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First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402
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Unlikely Prophets



By Pastor Kent Berghuis

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Have you ever felt that God was speaking to you? Most of us have not heard God as an audible voice—and we might be skeptical of those who claim to. Yet most of us believers feel that God has gotten our attention, and it may have been through a variety of ways. We might hope that God will speak to us through worship, or the act of preaching. But God might also work through unlikely ways or unlikely people.

We might recall the biblical passage where God spoke to King Saul through the Witch of En-Dor (1 Samuel 28). No doubt you remember that God spoke to the disobedient prophet Balaam through his, um, donkey (Numbers 22). Psalm 19 says that the skies are telling us of the glory of God, and that even without words creation is speaking to us. The great theologian Karl Barth said in his *Church Dogmatics*, “God may speak to us through Russian Communism, a flute concerto, a blossoming shrub, or a dead dog. We do well to listen to Him if He really does.”

In Saint Augustine’s *Confessions* he described a conversion experience where he heard a child singing across the wall of a garden courtyard while he was struggling in his soul. The child sang in Latin, “Take up and read, take up and read!” While Augustine pondered if he knew of such a children’s song, he glanced down at a table and saw a bound copy of Paul’s epistles. He picked it up and read the first passage his eyes came to, Romans 13:13, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” In that moment he believed he heard the voice of God calling him to become a Christian, and his life was forever changed.

(continued next page)

Moses said in Numbers 11: 29 that he wished that “all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!” In a similar gospel passage (Mark 9:38-41) Jesus’ disciples said that they saw someone casting out demons in Jesus’ name, but since he wasn’t one of them they tried to stop him. But Jesus told them not to stop him, because “Whoever is not against us is for us.”

Recently I heard one of our Dayton area Baptist pastors in Springfield speak to the issue of ministering among the Haitian immigrants there. He said that many of the Haitians come to this country as Christians already, and they start their own churches and are making their way in a new land. Instead of us always imagining that we have something to teach them, or that we have to minister to them, it may instead be more important to listen and hear what they have to say to us. We might be surprised at what God might want to say and do if we were open to hear and act!

God’s Spirit is present throughout all the world. God’s Spirit is always capable and ready to speak and act. So we should not be surprised if God might speak to us through some unlikely prophets, or work in surprising ways. And if that’s the case, be ready—because God may even want to speak or act through you!

--Pastor Kent Berghuis

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.



An Invitation to a Fall Tea

Ladies of First Baptist Church!

Fall Tea at the Dayton Woman’s Club (225 N Ludlow)

