

Good News Letter

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In last Sunday's online edition of the New York Times, there was an interesting article by someone named Ross Douthat, (I have no idea how his name is pronounced) about religion in America, which has been in decline for sixty years or so.

He sees the precursors of positive trends. For more than the last several decades, "cultured despisers of religion" (my words, not his), as they are sometimes called, have been advocating a religionless society characterized by reason and science as the best hope for the transformation of the world and the solution to problems like war, poverty, disease, civil unrest, and many other problems. These problems display a stubborn persistence.

I make my usual caveat that reason and science do have their place, and should be respected. But they struggle when too much is claimed for them. One of the observations Douthat makes is that it is evident that no



such fulfillment has emerged in modern society. Not only do the aforementioned problems persist, but other problems remain unsolved; loneliness, depression, separation, anxiety about the failure to solve the big problems, polarization and fragmentation. The world is not "happy in its unbelief."

The experiment with reason as a universal guide for living is failing to deliver on its promise. I am sure that those who advocate such an approach would disagree and attribute the present state of things to other causes, but their interpretation becomes less and less satisfactory as time goes by.

Perhaps the biggest problem we face as a world is the breakdown and loss of a sense of community and belonging, and that should be right in the wheelhouse of religion in general, and Christianity in particular. The

church's name, "Church" or "ecclesia," means a gathering of people in community, and its message of divine compassion, mercy and forgiveness, resurrection, and the supremacy of the rule of love still stand as better alternatives and offer a better interpretation of life than any secular options.

If Douthat is right about a comeback for religion and Christianity, there is no way to tell when it will happen, or what it will look like. It is worthy of our prayers, and the source of a hope not for the renewal of the religious life for its own sake, but for a stronger sense of Koinonia, genuine Christian community, and the helping of individuals towards a healthier life in mind, body, and spirit.

May our minds and hearts and lives be open to such a renewal.

Blessings,
- Mark

November Panera Volunteers

Wed	Thur
Nov 6-Faulk	Nov 7-Faulk
Oct 13-Volunteer needed	Nov 14-Volunteer needed
Nov 20-Brown	Nov 21-Brown
Nov 27-Gosser	Nov 28-Closed
Dec 4-Volunteer needed	Dec 5-Volunteer needed

Thanks to all who help with this important mission.

PERSONALS

- Pastor Mark wrote an article for the Delaware Gazette which appeared on Sept. 28. A copy can be found on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place.

- Mary Lou Lovell wishes to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during her recent absence from church . She also wishes to thank Candy Lee and Jennifer Turner for playing the piano for her.

- We all had a great time at the mobile scavenger hunt and chili supper. Thanks to Laura Brown for planning that.

- Ryan Cooper, son of Marci and Matt Cooper, had surgery on his leg to fight an infection. Thank you all for your prayers.

- Ted Stephenson recently had successful knee replacement surgery. Thank you for your prayers.

- Jane and Jim Snyder have been traveling in New England.

- Dave Lovell will be going on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. on October 31.

-Beth Trigg recently broke her foot.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

On Saturday night, November 2, we will set our clocks back one hour for Daylight Saving Time. This means that on Sunday, Nov. 3, we will all bring all the loose change we have been accumulating to church for the Change for Change offering. This offering will go to Andrews House which administers the Summer Lunch Program for Delaware children.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who have given so generously to the World Mission Offering during October, and for participating in the 31 Days of Prayer. Also thank you to those who contributed more to the OGHS to go to the flood relief in Thailand.

- Pam Faulk

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN

11 women met on Sweetest Day, October 19th, in the Fellowship Hall and celebrated Genevieve Peterson's birthday. Excerpts from an article about Sweetest Day were read, revealing that it isn't just another "Hallmark Holiday" held on the third Saturday of October. Rather, it was started in Cleveland as a day promoting altruism and philanthropy. Sounds like a perfect reason for Baptist Women to gather for Fellowship! Our November meeting will be on the 16th and will be our Annual Lunch and Shopping trip at Der Dutchman. Please let Laura Brown (740-815-8399) know if you are planning on attending so reservations can be made. We will meet at the Church at 11:15 and carpool to Plain City. Hope to see you getting in the Holiday Spirit with us.

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 8th 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.

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.

SCAVENGER HUNT and CHILI SUPPER

Members gathered on October 12th at the church to go on the First Annual Mobil Scavenger Hunt. 3 teams were given a list of 10 items to locate, note the address, and photograph. They had one hour to find as many as possible and return to the church. There were 1st Baptist signs in the car windows letting other drivers know the cars were stopping for a Scavenger Hunt. Laura Brown checked the photos to the lists that they had the items and Team Faulk were the winners having gotten all 10 items. There was a lot of frivolity and laughing during the chili dinner looking at the photos. Attendance gifts and prizes to the winners were awarded. We are looking forward to next year and more of you joining what turned out to be a blast of a good time!



