



## First Baptist Church

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July 2025

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## The Pastor's Corner: Faith, Life and Community

In a world full of noise and shifting values, the voice of Christ still speaks with clarity and authority to His Church. As we walk together through the seasons of life and ministry, I want to take a moment to reflect with you on something at the heart of our identity: the commands of Christ to His Church.

Jesus did not leave us without direction. He gave clear, loving, and powerful commands not to burden us, but to form us into a people who reflect His character and carry His mission to the world. His commands are both comforting and convicting. They assure us of His presence and purpose, and they challenge us to grow in obedience and faith.

"Love one another as I have loved you."

This is not merely a suggestion for good behavior; it is the heartbeat of the Church. It challenges us to go beyond convenience and affection into sacrificial love, the kind that sees and serves, bears and forgives, prays and perseveres. Christ's command to love is a daily invitation to die to self and live for others, just as He did.

"Go and make disciples of all nations."

This great commission is not just for missionaries or pastors. It reminds us that we are not saved to sit still, but to be sent. Every conversation, every act of kindness, every word of truth shared is a step of obedience in this holy calling. Let's be a church that embraces the world with the gospel, starting with our neighbors, families, and friends.

"Take up your cross and follow Me."

Jesus doesn't call us to comfort, but to surrender. And in that surrender, we find life. His command to follow is a call to lay down our agendas and pick up His purposes, to walk in step with Him even when the road is hard. But take heart: He walks with us.

These commands are not checklists to accomplish, but a life to embody. They are not rooted in fear or guilt, but in grace, the kind of grace that both saves and transforms.

Church, let us be encouraged. Christ believes in His Church enough to entrust us with His mission. And let us be challenged. Christ calls us to live with purpose, passion, and perseverance. May we be found faithful, not perfect, but faithful, as we follow His voice together.

In His Service,  
Pastor Jason Owens

## Fellowship Group Update

The Discipleship Team is working hard to start Fellowship Groups in the fall. Those who expressed interest in leading or hosting a group will be contacted shortly to confirm their interest. There will be some training for these individuals and then the host and/or leader will contact the individuals that are assigned to their group. If you are interested in being a part of a Fellowship Group but did not fill out a survey please see Jill Blaylock.

## Opportunities to Serve This Month

### Ministry Team Meetings

Agape Team	July 7, 6:00 p.m.
Mission & Outreach Team	TBD, 6:00 p.m.
Worship Team	July 8, 7:00 p.m.
Discipleship Team	July 15, 4:30 p.m.
Leadership Council	July 16, 6:30 p.m.
Building and Grounds Team	July 22, 6:30 p.m.

## Happy July Birthday

Jim Matthews	12th	Andrea High	19th
Terry Meikle	31st		

## Mission of the Month: Operation Christmas Child

During July, we're excited to focus on Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse that delivers shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to children in need around the world. Each shoebox is a powerful tool for sharing the love of Jesus and bringing hope to children in over 100 countries.

Now is the perfect time to start collecting items! Think small toys, school supplies, and accessories like socks or hair clips. You can also help by donating funds to cover shipping costs or by volunteering during National Collection Week in November.

Let's come together to bless children around the world, one shoebox at a time.

For a list of suggested items, contact Sonja Burt or Alice Pracht.

For more information, visit <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>



## Thanksgiving Offering Project Completed

The Thanksgiving Offering in 2024 was collected to help the family purchase a set of round tables to improve fellowship time around our meals and other group events. The tables were acquired in early January 2025 and have been enjoyed during several large group events.

The second project was to expand our outdoor lawn watering sprinker system. That work was completed in June with sprinklers added on the west, north and east side of our property. Thank you so much for supporting these two projects with your gift to the Thanksgiving offer-

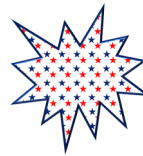


ing this past year.

Building and Grounds Ministry Team

## Souper Tuesday

Our next Souper Tuesday fellowship will be on Tuesday, July 15 at noon with a theme focused on "The Faith Of Our Fathers." Sign up at the welcome center so we know how many will be attending. Consider bringing a dish to share.



## Cleaning Service Hired

We are pleased to introduce you to Mandy Delancey who has agreed to provide cleaning services for First Baptist Church. Mandy recently began residential and commercial cleaning services and is excited to keep our facility clean and presentable for members, attenders and guests that enter our building. Please introduce yourself to Mandy when you see her working in our building.



Building and Grounds Ministry Team

## LADIES: SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for our Fall Women's Event scheduled for Thursday September 25, from 5:30-7:15 pm. The theme is "Building the Kingdom Together." Two wonderful speakers will be sharing with us that evening. Please plan to invite a friend to attend with you to be inspired and encouraged during this powerful event. More information to come soon.

## Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Jason will be taking some well deserved time away starting on Monday, July 21 through Saturday July 26. Enjoy your time away pastor.

If you have items you would like included in the monthly newsletter, please contact John Blaylock at least one week prior to the last Sunday of the month.