

**The VISITOR**  
**January 2025**

**Seeing Jesus Together: An Epiphany**

A star shines in the East and seekers wise enough to see it, chose to follow the star on the spiritual quest of a lifetime. During our time together here at First Baptist, the star shines now as it did then; it shines on Jesus. After all, it is all about Jesus. Jesus over everything. I truly thank God for your partnership in the “it’s all about Jesus” partnership from the first day until now. Focusing on and seeing Jesus has opened doors, hearts and minds. The church is the warming center and overnight shelter for our homeless neighbors. The church family has lovingly chosen to welcome and affirm all as family. We have been about “making room,” embodying the hospitality of Jesus.

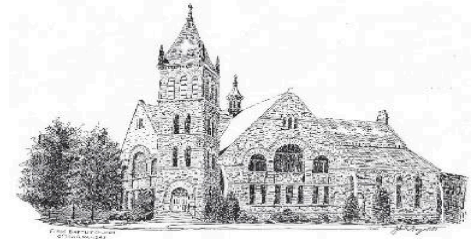
No words, actions or deeds can adequately express my humble and sincere gratitude for the privilege of serving as your pastor. Thank you for welcoming and loving me and Cynthia as your own. Thank you allowing the freedom for me to just be who God created and called. Thank you for lovingly accepting the challenge as well as the comfort of Jesus. And thank you for accepting and even celebrating our retirement. I will be forever grateful that my final full time pastorate was here at First Baptist Church Ottawa.

God has indeed begun a good work in you and the God of all creation is indeed faithful to complete it. In my observation, in the last 3+ years, God has done a beautiful work of healing, a deep work of rooting the congregation in the life and words of Jesus and the inspiring work of forging a hope for the future.

God lovingly holds this church in his hands and the Father’s hands are at the potter’s wheel continuing to beautifully shape the vessel that is this family of believers. The God who holds tomorrow will guide you to your next pastor. Allow that pastor the grace to be themselves, the respect to be heard and the room to be so much better than me in areas where they will be gifted that I perhaps was not.

The journey of ministry has led to many places, many experiences, joys, heartaches and so, so much more. I thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the journey leading us together. Prayers for the very, very best God has in store for this good and special place. May the future harvest be more than you could ever ask or imagine.

Grace, peace and love,  
Tiger



**JOIN US**  
**SUNDAY MORNINGS**  
**WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30**

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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 January 5**

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 **February** newsletter is **January 24th**, 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.

**We will celebrate Tiger on Sunday, January 5th after church. Please plan to join us for his retirement party.**

**Our next Thankful Thursday meal will be Thursday January 23, 5-6:30**



**PRAYER TIME: Wednesdays at 12:30 EH.** If you have a prayer request for Wednesday let Pastor Tiger know or 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; Doris Grogan; 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 in Kuwait (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](http://fbcottawa.org))



you now have the capability to make your contributions electronically using [Tithe.ly](http://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.**

Pasta Sauce, Saltine Crackers, Jelly, Instant Oatmeal Packets

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, **January 11th 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.

**Tuesday January 7th at 10am we will take Christmas decorations down, all are welcome to help.**

**Church Leadership**



**Fellowship Committee**

Meeting is January 13, 9:30am EH

**Outreach**

Meeting is January 8th, 6:30pm



Church Council meeting is January 21st 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:

January 29 - Jennifer Schneider - assistant Executive Director of the ABCCR

January 12 & 19 - Greg Hemmen - Executive Director of the ABCCR

January 25 & 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.**

**Beautiful Space for Grace**

Please continue over and above generous giving in support of the fabulous exterior painting renovation. **Gifts can be designated beautiful space for grace/painting.** We have received **\$35,190.25** of the **\$117,115** needed.