Budget & Stewardship Sunday

The budget for 2025 was approved at the Quarterly Business Meeting on October 23rd. 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 2025.

Stewardship Sunday is November 24th. We will dedicate our pledges as part of the worship on that day.

Prayer List

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

Name	Reason for Prayer
Dr. Allison's sister	Health Issues
Ken Shears	Health Issues
Janet Lathrop	Health Issues
Jay Roberts	Health Issues
Jenni Pedzinski and family	Father's stroke
Ryan Cooper	Recovery
Beth Trigg	Recovery

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 contributed to the World Mission Offering in the month of October.

Thanks to those who walked to raise money for food for Crop Walk. It served two needs- getting exercise and providing money for food.

In October, we began collecting items for Operation Christmas Child Boxes. Millions of children around the world will be impacted by the gift of a shoe box filled with a game, a jump rope, a ball, a book, pencils, pens, socks, a toothbrush, a stuffed animal, a backpack, a note from you, or maybe a picture. Think about the smile of a child when he gets a gift!

Your monetary gift of \$10.00 to pay for the postage of each box is also extremely appreciated. Boxes need to be filled and back to church by November 17th.

Soup and Sing

Yes, this is the November newsletter, but look ahead to the first Saturday in December.

Mark your calendar for 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7th for Soup and Sing.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place to list soup or corn bread that you would like to make. We have had a variety of delicious homemade soups in the past. The soup that is left will be given to be served to the men who stay at Zion UCC on cold nights.

We will sing carols together in the sanctuary at 4:00p.m., then go to the fellowship hall to enjoy dinner and conversation. Bring your relatives and friends so that we can fill the sanctuary with beautiful Christmas carol singing and have a meal with us.

Financial Update

For the 3rd quarter of 2024, income in our general fund exceeded expenses by \$2,813. \$3,730 was contributed to our Outreach Ministries and \$1,297 was contributed to Capital Improvements. Copies of the 3rd quarter report are available in the Welcome Center.

NEW CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2025

At our October business meeting, the following officers were elected for the two-year term of 2025 and 2026:

Moderator-

Randy Turner (26)

Assistant Moderator-

Dave Lovell (26)

Church Clerk-

Pam Shears (26)

Sunday School Clerk-

Pam Faulk (26)

Treasurer-

Larry Faulk (26)

Assistant Treasurer-

Candy Lee (25)

Financial Secretary-

Randy Turner (25)

Assistant Financial Secretary-

Linda White (26)

Finance Committee Chair-

Deb Lovell (25)

Board of Christian Education-

Pam Faulk (25),

Candy Lee (25),

Erin Faulk (26).

Carol Grubbs (26)

Board of Deacons-

Richard Brown (25),

Larry Faulk (26),

Dave Lovell (26)

Board of Trustees-

Peter White (25),

Archie Trigg (25),

David Spear (25)

Tower Repair Project

At our Quarterly business meeting on October 23rd, the fellowship approved moving forward with the Tower Repair Project. This will include replacing any missing or damaged slates on the upper tower roof and repairing the roof overhang. The slate over the lower portion of the roof will be replaced along with gutters and some painting.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$49,550. This expense will exhaust our Memorials and Capital Improvements Funds. We are seeking gifts, donations, and memorial contributions to offset the cost of the project. As a part of our Stewardship Commitment for 2025, we have included a line item on our pledge form for the project. You may also contribute online by selecting "donate" on our website: fbcdelaware.org.



Congress Court Repair

We recently had to install a number of vertical steel beams in the basement of our rental property to support the walls that were unstable. The cost was \$7,920,






