

The VISITOR
November 2025

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.*

Psalm 34:18

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day are coming like a freight train. As these holidays near, it is important to remember that they do not always bring with good vibes and excitement. With them comes the pain behind the truth that this holiday might look different than years past. Those around the table are changing and aging. You might even have a hard time gathering family together because they live in different places or you are not on speaking terms. For those that are grieving the death of someone they love, the holidays can be another cruel reminder of that person's absence. It might be the first holiday without them or the 30th each of them brings a rough edge to our experience. Daylight savings time is coming to an end soon, and we will fall back as night comes quicker. Light and weather changes can have us feeling *off* or *down*. I write this so that those in our church family know that they are not alone in this upcoming season. Our society expects everyone to be merry, cheery, and bright but what if we do not feel like it? It could be that we are being asked to hold space for one another as the season changes. Check on friends. Be gentle with yourself. Remember your loved one. Ask God to be close. Share your burden with a friend. Visit a mental healthcare provider. Send a card. Talk to your pastor (I'm always free for you!). Turkey and tinsel are inevitable but let it not distract us from celebrating God's faithfulness and our preparation to celebrate Jesus' birth (more on that next newsletter). Psalm 34:18 has been a foundation verse for me as I have weathered heartbreak, hardship, and stress. God does not condemn us for having a hard time. God never casts us off because we are aging or frustrated. Instead, this verse reminds us that God is close or near to us when we struggle. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us when words seem to fail and emotions are high. If your spirit feels heavy this holiday season, please remember that you do not have to bear it alone. God and your church family want to support you. Let us journey into this holiday year knowing that weariness does not get the last word.

In Christ's Love,
Joy



JOIN US
SUNDAY MORNINGS
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30
785-242-2713

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fbcottawa.org

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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 November 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 December newsletter is November 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.

No Thankful Thursday in November. You are invited to service of Gratitude on Sunday, Nov. 23rd at 5pm with refreshments after. This will be a joint worship service with Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ottawa First United Methodist Church and First Baptist Church.



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); Nathan Ball; Shelly Frank; Tom Lantis (Kelli Ball's father); Janet Wolken; Bill Kern; Jenna Johnson; Angela Audiss

Shut-Ins: Dana Coble; Sylvia Starky; Bev Hughes; Golden Peterson; Gloria Terrill; Carol Allen; Marsha Hermreck; Gene Bromert; Jeannie Randel; Bob & Judi Becker; Lex & Dee Gislair

Military Service People: PFC Aaron Bigge-Fort Meade, Maryland (Sandy Holbert's grandson); Lt. Matt Ashwill, Germany (Melissa Ashwill's son)

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



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

Spaghetti sauce, Corn, Peas,
Mixed veggies, Mac & cheese

Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels always needed

*No longer needing plastic containers



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 the **2nd and 4th Saturdays** of each month at **9am**. 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.

The office will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week.

Needing all men **Sunday morning, November 23rd**, to bring decorations downstairs after service.

Everyone is welcome to help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on **Tuesday, November 25th at 9:30am**.

Due to SNAP benefits not being distributed in November, please consider dropping off non-perishable food items at Westminster Presbyterian, 401 W 13th, Elm Street side, **Sunday, November 2 from 12-2pm**.

Church Leadership



Fellowship Committee

Meeting is November 10, 9:30am EH

Outreach

Meeting is November 12, 5:30pm



Church Council meeting is
November 5 at 7:00pm

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



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.

Please join us as we celebrate Mike and Karen Campbell's **50th** wedding anniversary at Smoked Creations **Saturday, November 8th**. Come and go anytime from **2-4pm**. The couple requests no gifts.

Bell Choir

We are excited to get into a practice routine as we resume Fall activities. There is always a place for new ringers. We have bells that are yet to be rung. Let's add to our numbers and the rich sound we can share to the Glory of God! Inexperienced players are welcome and will receive an extra instruction time prior to first practice. **Bell Choir will practice every Wednesday at 6:30pm**, except for the 1st Wednesday of the month due to the council meeting. Questions: call Jane Smith 785-214-2936.

Chiefs & Chili

On Sunday, **December 14 at noon**, our men's bible study group will be hosting Chiefs and Chili. Join us to watch the Chiefs game and enjoy a bowl of chili in Elliott Hall.

