

The VISITOR

February 2025

These words from the apostle Paul in Philippians have been and will continue to be on my heart and in my mind in the days and weeks ahead, "I thank *my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*" (Philippians 1:3-6)

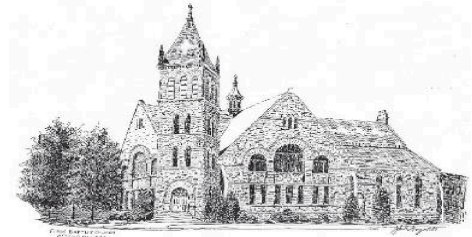
As I reflect on these verses, I am indeed exceedingly grateful for your inviting Cynthia and I to be a part of the story of Jesus through First Baptist Church, Ottawa. The partnership in the gospel from the very first day, (Even the day I was hit in the head on Main Street after closing on our house, July 30, 2021) will always be a source of gratitude and joy. We have sought to love Jesus more, to share that love more expansively and be known as a place of love and compassion. That partnership in the gospel has led to congregational healing, deep rooted faith and intentional hospitality and compassion. The church peacefully and beautifully chose to be a welcoming and affirming congregation and has celebrated being a central hub of mission and compassion here in Ottawa. Homeless neighbors find warm shelter here in the extremes of winter, the community is fed on Thankful Thursdays and so, so much more. The building is being used more and more and that is a beautiful and significant thing.

The Coalition to End Homelessness meets here on the third Monday of each month and they are grateful for the meeting space and the shelter for our homeless neighbors when the temperature is below 20. The OU football team members who attend the weekly Bible Study will always see this space in their hearts and minds as they look back upon the time shared here.

This church is on mission, on task and well equipped to further build upon the good work God started in each and in all of you, from the first day in 1864 until now. I see so many signs of health and reasons for hope and reasons a pastor will want to be here to share in the journey with you. Believe in God and as you believe in God, believe in yourselves!

Perhaps a pastor's report is to be a "what's happening report." Well, this is "what's happening" as I think of each of you and of God's work in this place.

Grace, peace and love, Tiger



JOIN US
SUNDAY MORNINGS
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30

785-242-2713

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410 Hickory Street

Ottawa, KS 66067

Follow us on Facebook:

@firstbaptistchurchottawa

Live Stream of worship each week!

You are invited and welcome.



First Baptist Church of Ottawa is part of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABC/CR and American Baptist Churches, USA (ABC/USA).

First Baptist Church Ottawa is a Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
The radically inclusive love of Jesus inspires us to be a fully welcoming and affirming congregation. All are loved here. All are safe here. All are invited to full participation in our life together.

Based upon calling, gifting, talent, experience and maturity, we celebrate baptism, communion, marriage, leadership, teaching and ordination with any gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation or identity.



Sunday School following worship
for all ages!

Communion February 2

Celebrating the Lord's supper.

Those of you worshipping with us at home, please have your elements ready so that you are able to take communion along with us.

Continuing this Sunday, whenever we celebrate communion, we will encourage giving to the deacon's fund for benevolence



Deadline for the March newsletter is February 20th, please have any information emailed to the office by this date for inclusion in the newsletter. Information received after the deadline will be published in the next month's newsletter.

You are invited to the CYG Dinner Fundraiser, Saturday February 15th at FBC in Elliott Hall. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for RSVP information. Curbside pickup 4-6pm, Dine in service 4-6:30pm. Free will donations accepted. Serving baked ziti, french bread, green beans & dessert.



PRAYER TIME: Wednesdays at 12:30 EH. If you have a prayer request for Wednesday call or email the church office.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Bob Lovett (Kim Randel's father); Norma Coble (Dana Coble's mother); Glenda Schmidt; Nathan Ball; Shelly Frank; Tom Lantis (Kelli Ball's father); Janet Wolken; Bill Kern; Carol Fenton (Janet Wolken's sister); John Dryden

Shut-Ins: Dana Coble; Sylvia Starky; Bev Hughes; Golden Peterson; Gloria Terrill; Carol Allen; Marsha Hermreck; Gene Bromert

Military Service People: Brad Davis-Kuwait (Bill & Janice Kern's grandson); PFC Aaron Bigge-Fort Meade, Maryland (Sandy Holbert's grandson); Lt. Matt Ashwill (Melissa Ashwill's son)

We make every effort to keep this list updated. Please inform us when there are changes.

