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Homecoming: *With or Without Dancing*

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

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Soon our church will have its annual “Homecoming” emphasis. On Sunday, September 8th, we will resume our fall programming, including our choir, second hour Sunday School, and BYF group meetings. Corresponding roughly to the school year we mark a kind of end to summer and beginning of a new chapter. Maybe you haven’t been to church in a while, or have taken a break from worship. I encourage you to take the opportunity to come back home to church, where you can worship and be with God’s people who love and care about you!

Back when I was in high school we had an annual homecoming football game. It was usually a home game placed on the calendar after an away game or two. There was a popularity contest involved in which a king and queen were chosen along with a court of attendants. With just 27 kids in my high school class it was not all that difficult to be chosen to be among the court. And it’s a ritual that I look back upon with a bit of a raised eyebrow for some of the problematic messages it sent.

One of the key aspects of high school homecoming was the dance after the game. And herein lay my dilemma as a child of devout fundamentalist Baptists. Our church looked at rock music as decidedly worldly. Additionally, dancing was frowned upon as having seriously sensual overtones. There’s an old joke about why Southern Baptists are against pre-marital sex—because it might lead to dancing! Yet, I was stuck in a pre-Footloose world in a town where Kenny Loggins was played freely.

(continued next page)

And so when I was a teenager I played on the football team, including both offense and defense. Of course I played in the homecoming game. And I was even lucky enough to get nominated to the homecoming court, trudging out on the field with the others in full pads and uniform. And then after the game I left, I did not dance, true to the principles of religious repression.

Looking back as an older man, I now feel that was rather misguided. Truth was that I enjoyed plenty of that music as much as the other kids, though I didn't admit to it around my parents or church. And I doubt that skipping the dance did much to regulate the normal teenaged hormones coursing through my veins.

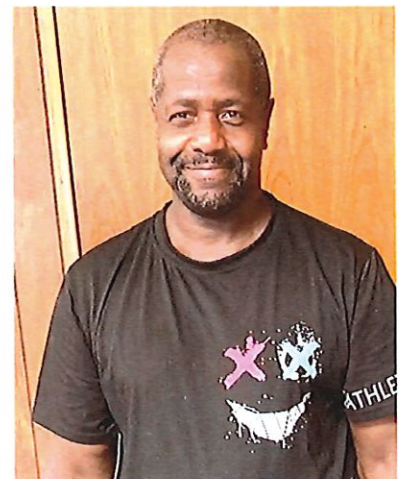
Perhaps if we had learned to dance, we would have appreciated the biblical lesson that dancing is an expression of joy! Psalms 149 and 150 even tell us we can praise the Lord with dance—an admonition to express our joy outwardly, one we could heed more, even in worship.

And so we come back to homecoming at church. We do not have a dance scheduled. There won't be a football game or a popularity contest. But I do hope that you will see our church gathered as a kind of home where you belong. Come home to church, experience a family that loves and cares about you, and express the joy that God has for us all!

--Pastor Kent

Meet Edward Howard...

Recently we hired Edward Howard to be a part-time custodian at the church. Our regular custodian, Johnny Davis, asked to reduce his hours, while he continues to work for us part-time as well. Edward has proven to be a great addition to our staff, with his pleasant personality and his helpful attitude. Edward is a native Daytonian, and a veteran of the U. S. Army. He has continued in his father's footsteps with an appliance repair business, and also was working as a houseman at a local hotel. Additionally Edward works as a home health aide, providing some of the daily care for a disabled gentleman. As you might guess, Edward likes to keep busy! He cares about others and likes to help people however he can. He says he is grateful to God every day for waking him up, and he's very glad to be part of our church. So if you see Edward, introduce yourself and get to know him, you'll be glad you did!



Homecoming Sunday ~ Sept. 8, 2024

As the summer season starts to wind down, and students and teachers return to schools, we look forward to welcoming each other back from various travels and times away. And we mark the beginning of a new season of learning as we resume our full schedule of Sunday school offerings and other weekday opportunities. We also keep in mind that the idea of homecoming applies to all those who may yet join with us and find a spiritual home with First Baptist. So continue to keep an eye out for those who are new to our gathering, and help them to feel welcome! **The Fall classes are listed on the following pages.**

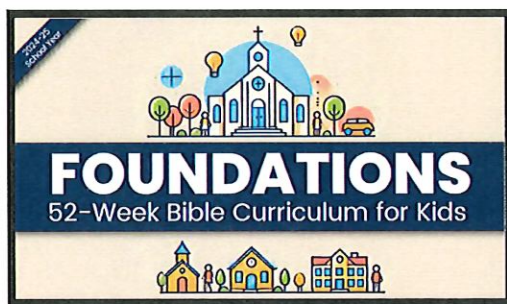
First Baptist Church of Dayton

Steadfast and joyful Christians continually seeking to understand and proclaim God's unfolding word.

