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Volume 73 Issue 2
February 2026

Welcome

BEACON

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Administrative Staff

Administrative Assistant: Susan Doty

Bookkeeper: Jeremy Waters

Church Secretary: Kasey Bosler

Custodian: Wayne Lucas

Sunday Custodian: Craig Henness

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Director of Music & Fine Arts:

Carol Mausehund

Director of Worship:

Kim Henness

Organist: Carol Mausehund

Assistant Organist/keyboardist : Emma Spencer

Pianist: Rachel Warfel

Director of Handbells: Melissa Etchison

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Director of Ignite & Joyful Noise:

Kim Henness

Director of Kingdom Kids:

Sherrri Shepard

Director of Wee Worship:

Rachel Doty

Nursery Directors:

Kristen Henness/Kyrah Estacio

Director of Shut-in Visitation:

Robin Bennett

Media:

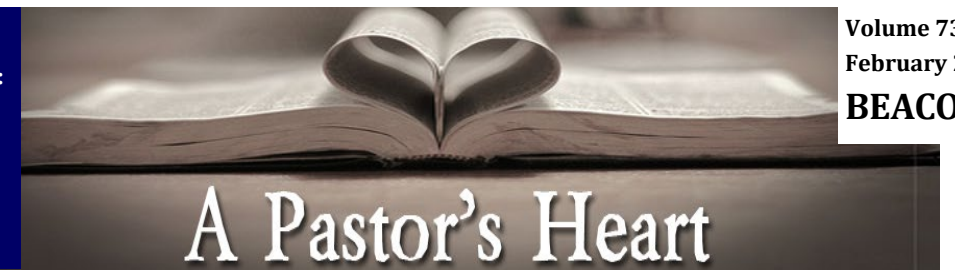
Marla Rhine

ABY Directors:

Aaron & Courtney Ifft

Joe & Maggie Mulconrey

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A Pastor's Heart

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

— 1 Corinthians 13:13

In a world that constantly measures success by achievement, strength, or visibility, Paul gently redirects our attention to what truly lasts. Faith, hope, and love are not flashy virtues. They often grow quietly, forged in everyday choices, unseen prayers, and patient endurance. Yet Paul reminds us that when everything else fades, these three remain.

Faith anchors us to God when answers feel distant. It is the steady trust that God is who He says He is, even when circumstances shake our confidence.

Hope lifts our eyes beyond the present moment. It reminds us that pain is not the final chapter and that God is still writing a redemption story.

But love—love is the heartbeat of it all.

Love is the greatest because it reflects the very nature of God. Faith will one day become sight. Hope will one day be fulfilled. But love will never end. It is love that moved Christ to the cross, love that sustains the Church, and love that transforms ordinary moments into holy ground.

This verse invites us to examine not just what we believe, but how we live. Are our words shaped by love? Are our convictions expressed with grace? Does our faith and hope lead us to love others more deeply, more generously, more sacrificially?

When life feels overwhelming or uncertain, we don't need to have everything figured out. We can return to these three—trust God, hold on to hope, and choose love. In doing so, we participate in something eternal.

Lord, teach us to live rooted in faith, guided by hope, and defined by love. Help us to love as You love—patiently, selflessly, and without condition. May everything we do flow from a heart transformed by You. Amen.

Love you and see you in church!

Pastor Dennis



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COME...to Worship God.
GROW...in Christ. GO...in His Spirit.



