

# Good News Letter

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Late fall is a good time to think about the meaning of things, to take stock of our lives and of life itself. The psalm of the week is the 90th, and it helps.

Presented as a prayer of Moses, a person of God, it begins:

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.”

It speaks of the grandeur of God who is from, “everlasting to everlasting,” and who brought forth the whole world. It is a good start.

Sometimes the psalms can be a little blunt. In the lectionary reading, verses 7-12 are left out. I am always interested in what is left out when we read the Bible. In this case, the message in the middle is the blunt part.

“We are consumed by your anger  
and terrified by your indignation.”



It speaks of God’s wrath at human sinfulness; and of mortality, how short life is and how insignificant human beings are in the scheme of things; how quickly the days pass. And then it prays for humility:

“Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Most people are not much good at the numbering of days. Rather, the tendency is to live as if the days will last forever. It is interesting that the full acknowledgment of our mortality is associated with wisdom. The implication is that this acknowledgment prepares the ground in us that we might be ready to accept also, in addition to God’s judgement, God’s

compassion and unfailing love, so that the prayer at the end is appropriate.

And it is a beautiful prayer at the end:

“Have compassion on your servants.  
Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days . . .

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us . . .”

Let this be our prayer as we live out the remainder of this one year. Blessings to all as we enter into the time when we take stock of things, celebrate gratitude, and prepare for Advent.

Blessings,

**Mark**

## November Panera Volunteers

Nov 1 & 2 - Gosser  
Nov 8 & 9 - Brown  
Nov 15 & 16 - Faulk  
Nov 22 & 23 - Faulk  
Nov 29 & 30 - Grubbs

## PANERA VOLUNTEERS- NEW DAY ADDED

Our church has been asked by Panera to add Wednesday as an additional pick-up day for donations. At the October business meeting, we discussed this and voted to agree to do this very rewarding service to them and to Andrews House, the recipient of the products. For the foreseeable future, we will be picking up Panera donations on both Wednesday and Thursday nights. Fortunately, we have a number of folks in the church who are willing to perform this service, and we are very grateful to all who volunteer. Ideally, the easiest thing will be to sign up for both nights, back to back, but if that is not feasible for someone, feel free to sign up for one of the two nights and we will work it out for someone else to sign up for the other night. The initial plan is to pick up the products on Wednesday and Thursday nights and then to take it all to Andrews House on Friday morning.

## PERSONALS

- Please keep the Ferguson family in your prayers. Steve's father passed away last month.  
  
- We welcome Pat Gosser and her son Chad Myford back to Delaware after living in Arizona for a few years.

- Jim and Jane Snyder spent much of October traveling, especially visiting Jim's son Jeff who had heart surgery.

- A memorial service was held last month at Oak Grove Cemetery for former member June Grubbs. June was Ann Brown's mother and Carol Grubbs's mother-in-law.

- Dave and Mary Lou Lovell recently traveled to New England to visit family.

- Dave Lovell's sister Jeannie visited from Canada for several days.

- Candy Lee would like to thank everyone for all their prayers while she and Brennan traveled to bring Pat and Chad back to Ohio.

- Erin Faulk had a few days off from school and went to Disney World for their big Halloween Party.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

On Saturday night Nov. 4, remember to set your clocks back one hour for Daylight Saving Time to end

## CHANGE FOR CHANGE

On Sunday, Nov.5, we will be bringing our loose change to church for our Change for Change offering. We do this twice a year when we change our clocks for Daylight Saving Time. The money will go to Andrews House to help support the Summer Lunch Program for Delaware children. This is one way that we can help wipe out childhood hunger in our own city.

## ABW - Women's Fellowship

Six members of the Women's Fellowship met on October 21st at Panera Bread. We enjoyed being out as a group and are planning on another outing for the November meeting. Our next meeting will be a lunch and holiday shopping adventure.

November 18, 2023 we will meet at the Church at 10:45 am and carpool to Der Dutchman in Plain City. If you need a ride to the Church, please let me know. We will be treating ourselves to fellowship, food and fun as we kick off the Holiday Season.

Mark your calendars for December 16th. We are planning an Ornament Exchange Christmas Party. Ideas are already afloat for a fun time and hope you are planning on joining in.

Laura Brown  
740-815-8399

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### November

- 1 Love Ayinde
- 2 Jeni Pedzinski  
Laura Brown
- 11 Jonathan Allison
- 12 Jackson Trigg
- 14 Jake Pierce
- 17 Jim & Ann Brown  
Luke & Connie Roberts
- 19 Steve Ferguson
- 20 Randy Turner
- 21 Mark Allison
- 22 Peter White

*Please report any errors.*

## THANK YOU

Once again your generous hearts have helped us to reach our goal of \$900 for the World Mission Offering. We even surpassed that goal. Baptist missionaries will certainly benefit from your generosity. Thank you.  
Pam Faulk

## NEW CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2024

At our October business meeting, the following officers were elected for the two-year term of 2024 and 2025:

Assistant Treasurer- Candy Lee  
Financial Secretary- Randy Turner  
Finance Committee Chair- Deb Lovell  
Board of Christian Education- Pam Faulk, Candy Lee  
Board of Deacons- Richard Brown  
Board of Trustees- Peter White, Archie Trigg, David Spear

## Sponsor Foster Children

FBC will again sponsor three foster children for Christmas this year.

