



## January Calendar

Sundays	9:00 AM	Adult Class
	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Wednesdays	5:30 PM	Family Meal
	6-7:00 PM	KidZone/YouthZone
Thursday, Jan. 2	5:30 PM	Deacons
Sunday, Jan. 5	5:30-8PM	Youth Christmas Party
Tuesday, Jan. 7	5:30 PM	Trustees
	6:30 PM	M & E Board/CE Board
Sunday, Jan. 12	11:30AM	Baby Baerg Shower
Thursday, Jan. 14	6:30 PM	Council
Wed. Jan. 15	NOON	SALT
Thursday, Jan. 16	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox
Sunday, Jan. 19	11:30 AM	Annual Meeting

<b>November Finances</b>	
Giving:	\$22,681.15
Expenses:	\$19,332.19



# Church Life

Fairfield First Baptist Church  
 "A Faith Building Community"

Vol. XLX No. 1

December 27, 2024



## FFFBC 2025 Theme Sowing Seed

*"Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear." (Matthew 13:3-9)*

I would like to use "The Parable of the Sower and the Seed" as the theme for our church family for 2025. In this newsletter article I want to just get you started thinking about what this could mean for Fairfield First Baptist in the coming year.

I'd like to start by clarifying what it means to "sow seed". We're all familiar with what farmers do in the spring as they plant the seed in hopes of reaping a good crop in the fall. The words "sow" and "plant" are often used interchangeably to describe that process but there is a slight definitional difference. To plant something there's the sense the seed is placed in the ground and covered with soil. There's an intentional placement of the seed and often it's put in a row for easier harvesting. Sowing, though, has a sense of being less intentional about the placement of the seed and more indiscriminate. One who sows just throws the seed out, in front and around themselves.

I've often wondered about this parable and thought, "Why wasn't the sower more careful about where the seed went?" It seems like the sower was being wasteful. Clearly, he would have seen that some of the seed was landing in areas that weren't going to be suitable for the plant to grow.

But now I think that's one of the primary points of the parable. The sower, (and we'll talk more about who the Sower is in the coming weeks and months,) is just throwing the seed out there. He really is, in a sense, care-less. He doesn't care if it's landing where it needs to land, his point is to just get it out there.

As Jesus expands on the parable he makes it clear that the seed the sower is putting out is the message of the gospel, the good news of Christ. So, let's ask ourselves, "What does that mean for us as disciples of Jesus in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, when it comes to getting His message out?" What's the best way of just throwing it out there without necessarily caring about where it lands? How can we sow the seed of the Gospel like the Sower in this parable? I'm looking forward to talking about it!

- John



**PRAYER LIST:** Family of Ed Hoyle, Martha Cathey, Deanna Wilson, Mary Godwin, family of Verda Baird, family of Harold Munson, family of Dan Symmonds, Cameron Symmonds, Sharie Leazer, Rod Ryan, David Wilson, Nolan Stevenson, Ruth Leazer, Ralph Paulding, Ray Woody, Dick and June Workman, Lisa Greenig's niece, Alyssa.

**SALT Group (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) is now meeting on the third WEDNESDAY** of each month. Everyone 55 and over is welcome! Please bring a dish to pass. Welcome and thank you to John and Diane Yule who are now helping to lead this gathering!

**YOUTH ZONE Christmas Party.**

Sunday, January 5 from 5:30-8:00.

We will have a meal at the church starting at 5:30. If you have any special requests, please let Lisa or JoDee know. After the meal there will be games and fellowship.



**BABY Shower.** Sunday, January 12, Immediately after church.

All ladies are invited to a baby shower for Jill Baerg. Baby #9 is a surprise gift from God! They gave away all their baby items a few years ago and need to replace everything. Please join us in showering them with lots of love and support. A light lunch will be provided. Jill is registered at Walmart.com. (Type: baby, First Name: Jill, Last Name: Baerg, State: Iowa) Any questions talk to Lisa Greenig.



Dear Church Family, thank you for the generous end of year Love Gift, and thank you for all the many ways you show your love and appreciation through the year. We count this church family as one of our greatest blessings!

Love, Pastor John and Amy and family.



## Birthdays

7. Addie Crandall	15. Justin Morehouse	25. Lexi Crandall
9. Nigel Baerg	23. Joyce Roemen	26. Deb Fritz
10. Kim Halverson	23. Karley Ryan	31. Ted Diers
13. Julie Hanshaw	24. John VanWinkle	

## Anniversaries

1. David and Margaret Wilson  
17. John and Diane Yule

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

HEAD USHERS		KIDZONE LEADERS	
5	Randy Baird	5	Erica Voreis & Cameron Worley
12	Dick Workman	12	Diane & Amy VanWinkle
19	John VanWinkle	19	Lisa Greenig & Cameron Worley
26	Darrel Bisgard	26	Tammy & Lilah Hawkins

COMMUNION SERVERS January 5: Lee Muntz, Margaret Stephens, Dick Hunt, Bob Keller, Lisa Greenig

## Council Meeting – December 10, 2024

Present – Bob Keller, JoDee Kyle, Virgil Symmonds, John Rathbun, Greg Hanshaw, Jason Crandall, Dick Hunt, Margaret Stephens and Pastor John.

Devotion from My Daily Bread by Greg Hanshaw. Opening prayer by Virgil Symmonds. Prayed for Jessie Chambers.

Motion to approve previous month’s minutes motioned by John Rathbun and seconded by Jason Crandall. So passed. We should celebrate this year’s ministry. Praise was given for pre-Christmas gift store.

Upcoming events:

December 15, Christmas program

December 24, Christmas Eve Service and food giveaway. 50 bags supplied by M&E. Will try to accommodate if more is needed.

January 19, Annual Meeting

Food drive for Lord’s Cupboard will be during the month of February.

Organized by Maxine Bates Circle,

Pastor John talked on All Church Retreat, with the theme: “Sowing and Reaping” (date later)

There has been one person short on the Trustee Board. Ashley Worley has agreed to fill this position. Will be approved at the annual meeting.

Financial Report – Bob Keller said it’s been a good month of giving. Some budgets will be raised.

Maxine Bates Circle was discussed.

Worship Board was discussed.

Meeting closed with prayer by Bob Keller.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Stephens