Of Nancy Smith from: Dave & Ardys Carpenter
Patty Allee
Kim Henness

Of Danny Williams from: Dave & Ardys Carpenter
Of Walt McKenzie from: John & Robin Bennett

Of Paul McDivitt from: John & Susan Doty
Dana Shick
Kevin Beasley
Bonnadelle Willoughby
Kathy McDivitt
Jeff & Sherri Branson
Martin Briggs
Michael Jergans

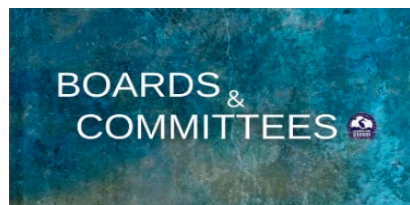
Of Jim Branson from: Lucy Perkins
John & Susan Doty
Rosalee Myers
Sue Turner



Joy Givers, (a group for 55+ seniors), will meet Tuesday, February 3rd at noon for a turkey tetrazzini and ham luncheon. We will

have a Christmas in February as Rex Brown will present his program "Heaven Came Down" that he was going to do in December. Pastor Dennis will present a Christmas devotion. Bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share. Don't forget to invite a friend & come enjoy an afternoon of food, fun, & fellowship.

Monday, February 9th at 6:30pm



Diaconate in Library
Finance room 4
Trustees room 5
Pastoral Relations rm 7
Christian Ed room 6
Missions Board room 8
Music Committee 10

7:30 pm - Church Council in Library

If you agreed to serve on a board or committee, please make every attempt to be there. Your attendance is needed.



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO Chad & Sarah Hopkins at the death of his grandfather, Joseph William Hopkins. Also, to his granddaughters, Ella & Eva Hopkins.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO John & Vickie Hayden & family at the passing of his father, Richard Hayden.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO the Charlie Farmer family.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO Jeff and Sherri Branson and family at the loss of his father, Jim Branson.



Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, February 28th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to attend.



KAYLEE SPEER

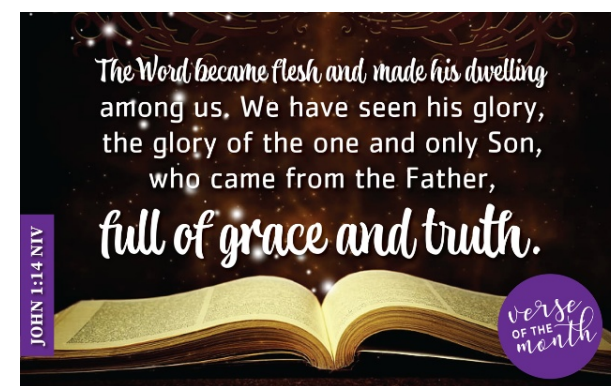


After a busy holiday season, hopefully the backpack schedule will get back to its regular schedule again. We will be filling the backpacks for February on Wednesday, February 18th and 25th at 11:30 a.m. after Pastor's Bible Study. We invite anyone who is interested in providing food for children at Williams School to join us at those times. It usually takes about an hour and we hope to see you then.



Our next FBC 101 class will be Sunday, February 22, at 9am in room 5. Remember, this

class is open to EVERYONE, no matter how long you've come to FBC. One long-standing member of the church wrote this about FBC 101 after attending, "Children invite their friends to church & activities. Adults should DO THE SAME! Adults can do it too by bringing them to FBC 101. It is a church family that likes to get together & learn more about the Bible & how it guides you through the ups & downs of life.



Congratulations on the birth of a granddaughter to Scott and Marla Rhine. Elsie Jean was born to Cody and Lydia Smith and joins big brother Greyson. Great grandfather is David Rhine and Uncle Chandler.

Congratulations on the birth of a daughter, Vivian Grace, to parents Craig and Kristen Henness. Vivian joins big sister, Hadley. Paternal grandparents, Pat & Kim Henness and aunt, Kyla Doty.



In the month of February, the Chancel Choir plans to lead in worship at 10:00 a.m. on the Sundays of February 1st, 8th, and 22nd. The Sacred

Tones bell choir will lead on Sunday February 15th at both services. Chancel Choir is scheduled to rehearse on the Wednesdays of February 4th, 11th, and 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the choir loft. On Wednesday February 25th they will practice at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Ignite Room since the Youth and Children will be having their Dress Rehearsal in the sanctuary for the Youth Sunday on March 1st.