We hope to have the children's info and wish lists soon. You will find a sign-up list of the children's wish lists in the Gathering Place during the month of November. We encourage you to donate items by Dec 10th and make their Christmas a joyous occasion. Toys, clothes, and gift cards or money to buy gifts are welcomed.

## Thanksgiving Offering

The offering in the "Thanksgiving" envelopes will go to People in Need (PIN). This offering helps those in the community with food and other necessities.

## Prayer List

This list is prepared by the Deacons.  
Please send changes to Larry Faulk ([lfaulk01@aol.com](mailto:lfaulk01@aol.com)).

Name	Reason for Prayer
Richard Lovell	Health Issues
Dr. Allison's sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Janet Lathrop	Health Issues
Jay & Caldwell Lovell	Health Issues
Pat Gosser	Health Issues
Jenni Pedzinski and family	Father's stroke
Donna Brown	Health Issues
Trigg Family	Continued Prayers
Ferguson family Condolences on the death of Steve's father	

Remember daily all the men and women in the military — Those stationed in the USA and those deployed throughout the world. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

## Mission/Outreach News

Thanks to all who gave donations for the Crop Walk. Some of the money is used locally and some of it goes to Church World Service. 4 people from First Baptist walked the CROP Walk.

Our church donates to missionaries Bill and Ann Clemmer, Jen Pedzinski, and Sarah McCurdy. During October the goal for the World Mission offering was exceeded. Thanks to all who gave!

During the month of October we have begun filling shoe boxes for children around the world. Darlene Caulkins heads this outreach. The boxes are collected and processed by Samaritan's Purse.

November 12th is the last day to bring your filled Christmas box to church.

If you have not finished filling your box, here are a few suggestions of what to put in it.

Suggestions for items: mini-games, pads of paper, colored pencils, markers, craft items, small toys, stuffed animals, combs, scarves, football, small balls, frisbee, jump rope, toothbrush

Please do not put candy, liquids or toothpaste.

Please use the label to put on the top of your shoe box indicating it is for a girl or boy and the age. The postage for each Christmas Shoe Box is \$10.00. If you have filled one box or more, and would like to donate to the postage, you can write a check to Samaritan's Purse and place it in an envelope provided with the girl-boy labels that are on the podium in the Gathering Place next to the Christmas shoe boxes. The envelope is all ready to mail with address and free postage.

If you have not filled a Christmas shoe box and would like to help with this ministry, you can write a check and use the envelope on the podium in the Gathering Place.

If you would like to go online to give, you can go online to [SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC](https://SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC)

You can track to see where your box is sent by going online to [samaritanspurse.org/activate](https://samaritanspurse.org/activate) and type in the # on the shoe box label. Make sure to write the number from the label so you can find out about the box you have sent.

Thanks to all who will give love and smiles to children around the world!

You will bring a smile to the child who receives your box.

Thanks to all who give regularly to fill the People In Need box with food.

Thanks to all who pick up unsold goods from Panera and take them to Andrews House on Friday morning.

## **Budget & Stewardship Sunday**

The budget for 2024 was approved at the Quarterly Business Meeting on October 25th. A copy of the budget is on the back of the calendar. In this newsletter, Deb Lovell, Finance Chairperson, has included a Stewardship letter along with a Pledge Form to record your commitment for 2024.

Stewardship Sunday is November 19th. We will dedicate our pledges as part of the worship on that day.

## **Soup and Sing!**

Mark your calendars for December 9th at 4:00 For Soup and Sing!

To celebrate the birth of Christ, we will join together to sing Christmas carols!

Bring your relatives and friends to fill the sanctuary with the beautiful sound of the carols of Christmas! After singing, we will go to the fellowship hall for homemade soup. If you would like to make your favorite kind of soup, there will be a sign up sheet in the Gathering Place. We would love to have a variety of crockpots of different kinds of soup.

When we are finished, the remaining soup will be donated to the Place of Warmth at Zion Church of Christ for the men who need a place to stay for the night (when temperature is below 20 degrees).

## **Financial Update**

For the 3rd quarter of 2024, income in our general fund exceeded expenses by \$787. \$4,165 was contributed to our Outreach Ministries and \$742 was contributed to Capital Improvements. Copies of the 3rd quarter report are available in the Welcome Center.