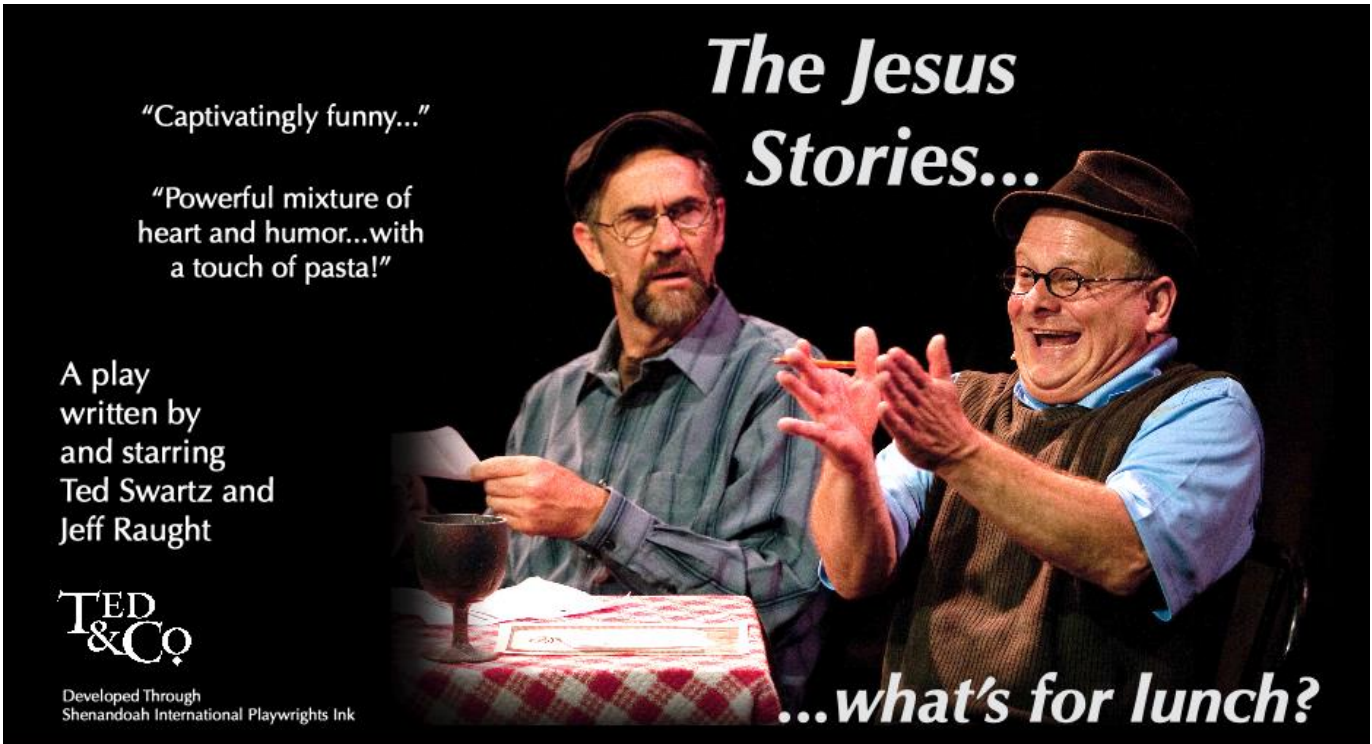
Tuesday, October 15, 2024

2:00-4:00PM • \$20/person

RSVP required to Mary Herbert, 937-298-2866

Mail check or cash to her at: 993 Princewood Ave, Dayton 45429

This event is part of our 200th Celebration! You are encouraged to bring a guest!



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?"





We are putting together a weekend retreat for our Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) youth (grades 6-12) that will take place at the Tyson Family lake house in Sullivan, IN. We plan to depart from the church on Friday, October 18th at 5pm, and return around 7pm on Sunday, October 20th. Please let Pastor Jason know ASAP if your youth(s) will be attending so that we can be sure to have adequate transportation (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org / 937-631-3579).

Garden Report



The Dayton drought has curtailed the garden season and we have seen the last pickings for this year. A few weeks ago there were just enough green beans for a meal topped with a few tomatoes. The last thing being harvested is the sunflower seeds; the heads are gathered and dried for about a month and then the seeds are popped out for use in feeding birds and squirrels during the winter season. This year's garden was as productive as we have seen in a few years: Kale 17 lbs, Onions 15 lbs, Potatoes 40 lbs, Zucchini 8 lbs, Green Beans 7.5 bushels, Tomatoes 33, Cherry Tomatoes 300, Peppers 11, Cucumbers 3, Sunflowers 11 (so far). The **House of Bread** is genuinely grateful for all of our donations this summer!

Thanks to everyone who made the garden possible this year: Charlene Bayless, Johnny Davis, Ted Greenwood, Julia Wolfe, DeAnn Owens, Lucas Owens, Jason Alspaugh, Pete Thomson, Linda Thomson, Brad Kallenberg, Jon Wolfe, Edward Howard, and Vacation Bible School.

When it gets a bit cooler we will be doing some cleanup work in the garden.

We plant, God grows!
Farmer/Pastor Dave



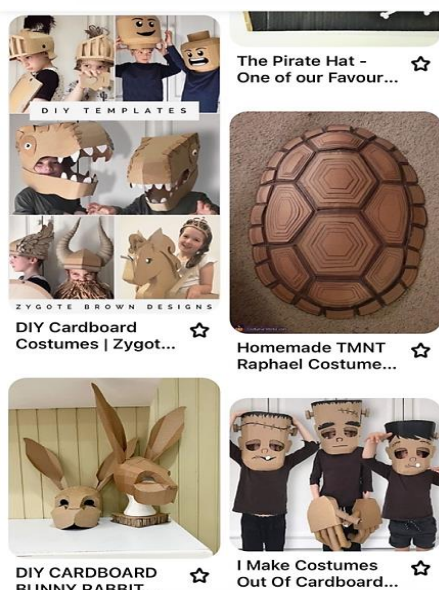
CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 13, 2024

Dayton's CROP Hunger Walk is waiting for YOUR support! Please help continue the fight against the challenges of disease, disaster, displacement and other concerns that leave people hungry. Join with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far obtain the meals they need for today and the sustainable food security for tomorrow! Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 13 with registration beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Shiloh Church, 5300 Philadelphia Dr. 1:30 is the Grand Send Off and the Walk begins, ending at 3:30 p.m. Brochures are available at church or visit the local CROP Walk website for information: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/daytonoh>



CARDBOARD HALLOWEEN



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.





Welcome Back Chancel Choir!

And we're off to a great start!!

The Chancel Choir rehearsal and dinner on Sept. 5, 2024 was the best ever!

Lots of great food and fellowship.

Special thanks to Connie and Tim Holmen, and also to Susan and Bill Wilson for making this happen so efficiently!





Presented by the Music Department of First Baptist Church of Dayton

MUSIC SERIES 2024-2025



First Baptist Chancel Choir

Nov. 10: First Baptist Sings Concert,
200th Anniversary, 4pm
Dec. 8: Lessons and Carols Service, 10am
June 1: First Baptist Sings Concert, 4pm



Musica, Dayton's Chamber Choir

Ginger Minneman, Conductor
Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024
3:00pm



Guest Artist Philip Armstrong

Tenor
Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024
10am Service



Musical Guest Aurelian Oprea Violinist

Christmas Eve Service
5:30pm



Stivers School for the Arts Vocal Music Department

Paula Powell, Conductor
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025
4:00pm



Black History Month Special Guest Musician Eric Vincent Oliver, J.D.