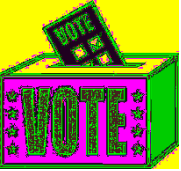





November

2024

Dr. Mark Allison, Pastor

Office Hours: by appointment

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November Mission Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change for Change • Christmas Shoe Boxes • Wish Lists for Foster Children • Thanksgiving Offering - PIN 		<p>October 29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown</p>	<p>Reformation Day 31</p> <p>31 Days of Prayer Ends Halloween </p> <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Brown</p>	<p>November 1</p> <p>All Saint's Day </p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Fall Back</i> </p> <p>Set Clocks back 1 hour</p>
<p>Change for Change Sunday 3</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service Holy Communion</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends </p>	<p>American Baptist Women's Day of Prayer 4</p> 	<p>Election Day 5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Faulk</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</p>	<p>Veterans Day 11</p>  <p>5:30 Deacons</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Volunteer Needed</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8 am Men's Breakfast-Bob Evans 11:30 am ABW Lunch at Der Dutchman. Meet at church 11:15</p>
<p>9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</p> <p>Christmas Shoeboxes Due 17</p>  <p>December newsletter deadline</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Grubbs</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:45 Panera Pickup - Grubbs</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 am Parish Council Planning Meeting</p>
<p>9:30 Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service</p> <p>24</p> <p>December newsletter available today</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 Choir 8:45 Panera Pickup - Gosser</p>	<p> 28</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Prepare for Advent</p>

First Baptist Church - 2025 Budget		Budget 2025			Budget 2025
1.0 CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES			1.4 Continued		
1.1 Pastoral Ministry			Marion Assoc Dues & New Member Banquet 150		
COMPENSATION			Payroll Processing 1100		
Cash Salary		56808	Exec Ministers' Fund 50		
Housing Allowance		17400	Evangelism Promo/Public Rel / Outreach Projects 400		
Total Compensation		74,208	Online Giving 1300		
BENEFITS			Periodicals & Books (Secret Place) 150		
M & M Pension(TC + SSS) X 0.16		12,781	Fire Extinguishers 250		
Health Saving Account		6900	Elevator Maintenance / Certification 1600		
Social Security Supplement(TC X 0.0765)		5,676	Miscellaneous Expenses 300		
Total Benefits		25,357	Church Repair Fund		
ACCOUNTABLE REIMBURSEMENT PLAN			SUBTOTAL 17,800		
Car Allowance		600	1.5 Education		
Continuing Ed, Conventions, Seminars		800	Teaching Supplies & Curriculum 700		
Professional Materials (Books, Dues, hospitality,etc.)		600	Special Events / Hospitality / Youth 200		
Total Reimbursement		2,000	Adult Conventions, Workshops, MLK Bkfst 300		
SUBTOTAL		101,565	Missionary & Stewardship Education 100		
1.2 Pastoral and Support Staff			Marion Assoc Scholarship 200		
Janitor - Salary		3220	SUBTOTAL 1,500		
Social Security (FICA)		500	TOTAL CHURCH OPERATIONAL EXPENSES \$142,235		
Pastoral Assistant		1625	2.0 OUTREACH MINISTRIES		
Organist & Choir Director		2000	ABC united Mission 7,500		
Pulpit Supply		625	Targeted Missionaries - 3,600		
Workers Compensation		200	Institutional Support - Ohio Baptist Ed Society 300		
SUBTOTAL		8,170	Neighborhood Ministries 300		
1.3 Church Utilities			Andrews House Partnership 1,000		
Church Heating (Gas)		6200	Second Fridays(Dinners) 300		
Church Electricity		4500	PIN - People In Need 600		
Church City Utilities		1000	SUBTOTAL 13,600		
Church Telephone		1500	SPECIAL ABC OFFERINGS		
SUBTOTAL		13,200	America for Christ 1,000		
1.4 General Operating Expenses			One Great Hour of Sharing 1,000		
Church Insurance		4000	World Mission Offering 1,000		
Property Taxes		4600	Retired Ministers and Missionaries 1,000		
Copier Maintenance / Toner		1500	Other Special Offerings - Christmas, Easter, 2,000		
Church & Office Supplies/Postage/Newsletter		500	Change for Change, Blanket Sunday, Tools of Hope.		
Music Supplies / CCLI		300	SUBTOTAL 6,000		
Organ Repair/Piano Tuning		1000	TOTAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES 19,600		
Flowers, Decorations, & Gifts		600			



November 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

First Baptist 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. With the intention of being good financial stewards for the church, the Finance Committee recommended some adjustments in the budget to align our budget more to the experience of the expenditures of the church. 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.

Also, at the business meeting we discussed the large upcoming project and financial undertaking to repair the church's tower. With the cost of this repair estimated at \$50,000, we are encouraging the congregation to take into consideration a pledge amount to the Tower Project. Your contribution would be used toward the cost of the repairs.

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 2025 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 and click on "Donate" in the upper right corner of the page. This will link to the online banking site.

A Pledge Form has been included on the back of this letter for you to record your commitment for 2025. 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 24. 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 2025

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 2025.

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)**
Tower Repair Project _____ **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 2025

For Church Operating Expenses \$ _____ Per _____

For Outreach Ministries Expenses \$ _____ Per _____

For Capital Improvements \$ _____ Per _____

For Tower Repair Project \$ _____ Per _____

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