This year Lent begins on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. Chancel Choir will begin preparing the Easter musical soon in the month of February. **The musical will be shared on Palm Sunday as Holy Week begins. On that date, March 29, 2026, there will be one service at 9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars for this time of First Baptist Church coming together to prepare our hearts for all that Jesus did for us. A blessed Holy Week leading to His glorious Resurrection on Easter!**

For His glory,
Carol Mausehund

**A NEW CHANCE TO SHARE & EMBRACE GOD'S LOVE
BY CAROL IDLEMAN**

A new year is a time to think about new beginnings, about changing any negative in us to a positive, about being all we can be for God. Love for God and others should be the catalyst that determines how we manifest the new changes.

Not only a new year, but we are also about to celebrate Valentine's Day, the day set apart to express our love to the human that we cherish the most. By expressing that love to another human being, we are, at the same time, loving God. Matthew 24: 15 tells us: "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!'" Whatever we do to, for or against another person, we are doing that very thing to God. Loving another is loving God.

But I want to look at God's love for us. Without His love for us, we wouldn't even know how to love.

1 John 4:19: We love each other because He loved us first. Isn't God's love for us the bottom line in all of Scripture? God created man to be in relationship with Him and others, to give and receive love. When man sinned, separating him from God, it was God's love for us that provided a way for us to be reconciled to Him. God's love was seen in Creation, in His choosing Abraham and his descendants to tell the world of His love, in preparing Moses to lead Israel out of captivity in Egypt, in giving Israel the 10 Commandments, in caring for them in the wilderness, in His leading them to the Promised Land and being there for them even when scattered and exiled, in His sending Jesus to die so all could be saved.....and finally, in what is ultimately to come as a result of His love for us--living in eternity with Him, embraced by that love that has NOT and never will change.

Regardless of what we are experiencing in life, be it good or bad, in every moment we should feel and know that God loves us. Not only is He all-knowing, all-powerful and present everywhere at all times, but God **IS** Love. He can do nothing but love. It is so critical that we are constantly aware of His love for us. Let's resolve to awaken, move throughout our daily lives and go to bed at night feeling and knowing and appreciating the amazing love of God.



EMBRACE HIS LOVE IN EVERY MOMENT!

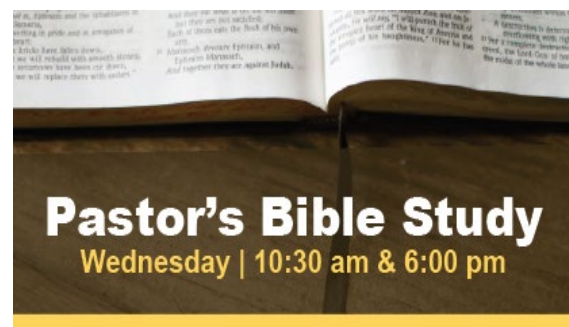
AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH



At the January food pantry, we celebrated our highest attendance yet, 23 students! A big thank you to our food pantry sponsors so far: John & Vickie Hayden, Lenzi Sewell, Mike & Cindy Sindelar, Shirley Woolever, Mike & Debbie Wright, Dave & Ardys Carpenter & Pastor Dennis & Melinda Strawn. These donations pay for the students' lunches and help SO much! Our Wednesday night Groups have been going great. Middle school is studying Luke and growing so much, they are running out of seats for their students! High school is continuing their journey through the Bible and started the New Testament in January. Our students are doing a wonderful job inviting their friends and we love meeting new kids and seeing our regulars each week!

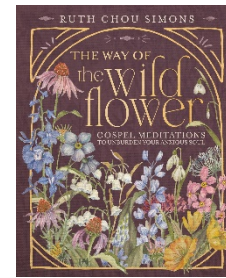
On January 17, ABY headed to St. Louis for Winter Jam 2026! We had 19 students shoved into two oversized vans and had a blast! We enjoyed the various styles of worship music and can't wait to go back next year! The next big adventure was the Winter Retreat on January 23-25 in Lake Geneva. We took 20 students. It was such an amazing experience! Again, a big thank you to everyone who donated snacks for our trip! Every little bit helps! (And these students eat a ton!)

