

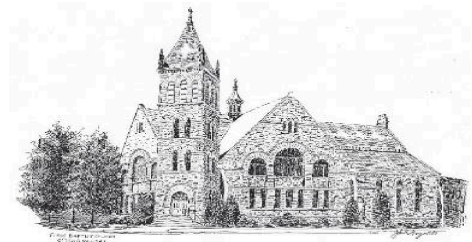
The VISITOR
February 2026

“Let me rest once again, Jesus,
In the certainty of your promises;
In the promise of your peace;
In the peace of your presence;
In the presence of your love.”

Every Moment Holy: Volume 2 “A Liturgy for Moments of Uncertainty”

Uncertainty. Uncertainty surrounds us in many ways and in different spaces. Some would argue that we are yet again in a season of uncertainty while others claim that it has been the norm since 2020. Our world seems to be tittering on the unknown. This feeling of uncertainty has invaded our lives. We turn on the TV, open our phones, turn the newspaper page wondering what will happen next, expecting for the worst and preparing for whatever. Though uncertainty is a part of the human experience it does not make it easier to navigate or negate our experiences. Friends, in the midst of such uncertainty, I keep being drawn back to this liturgy. The word liturgy was derived from the Greek term meaning the work of the people. The work of this faith community is to support one another as we try to once again rest in Jesus. Jesus who we know to be the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor, the Rising Sun, the Emmanuel, and the Liberating King. Christ is with us. While uncertainty will continue to lurk in awaiting medical diagnoses, mourning those separated from us on earth, ministry to the community, and the political landscape, we gather to proclaim that we trust in God’s promises. Deuteronomy 31:6 reminds us that “...the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.” God promises that even in the most peculiar of times we will have peace. Peace in the presence of a God that loves us and cares deeply for our anxieties, frustrations, doubts, and uncertainties. May we be certain in one thing: that God’s loving presence will go with us. I hope you use this liturgy this month when you find the uncertainty of life to be overwhelming. Let us try, even if we must try each hour, to rest once again in Jesus’s love and grace for all of creation.

Pastor Joy



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

OttawaFBC@gmail.com
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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 1

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

The deadline for the **March** newsletter is **February 23**, 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.

Thankful Thursday will be **February 26, 5-6:30pm**. Please sign up to bring a dessert or help serve or simply come eat. You are encouraged to sit with someone new to you, share a story and get to know our neighbors.



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; Warren Smith

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 Gislar

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.

TITHE ONLINE

It's simple!!



Through First Baptist's website (fbcottawa.org) you 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.

The office will be closed on Monday, February 16 in observance of President's Day.

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.

Our youth will be making and delivering cookies to our shut-in members on February 8th.

Church Leadership



Fellowship Committee

Meeting is February 9, 9:30am EH

Outreach

Meeting is February 11, 5:30pm



Church Council meeting is

February 4 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.

Baby Shower

You are all invited to attend Ricky & Alex Norval's baby shower during fellowship time, **Sunday February 22nd**. We are asking everyone to help with diapers (any size) and wipes. Come enjoy cake and punch with us.

The Visitation for Jane Smith will be in Elliott Hall on **Thursday, February 12 from 6-8pm**. A Celebration of Life will be held in the Sanctuary **Friday, February 13 at 10am**.

Dana Coble would like to thank our youth and leaders for visiting her and bringing cookies. It makes her feel happy to be included and feel part of our FBC family.

Please join us for Alan Cunningham's Valentines Concert **Saturday, February 7th at 7pm** in the Sanctuary. Alan will share original love songs and stories. A free will donation will be accepted to benefit our youth programs and camps.

If you haven't been receiving emails from the church office, please let Christy know by emailing her at ottawafbc@gmail.com or calling 785-242-2713. We would love to add your birthday to our list. If you don't see your birthday in the monthly newsletter or on the bulletin board during your month, please let us know.

The backsnack program for Ottawa elementary schools lost funding to provide apples for the kids who receive this program. We have established a checking account at Kansas State Bank to receive any donations people want to make to help purchase fresh apples each week during the school year. Checks can be made out to "Apples for Kids" and taken directly to the bank to deposit the money. If you are unable to take the check, call Russ Testorff at (785)248-6534 and he will come by to pick up your donation. Thanks for helping us provide fresh fruit to these kids.