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025
4:00pm



Organ Recital by Dr. Yun Kim

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025
4:00pm



May Festival Youth Chorus May Festival Chamber Chorus

Jason Holmes, Director
Sunday, March 23, 2025 @ 4:00pm



Cincinnati Youth Choirs

Robyn Lana, Founder
Dr. Anthony Trecek-King, Conductor
Sunday, May 4, 2025
4:00pm

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Email: fbc@fbcd Dayton.org • Sunday Worship Service at 10:00am

Expanding Our Learning Community: An All-Church Morning Retreat

**Saturday, November 9th @ 9am-Noon
First Baptist Church of Dayton – Fellowship Hall**

The Board of Christian Education and Pastor Jason are hosting an all-church retreat on the morning of Saturday, November 9th, inviting everyone (including children and youth) to gather to reflect on the educational ministry of our church and consider how God might be calling us to rethink and expand our learning community.

In our Church Covenant we promise to “allow God to be the center of our community through the practices of study, prayer, and ethical discipline” and to “strive to be steadfast and joyful Christians continually seeking to understand and proclaim God’s unfolding Word.” How are you/we doing with such practices and pursuits? When and where does your/our learning about God, Jesus, faith, the Scriptures, etc. take place? And who are your learning, your conversation partners? What voices are missing? And how might God be leading you/us to do something new and different?

These are the kinds of questions on which we will reflect. We need not come away from this time with answers, quick fixes or programs. The time together is meant to be worshipful work that is discerning and delightful; something to be enjoyed; and this, in and of itself, is an important part of our calling. So please mark your calendars and plan to join us. All are welcome!

Food and refreshments will be available throughout the morning. Please RSVP to Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org) or Janet Landis (janetcwl218@gmail.com) to help with our preparations.

In the Spotlight Church Member Mary Ann Paloncy

Mary Ann Paloncy has been a life long member of First Baptist Church, having lived her entire life (until recently) in the family home in Oakwood. She tells delightful stories of the Baptist Youth Fellowship, FBC Youth Choir and summer camp at Green Lake. As an adult she sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and served on the Mission Board. Since the passing of her husband Elmer Paloncy in 2023, Mary Ann has been a resident at The Laurels in Kettering.

When I visit I rarely find her in her room. Mostly she is in the halls, day room, activity room or on the patio catching some sun. She has made herself known to all of the staff and they all exchange greetings with her when they traverse the halls. She always tells me that when she gets better, she is coming to church at FBC. In the meantime she attends the weekly service at The Laurels led by a community pastor and his wife.

Every time I depart she says, "The peace of the Lord be with you."

And also with you Mary Ann,
Pastor David Coggins



*Mary Ann wearing her
new fall sweater.*

First Baptist Church of Dayton

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sermon Talkbacks

Second Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm
Next Session 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.

Symbols and Representations

Led by Angie Berghuis
Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm
October 13 & 20
1st Floor – CHAPEL

A few weeks ago during a Children's Message given by Pastor David Coggins, he showed images of peace, love, and hope that have been used from biblical times to the present. You can find those same images on headstones all over the world. Have you ever wandered through a cemetery and wondered about the meanings of the designs carved on old gravestones? Thousands of different religious and secular symbols and emblems have adorned tombstones through the ages, indicating attitudes towards death and the hereafter, membership in a fraternal or social organization, or an individual's trade, occupation or even ethnic identity. While many of these tombstone symbols have fairly simple interpretations, it is not always easy to determine their meaning and significance. We were not present when these symbols were carved into the stone and can't claim to know our ancestors' intentions. They may have included a particular symbol for no other reason than because they thought it was pretty. Join Angie Berghuis for a two-part series on symbols and their meanings.

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)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October Celebrants

- 3 Gerald Busch
- 4 Lee Tyson
- 8 Ted Greenwood
- 9 Mary Herbert
- 10 Lucas Owens
- 11 Marley Leach
- 12 Roy Vice
- 13 Karen Johnson
- 15 Ed Wingham
- 20 Marcie Bogan
- 21 Tonya Mitchell
- 24 Don Brown
- 27 David Coggins
- 29 Janet Landis
- 30 Stephanie (Lee) Stripe

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

For Our Cards & Prayers



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Tathiane Ayers | Shirley Nash |
| Clara Black | Mary Ann Paloncy |
| Don Brown | Susan Parent |
| Linda Ginter Brown | Jamie See |
| Gerald Busch | Judy Smith |
| June Collier | Roger Stephens |
| Donovan-Schlaile Family | 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 Barry Schlaile on the passing of his husband, David Donovan, on August 30, 2024. A service of remembrance was held at First Baptist Church on September 7, 2024.

AUGUST 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	90.00	666.67	800.03
Pledges	207794.00	10778.00	138529.34	132101.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	3235.00	36666.67	36773.00



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.