2024 Schedule

Children's Sunday School & Activities

Sunday school for children (grades preK-5) begins after the *Children's Message* during morning worship (approx. **10:30-11:15am**). Children are invited to come forward for the message, and are then led down to their classrooms by their teachers. Parents should pick up their child(ren) shortly after morning worship.



Foundations

One-Room Sunday School Class
PreK-5 Graders
Room #4 (Lower Level)

Our elementary school age kids will continue learning with a curriculum we began using in the latter summer months called *Foundations*. Over the course of the year, kids will learn many of the important stories of faith from every

major section of the Bible. Interactive storytelling, activities, music and crafts will help our kids engage with the Scriptures each week.

Nursery



Nursery care for infants and toddlers (newborns up to 3 years) is currently available *as requested* (email Nancy Kerr at nkerr@fbcd Dayton.org or speak with Pastor Jason). However, the nursery room is always open to parents who may need a quiet, private space to care for their little ones.

Children's Music/Activities

PreK-5 Graders
11:30am-12:15pm
Room #4 (Lower Level)

During the 11:30am Sunday school time for adults and youth, we invite elementary school age children to gather for a time of supervised music and/or activities. Parents are asked to pick up their kids shortly after their classes conclude.

NOTE: We will be gathering in Room 4, while our usual room (#3A) undergoes some renovation/repairs.

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Youth Sunday School

Jr./Sr. High Sunday School

6-12 Graders

11:30am-12:15pm

Youth Room #1 (Lower Level)



This fall our Jr./Sr. High youth will be using resources from the Network of Biblical Storytellers International (NBSI) and Illustrated Ministry's *Mini Revolutions* to help interact with stories from the Bible in a variety of ways, including the practice retelling those stories from memory. Youth will be

invited to explore the connections between their lived experiences and the stories of Scripture, and consider the ways in which the Spirit may be speaking to them through these sacred texts.

Youth Group

Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) Gatherings

Our Baptist Youth Fellowship for youth in grades 6-12 is back this fall, but we will be focusing on gathering for events or outings that will ultimately allow us to spend more time together. That might mean that we will have fewer gatherings, but actually more time together.

FALL LOCK-IN – September 14-15

Our first gathering of the fall will be an overnight/Lock-In that will begin at 7pm on Saturday, September 14 and end after worship on September 15 (parents can retrieve youth at approx. 11:15am). We will share food, play games, share in evening prayers, and more. Youth are invited to bring a snack or beverage to share, and can also bring movies and/or games to propose to the group. Youth are welcome to invite their friends, but everyone needs to have turned in a completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation Form in order to participate.

In fact, as we start a new year, we would like to be sure to have updated information for our youth participants. And so, unless your youth submitted a BYF form for summer camps, we'd ask that parents turn in a new completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation Form for each youth to Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org). Print copies are available outside the church office.

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Adult Sunday School

Sermon Talkbacks

Second Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm
Next Sessions are September 8 & October 13
1st Floor – Choir Room

We are resuming our sermon talkback sessions on the Second 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.

Being Baptist for the Common Good

Led by Pastor Jason (et al)
Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm
September 8-25

1st Floor – CHAPEL

Join us for a four-part conversation on what Walter B. Shurden called the "Four Fragile Freedoms" that Baptists have historically upheld—Soul Freedom, Church Freedom, Bible Freedom, and Religious Freedom. These freedoms have been referenced a lot, it seems, in this election year, particularly as a guard against Christian nationalism. And so, together we will consider what our Baptist identity and these freedoms have to contribute to the common good today.

Midweek Learning Opportunities

Wednesday Bible Study
2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 2pm
First Baptist Church – Fellowship Hall

Building Bridges Bible Study
Thursdays @ 7:30-8:30am
Wholly Grounds
(825 Wayne Ave., Dayton, OH 45410)

Interested in starting/being a part of a new small group?
Please speak with Pastor Jason.

The Jesus Stories...

"Captivatingly funny..."

"Powerful mixture of heart and humor...with a touch of pasta!"

A play written by and starring Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught

TED & CO

Developed Through Shenandoah International Playwrights Ink



...what's for lunch?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th @ 10:00am
(Come early for the Prelude at 9:45am)

First Baptist Church of Dayton
111 W. Monument Ave., Dayton, OH 45402
www.fbcd Dayton.org

As part of our Bicentennial year celebrations, we are welcoming back our friends from **Ted & Co.** to share their play, *The Jesus Stories*, during our usual Sunday worship time. In fact, this will be a worship service, just a little different. It will also be World Communion Sunday, and this play will provide a wonderful lead-in to our celebration of Communion. So be sure to join us, and invite a friend or two. There will also be some time after worship for conversation with the folks from Ted & Co. All are welcome!