## Book Club

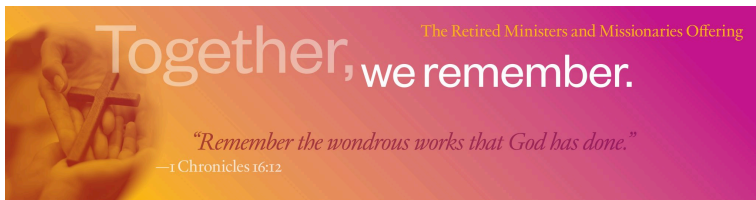
**January 25th at 9:30am** we will start a new series which is called *Real-Life Discipleship* by Jim Putman and *Disciple Shift* by Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington with Robert E. Coleman. If people are interested in this series we will discuss it once a month please contact **Jordan Fritz 785-342-0539**.



### Message from Carolyn Kimbrel

Happy New Year! Need some New Year Resolutions for 2025?

Here are some new additions for you to read:  
WHERE TO FIND IT IN THE BIBLE — THE ULTIMATE A TO Z RESOURCE by Ken Anderson. A fun and interesting book full of information.  
GOD IS MY CEO by Larry Julian  
PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH by Rick Warren



### RMMO 2024

We will be observing this special offering during January. Although many churches took this offering in December, we chose to delay it till January. The theme is Remember the wondrous works that God has done. 1 Chronicles 16:12.

This is an offering that encourages us to remember those pastors and missionaries who have served faithfully in the past. Originating in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering, it became known as the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) in 1977. The RMMO funds collected by our church along with those across the denomination are distributed as thank you checks. Recipients include retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion of funds is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. I encourage you to think of those who have had a direct impact on your life as you give to this special offering during the month of January.

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

American Baptist Women will meet Wednesday January 22 at 9:30 am in Elliott Hall. Hostesses are Miriam Lemp and Jane Smith, Jan Lee will lead the Bible Study on Roman 8:1, Vangie Webb will give a missions report. The local project for this meeting will be an offering for the Blessing Box Meals. All women are invited to attend and enjoy the fellowship. All women of the church are American Baptist Women and invited to participate in any way they can.

### ABWM Book of the Month **Acts of the Apostles**

The author, **Luke**, an educated Doctor, of Greece nationality. In those days doctors were considered, on the cast scale, equal to a slave. Some think letters addressed to Theophilus was a general greeting to the churches or wealthy politicians.

Theophilus is a male name of Greek origin that means "love of God" or "friend of God". It comes from the Greek words *theós* ("God") and *philia* ("love or affection").

Luke knew his relationship with Theophilus was an opportunity for helping place faith in Christ. He became intentional by presenting the claims of Christ to him in written form so that Theophilus could have a clear understanding of all he needed to know about Jesus. William Barclay suggests that "ACTS is nothing other than the *brief* prepared for Paul's defense when he stood trial before the Roman Emperor".

The book of Acts is built on themes: Church beginnings. Faith through Christ; growth through the Holy Spirit. Boldly spreading the gospel far and wide. Experiencing persecution, maintaining faith and references to the OT scriptures and the early Christians were well informed. The prophets of OT predicted future events. I [Lilly] am challenged to give justice to this marvelous book review in one month. I'm thrilled to discover [MaryShannonMinistries](#) on youtube.

I met **Mary Shannon** at ABWM conf. last summer. She is a student of the bible, a dedicated teacher who loves the history of biblical background.

You want to see the Bible live? Go to youtube search [MaryShannonMinistries](#). You will find 28 weeks of Study of ACTS. Mary loves history, she provides scriptures that validate the Old Testament prophecies hundreds of years in the future, quoted in the NT.

*In Faith, Trust, and Hope for a unified 2025*

*Blessings LMC*

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Visitor

*Published by the First Baptist Church*

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

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**Kent Markley 1-2**

**Brian Kane 1-3**

**Mark Seymour 1-4**

**Cheryl Seymour 1-6**

**Shanta Kemp 1-6**

**Charles Crawford 1-7**

**Paxton Dryden 1-10**

**Shani McCurry 1-11**

**Kelli Ball 1-12**

**Ryan Kemp 1-17**

**Parker Dryden 1-20**

**Faith Duderstadt 1-23**

**Jaxon Galyean 1-23**

**Maria Galyean 1-27**

**Glenda Schmidt 1-30**