Upcoming events: 2/1- ABY speaks at 10am church & food pantry & lunch, 2/4- Group, 2/6- Galentine's Party @ Maggie's, 2/8- ABY bake sale, 2/11- Group, 2/18- Group.



**Women's Bible Study-
Winter/Spring 2026**

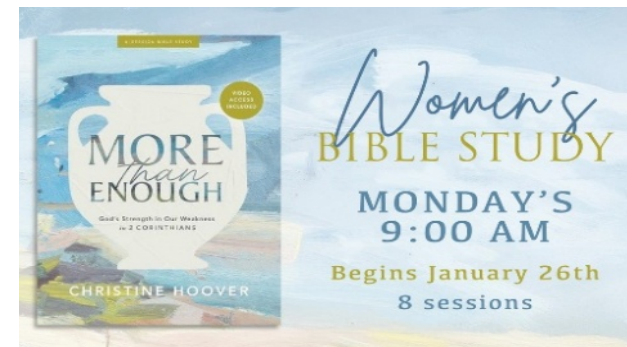
Two Bible Study Options for Women:



"The Way of the Wildflower" by Ruth Chou Simons

Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., Feb. 3-March 10

The spring study session will begin with a book study. "In 'The Way of the Wildflower,' bestselling author and artist Ruth Chou Simons invites you to draw inspiration for your weary soul from the flowers of the field through thirty gospel focused meditations covering five ways of the wildflower: Dependency, Freedom, Resilience, Unhurriedness, and Belovedness." To participate: Order your copy through your preferred book seller and sign up in The Gathering Place.



Our 2025 Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts are going to:



Malawi & Zambia

Malawi is a beautiful country located in southeastern Africa that is known for its very friendly people. Zambia is a country rich in natural resources, especially copper, located in southern Africa. Both countries are very poor, with Malawi being one of the least developed nations in the world. May the Lord bless the children who receive our boxes, along with their families.



Operation Christmas Child at FBC 2026

Our shoebox goal for 2026 is 300 filled shoebox gifts that we will pack at the church Packing Party in the fall. We want each box to be "Filled with Love"! If you want to help fill these boxes, here are some things you can do:

- Purchase small toys, coloring books, clothing items, and school supplies when you are out shopping throughout the year. Place your items in the OCC Share Bin by the office door.
- Purchase items from our Amazon wish list. Click this link for list: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2GR588B8Q8NNX?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_O87Gd90iQgyF5
- Donate money to help buy supplies. Mark your offering envelope for OCC.

And, of course, you can plan to pack your own boxes at home with your family. After Valentine's Day is a great time to find stuffed animals and small gifts that are perfect for shoeboxes!

Let's make our boxes FULL, FUN, and PERSONALIZED! And let's make sure they are FILLED WITH LOVE!



2026 Events for Women and Girls – Hosted by Women's Connection

March – Missions Breakfast for Women

May – The Fine China Plate Tea Party

June, July & August – Sack Lunch Picnics

September or October – Walk and Seek (Official name to be determined)

December – Prepare Him Room





The Prime Time Wednesdays nightly schedule follows: 2/4 – Willing Hands Kid's Club – Menu: Pancakes & Sausage, Fruit; 2/11 – Games – Menu: Chicken Nuggets, Macaroni & Cheese, Fruit; 2/18 – Bible Study, 2/25 – Dress Rehearsal 5:15-7:00 pm.

Sherri Watson and crew meet with children age 3 through Kindergarten for music, lessons, activities and FUN! They will break at 5:50 pm for supper. Ignite is for children in 1st through 5th grades. They meet with



Kim Henness and Elijah Agapito for music, followed by a rotation of Bible Study, Willing Hands, and games.

They will break for dinner at 6:00 pm. Joyful Noise begins at 6:15 pm following supper in the fellowship hall.