In *The Jesus Stories*, writers and performers, Ted Swartz and Jeff Raught, offer a fresh look at the Gospel stories and discover that when uncorked, these stories pour out sparkling drops of laughter that Jesus



must have found in the people he met along the way. A healthy community is one that knows the difference between solemn and serious, and Ted and Jeff are serious about the value of laughter. Healthy communities are also generous communities, and *The Jesus Stories* is gently subversive in asking, "Who gets to sit at our tables?"

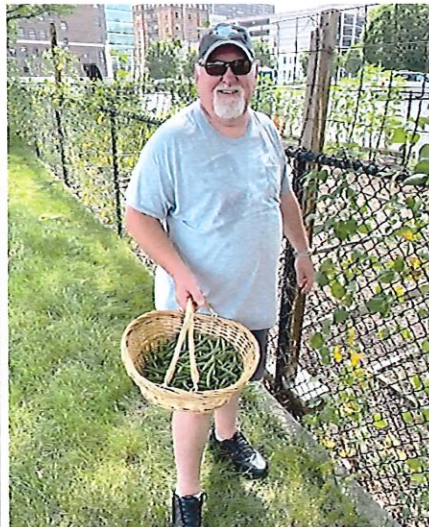


Garden Report



Here it is already August and harvesting nears an end. This week when I delivered green beans, tomatoes, and zucchini to the House of Bread I decided to stay and have lunch with the neighborhood. The serving that day included water, juice, coffee, brown rice with chicken chunks and vegetables, yellow squash with onions stewed in tomato sauce, fruit salad, garden salad and donuts for dessert. I am (almost) sure the cherry tomatoes in my garden salad looked like First Baptist tomatoes! Melodie Bennett, the Executive Director of the HOB, stopped by my table to thank me for the green beans and said "those are the best green beans ever!" Made me smile. Just like the sunflowers in the garden do every time I drive up to the church.

We plant, God grows!
Farmer/Pastor Dave



First Baptist Ladies! Welcome Monday, Sept. 16, 2024

Dayton area Ladies Interfaith quarterly meetings are requested of a different tradition's venue each meeting. For September 2024, Bushra Shahid of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community asked that First Baptist Church of Dayton host and that women speak to its faith, tradition and space. Join us from 5:00 to 7:30pm for that program, a carry-in supper and information about Ladies Interfaith. A vegetarian dish would be well received. Angie Berghuis and Charlene Bayless will speak. Let one of them know you'll be present—Angie, 937 234-3040; Charlene, 937 293-8794 (landline only, no texting).

An Invitation to a Fall Tea

Ladies of First Baptist Church!
Fall Tea at the Dayton Woman's Club (225 N Ludlow)
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Time and price to be announced
RSVP required: Mary Herbert, 937-298-2866

CARDBOARD HALLOWEEN



The Pirate Hat - One of our Favour... ☆



DIY Cardboard Costumes | Zygot... ☆



Homemade TMNT Raphael Costume... ☆



DIY CARDBOARD BUNNY RABBIT... ☆



I Make Costumes Out Of Cardboard... ☆

Sunday, October 27th @ 11:30am
Upstairs Dining Hall

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Halloween/Harvest Party hosted by the Board of Christian Education. The party will begin shortly after morning worship. Costumes are encouraged. And this year we are putting out a creative challenge for folks to make their costumes out of cardboard (check out Pinterest for ideas/instructions).

Bring a fun snack/treat to share. Games will be provided and run by our youth 😊.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA
International Ministries



OCTOBER OFFERING

World Mission Offering (WMO) gifts are used for mission program support (global servant, international partner, and other ministry support), for development costs and administrative support. As the body of Christ, we respond together to the needs around the world—when everyone contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expenses. WMO gifts support global servants with training and pastoral care, enable us to address crises when they arise, and so much more. Giving generously in October will help our global servants continue their important work in the world.