Thank you for giving to RMMO during January. FBC collected \$610.

ABW Ministries

ABWM will meet on Wednesday, February 18 at 9:30 in Elliott Hall. Sandy Holbert will be hostess. Lilly Coultis will lead the Bible Study. Jan Lee will give the program about our scholarship students. The project will be stuffed animals for Ad Astra Advocacy Center here in Ottawa. All women are invited to attend.



American Baptist Women's Ministries
Rudd Empowerment Center
presents the Empowerment Series:



"Embracing the Chapters of Our Lives"

The experiences of women throughout their lives are many and varied. During the Empowerment Series: "Embracing the Chapters of Our Lives," every Monday in February 2026, 7 pm, EST, the Rudd Empowerment Center will feature three different women from their youth up through more seasoned ages.

For more information and to register for FREE, [click here](#)



American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

February 2, 2026: **"The Wonder Years"** Teens thru You Navigating, Growing, Strategizing

February 9, 2026: **"You are More than a Category"** Sin Married, Divorced – Recognizing, Building, and Sustain Personhood

February 16, 2026: **"Higher Rungs on the Ladder"** Ma bodies, changing relationships, grief, loss, and legacy

February 23, 2026: **"What I would have told my young"** Open Discussion – Moderator-led, overview of all session engagement from all participants

LOVE ❤️ IS IN THE AIR! Happy Valentine's Day!

Did you know the Library has sets of Christian fiction books? The author will write a series (3 books usually) using the same characters, same settings, and follows their lives as they deal with daily events and the challenges they face. Can you find and read A SEASON OF LOVE by Amy Clipston? It's in a series of 5 by Amy. The library doesn't have the first four, but it is still a good read. Amy updates you on the characters and their lives so far. Enjoy reading! Carolyn Kimbrel, FBC Librarian

Outreach is collecting red/valentine theme items for care packages for OU students. Donation baskets will be in the back of the sanctuary the first 2 Sundays in February.

FEBRUARY 2026 ABWM BOM JONAH

Jonah is a story of God's mercy and grace. The city of Nineveh is located in Assyria – a great but evil empire. God Spoke to Jonah with instructions go to Nineveh and preach the message, "I will tell you". Jonah booked passage on a ship, going in the opposite direction. The most violent storm that the sailors had ever experienced arose. Their only explanation was that someone's god was unhappy. Jonah, sleeping below deck, was awakened and confessed. He was thrown overboard, the sea calmed down. A BIG fish give Jonah a ride. He did some serious talking to God on his a three day adventure, till the fish spewed Jonah onto the banks of Nineveh.

God told him "Go into that great city and preach the message that I tell you." Jonah reluctantly went. His visit required 3 days walking preaching the message "Repent or in Forty more days Ninetieth will be overturned." Word got to the king who repented and declared the people must give up their evil ways and repent. Which they did.

Was Jonah happy? NO he told God he ran away because he knew those evil people would repent and you, God, in your mercy would forgive them. Jonah sat down in the shade of a vine to brood until a worm chewed the stem, the vine weathered, sun shown brightly and Jonah was really angry!

God said to Jonah you are concerned about a dead vine and your comfort. Should I not be concerned about a city of more than 120,000 souls who do not know right from wrong, and consider the care of the animals,

God is in the mercy business! We can be saved if we come to him, trust in Him, We will be saved if we pay attention to his warnings to us through His word, respond in obedience. God will be gracious, and we will receive mercy, not his punishment.

"SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS"

LMC FBC ABWM March Daniel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Visitor

Published by the First Baptist Church

fbcottawa.org

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Adrian Zentz 2-1

Sally Fowler 2-6

Julianne Testorff 2-12

Peyton Wolken 2-14

Amanda Ball 2-17

Joy Martinez-Marshall 2-17

Laekyn Fowler 2-20

Cliff Burke 2-23

Kevin Eichner 2-24

Rhonda Eaker 2-25

Michael Campbell 2-26