

## JANUARY CALENDAR

Sundays	@	9:00 AM	Ray's Sunday school class
	@	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Wednesdays	@	5:30 PM	Family Meal
		6:00 PM	Kid Zone/Youth Zone
		6:15 PM	Worship on Wednesday

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Monday, Jan. 3	5:30 PM	Deacon Board meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 4	6:00 PM	Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM	CE & M&E Board meetings
Wednesday, Jan. 5		Wednesday activities resume
Monday, Jan. 10	10:00 AM	Women's Life Group resumes
	5:30 PM	Worship Board meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 11	6:30 PM	Church Council meeting
Sunday, Jan. 16		Annual Family meeting following Worship
Tuesday, Jan. 18	1:00 PM	Maxine Bates Circle meeting
Thursday, Jan. 20	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox Lapidary Club

We're still be providing a Worship experience through Facebook Live. You can tune into that worship by clicking on this

link: <https://www.facebook.com/Fairfield-First-Baptist-Church-104294022934947/>



*Baptist Tidings*

Fairfield First Baptist Church  
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVII No. 12

December 30, 2021

## *Honest Conversation with the Father*



*My soul, wait in silence for God alone, For my hope is from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, My refuge; I will not be shaken. My salvation and my glory rest on God; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your hearts before Him; God is a refuge for us. (Psalm 62:5-8)*

Fairfield First Baptist is a praying church and a family full of people who pray. We pray for our own needs and for our families and friends, and we pray for each other. All of our cares are lessened as we come alongside each other whenever anyone requests prayer.

During my junior and senior years in college, I read and studied more about prayer than I did my classes. I read all the books I could get my hands on that were written by history's giants

of prayer, fasting and revivals. I learned from great Pray-ers, like Thomas á Kempis, E. M. Bounds, Andrew Murray, George Muller, R.A. Torrey, Charles Finney, Leonard Ravenhill, Hudson Taylor, J. Edwin Orr, and others.

My friends and I practiced what we were learning as well. Two or three other guys would get together with my roommate and I in our dorm room almost every night during my junior year. I still have the journals filled with the things we were asking God to handle for us.

I have to confess, though, that, over the years I've not kept up that focus or practice of prayer. I pray, of course, but I don't have the same close connection that I once had. There are just so many areas that need to be attended to throughout our lives in Christ.

What I do know is that prayer reminds us more than anything, of our dependence on the Father. As David wrote in Psalm 62, "...my hope is in Him. He alone is my rock and salvation."

It's so easy, in day to day life, and even in ministry as a pastor, to put my hope in my own actions and the "human resources" available. These certainly are important for us to be who God is calling us to be and do, but we're completely bankrupt without the resources he provides. And it's our conscious connection with him, through the medium of prayer, that brings those resources to practical effect in our lives. Prayer is an acknowledgement of our dependence upon Him. It's important for us to fully grasp our complete dependence, and it's important for us to let God know that we understand our reliance on him.

This is one of the reasons I'm going to ask us to all make a commitment, in 2022, to grow in our commitment to prayer...both personally and corporately. I look forward to all of us getting better at talking, naturally, with God, and also serving each other and our community, through prayer. So, like David, let's pour out our hearts before him. Because he is a refuge for us!

With you, in prayer,  
- Pastor John

## PRAYER LIST

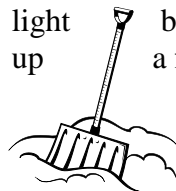
Tiff Widmer, Jerry Leazer, June Workman, Pat Campbell, Doug & Jacque Greenfield, Ruth & Russ Rippey, Darrel Bisgard's nephew, Gary



Our sincere Christian sympathy is extended to Deanna Wilson on the recent passing of her sister.

## HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Our Helping Hands Program, through the Deacon Board ministry, is available to help you with a job that you are unable to tackle by yourself. Sometimes even the smallest task is too big to do...like changing a high-hanging light bulb, taking the trash out to the curb, or picking up a few groceries! Our church members and attendees are blessed to have such a program. Just call the church office (472-5205) any weekday morning or contact one of your deacons and we will try to fulfill that need.



**John Rathbun** 472-1452  
**Margaret Wilson** 472-5594  
**Jan Baird** 472-5293  
**Lee Muntz** 919-3337  
**Church office** 472-5205

**Darrel Bisgard** 472-6201  
**Sharie Leazer** 472-3892  
**Harold Munson** 472-8895  
**Lisa Greenig** 919-4343

## THANK YOU NOTES

First Baptist Church,

The simple words "thank you" are not strong enough and I feel so grateful for the many beautiful 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Greeting cards. They gave me a wonderful hug – warm and caring moment.

