

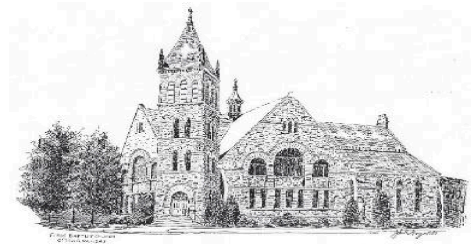
**The VISITOR**  
❄️ **December 2025** ❄️

*Advent makes us look for God in all those places we have, until now, ignored.*

- Sister Joan Chittister

The end of November and beginning of December mark for us the ending of the church calendar cycle (called the Lectionary). The Church's new year starts on the first Sunday of Advent (November 30). Advent is a unique opportunity for us to embrace what it means to wait. None of us like to wait. That is why we have fast-food, robots thinking for us, and automatic machines. As the saying goes, "never pray for patience cause God might hear you." The Advent season invites us to flex spiritual muscles that might have atrophied over the past year because of busyness or varied circumstances. In the upcoming month as we prepare to celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus and while waiting for his Second Coming the church season can point us to hope now. I did not know Advent existed or was celebrated until I was in college. First Baptist Church in Waco, TX lit these majestic candles and read words that speak to our deepest yearnings for all things to made new in Christ. This experience opened my faith to the way traditions can breathe newness into familiarity. If Advent is new to you or if this is not your first rodeo, I invite you to listen to the words sung, read, and preached. As we begin the season together, we are reminded that this journey in the midst of waiting can create space for us to lean into faith. Each Sunday, Advent candles representing hope, peace, love, and joy will be lit during worship. The four candles prepare us to light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. These small candles signify for us the power of "The light [shining] in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5). Christ is our light in the darkness, the storm, and the confusion of the world. Later in John's gospel account, Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12). During Advent, as the candles are lit may they light within us hope that darkness will not and cannot overcome us. Let us stretch our spiritual muscles while we wait. Perhaps, we will even find that God is in the places we least expect calling us to deeper hope. Together, we wait and hope in the Light of the World. If you get impatient know that you are in good company. May this time hone our light spotting skills and send us out to be light in our community.

In Christ's Love,  
Joy



**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 December 7 & 24**

**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 **January** newsletter is **December 17th**, 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 Thankful **Monday, December 22** - due to Christmas. We will gather for soup dinner from **5-6:30pm**. Need servers and desserts. Also asking for donations of adult size socks and gloves to share with our friends.



**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; Jane 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 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.

Please join us for our Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service on **December 24th at 5:30pm**.

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.

## **Church Leadership**



### **Fellowship Committee**

Meeting is December 8, 9:30am EH

### **Outreach**

Meeting is December 10, 5:30pm



Church Council meeting is

December 3 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.**



Thank you to those who attended our Service of Gratitude November 23rd. Thanks to your donations to the Homeless Coalition, **\$744.91** will go so far this winter to help so many people.

The Blue Christmas Service/Longest Night Service is going to be at Ottawa First UMC on Sunday, December 21st at 5:00 pm. This will be a combined service with First UMC, FBC and Westminster Presbyterian.

The office will be closed starting December 24th, reopening January 5th.

### **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.

Our youth will be delivering cookies to our shut-in members on **Sunday, December 7th** during Sunday school.

The meal train to provide meals during the month of December for Jane and Warren has quite a few openings. If you are able to provide a meal you can sign up via this link.

**<https://www.giveinkind.com/inkinds/Q3X1T6L/meal-train-for-jane-and-warren-smith->**

### **Poinsettias In Honor or In Memory**

Poinsettias will be available to order in honor or in memory of a loved one.

This year the plants are \$18.75 per plant and are 16" high and wide.

Your orders need to be in by **Monday, December 8th.**

Sunday, December 7th, there will be order forms on each side of the sanctuary. Please write poinsettia on the memo line of your check. You can also stop by the office to order. Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on the 14th through Christmas Eve and then will be available for you to take home after the Christmas Eve service.

