



JUNE 2026

Volume 92, Issue 10

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

(937) 222-4691 • Email: fbc@fbcd Dayton.org • Website: www.fbcd Dayton.org

A Gifted Church

By Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Coffee/Cookie Social Time	3
First Baptist Sings Concert	4
Dayton Pride Events	5
Garden Report	6
New Book: Steadfast and Joyful	7
Baptist Youth Fellowship	8
Vacation Bible School	10
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	11
Graduate Recognition	13
FBC Photo Album	14

Recently Angie and I traveled to New York City for our daughter-in-law's graduation from Columbia University. We stayed at a less expensive hotel in a noisy part of Washington Heights, rode the crowded buses and subways, and walked all over doing touristy things. It was a great trip, but it's been nice to get back to our quieter lives in Dayton!

With my Founders Day sermon percolating in my brain, a statue at the Metropolitan Museum of Art caught my attention. "The Three Graces" depicts three mythological sisters from the ancient Greco-Roman era. Attendants of Venus, they were said to visit the people's festivals, bestowing their namesake gifts of Beauty, Joy, and Abundance. My more austere upbringing might have required that they put on a more modest wardrobe—but the thought of these angelic beings visiting the happy fellowship of people brought a smile to my face.



That lovely image corresponds to our anniversary celebration, as in Christian theology the Spirit comes to grant gifts to the church for the work of the ministry. A happy coincidence is that our

Founders Day occurs on Pentecost, reminding us of the beginning of the church universal even as we observe the anniversary of our church local. The Apostle Paul will tell us that every believer has received different gifts from the Spirit. Elsewhere he will identify people themselves as God's gifts to the churches. Sometimes we might wonder if there is a difference between natural talents and spiritual gifts. My own feeling is that God's Spirit indwells each of us so that all of what we are and have can be used in God's service. So when our talents and skills are devoted to God they become spiritual gifts to be used by God, too.

While in the city I took the opportunity to worship at Riverside Church. It's one of the few church buildings in America with a taller steeple than ours! It towers over Grant's Memorial at the north end of Riverside Park at the edge of the Hudson River. It was built in 1925 by the largesse of John D. Rockefeller, who wanted a proper edifice for the popular preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick, who served as pastor there for many years. I discovered that our own Pastor Seasholes spoke from that pulpit in 1942 in a sermon covered by the New York Times about spiritual preparation during wartime. Our own pastor and church mirrored some of the progressive emphases of those days. They centered in Christ a call to social justice while leaving behind the strictures of fundamentalism that so often bind Christians, and Baptists in particular.



At Riverside I participated in a service that felt quite similar to our own with organ, choir, and a beautifully appointed cathedral-like sanctuary. There were differences, too, such as the interpretive dancers who amplified the Scripture reading, and the banner and streamer bearers who marched and even energetically ran during the processional and recessional. Their senior pastor is an African-American woman who used sermon illustrations from her days dancing with the Rockettes in Radio City Music Hall, while I often refer back to days as a farm boy in Iowa. We may be very different in some ways, but we are still part of the same body of Christ, and even the same family of churches.

As we consider our Founders Day, we should remember that founders inevitably must give way to builders, sustainers, renovators and re-imaginers. No church can make it over 200 years without the capacity to grow, change with the times, and do God's work in each new generation. For that a constant attentiveness to the Spirit's call will always be required. You and I are part of that calling for our own time, and we will pass that along to a new generation, too. Let's all use our gifts for the glory of God, and we will ourselves be a gift to God's church and all those who follow after us.

--Pastor Kent Berghuis



June Church Meetings

Board Meetings

Wednesday, June 10 @ 6:30pm

Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 17 @ 6:30pm



Coffee & Cookie Social Time at One Lincoln Park

Monthly - 1st Wednesday from 2:00-3:30pm
590 Isaac Prugh Way, Kettering 45429

Next Social: June 3, 2026

Mary Herbert has planned a monthly coffee/cookie social time for our members who reside at One Lincoln Park. Currently we have 4 members residing there--Linda Ginter Brown, Gerald Busch, Bill Harrell, and Ken Taylor. You are invited and encouraged to drop in for these monthly socials! **Upcoming dates:** June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2. If you have any questions, please contact Mary at 937-380-8000.



BYF to Host Coffee Fellowship on June 7

Our BYF youth will be hosting Coffee Fellowship on June 7. There may even be a little Variety Show happening. Any donations received that day will help to offset the cost of summer camp for our youth. You can also simply give to the church at any time and note that it is for the "BYF Fund."



