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What is God Up To?

By Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis

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If you've been a parent, you sometimes felt the eerie silence of children who were playing but not making much noise anymore. You knew they were up to something! Their whispers might give way to giggles, and often that might give way to some loud prank or boisterous action. Behind the scenes plans were going on, and the fun was about to ensue.

God can get rather quiet at times. We often go long stretches in our lives where our faith is sustained by routine. We would like to hear from God, but we've gotten used to the quiet. Maybe we don't need loud noises, and a peaceful existence will suffice. But nagging thoughts may come, as we wonder what God is up to.

Church life can be that way. We faithfully participate in the habits and rituals that have been meaningful through time. We live day by day, taking the good with the bad, growing older with the seasons. But is something going on behind the scenes? Is God planning something surprising?

(continued)

Lately in our congregation we've been catching glimpses of something God's been up to. Without us trying all that hard, new people have been coming our way. Folks are attending services out of the blue, and feeling like God is moving them. We're having folks come to visit only to discover that they have friends who have been coming to visit. New members have joined, and new faces are in worship and fellowship. Young adults are inquiring about baptism. Sometimes the last ones to leave when we are ready to turn out the lights are the most recent visitors who love being together.

It certainly feels like God has been up to something! I can almost hear divine giggles behind the scenes. Folks we had never even met before are somehow being formed together into the church—our church. People of all kinds who seem as different as humanly possibly are becoming friends. It feels like what the church is supposed to be like!

What are we to do when God starts moving among us? Us older folks who have gotten used to the way things have been can be a little surprised when the stuff we preach about actually starts to flesh out in our midst. Do we need to make big changes? Develop programs and organize? Maybe we just need to keep fanning the flame, and encourage the new growth to blossom and flourish.

In Philippians 1:6 Paul said, "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." The same Spirit that has sustained this church through two centuries is at work to sustain us into the future. Behind the scenes God was arranging for people to find life in Christ together. This God isn't going to let us down!

So when God is up to something, let's joyfully take part in whatever it is God is doing. Let's get on board, open ourselves to new people, and help find ways for people to be a part of our church. I'm glad we can trust the good work of God, and be a part of seeing God's plans come to fruition.

--Pastor Kent Berghuis



Fall Lunch Get-Together

Summer flew by very quickly! Fall is arriving, football is starting up, schools are back in session, and next Sunday the startup of choir music and Sunday School! It's nearly time for carving pumpkins and bobbing for apples! There's no better reason to have a Fall Lunch Get-Together at the Dublin Pub on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 11:30am. Please RSVP by Sept. 14 to Mary Herbert, 937-388-8000. A count is needed for the restaurant.

Labor Day Weekend Campout

John Bryan State Park
Group Campsite #2
September 4-7, 2026
\$10 suggested donation



We are reviving a little tradition of camping out on Labor Day weekend, and have reserved a group camping site at John Bryan State Park (non-electric, tents only). This event is open to everyone, but space is limited to 25-campers per night, so we ask that you RSVP your participation with Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org). To help offset the cost, we are suggesting a \$10/person donation. You can camp one, two or all three nights. Or you can just come and hang out for part of any/all of the days, if you're not able to tent camp. We can coordinate meals, supplies, etc. ahead of time. There are nice hiking trails nearby, plenty of places to eat in Yellow Springs, and Young's Dairy is just down the road. Join us for a relaxing retreat!

September Church Meetings

Board Meetings

Wednesday, Sep. 9 @ 6:30pm

Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sep. 16 @ 6:30pm

Coffee & Cookie Social Time at One Lincoln Park

Next Social: October 7, 2026

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



On the first Wednesday of the month, you're invited to drop in at One Lincoln Park for the monthly coffee/cookie social time for our members who reside there. We currently have 4 members residing there--Linda Ginter Brown, Gerald Busch, Bill Harrell, and Ken Taylor. Stop in and say hello! **Upcoming dates:** Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2.

Celebrating 50 Years

50th Ordination Anniversary of Rev. David Coggins

August 22, 2026, marked the 50-year anniversary of my ordination to the work of The Gospel Ministry. At age 22, I was enthusiastic and naïve, with a year of seminary under my belt. But this small church in the farmlands east of Raleigh embraced me and called me to be their pastor. I was ordained by Middlesex Missionary Baptist Church, located in the rural community of Middlesex, NC, with a population of 780 residents.

Several years ago, on a visit back to NC, I had the opportunity to have lunch with some of the men in the Middlesex community who had been teenagers in the youth group during my pastorate. A couple of those in the group of boys had passed away, and we grieved their loss together.

The youngest of the group asked me, “Do you remember baptizing me when I was 8?” As a minister, you just don’t forget one of your first baptisms. We reminisced about that special day in his young life. It touched my heart that he had become successful in business, a leader in the community, a loving father, and walked with Christ every day. His generosity reflected the same generosity his father had shown. His father had been a deacon in the church and a fervent supporter of my ministry. The work God does in a life never ceases to amaze me.