Blessings to each of you,  
Dorothy Rathbun

Amy and I want to thank you all for the cards and thoughtful gifts that have been shared with us this Christmas season, and for the generous Christmas bonus from the church family. We are truly blessed!  
The Kermotts



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                |    |                  |    |                 |
|----|----------------|----|------------------|----|-----------------|
| 6  | Mary Fleig     | 15 | Justin Morehouse | 24 | John Van Winkle |
| 7  | Addie Crandall | 23 | Joyce Roemen     | 26 | Deb Fritz       |
| 13 | Julie Hanshaw  | 23 | Karley Ryan      |    |                 |



**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | David & Margaret Wilson |
| 6 | Bob & Sharon Galloway   |

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is this month, but is not listed, please call the church office with that information.

**HEAD USHERS**

- |      |    |                  |
|------|----|------------------|
| Jan. | 2  | Ed Oliver        |
|      | 9  | Mike Carr        |
|      | 16 | Marvin Roemen    |
|      | 23 | Scott Reneker    |
|      | 30 | Christopher Kyle |

COMMUNION SERVERS January 2 – Aaron Kooiker, Lorri Deeke, Joyce Roemen, Bob Keller, Sue Carr

CHILDREN’S SERMON January 16<sup>th</sup> – ??

**MAXINE BATES CIRCLE**

Joyce Roemen will be hostess for the January 18<sup>th</sup> Maxine Bates Circle meeting. Women will meet at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall to bag bingo prizes for the nursing homes. Then the women will watch a video from AMOS showing how volunteers are training local people for better health care, nutrition, and water purification. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Anyone who has small items suitable for bingo prizes that they would like to donate, please give to Lorri Deeke or Margaret Stephens or leave in the church office by January 16<sup>th</sup>.

The past couple of years, the women have been making the much-needed birthing kits to send to the Congo. It’s time to be thinking about that again. Patterns and fabric will be available the first Sunday in January if you would like to help with that project.



**ANNUAL REPORTS DUE**

**Just a reminder to all board chairpersons: Your 2021 annual reports are due in the church office by January 3<sup>rd</sup> please.**

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Plan to attend our annual meeting on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. It will follow our morning worship service. The main item on the meeting agenda will be the approval of the 2022 budget. We hope to have packets for the meeting ready for distribution on January 9<sup>th</sup>. This will give you time to read through the reports at home before the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Also, all newly elected board and committee members will officially take over their duties at this meeting.

**WOMEN’S LIFE GROUP BEGINS JANUARY 10**

The Women’s Life Group will begin meeting again Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. at church.

The first two months of the year, this group will devote their attention to a series on the **Names of God – Glimpses of His Character**. During March and April women will be challenged by **Amazing Women of the Old Testament**.

Books will be provided. Here is the schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
January 10	One Supreme Being	Genesis 1
17	God Most High	Genesis 14:17-24
24	God’s Personal Name	Psalm 68:1-20
31	The God Who Provides	Genesis 22:1-14
February 7	The Lord Almighty	1 Samuel 17:1-51
14	Holy, Holy God	Isaiah 1:1-20
21	The God of Glory	Psalm 29
28	The Sovereign God	Daniel 7:7-14
March 7	BREAK	
14	Eve – The First Woman -A Far Reaching Choice	Genesis 3:1-13
21	Sarah and Hagar - Waiting for God to Act	Genesis 16; 18:1-15
28	Miriam – A Critical Spirit	Numbers 12
April 4	Rahab – An Unlikely Ally	Joshua 2; Joshua 6:15-25
11	Ruth – The Cost of Loyalty	Ruth 1-2
18	Naomi - Sadness Swallowed Up by Joy	Ruth 3-4
25	BREAK	



**GET IN THE ZONE FOR 2022!**

Our kids' programs are up and running--and growing!

KidZone, for preschool through 5th grade, meets every Sunday morning (during the morning worship service) and Wednesday evening (during WOW). Packed with games, crafts, and Bible stories, the kids are exploring the life of Jesus and how He wants us to live. Our program has been growing--to the point that we'll be dividing the group into two smaller groups for activities to deal with space and noise issues. While this is a good problem to have, it also means we need more volunteers. Contact Jamie Gates to get involved!



YouthZone, for 6th through 12th grades, meets every Wednesday evening, during WOW. The youth have fun playing whole-group games, spending time each week focusing on a Biblical "nugget", and engaging in small group discussion and prayer. Youth leaders have been taking turns directing each week's games and discussion, and there's always room for more help. Contact Lisa Greenig to get involved!