World Mission Offering

Thank you for giving a total of **\$1115** during October. This will help in supporting the global servants who are serving around the world.

Smith Meal Train

A meal train has been set up to provide meals for Jane and Warren Smith during Jane's recovery from surgery. You can sign up with this link. If you need help signing up please let Christy know, she will be happy to help. An email was also sent out with this link.

<https://www.giveinkind.com/inkinds/Q3X1T6L/meal-train-for-jane-27>

ABW Ministries

November 19th will be our regular monthly meeting at **9:30 a.m. in Elliott Hall**. Jan Lee will be hostess. Our local mission project will be handwarmers for the Homeless Coalition. All women are invited to join us.

Our ABWM Central region project for 2025-26 is for \$30,000 to be split between Camp Christy, Scott City, Ks. and Kodiak Baptist Mission in Alaska. We will be learning more about these opportunities in the future meetings.

International Ministries (IM) is providing \$20,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) emergency disaster relief funds to assist IM partners in the Caribbean with food and supplies as Hurricane Melissa bears down on Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti.

IM's emergency relief funds will help address the immediate survival needs, covering food, shelter, and emergency supplies to alleviate suffering.

Urgent Prayer Requests

IM calls for prayers in the face of this crisis:

- For Those Displaced and Affected: Pray for comfort, safety, and resilience for families who have been evacuated or lost their homes. Ask for peace and strength as they face uncertainty and rebuild their lives.
- For Restoration of Critical Resources: Pray for the swift restoration of electricity, clean water, and communication systems across. Ask for protection against potential health crises due to the lack of clean water and limited medical access.
- For Long-Term Recovery and Resilience: Pray for the rebuilding efforts to be effective and sustainable, especially in restoring homes and infrastructure. Ask for wisdom for leaders and communities to strengthen their resilience against future disasters.

Area Director for Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez Lee shares, "International Ministries remains committed to walking alongside our global partners to help restore hope and rebuild lives.

In the coming days and weeks, we will work with our partners to assess the evolving needs in Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti and expand our support where it is needed most. We invite our supporters to join us through prayer and sharing this urgent call with others."

ABWM Book of Month HAGGAI

Author:, The "Prophet of the Temple" was reputed to have been born during, or after, the seventy years' captivity in Babylon, and to have returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel. He was a colleague of Zechariah. [Ezra 5:1, 6:14.]

MAIN THEME. Sharp rebukes for neglecting to rebuild the temple, coupled with encouraging exhortations and promises to those undertaking the work. **Key Text**, 2-4,".. Be Strong O Zerubbabel. Be strong O. Joshua.....Be strong all you people..for I am with you, declares the Lord Almighty.

HISTORICAL OCCASION The remnant that had returned from Captivity were selfishly preoccupied with their own affairs, and were more concerned in beautifying their own dwellings than rebuilding the Lord's house. The work has ceased for years. 1:4.

THE MESSAGE

(1) A cutting reproof, showing that God had withheld his natural blessings, because his temple was left in ruins. 1:3-11.

(2) Words of encouragement as the work of rebuilding the temple was resumed. 1:12-15.

(3) Inspiring promises to the older people who had seen Solomon's temple and were discouraged at the inferiority of the structure they were able to build, 2:3. They were told of a coming manifestation of divine power and the appearing of the Messiah, when the glory of the Lord would fill the house, 2:7-9.

(4) A reminder of their unworthiness to erect a house for the Lord of Hosts, 2:10-14.

(5) Predictions of the doom, Hope for Haggai, but judgment for kingdoms lead by human beings who don't recognize the sovereignty of God. Haggai 2:20-23. Haggai's prophecy was about the messiah.

Divine Topics: Presence v.4, **Power** v.6, **Glory** v.7, **Peace**, v9.

Note: Zerubbabel was in the family line of Jesus (Matthew 1:12-13). NIV
[sources NIV, Halley's Bible Hand Book 4259-]

Lilly Coultis, ABWM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Visitor

Published by the First Baptist Church

fbcottawa.org

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Chris Huggard 11-13

Helen Macy 11-14

Brice Dryden 11-15

Barry Pelton 11-18

Rosalie Hedlund 11-23

Grace Duderstadt 11-26

Westen Smith 11-27