The opening hymn of my ordination service still resonates with me today.

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

I am glad that my journey led me to First Baptist Church of Dayton. Thank you for loving me and helping me to grow in faith!

Pastor David

(See photos next page)

Pastor David’s Reflection Book

In honor of Pastor David Coggins’ 50th anniversary of his ordination, we have a reflection book that will be available in Fellowship Hall for you to share a memory or note of congratulations. If you can’t make it to church, then email or snail-mail your note to the church office for inclusion in the book. The book will be available through September for you to sign.

Photo 1: My dad, Chaplain Joseph Coggins, and my uncle, Rev Jack Rose, stand with me in the sanctuary of Middlesex Baptist Church. They preached the message and gave the charge at my ordination. No need to comment on my powder-puff blue leisure suit, although it's hard to tell in this photo.



Photo 2: Standing in front of Middlesex Baptist Church. It was typical of southern churches, with a red-brick exterior and an all-white sanctuary, including white pews with cherry-stained seats.



Photo 3: A special celebration in Fellowship Hall following the church service on August 23, 2026.



Garden Report

September 2026

We give thanks for small harvests and for bountiful harvests. God softens the dirt with rain and makes the plants blossom in our small garden. Critters have eaten their fill of young bean sprouts, sunflower sprouts, and kale. So we plant again. And again. And a third time for good measure. Maybe they will have found a new feeding ground by the time these fall sprouts pop up. While we are harvesting the spring and summer crops, new fall plantings have been put in the ground.

By the grace of God we grow,
Pastor / Farmer Dave



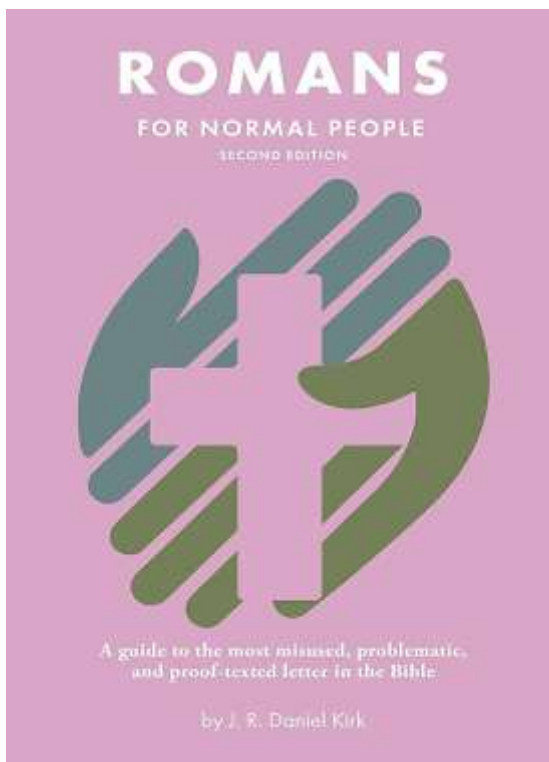


Homecoming Sunday

September 13, 2026

On Homecoming Sunday we officially welcome everyone back from summer travels, and resume our regular Sunday school schedule for all ages. **If you have ideas for future studies or have an interest in facilitating and/or being a part of a new small group, please speak with Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org).**

Adult Sunday School



Bible Study: The Letter to the Romans

Led by Rev. Jason Alspaugh (et al)

Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm

September 13-November 15

1st Floor – Chapel

In this class we will make use of J.R. Daniel Kirk's commentary, *Romans for Normal People*, part of a larger project—*The Bible for Normal People*—which envisions “a world where people engage with the Bible freely, without fear or guilt—where questions are welcome and scholarship is accessible. Additionally, and perhaps inevitably, we will consider a variety of other study resources (video, podcasts, etc.) to help us engage with the biblical text.

Along with Pastor Jason, participants will be invited to help facilitate our times of discussion and reflection themselves, as we make our way through *Romans*, with the intention of building some confidence for leading and engaging in Bible study. But no pressure! And there are no prerequisites. Whether you are new to the Bible or have been reading and studying it for years, this class can be for you. If you plan to be a part of this class, please let Pastor Jason know so we can be sure to order enough commentaries/guides (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org).

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 teacher(s). Parents should pick up their child(ren) shortly after morning worship.



FBC Kids

One Room Sunday School Class

PreK-5 Graders

Room #4 (Lower Level)

Over the course of the year, we utilize a variety of curricula to help our kids 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.

Children's Music/Activities

PreK-5 Graders

Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm

Room 3A (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.

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 Illustrated Ministry's *Mini Revolutions*, which follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week 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.



Labor Day Weekend

The church office will be closed
Monday, Sept. 7, 2026

Chancel Choir Potluck Dinner & Rehearsal

Thursday, Sep. 10 in Fellowship Hall

Dinner @ 6:00pm (*Bring a dish to share!*)

Rehearsal @ 7:00pm

BUILDING BRIDGES BIBLE STUDY

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

Our Thursday morning Bible study has resumed. 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).