TITHE ONLINE

It's simple!!

Through First Baptist's website (fbcottawa.org)



you now have the capability to make your contributions electronically using Tithe.ly. It can be a one-time gift or recurring. To make a contribution, go to the Give tab and click on **Donate**. Contributions will be

tracked through our membership software & reflected on contribution statements.



We will be collecting for Hope House the first Sunday of each month.

Macaroni and cheese, Tomato soup, Chicken and noodle soup, Spaghetti noodles, Peanut butter

Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels always needed

*No longer needing plastic containers

Radio Ministry



First Baptist Church believes it is important to keep the Radio Ministry funded, as this is a blessing to many in our community.

Please designate contributions

to: Radio Fund.

Men's Bible Study will meet on Saturday, **February 8th at 9am**. We will be studying the 5th chapter of Matthew. Come join us for study and fellowship with one another. We will meet in the **Homebuilder's Room**, the North Sanctuary door will be open.

Thank you for giving \$2875 to RMMO during the month of January.

Church Leadership



Fellowship Committee

Meeting is February 10, 9:30am EH

Outreach

Meeting is February 12th, 6:30pm



Church Council meeting is

February 18th at 7:00pm

Committee chairs, please have your previous meeting minutes emailed to the Church office.

Message from the Moderator

Dear First Baptist Members,

The following people will be filling the pulpit until March 2:

February 2 - Melissa Newberry - ABCCR staff

February 9, 16, 23 - Jennifer Schneider

On March 2, John Williams, past Executive Director of the ABCCR, will become our interim pastor until a new pastor is called. The ABCCR has made sure that we will be in good hands.

Our annual meeting will be held after the February 2 Sunday worship.

Lynda Alderman, Moderator

Help Support Our Church



Price Chopper Gift Cards are available at the office for purchase. We get 5% for each sale and YOU get the FULL VALUE of each card you purchase.

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of our church!

Price Chopper cards can only be purchased in \$100 increments.

Book Club

February 15th at 9:30am we will be discussing Real-Life Discipleship by Jim Putman and Disciple Shift by Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington with Robert E.Coleman. If you are interested in this series we will discuss it once a month please contact **Jordan Fritz 785-342-0539**.



Message from Carolyn Kimbrel

"What the world needs now is LOVE". When you think about all the books in the library, the theme is God's love for the world. One of the newest books is HADASSAH by Tommy Tunney.

Remember the bus trip to Branson attending Esther? This Christian fiction book brings the age-old story of Esther to life.

American Baptist Women's Ministries

We will meet February 19 at 9:30 am in Elliott Hall. Hostess is Lilly Coultis. Lilly will also lead us in a view of Isaiah 40:29 as it relates to our theme "Be Strong, Be Courageous" Jan Lee and Jane Smith will share their experience in the summer conference workshop "Harmony in Design". Vangie Webb will give a mission update. The usual Love Gift offering will be taken. This month's project will be a White Cross collection in which other Church members are encouraged to participate. All women are invited to attend and enjoy the fellowship.

White Cross Tree Announcement

The American Baptist Women invite all members of the congregation to help in providing supplies for the ministries of Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico and Bethel Neighborhood Center, two of ABCCR's home missions. Envelopes for receiving your gifts are on the tree in the back of the sanctuary during February. Please put the filled envelopes in one of the boxes in the windows at the back of the sanctuary.