### **David**

Angel Studios, the company that brought us movies such as "The Sound of Freedom", and "Cabrini", is releasing its next feature on December 19th, entitled "David". The movie will premiere at our locally owned independent movie theater, the historic Plaza cinema, that weekend. Go to Plaza1907.com to check for show times and/or purchase tickets. You can also text/call Betty Birzer (Plaza manager), 785-418-5701, for questions and/or more information.

### **WHAT'S NEW IN THE LIBRARY!!!! from Carolyn Kimbrel**

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The library received an early Christmas present this year! A NEW SCRABBLE GAME BOARD. Thank you!! What a better way to spend a winter afternoon in the Library playing a game of Scrabble while the snowflakes fall. Bring a friend!

Have some extra time during the holidays? Need to have some down time, remember there is a whole shelf of Christmas books waiting for you to read. HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY from the Library!

### **Thank you!**

There are not enough words to express our humble thanks for all the love extended to us this last month. The calls, food, cards, transportation and many gestures of love have been a true blessing. We have a wonderful church family that has supported us through a difficult time. We still have a challenging time before us but the Great Physician is ever near. We ask for your prayers. Our goal is to return to worship in the near future. For the present, Warren and I will be able to join via technology. Thank you!!!!

-Jane and Warren Smith

### **ABWM FBC OTTAWA**

### **December Book of the Month Matthew**

**PURPOSE:** Prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal King. **Matthew** (Levi) wrote this book especially for the Jews. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. This Gospel forms the connecting link between the Old and New testaments because of its emphasis on the fulfillment of prophecy. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (5:17). We meet Jesus, Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist, the disciples, the religious leaders, Caiaphas, Pilate, & Mary Magdalene. The setting is in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Capernaum, Galilee, and Judea. **The book of Matthew is filled with messianic language ("Son of David" is used throughout) and old Testament references (53 quotes and 76 other references). This Gospel was not written as a chronological account; its purpose was to present the clear evidence that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior.** \*\*\*\*\* \*

Matthew 24:4-6 "You will hear of wars and reports of wars. See that you are not disturbed; for these things must happen....." \*Matthew 24:2 It is time, God will not abandon this world He created. He is not finished with us yet. Humanity is selfish, self centered and down right evil. Warning, watch that no one deceives you. Many false prophets will be selling lies. Pay attention to the signs of the times. Trust and obey. The truth is God has not given up on us yet. This world is facing certain judgment and a new creation. Justice and mercy is God's nature. HIS plan is not total destruction but the creation of a world nearer to his heart's desire. But the Church will be persecuted. Watch. Danger: false teachers, deception, temptations. **Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Kind.** The King is coming, no one knows the day or the hour, only the Father knows.[v. 36] Our goal is to be ready, be faithful and true to our savior, one day at a time as if it is TODAY. [Matthew is a book that is impossible to give a proper review in one column. We all need to be diligent in the study of the book of Matthew.]

Lilly Coultis ABWM BOM

### **ABW Ministries**

ABWM will meet Wednesday, December 17 at 9:30 in Elliott Hall. Janet Wolken is hostess and will give a Christmas devotion. We'll address and sign Christmas Cards for our shut ins. The project will be a stamp or two for mailing the cards.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Visitor

*Published by the First Baptist Church*

[fbcottawa.org](http://fbcottawa.org)

410 S. Hickory Street P.O. Box 308  
Ottawa, KS 66067



**John Kimbrel 12-2**

**Rachel Smith 12-2**

**Isabella Lewis 12-3**

**Caroline Robinson 12-4**

**Jacqueline Robinson 12-4**

**Kennedy Huggard 12-9**

**Lola Linck 12-10**

**Mel Winstone 12-10**

**Mari Martin 12-16**

**Calin Ensminger 12-18**

**Spencer Testorff 12-19**

**Landon Testorff 12-19**

**Zachary Zentz 12-19**

**Nicholas Hermreck 12-20**

**Elijah Fast 12-20**

**Danielle Fast 12-20**

**Sharla Testorff 12-21**

**Charli Wolken 12-26**

**Justin Paddock 12-29**