This is for Middle and High School Youth who want to serve in worship in some capacity.

COMING UP! I will have readings, worship team opportunities, solos and ensembles available! Please try to come out every Wednesday night for practice! Mark your calendars now for dress rehearsal: Wednesday, February 25th 5:15-7:00 pm.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:

- March 1st (both services): Youth Sunday
- March 28th: Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am
- March 29th: Chancel Choir Cantata 9:00 am (ONLY)
- April 2nd: Maundy Thursday service 7:00 am
- April 5th: Easter Services 8:00 am and 10:00 am



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to those who volunteered, prayed for and donated items or money to this year's One Stop! For only the 2nd time in 15 years, we had a snow storm on the day of One Stop! We served 75% of the registered participants that day and served those who could not make it and those who did not register the next week at the Salvation Army. Plans are already underway for One Stop 2026 – December 12th at Lake Land College West Building. Set up will be December 11th at 5:00 pm. Volunteers are needed from mid-November through mid-December. We would love to have more team members! One Stop Community Christmas is a collaborative effort of over 200 organizations that come together to help families from seven counties have a better Christmas? Coles County, the largest of the seven counties, has the largest percentage of those helped. In 2025, we provided a wonderful Christmas for 2,703 children (1,053 families). This year, we had Bibles available to anyone that needed one and 41 families took one home! We will continue to provide these Bibles each year. It was wonderful hearing personal shoppers ask the family if they had a Family Bible. Thanks again for your participation in the wonderful community event!



Thank you to everyone who came to help with the Live Nativity at Peterson Park. You scared me again but always seem to come through and I thank you for it. Special thanks to Kurt and Phyllis Sparks for providing the pizza, soda and cookies! Not only did they buy them but they delivered them to the park as well! Your generosity was a blessing! Lastly, thanks to Rachel and Mary Doty for all their help. Most people don't know what all goes into this night but they are always here at church to help gather things up, load into our cars, drive to the park, unload and get everything ready for everyone's arrival. Then when everyone leaves, they put up tables and chairs, wipe everything off, take out trash, load everything back up, drive back to the church, unload and put all the things away. The older their mother gets, the slower she moves, the more it hurts and the grouzier she gets. How blessed I am to have them always by my side to help.

*Love You All,
Susan Doty*

Thank you for the fruit basket brought to me by Dr. & Mrs. Agapito. I pray for you all daily & hope you all had a Merry Christmas.

Barb Slavens

Thank you for supporting our school with the backpack food program. Our teachers are grateful that our students have some extra food on the weekends. Also, thank you Joy Givers for the hats and gloves!

Mrs. Eastin/Social Worker

Thank you all for the gift card! I plan to use it for groceries when I return in the spring. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Ashley Earp

We will always remember with deep gratitude your comforting expression of sympathy. Paul really enjoyed First Baptist Church!

The Family of Paul McDivitt

Thank you to all the ones that gave at Christmas, especially the ones who gave me a card. A special thank you to the Knot Sew Elite for their thoughtful and kind gift!

Janice Kempe

Thank you to all who came to last months Church Council meeting. There was a standing room only! It was such a nice beginning to the new year & we hope & pray it continues. Council meetings are for Boards & Committees to report on their work & progress. If you serve on a Board or Committee, please consider joining us the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Bill & Linda Bennett

The office staff would like to thank everyone who brought us the delicious cookies, party mix, apples, brownies, candy & cheesecake to celebrate the Christmas holiday season. We thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it!

FBC Staff



This is a great time to come together for prayer, worship & sharing. Everyone is invited! Jeff & Vickie Waters plan programs each month with devotions, testimonies, singing, & prayer. In this welcoming atmosphere you can participate by praying silently or aloud. A praying church is behind the success of any church. Each of us needs to be a part of this! Come, share this VERY VITAL, ALL IMPORTANT MINISTRY—a Time of PRAYER! See you Sunday, February 22nd at 6pm in the sanctuary!!