December Finances:	
Giving:	\$54,708.38
Expenses:	\$32,766.24

### **Christian Education Board Meeting**

December 7, 2021

We discussed Wednesday nights. Great stuff going on!  
We'd been planning to have a Christmas party on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but now we're talking about doing it the 15<sup>th</sup>.  
The live nativity is coming together well. It will be paired with a soup supper as a fundraiser for the youth.  
JoDee hosted Barb's group decorating for the Thanksgiving meal.  
We'll arrange something for January.

### **Trustee Board Meeting**

December 7, 2021

Deacon Guest, John Rathbun, reviewed Deacon budget for 2022.  
Previous minutes were approved.  
General Fund has a positive balance of \$22,401.65.  
HVAC loan is \$15,244.94. Payments each month are \$550.00.  
Bob Keller reported ceiling fans will be put in the sanctuary by spring to keep ceiling from building up condensation and dripping.  
Budget: We reviewed the budget for Director of Family Life, Secretary, Custodian, and 800's and 900's budget line items.

### **First Baptist Church Special Congregation Meeting**

December 19, 2021

30 members present  
Margaret Wilson opened the meeting in prayer.  
Sue Carr highlighted the changes in the constitution clarifying the changes in the Worship Board duties. She and Margaret both thanked Pat Comfort for chairing the committee who wrote the new wording.  
Dick Hunt made a motion to accept the changes in the constitution to clarify Worship Board duties. Lisa Greenig 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Lorri Deeke, clerk

### **Mission and Evangelism Board**

December 7, 2021

Budget figures were reviewed and the explanations of new items were explained with questions answered as they arose.  
Due to the retirement from Congo of the Chapmans (long time ABC missionaries), they will no longer be receiving support from the church and it was explained that in January we will select a new International ABC missionary to support. Pat will bring options to the Board from which they can select a new missionary family and locale.  
A review of the year's work was undertaken and thanks was given to Board members for the responsibilities they had taken to ensure that mission information was provided through the church newsletter by articles about those who have received contributions from the tithes and offerings given by the congregation - both internationally and locally.  
An update regarding Greg Lentz was provided. The Board had previously agreed to provide support for him when he arrives on the mission field in Nicaragua. Presently, there is considerable unrest there and Greg has tentatively set April 1 as the time when he will depart for Nicaragua. Support funds will not begin until he is on the field. At present, he has moved to Fairfield as he has sold his home in preparation for his move to Nicaragua.  
The Board spent a considerable amount of time discussing the Evangelism part of their responsibilities with a variety of questions and comments about personal evangelism and the challenges involved. It was agreed that this discussion will continue when we meet in January and our new members are present so that we can set specific goals for the Evangelism part of our mandate.  
The Board discussed the idea of focusing on food insufficiency in Jefferson County during 2022 and pursuing the idea of locating areas of underserved persons particularly in the outlying rural areas and directing some of our resources there. Specific goals will be determined at the January meeting. Mike shared his interest in pursuing particular unmet needs in the community regarding needed support and involvement in the local schools. This will be discussed as we begin our task in January 2022.



**Fairfield First Baptist Church Council**

December 14, 2021

Present: Jan Baird, Bob Keller, JoDee Kyle, Pastor John Kermott, Aaron Kooiker, Lorri Deeke, Margaret Wilson, Sue Carr, Joyce Roemen

Previous minutes were approved.

Pastor John reported there will be a baptism of two young people Sunday, December 19, 2021, with a brief congregational meeting after the service.

The live Nativity planning is progressing nicely for Saturday, December 18 from 5:30 to 7:30. More volunteers are needed. Pastor John will notify the congregation of the event by email, Jan put an ad in the paper and information is being shared through other media outlets.

Pastor John wants to put emphasis on prayer in our church in the New Year as being a repository for prayer requests from the community; also to dispense prayer requests. Planning will continue during annual retreat.

Sue Carr suggested to review and discuss the procedure to be used to serve communion. The deacons will be invited to the beginning of the January council meeting to discuss this.

Bob reported giving is good. Bob made a motion to lift budget freeze and the board & committee chairs be frugal on their spending. Margaret 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.

Line #301 is designated for John Rathbun \$10,000 deacon initiative 2022 and will be reviewed annually.

There will be a hymn sing during church the Sunday after Christmas, December 26, 2021. Sue will find volunteers to pick a favorite carol and tell why they love the hymn or the history of the carol.

Pastor John closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorri Deeke, clerk



**GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING...VOLUNTEER!** One of the most precious gifts you can give is your time. As a ministry, The Well relies heavily on volunteers on order to serve our community. Not only does your time at The Well benefit our community, but you also might just find this place feels like home for you, too! Would you consider joining The Well's team as we head into this New Year! If you are interested, please contact Joe Phipps at 641-819-4044 or [josephp@thewelliowa.org](mailto:josephp@thewelliowa.org).