OGHS Fire Relief

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) urges immediate support for the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) campaign to aid victims of the catastrophic wildfires devastating Southern California. Since January 7, multiple fires have consumed hundreds of thousands of acres across Greater Los Angeles, claiming at least 24 lives and destroying more than 12,300 homes and businesses according to local news sources. Relentless Santa Ana winds have driven flames from tinder-dry foothills of chaparral into densely populated areas, leaving behind streets of ash and distraught families in desperate need. "The devastation from the fires has been unbelievable," said the Rev. Jason Ashimoto, senior pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, citing the total ruin of entire neighborhoods. "Churches are housing displaced families and working tirelessly to gather resources for people in the community," he continued. "Support from our larger American Baptist family allows us to provide tangible help and evidence of God's love in this desperate hour." The Rev. Andrew Quient, executive director of American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest & Hawaii (ABCofFLASH), also underscored the extraordinary scale of the crisis. "The breadth and speed of the destruction are immense and ongoing," he said, adding that churches far beyond the evacuation zones have opened their doors to shelter those fleeing the flames, providing critical care and comfort. One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and

development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing the distribution of the annual OGHS offering received by churches. You can offer financial assistance by giving to OGHS, please note OGHS on your check memo line.

ABWM Book of the Month RUTH

The Bible story of Ruth takes place after the Judges. A dark time in Israel's history.

Elimelek was a very successful and respected citizen of Bethlehem but a famine caused severe drought in the land. Elimelek decided to move, temporarily, to a place to preserve his family. Elimelek, his wife, Naomi & two sons, Mahlon & Kilion moved from Bethlehem to Moab. As time went by Naomi's husband died leaving her with her two sons to raise. The boys grew up, met and married beautiful Moabite women. But more troubles, both boys fell ill and died leaving the three, childless women with no source of any income.

In those days a brother could marry his brother's widow, and the first born son would inherit the dead brother's legacy. (guardian redeemer) In the absence of a brother the first next of kin could be responsible. Since not next of kin, Naomi chose to send the girls back to their families. Oprah went back to her father's house.

Key Verse: Ruth 1:16

Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God...."

Themes:

FAITHFULNESS Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi is an example of Love & Loyalty;

Ruth, Naomi & Boaz - faithful to God.

KINDNESS Ruth showed great kindness to Naomi; God showed kindness to all three bringing them together.

INTEGRITY Ruth showed moral character by standing by Naomi. Boaz showed integrity in his moral standards, honesty and by following through on his commitments.

PROTECTION We see God's care and protection over the lives of Naomi & Ruth. His supreme control over circumstances brings them safety and security.

PROSPERITY/BLESSING Ruth & Naomi come to Bethlehem as poor widows. The greatest blessing was the quality of love and respect between Ruth, Boaz & Naomi.

*NIV Study Bible 1984

This is interesting:

Genesis 38:17-30

Judah, brother of Joseph, was the father of Er & Onan by his Canaanite wife, and the father of Zerah & Perez twins by Tamara, Judah's daughter, the Mother of Zerah & Perez. [It's in the Book]

Peace to you
ABWM, Lilly Coultis

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

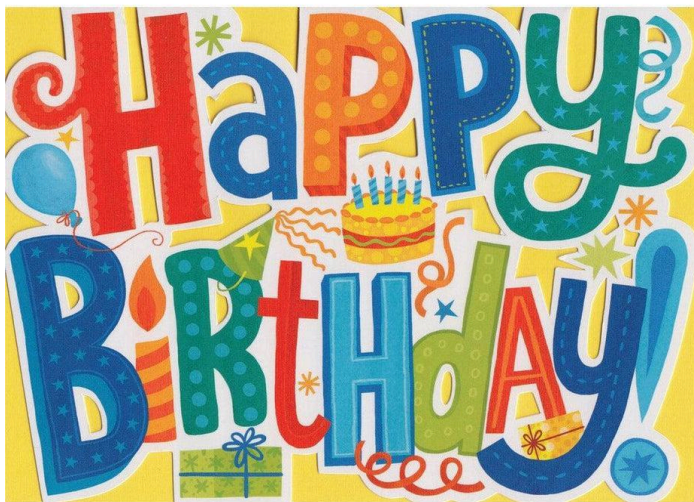
Visitor

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