

The VISITOR

March 2025

Greetings from St. George Island, Florida. My wife, Connie, and I are nearing the end of our two month stay on the Forgotten Coast. We have been wintering here since retirement and thoroughly enjoy it. But very soon we will be with you to begin serving as your interim pastor. I'm really excited for this opportunity, knowing what a wonderful church First Baptist Ottawa is. I have served as a local church pastor for 25 years and then as an area minister for churches in Western Kansas and Oklahoma for eight years. I finished up with ten years as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.

I'll be with you the second Sunday of March to begin our time together. Let's plan on getting better acquainted as we work toward the incredible future God has for you. We live in Topeka but will enjoy spending time in Ottawa, working with you all as we seek to discover God's plans for the next chapter in the story of FBC, Ottawa.

See You Soon,
Pastor John

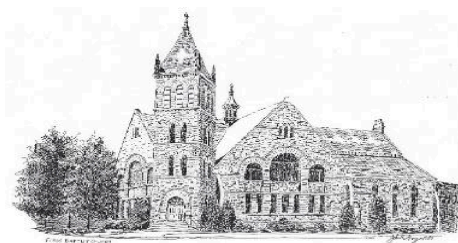
Old Fashioned Potluck

Come join us Sunday, March 9th after church for a potluck dinner in Elliott Hall. We are going to welcome our interim pastor, John Williams, and get acquainted. Bring your best dishes, crockpots, or salads. Refrigerator available and oven for warming. Desserts and drinks will be provided. See you Sunday, March 9th for great food and fellowship.

Thank You

Thank you to Gregg Hemmen, Jennifer Schneider and Melissa Newberry for sharing their messages with us during the last couple of months.

Please join us for **Thankful Thursday on March 27, 5-6:30**, help prepare, serve, bring a dessert or simply come eat, share stories and a smile.



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

OttawaFBC@gmail.com

fbcottawa.org

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 March 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 **April** newsletter is **March 21**, 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.

Branson Trip

Our FBC Branson trip will be June 20th and 21st. This was a great trip last year and we are looking forward to it again this summer. More information to come soon.



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

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, **March 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.

AB Girls Spring Fling will be held at FBC on March 29th 9-1 in Elliott Hall. See bulletin boards for more info or contact Jordan Fritz.

Church Leadership



Fellowship Committee

Meeting is March 10, 9:30am EH

Outreach

Meeting is March 12th, 6:30pm



Church Council meeting is March 18th 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.

Book Club

March 22 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

During the season of Lent, there are many books on the season of Lent, Easter, and the Resurrection. CENTURION'S WIFE by Davis Bunn and Janette Oke is new to the library.

The setting is at the time of Jesus's death and resurrection.

FBC Puppet Ministry

New FBC Puppet Team! First Baptist Church is looking to start a new puppet ministry to spread joy and God's word through the fun and creative use of puppets. We would like to invite anyone, middle school age or older, that has an interest in being part of this new ministry to join us. No experience required. Practices will take place weekly in Elliot Hall after the conclusion of our fellowship time following Sunday services. Contact Eric or Josh with any questions.

American Baptist Women's Ministries

Although we had to cancel our February meeting because of extreme cold weather, we are optimistic about March.

Spring is coming! Our March meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday, March 19 at 9:30 in Elliott Hall. Sandy Holbert is hostess. Lilly will present the February Bible Study on Isaiah 40:29 and Vangie the March Bible Study on Psalm 46:1. All of these verses are related to our theme of Be. Bold, Be Courageous. Our special project will be an offering for the scholarship fund. We will be making plans for two events which will be held in our church this Spring. All women of the church are invited to attend any of our meetings or to participate in any way they can.

The ABGIRLS will be holding a Spring Fling here on March 29th and the Luther Rice Association Meeting for ABW will be Tuesday, April 22. We look forward to our church facilities being used for these two groups. We also need to begin making plans to attend the Central Region ABW Conference in Herrington, June 6-7.

Carry on the legacy of good works with your giving!

For over 50 years, generous giving to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering has enabled ABHMS to provide financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico each year. Some examples of the positive impact your dollars have had on our beloved communities:

Funding direct assistance to the residents of Youngstown, Ohio, that included food boxes, meals for children, clothing banks and distribution of commodities such as diapers, school supplies, clothing, and housewares.