FBC ALL~CHURCH PICNIC with Dorothy Lane Baptist Church

Sunday, July 26, 2026 ~ After church
Hills & Dales MetroPark ~ Paw Paw Pavillion
(Main entrance: 2655 S Patterson Blvd, Kettering 45409)
Reservations needed by July 19!
More info to come!

First Baptist Church of Dayton presents

First Baptist Sings!

Theme: "Praise, Worship, Peace"

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026
4:00PM**

A Choral Concert featuring

The FBC Chancel Choir

Dr. William Henry Caldwell, Conductor

**Gregory Land and
R. Alan Kimbrough, Accompanists**

The concert will feature works by Holst, Randall Thompson, Lloyd Larson, Undine Smith Moore, Moses Hogan, and an arrangement of "God Is" by Dr. William Henry Caldwell. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall and donations to the Organ Fund are welcomed. Free parking is available in the parking lot near the ramp.

The public is cordially invited!

111 W MONUMENT AVE
DAYTON OH 45402

937-222-4691
FREE PARKING



Tuesday, June 2, 2026
7:00 PM

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

Free Parking



BE A PART OF FBC DAYTON'S PRIDE TEAM

This year the *Greater Dayton LGBT Center* celebrates 50-years of unwavering support and advocacy, and we are once again planning to participate in the Dayton Pride Parade and Festival on **Saturday, June 6**. If you would like to help with our preparations, join us in the parade, and/or greet folks at our booth, please connect with Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org). And even if you cannot make the parade and festival, you can share your ideas, donate bottled water or candy for us to hand out, or paint some Pride rocks for us to give out (supplies will be available each Sunday in the Parlor).

A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall at the Pride table where folks can sign-up for a time slot to sit at the booth and greet festival-goers, and/or indicate a donation. If you forget to sign up, just show up 😊. A word of thanks to Ted Greenwood who has volunteered to lead the group setting-up & starting-up our booth (Pastor Jason will take the lead on the group that will walk in the parade).

Schedule - Saturday, June 6

8:45am	Meet at FBCD Flagpole for a blessing as we raise our Pride Flag
9:00-11am	Check-in and Set-up of Booth / Line-up for Parade
11am	Parade steps off on Jefferson St.
12-4pm	Dayton Pride Festival at Second & St. Clair Streets

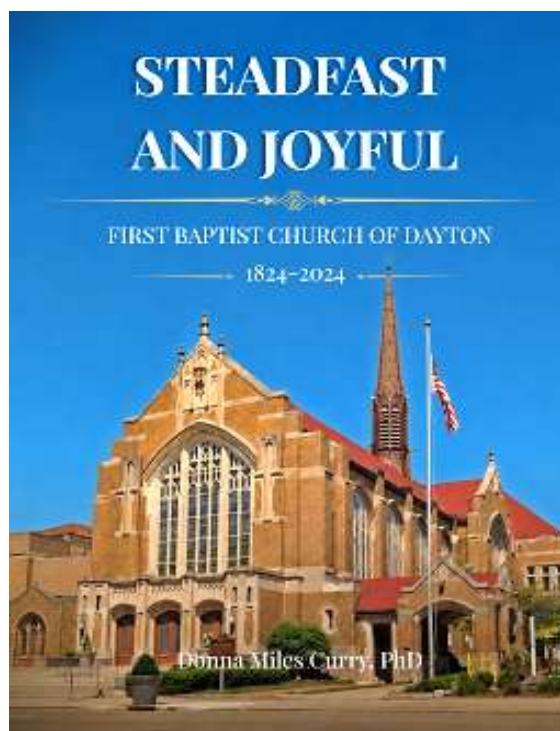
Garden Report



Saturday, May 16, was the day scheduled for the planting of the summer garden. As the May season goes, showers moved in just before the appointed 10 a.m. hour. I threw on a poncho and said to myself, "We'll plant in the rain!" No sooner had I stepped into the garden with a hoe in my hand than a big clap of thunder and lightning gave me a new revelation. God wants us to go home. The weather cleared in the afternoon, and the summer planting was still accomplished. This year's planting included green beans, tomatoes, yellow squash, green squash, cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, banana peppers, cucumbers, kale, beets, and sunflowers. A couple of walkers cruising by the garden commented, "Those potatoes sure are happy!" And they are! The potato plants are thriving and healthy, as are the onion beds. Sunflower seeds harvested from last year's garden are available in the coffee fellowship room. The seeds are packaged in old offering envelopes and are in a wicker basket. Take a package or two and put them 2-3" into the ground and wait expectantly. If you're not into planting, feed them to the birds or squirrels.