Thursday Evening BYF Gatherings @ 6-8pm

Starting October 1st

Our weekly gathering time for our Baptist Youth Fellowship is back this fall! Starting on October 1, we will meet every Thursday at 6-8pm at the church (unless otherwise noted). Gatherings will include a fun theme/activity (sundaes, art, service, karaoke, improv, etc.), fellowship, food, and a spirituality/spiritual practice component. We will still have other occasional activities/outings at other times, including Sundays, but this would be our most regular gathering time.

Help Wanted! If you would like to provide dinner for one of our Thursday Gatherings, and/or host a gathering at your home sometime, please speak with Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org).

Time to Update BYF Medical-Transportation Forms

Youth are always welcome to invite friends, but (as always) we'll want everyone to have a completed & signed BYF medical-transportation form on file (available on the table outside the church office). **Also, if any medical or contact info has changed within the last year, please fill out a new form for your youth(s).**

Summer 2026 Photos – Children & Youth Ministries

Be loved Youth Camp (BYC) – June 28-July 3 – “Another World is Possible”







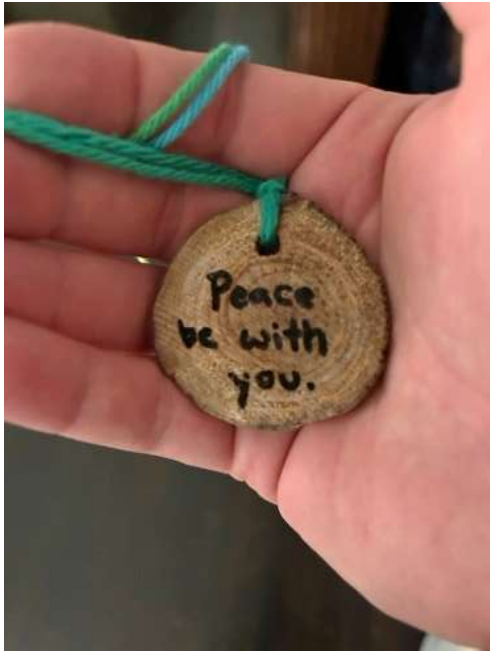
Quest Camp – July 19-24 – “Oikos”







Vacation Bible School – July 13-17 – “Rivers’ Edge Peace Camp”





From the FBC Photo Album

Celebrating Baptism and New Members Sunday, August 2, 2026

It was a joy to witness the baptism of Chris Larson, and to extend the Right Hand of Fellowship to him, as well as Tay Mosely and Maria Santa Maria. Praise God!





**Dr. William Henry Caldwell celebrates 10 years at
First Baptist Church of Dayton on August 16, 2026**



Coffee Social at One Lincoln Park on August 5, 2026



Guest Musician, Charles Pagnard, on Sunday, August 2, 2026



Due to local storms on August 7, 2026, the graveside committal service for Anne Veghte was held in the recently restored and renovated historic chapel at Woodland Cemetery.



SUNDAY SOCIAL • BIRTHDAY BRUNCH • FELLOWSHIP

Tay's 52nd Birthday Brunch

Good food, good company, and another trip around the sun.
Join us for an afternoon of brunch, fellowship, and celebration.

DATE

Sunday, September 20, 2026

BRUNCH

12:30 PM

LOCATION

First Dayton Baptist Church
Dayton, Ohio

Make a Sunday of It

10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Sunday School (optional)
12:30 PM	Birthday Brunch served

Save Your Seat

Please RSVP for the 12:30 PM birthday brunch
by Monday, September 14, 2026.

SCAN FOR DETAILS & RSVP

Dietary needs and food allergies can be shared when you RSVP.



POINT YOUR PHONE CAMERA HERE



September Celebrants

- 6 William Caldwell, Malachi Richie
- 11 Alex Mikesell, Tay Mosely, Nate Owens
- 16 Bill Harrell, Brittany Kalbfleisch,
Linda Thomson
- 18 Jude Powell
- 22 Sue Wilson
- 23 Jon Wolfe
- 26 Ralph Hopper
- 27 Liam Gruszecki
- 29 Stan Gockel & Libby Stanton

(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
Neil Earnest
Lavanda Ferguson
Bill Harrell
Debbie Harshman
Gene Lee
Patty Loxley
Shirley Nash
Paloncy Family

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

Military Duty:

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

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Brittany and Caleb Downey Kalbfleisch** on the birth of their baby girl, Wren Elowen, on August 13, 2026. Grandparents are Dawn & Mike Kalbleisch, Great-Grandpa is Bill Harrell, and Wren's brother and sister are Elias and Scarlett Downey Kalbfleisch.

Congratulations to **Ashley McWain and Alex Schubert** who were married on August 29, 2026 at First Baptist Church of Dayton. Rev. Jason Alspaugh, officiant.

JULY 2026 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	108.33	50.00	758.33	594.00
Pledges	17667.67	20292.00	123673.67	140818.76
Non-pledged Contributions	5000.00	4151.00	35000.00	27625.00