First Baptist Church - 2024 Budget		Budget 2024			Budget 2024
<b>1.0 CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				<b>1.4 Continued</b>	
<b>1.1 Pastoral Ministry</b>				Marion Assoc Dues & New Member Banquet	150
<b>COMPENSATION</b>				Payroll Processing	1100
Cash Salary		54600		Exec Ministers' Fund	50
Housing Allowance		17400		Evangelism Promo/Public Rel / Outreach Project	400
Total Compensation		72,000		Online Giving	1300
<b>BENEFITS</b>				Periodicals & Books (Secret Place)	150
M & M Pension(TC + SSS) X 0.16		12,401		Fire Extinguishers	250
Health Saving Account		6900		Elevator Maintenance / Certification	1600
Social Security Supplement(TC X 0.0765)		5,508		Miscellaneous Expenses	300
Total Benefits		24,809		Church Repair Fund	
<b>ACCOUNTABLE REIMBURSEMENT PLAN</b>				<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>16,875</b>
Car Allowance		600		<b>1.5 Education</b>	
Continuing Ed, Conventions, Seminars		800		Teaching Supplies & Curriculum	700
Professional Materials (Books, Dues, hospitality,etc.)		600		Special Events / Hospitality / Youth	300
Total Reimbursement		2,000		Adult Conventions, Workshops, MLK Bkfst	300
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>98,809</b>		Youth-Conventions/Advisors	100
<b>1.2 Pastoral and Support Staff</b>				Missionary & Stewardship Education	100
Janitor - Salary		3220		Marion Assoc Scholarship	200
Social Security (FICA)		500		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,700</b>
Pastoral Assistant		1625		<b>TOTAL CHURCH OPERATIONAL EXPENSES \$140,529</b>	
Organist & Choir Director		2000		<b>2.0 OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b>	
Pastoral Intern (Youth Coordinator)		2400		ABC united Mission	7,500
Pulpit Supply		625		Targeted Missionaries - (Clemmer, McCurdy, P	3,600
Workers Compensation		125		Institutional Support - Ohio Baptist Education	300
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>10,495</b>		Neighborhood Ministries	300
<b>1.3 Church Utilities</b>				Andrews House Partnership	1,000
Church Heating (Gas)		6200		Second Fridays(Dinners)	300
Church Electricity		4000		PIN - People In Need	600
Church City Utilities		950		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>13,600</b>
Church Telephone		1500		<b>SPECIAL ABC OFFERINGS</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>12,650</b>		America for Christ	1,000
<b>1.4 General Operating Expenses</b>				One Great Hour of Sharing	1,000
Church Insurance		3300		World Mission Offering	1,000
Property Taxes		4200		Retired Ministers and Missionaries	1,000
Copier Maintenance / Toner		1550		<b>Other Special Offerings</b> - including Christmas	2,000
Church & Office Supplies/Postage/Newsletter		625		Change for Change, Blanket Sunday, Tools of Hope	
Music Supplies / CCLI		300		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>6,000</b>
Organ Repair/Piano Tuning		1000		<b>TOTAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES 19,600</b>	
Flowers, Decorations, & Gifts		600			





November 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

As in years passed, I continue to be grateful that our church is blessed by the generous support of this congregation to both our missions and our church. We have seen such an enormous amount of financial support to keep this church and its missions moving forward. At the last October business meeting, we passed the 2024 annual budget and now we start to look ahead to pledging our gifts in November to meet the budget. The Finance Committee have made some adjustments in the budget to increase the mission goals because through your generosity we continue to exceed the goals for our special offerings. Along with providing pastoral compensation and benefits, the budget includes utilities, supplies, educational materials and funding for important church programs. The Outreach Ministries budget includes goals for ABC United Missions, institutional support, support for People In Need and the Andrews House as well as goals for our Special ABC offerings.

As members and friends of First Baptist Church, we have a stewardship responsibility to help our church fulfill its ministry. We have been able to sustain our church through the generous giving and stewardship of the congregation. One way to help us plan and to demonstrate our continued commitment to adequately funding our budget is to make a pledge for the financial needs of our church for 2024 and to use that pledge as a reminder to give regularly. This year, we continue to offer the option for online giving. If you would like to explore this option, please visit our website [fbcdelaware.org](http://fbcdelaware.org) and click on the right side of the page *Make an Online Offering or Donation*. This will link to a site to the online banking site.

A Pledge Form has been included on the back of this letter for you to record your commitment for 2024. You may return the form to Randy Turner, Financial Secretary or you may bring it with you for the dedication as part of the worship on Sunday, November 19. Even if you are choosing to donate online, please fill out the dedication form to help us reach our budget goals.

Yours in Christ,

*Deb Lovell*

Finance Chairperson



**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Delaware, Ohio  
Commitment Form 2024

*In love and loyalty to our Lord Jesus Christ, and in support of his ministry through this church, and in love and concern for each other, I/We make the following Commitment for 2024.*

**CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES** \_\_\_\_\_ **Per Week /Month/ Year (circle one)**  
**OUTREACH MINISTRIES (Missions)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Per Week /Month/ Year (circle one)**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (Special Projects)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Per Week /Month/ Year (circle one)**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

-----DETACH AND RETURN THE **TOP HALF** OF THIS FORM-----

Keep This Portion For Your Records

Name \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our Commitment for 2024

For Church Operating Expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

For Outreach Ministries Expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

For Capital Improvements \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

If for any reason you need to change your Pledge, please notify Mr. Randy Turner, Financial Secretary.