Growing by the grace of God,
Pastor / Farmer Dave





The Heritage Committee is proud to announce that the updated church history is completed and published. The Book [*Steadfast and Joyful: First Baptist Church of Dayton, 1824-2024*](#) represents several years of work by members of the committee and contributions from many church members.

For two centuries, First Baptist Church of Dayton has stood as a cornerstone of faith, resilience, and community life. Steadfast and Joyful traces the church's journey from its founding in 1824 through generations of growth, challenge, and renewal. Through archival records, photographs, and personal narratives, this volume captures the enduring spirit of a congregation rooted in service and hope.

Two options to get a copy of the book:

1. You can download a PDF of the book from Wright State University's Core Scholar ["Steadfast and Joyful: First Baptist Church of Dayton, 1824-2024" by Donna Miles Curry.](https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/books/276/) (<https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/books/276/>) Eventually we will have a link there where you order a hardcopy of the book.
2. **For now we are taking prepaid orders for hard copies of the book.** We will have a table in the Fellowship hall where you can view the book and place an order. Orders can also be placed in the office, or you can send your order & payment by check to the church—including your preference of paperback or hardback. **Cutoff for these orders is June 14.** Expected delivery will be about 2 weeks later and you can pick up your copy at the church.

Cost of the paperback version is \$20 and the hardback is \$80. After June 14 individuals will be able to order the paperback version from a link on the Core Scholar site, but costs will be higher to cover tax and shipping costs.

BAPTIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (BYF)

Thursday Evening BYF Gatherings
On Summer Break – June-August

April / May Photos from BYF Gatherings/Outings





YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS SAVE THE DATES

**BYC (Be Loved Youth Camp) in Laurel Springs, NC
June 28-July 3, 2026**

**Quest Camp in Green Lake, WI
July 19-24, 2026**

Connect with Pastor Jason to RSVP your youth(s), and/or if you have questions/need more info at this time.

Registration for BYC is closed, but there may still be time to join us for Quest.

Christian Education Notes

*11:30am Sunday School classes/activities
are on summer break until September.*



**Sunday School for Children (grades PreK-5) will continue through the summer.
There is a Volunteer Teacher sign-up sheet in the hallway down from the
church office.**

BUILDING BRIDGES BIBLE STUDY

**Thursdays @ 7:30-8:30am
Wholly Grounds Coffee Shop
825 Wayne Ave.**

*We will meet through June 11 and then go
on a summer break until mid-August.*

Each week Pastor Jason convenes a group for spirited discussion and reflection on one of the Scripture passages from the Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday, making connections and applications to current events. Many of us have been doing this for years, but it's an open gathering and anyone can join us anytime. If you have questions, please connect with Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org).



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

RIVERS' EDGE PEACE CAMP

July 13-17 @ 9:30am-Noon

Children grades PreK-5th grade are invited to a week of VBS where we will explore ideas of peace & peacemaking from the Bible and songs of faith, particularly those that make a connection with river/water imagery. Speak with Pastor Jason or a member of the Board of Christian Education if you are interested in helping with VBS this summer. There are opportunities to help with curriculum, registrations, storytelling, crafts, games, music, snacks, and decorating. Registration will open soon, and forms will be available online and in print.

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES JUNE OFFERING

One Great Hour of Sharing

A love offering to the world.



*From Tom Howard
Mission Board Chair*

Last year, during a Moment for Missions. I told you how in 1949, just before 11:00 PM Eastern time, on a Saturday evening, President Truman addressed the nation. The radio broadcast started with a reading from Matthew 25:

For I was hungry...and you gave me food.

I was thirsty...and you gave me drink.

I was naked...and you clothed me.

President Truman stirred the nation to respond to the human need in war torn Europe, calling for **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**. The next day more than 75,000 churches across the Nation responded generously.

Five denominations still collect this offering every year, but not just for war-torn Europe. Last year funds collected in American Baptist Churches helped provide disaster relief for people in 17 countries and more than 20 states here at home. With recent cuts to USAID and FEMA this offering is more important today than perhaps any time since President Truman gave his address in 1949. But last year in addition to responding to human need caused by wars and natural disasters, our funds helped provide grants to 12 Baptist Churches and Christian Centers, here in the United States, for **Refugee and Immigration Ministry**.