Funding youth education and enrichment programs as well as senior services that delivered lunches, health education and socialization opportunities, and groceries in bulk through a food pantry, among other things, to communities in and around Kansas City, Kansas.

Funding Rainbow Acres, a faith-based residential community with a wide range of programs for developmentally disabled adults from more than 15 states and representing an array of faith backgrounds including American Baptists.

We have chosen a goal of \$2,250 for our church. This will be given as an offering above our regular tithes during the month of March. Be sure to read the weekly bulletin inserts to learn of the many ways in which this offering enhances ministries in our American Baptist ministries in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Several of these ministries are located within the Central Region;

Bethel Neighborhood Center, Kansas City, Ks.
Anadarko Christian Center, Anadarko, Ok.
Murrow Indian Children's Home, Muskogee, Ok.

Checks can be made to FBC with a notation for AFC offering. You may also use the special envelopes found in your Sunday bulletin. We have all received "Grace upon Grace". Let us give generously.

EZEKIEL ABWM BOOK of the MONTH

Jeremiah warned the idolatrous Israelites troubles were pending. The Lord allowed Babylon to raid Jerusalem, and capture hostages. The first of three invasions. They took the best and brightest Israelites for indoctrination into the Babylonian culture. Nine years later a second raid on Jerusalem brought Ezekiel with 10,000 additional captives to Babylon. At this time Daniel was serving in King Nebuchadnezzar's court.

Ezekiel, possibly, a student training to be a priest under the prophet Jeremiah. His preaching style was much like Jeremiah's. Both men spoke only what the Lord told them, they lived righteous godly lives.

Ezekiel's purpose was to teach Gods, wayward, stiff necked, selfish, stubborn, people that for every disobedience in life, just consequences are sure.

Key Verses: (Ezekiel 36:24-26)

"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. (25) I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all from all your impurities and from all your idols. (26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." God judged the Jews and other nations to get their attention and let them know He loves them. Do not give up hope. The restoration of Israel was Ezekiel's challenge and it continues today.

God gave Ezekiel visions of the future that SciFi today has no match and so much more.

Read & study the book of Ezekiel. Be prepared. Get to know now our Lord and Savior personally.

He is preparing a paradise for all who love him.

Do not fear, Praise His Holy Name.

Grace and Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ to you.

Dear ladies of FBC:

American Baptist Women Missions
Gather the 3rd Wednesday each month
9:30-11:00 am in Elliott Hall.

All are welcome.

Need a ride call Lilly 785-312-4461
Book Of the Month of MAY – Malachi

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

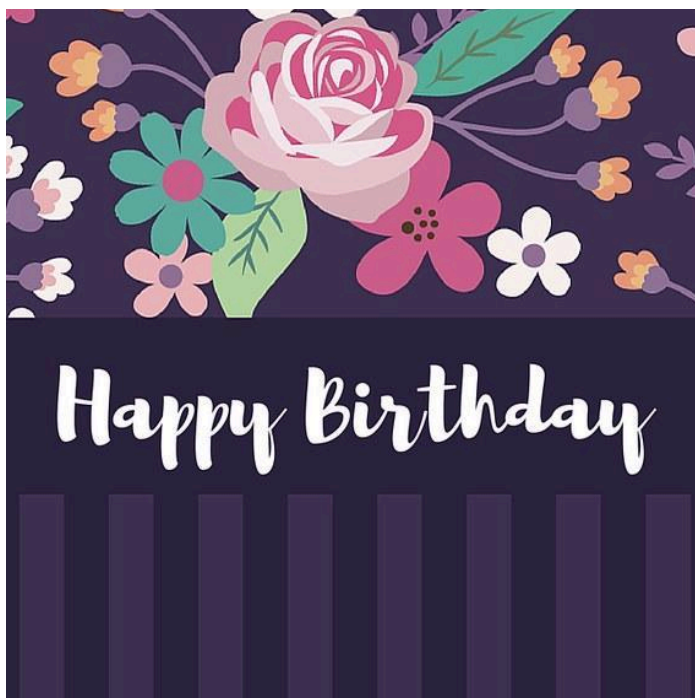
Visitor

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Devin Allison 3-11

Jane Smith 3-11

Marcus Martin 3-17

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Jay Ball 3-25

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