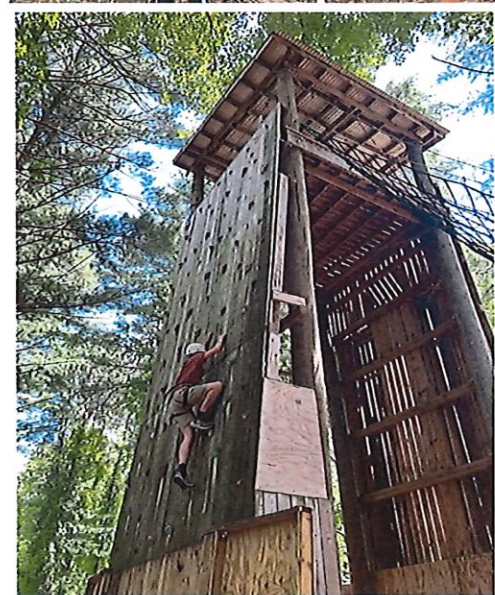
BYC & Quest Summer Camps 2024

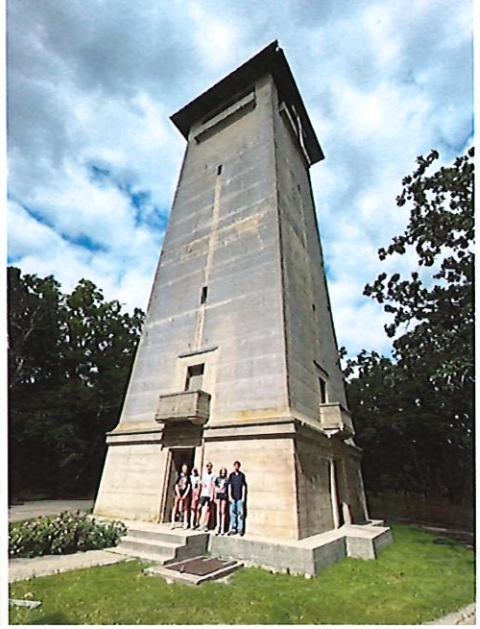


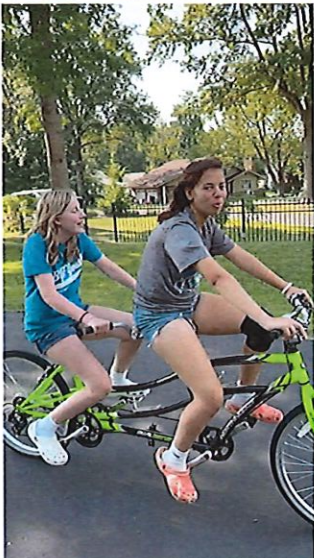
They spend their time at camp learning from each other becoming one community, sharing in pizza, Sunday Sundaes, and morning prayers. Wonder and amazement comes upon everyone because of the sense of place and community and acceptance. All who believe share the same spirit, but are diverse in background. Each church is not the same but share the same love. They share excess belongings, travel long distances, endure bugs and stiff mattresses, and give up electronics to focus on one another.

They share corn and pizza in the dining hall and eat with laughter in their hearts, praising one another's gifts with prayer. They are all one together in the worship center, and year by year the community grows.











Steeple Progress

The scaffolding is finally finished! Now the new copper pieces can be installed!
Fingers crossed that the project will be completed sometime in November.



A photo of the new weather vane in its crate. Jon has dibs to be the first to spin it. 😊

Jacob's Ladder or Stairway to Heaven?



National Night Out on August 6, 2024

Jane Reese Neighborhood at McIntosh Park

Pastor David Coggins and four members of the FBC Mission Board attended this event.
From left to right: David Coggins, Debbie Smith, Tim Holmen, Joe Henry, and Ted Greenwood.



Happy Birthday to You!

A luncheon for Kay Wingham's July birthday

From left to right: Barb Bogan, Kay Wingham, Janet Landis, Linda Thomson, Diana Petry



Congratulations to Grandparents Ed & Laura Rhodes!

Their first grandchild,
Austin Emanuel Rhodes
born Sunday, July 28, 2024
to Ian & Kimberly Rhodes.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September Celebrants

- 6 William Henry Caldwell
- 11 Davy (Gockel) Darnton, Alex Mikesell, Nate Owens
- 16 Bill Harrell, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Linda Thomson
- 17 Carol Wetrich
- 18 Jude Powell
- 20 David Pugh
- 22 Sue Wilson
- 23 Jon Wolfe
- 24 Debbie Lindley
- 26 Ralph Hopper
- 27 Liam Gruszecki
- 29 Stan Gockel, Libby Stanton
- 30 Ronald Hawkins

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

For Our Cards & Prayers



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

Military Duty:

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



Our Condolences

We extend our condolences and prayers to the Landis Family on the passing of Doris Landis on August 6, 2024. A memorial service was held at Newcomer Funeral Home on August 24th.



Love Loaves of Welcoming

First Baptist Church has restarted their practice of giving loaves of bread to first-time visitors. We want visitors to know that we care, and we welcome them to our service. The Deacons are inviting other members to help bake bread loaves for Sunday mornings. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen off of fellowship hall. We usually need two loaves, but they do not need to be huge loaves. And the bread can be any kind of bread you want to bake.

JULY 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	94.00	583.34	710.03
Pledges	207794.00	16265.00	121213.17	121323.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	4350.00	32083.34	33538.00



Congratulations!

Our best wishes to the newlyweds

CAROLE ANN FALLANG

&

THOMAS J. LASLEY, II

Their wedding took place on
August 22, 2024 at
Normandy United Methodist Church.