Last year our church saw the harm that cuts to USAID were doing and responded generously to the OGHS offering, not knowing of the great need to help refugee and immigrants. And this year, I have no doubt, will see new needs that we do not now foresee.

This month look at the OGHS envelope in the pew. Pick it up. And ask God to guide you as you lovingly consider what gift you will give this year.

For I was hungry...and you gave me food.

I was thirsty...and you gave me drink.

I was naked...and you clothed me.

I was a stranger...and you welcomed me in.

A Word About Protected Area Notices

Rev. Jason Alspaugh

At our most recent Executive Council meeting, I shared the news that the Alliance of Baptists and ABCUSA had joined other churches and denominations in legal action following the removal of long-standing protections for sensitive locations such as houses of worship. Presently, a federal court has issued a preliminary injunction restricting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting enforcement actions inside churches and within 100 feet of church property, including parking lots, or from targeting individuals traveling to worship. The attorneys representing the Alliance and other groups in the case are working to get the decision moved from a preliminary injunction to a summary judgment, a more permanent status for the protections.



Congregations have been encouraged to consider displaying their denominational logo(s) along with a reference to the court case at points of entry, not only as a deterrent, but also as a sign of connection and shared witness. Hearing this, the Executive Council unanimously decided that we should put up such notices on our entryways. On the table by the church office is an FAQ informational sheet related to the injunction, and we will try to provide more education on this in the near future. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for wisdom, courage, and faithfulness as we seek to remain places of refuge, worship, and hope.*

**Note: I've borrowed some language here from a few denominational statements for the sake of brevity and clarity.*



Musicians Needed for Summer Services!

Share your musical talent with us on a Sunday this summer! The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Pick a date or two! Please prepare a special anthem to be presented during the worship service in addition to a selection for the prelude or postlude. Be sure to email Linda (fbc@fbcd Dayton.org) with your titles/composers by Wednesday prior to your scheduled Sunday. Thank you!

Summer Teachers Needed for Kids Sunday School 2026

We are seeking volunteers to help with our Kids One-Room Sunday School Class (preK-5) this summer (June 7 thru Aug. 30). 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 Roy Vice or Mark Ryan, co-chairs of Christian Education. They will also be on hand to provide resources, supplies, etc., throughout the summer.



Graduate Recognition

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes
to the following Graduates of the **Class of 2026!**

Benjamin Compton

Business Degree in Global Supply Chain Management
West Virginia University
Will start his new job in June with DHL in Pittsburgh PA

Madeline Compton

Centerville High School with honors
*Will attend West Virginia University in the fall
studying Forensic Biology*

Chloe Jane Ryan

Stivers School for the Arts, Valedictorian
Will attend Harvard University

Jadon See

Kettering Fairmont High School
Will attend University of Louisville School of Nursing

From the FBC Photo Album

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE *Chloe's Graduation*



FRIDAY, JUNE 5
3 PM - 7 PM
EASTWOOD METROPARK – MAD RIVER SHELTER
1385 HARSHMAN RD (ENTRANCE W/ STOPLIGHT)
rsvp 434.882.2905

*In case of rain, the celebration will take place
at First Baptist Church.*

Founders Day 2026

(50+ year members who were present for this photo on Sunday, May 24, 2026.)



L to R: Mary Herbert, Sue Wilson, Jon Wolfe, Daryl Bogan, Barbara Bogan

Founders Day Luncheon hosted by the Heritage Committee





FBC Receives Award from Preservation Dayton May 17, 2026



Jon Wolfe accepted the award on behalf of the church.

A Very Busy May for Dr. William Henry Caldwell FBC Music Director

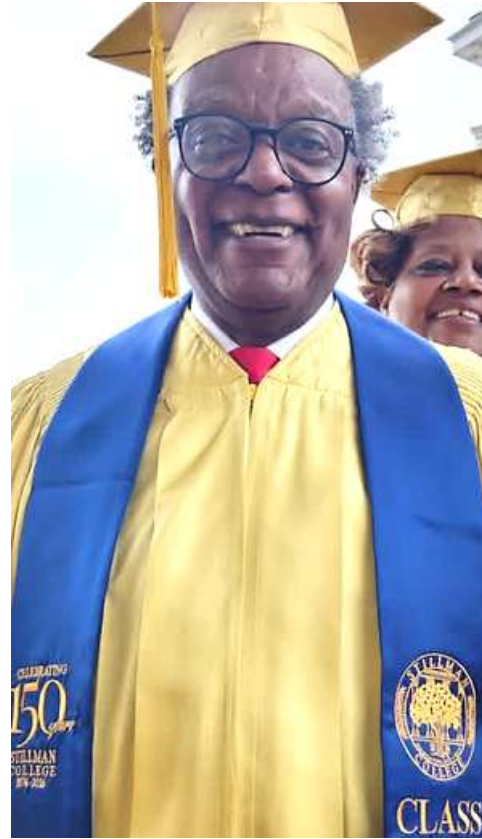
*This is the Dayton Opera Chorus group William Caldwell helped rehearse at
First Baptist for the Porgy and Bess production.*



