

The VISITOR

January 2026

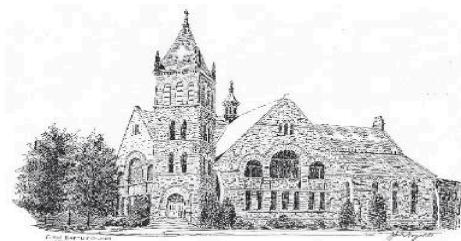
Our Christmas celebrations are coming to a close. The trees, tinsel, and sweets are disappearing and some of us are left in a daze. How did Christmas come and go so quickly? Quicker each year it seems. The story of our faith in its familiarity and newness asks us to consider if hearing it again has changed us or not. The Christ child's miracle birth knocking on our hearts and asking to find residence there. Some of us will forbid the playing of Christmas music until July while others will let it play a little longer because of postponed celebrations. Either way, the world seems to pause even as the new year begins. A couple years ago, a friend shared this poem by the brilliant theologian, Howard Thurman, with me. I am always tempted to share it every January and am grateful I have not had the pleasure of sharing it with you all yet.

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Thurman challenges us to continue the work we just started with the church calendar. To embrace the scripture readings and songs sung as we consider what God is calling us to do. As I started with you all in April, Jesus's hometown sermon is a helpful reminder of what we are called to do as Christ followers (Luke 4:16-19). May the poem and passage be an anchor for us. This is the year of the Lord's favor for us to continue the work of Christmas. Let us take on January and 2026 by offering space, healing, food, advocacy, peace, and music to God as worship and to each other as an act of love. Beloved, the work of Christmas has begun, and we have lots to do. Let us work together for God's glory and the good of our neighbor until there is peace on earth.

Happy New Year,
Pastor 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 January 4
Celebrating the Lord's supper.
Those of you worshiping 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 **February** newsletter is **January 23rd**, 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 January 22nd 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; 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 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.

The office will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. 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.

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 January 12, 9:30am EH

Outreach

Meeting is January 14, 5:30pm



Church Council meeting is January 7 at 7:00pm

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

Please join us for our annual congregation business meeting on **Sunday, January 11th** after church.



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 in taking down the Sanctuary Christmas decorations on Tuesday, January 6 at 9:30am.

The staff would like to say a sincere thank you for the staff love gift in December.

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.

Thank you for purchasing gifts from the Christmas tree in the sanctuary for our adopted families. Your thoughtfulness helped these families have gifts to open for Christmas.

The NON FICTION section of the Library has many, many inspirational books to start the New Year. Time to make a New Year Resolution to read more, and expand our walk with GOD!
Carolyn Kimbrel, FBC Librarian

We will be collecting RMMO in January. Your offering is more than a donation, it's a heartfelt expression of love and gratitude. It allows us to provide emergency assistance and a "Thank You" check to those who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to God's service. Thanks to your generosity, in 2024 \$932,122 was raised, resulting in 3,331 checks sent to retired ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses.

ABW Ministries

ABWM will meet January 22 at 9:30 in Elliott Hall. The program will be a video of the ABCCR project for the year and an offering for this project will be taken. Lilly will give the Love Gift offering devotion.

Save the date for the ABCCR SR Adult Retreat

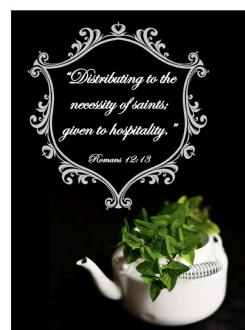
SR. ADULT RETREAT 2026

SAVE THE DATE
April 22-23
Milton Baptist Church

Put this information on your calendar now. You won't want to miss this event.

Wholly Holy Hospitality

More details will be shared soon!



ABCCR Camping 2026

CAMP CHRISTY
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
JUNE 1-5, 2026
9th-12th grade
\$350 before May 1
\$370 after May 1

CAMP CHRISTY
PRIMARY CAMP
JUNE 22-24, 2026
2nd- 4th grade
\$195 before May 1
\$215 after May 1

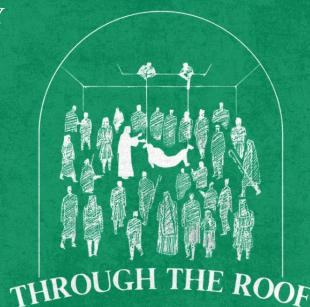
WHITE MEMORIAL
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP
JULY 13-17, 2026
9th-12th grade
\$425 before June 1
\$445 after June 1

CAMP CHRISTY
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP
JUNE 8-12, 2026
6th-9th grade
\$350 before May 1
\$370 after May 1

CAMP CHRISTY
DAY CAMP
JUNE 25-26, 2026
K- 2nd grade
\$105 before May 1
\$125 after May 1

WHITE MEMORIAL
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP
JULY 13-17, 2026
6th-9th grade
\$425 before June 1
\$445 after June 1

CAMP CHRISTY
JUNIOR CAMP
JUNE 15-19, 2026
4th- 6th grade
\$350 before May 1
\$370 after May 1



WHITE MEMORIAL
JUNIOR CAMP
JULY 20-24, 2026
4th- 6th grade
\$425 before June 1
\$445 after June 1

ABWM FBC OTTAWA Book of the Month Mark

"Listen carefully to what I am saying ---and be wary of shrewd advice that tells you how to get ahead of the world on your own. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes."

Mark 4: 24-25 MSG

*Towards the end of the second century a man called Papias who liked to collect and share information about the early days of the church tells us Mark simply records Peter's preaching material.

* Papias says:

"Mark, who was Peter's interpreter, wrote accurately, though not in order, all that he recollects of what Christ had said or done." For he was not a hearer of the Lord or a follower of his. He followed Peter Peter adapted his instructions to practical needs, without any attempt to give the Lord's words systematically. So that Mark was not wrong in writing down some things in this way from memory, for his one concern was neither to omit nor to falsify anything that he had heard."

* **the GOSPEL of MARK**

pg 4 William Barkley revised edition 1979

Matthew, Mark & Luke record 3 parables with precise accuracy, written at different times and different locations. The English word "parable" is the transliteration of the Greek word parabole. Parable, a short story, based on familiar life experiences, relatable to equal & opposite meanings. Jesus' taught in parables that his hearers could relate to. see Psalms 78:1-2.

Study Mark, get to know Jesus better.

"THE HANDBOOK OF LIFE IS THE WORD OF GOD"

Lilly Coulter, ABWM BOM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Visitor

Published by the First Baptist Church

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

Chuck Crawford 1-7

Paxton Dryden 1-10

Shani McCurry 1-11

Kelli Ball 1-12

Ryan Kemp 1-17

David Brooks 1-20

Parker Dryden 1-20

Faith Duderstadt 1-23

Jaxon Galyean 1-23

Maria Galyean 1-27

Glenda Schmidt 1-30