship Service



Ronald Todd  
Governor's Office Rep



Debbie Lieberman  
City Commissioner



Rev. Jacque Franklin  
Former Pastor



Cameo Humes  
Guest Soloist



Rev. Mark Click, ABC-OH Exec Minister, presenting plaque to Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis



Ed Rhodes  
Church Member



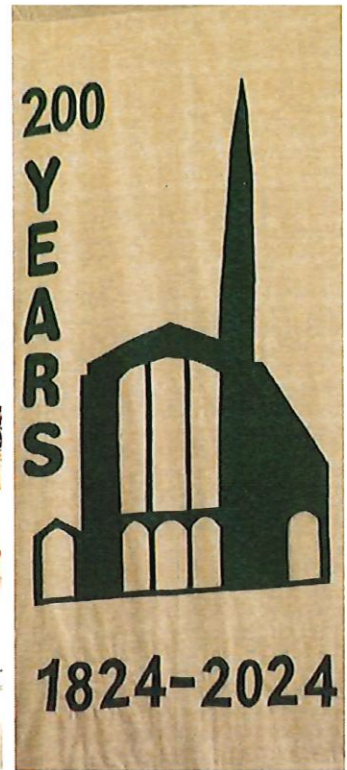
Ray Landis  
Church Moderator



The First Baptist Church Chancel Choir

*The Banquet*

(Worship and Banquet photos courtesy of Ralph Hopper and Tim Holmen)







+++++

*A Get-Together at the Goughs for Ed & Laura Rhodes and William & Giselle Bretz*



**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

*For Our Cards & Prayers* 

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

Military Duty:

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

*Thank You!*

*To Kent, David, and Jason, the Staff and Congregation of FBC...* Thank you for your support, kind words and prayers especially for my dad. Thank you for your condolences and support with his passing. There is comfort in believing that my parents are finally together again, for all time. With sincere thanks~~Greg Merkle

*Dear Church Family...* Thank you to all who helped with the beautiful service in Pete's remembrance on Saturday, June 8. The luncheon afterward was so lovely! Alan Kimbrough's beautiful music was a blessing. The thoughtful words spoken by Pastors Kent, Jason, and David were so meaningful. Thank you, Pastor Kent, for your support and advice during this time. All the people who participated in the service and who were there to support our family and each other means so much to us. You were all so thoughtful and kind to honor Pete by being there with us. With love and gratitude...Linda Thomson and Family—Matt, DeAnn, Aidan, Lucas, Nathan, Kimberly, Sydney, Abigail, Shannon, Kyle, Colin, Alina, and Harold West



*Best Wishes to the  
Newlyweds!*

Congratulations to **Kyle Mikesell** and **Emily Harnen** on their marriage that took place on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

**May 2024 Financial Report**

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	192.00	416.67	576.01
Pledges	207794.00	13791.00	86580.84	93277.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	2115.00	22916.67	25711.00