*Several of our Chancel Choir members sang in the Dayton Opera production of
Porgy and Bess at the Schuster Center.*



*Dr. Caldwell attended his Golden Class Reunion at Stillman College,
Tuscaloosa Alabama, 150 years of Service*



*“He said that he was going to
tell everyone he finally got to
meet Dr. William Henry
Caldwell.”*

Mama Duck

Mama duck made a nest in the garden bed next to the church entrance. There were approx. 8-10 eggs; all hatched except for 2. Pictured are some of the hatchlings peeping out from under her. Within 24 hrs of hatching, mama left the nest with babies in tow. Best of luck!



Gorgeous Sunset Anyone?

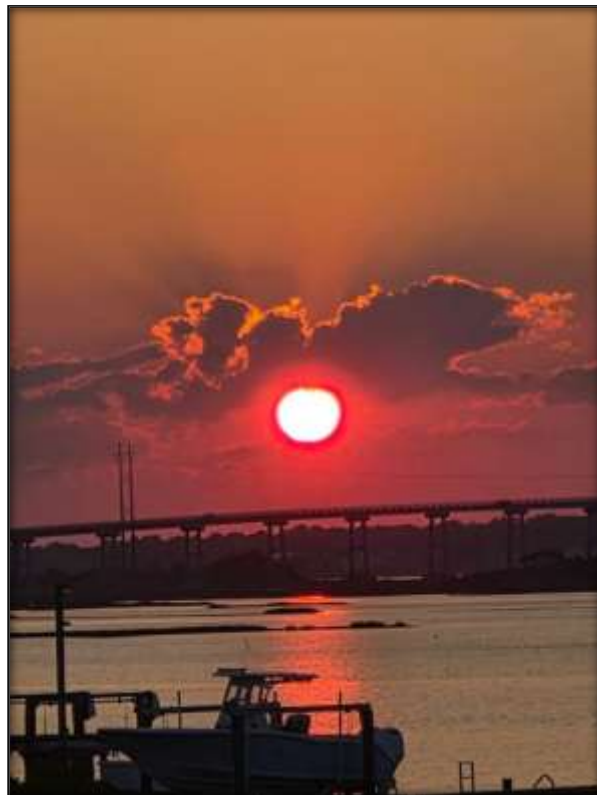


Photo taken at Emerald Isle by Peggy Coggins



June Celebrants

- 3 Emily (Wolfe) Crowley
- 7 Colin Brown
- 10 Sarah Burtenshaw
- 11 Abigail Owens
- 15 Aimee (Petry) Leach, Shawn Petry
- 16 Greg Craig, Margie Earnest
- 17 Riley Baldwin, Jaimee Ryan
- 19 Kay Davis-Dudding
- 20 Todd Mikesell
- 21 Linda Ginter-Brown, Susan Harker
- 25 Parker McWain
- 27 Mary Anne Chadbourne
- 28 Gina Greenwood

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

For Our Cards and Prayers

Linda Ginter-Brown
Gerald Busch
Merriann Craig
Domesick Family
Neil Earnest
Lavanda Ferguson
Bill Harrell
Debbie Harshman
Gene Lee
Patty Loxley
Shirley Nash
Mary Ann Paloncy



Susan Parent
Petry Family
Judy Smith
Nancy Soloski
Joanne Stephens
Anne Veghte
Harold West
Sharon Wingham

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald,
Brittany Kalbfleisch, Kyle Kline,
Will Radachi



Congratulations!

We extend our congratulations
and best wishes to

Camilla Black
and
Tony Vena

who were married on May 1, 2026!

APRIL 2026 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	108.33	107.00	433.00	390.00
Pledges	17667.67	18221.00	70670.67	89248.76
Non-pledged Contributions	5000.00	6281.00	20000.00	17404.00

