



# Church Life

Fairfield First Baptist Church  
 "A Faith Building Community"

Vol. XLX No. 2

January 24, 2025

## February Calendar

Sundays	9:00 AM	Adult Class
	10:15 AM	Worship Service
	11:30 AM	Youth Bible Study
Wednesdays	5:30 PM	Family Meal
	6-7:00 PM	KidZone/YouthZone
Monday, Feb. 3	5:30 PM	Deacons
Tuesday, Feb. 4	5:30 PM	Trustees
	6:30 PM	M & E Board/CE Board
Tuesday, Feb. 11	6:30 PM	Council
Wed. Feb. 19	NOON	SALT
Thursday, Feb. 20	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox

### Agricultural Terminology

#### Broadcasting

Broadcasting is the process of random scattering or spreading seeds on the surface of seedbeds that may or may not be incorporated into the soil or covered with soil or similar other materials.



## Broadcast

*"A Sower went out to sow..."*  
 (Matthew 13:3-9)

As I shared in last month's newsletter, I would like to use "The Parable of the Sower and the Seed" as the theme for our church family for 2025. There is so much we can gain from this parable, as we're finding during our Sunday morning messages. What I really want us to catch, for this year, is the method the sower/farmer used to spread the seed. He "broadcast" it.

\$	December Finances	\$
	Giving: \$27,089.73	
\$	Expenses: \$28,226.72	\$

As the picture above reminds us, the term "broadcast" was originally an agricultural term describing a kind of sowing where the seed is just cast or thrown out, broadly, onto the soil. This is exactly the kind of farming that Jesus was referring to in the **Parable of the Sower**.

When we hear the term "broadcast" today we naturally think of radio or television companies. We think of NBC, (the National Broadcasting Company,) or CBS, (the Columbia Broadcasting System,) or ABC, (American Broadcasting Company.) The first use of the term in this way was in the 1920's to describe radio transmissions; broadly casting out information. Now we have "simulcasts" and "podcasts" transmitting thoughts.

The idea is the same whether we're talking about broadcasting seed as a farmer or broadcasting a seed-message to a wide audience through media. The hope is that the seed will take root in good soil and grow. This is the exact metaphor that Jesus is using in the **Parable of the Sower**. When he says that the sower went out to sow, he means that he was broadly sending out a message. In the case of the parable the seed-message is "the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven," as Jesus explains in Matthew 13:11.

While the Sower in the case of Jesus' parable is Jesus sharing the message of the kingdom to 1<sup>st</sup> Century Israel, God continues to broadcast the Good News of Jesus into the hearts of men and women, today. The amazing offer he makes to us is the invitation to join him in the broadcasting.

The question we can ask ourselves as a church is, "How can we utilize information technology to get the message of Jesus out to a wider audience around us?" This will be the question we'll seek to answer at our "**All Church Retreat**" in March, (date to be announced.) In the meantime, maybe you could let this question "germinate" in your mind and heart and then we can all broadcast our thoughts out to each other at the Retreat.

Sowing alongside you all,  
- John



**PRAYER LIST:** Family of Ed Hoyle, Martha Cathey, Deanna Wilson, family of Verda Baird, family of Harold Munson, Cameron Symmonds, Sharie Leazer, Rod Ryan, David Wilson, Nolan Stevenson, Ruth Leazer, Ralph Paulding, 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! This month our very special guest will be Brittany Sowder, who will share a presentation on Human Trafficking, which includes her own personal story as a survivor. Brittany has written a book, *She Survived*, which will be available to purchase, and she will also share educational materials from Shared Hope International, an organization that provides letter grades to states based on their anti-trafficking measures. (Iowa is currently rated an "F"). Brittany will also share information on the newly formed Coalition Against Human Trafficking, as well as details about *The Lighthouse Foundation*, a 501(c)(3) she is establishing to support trafficking survivors. This month's meeting is February 19<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a dish to pass.



God's Word. Lunch is provided!

### **New Youth Bible Study**

Tammy Hawkins is leading a Youth Bible Study time after worship service on Sunday afternoons. The program is called Bible Recap ([www.biblerecap.com/start](http://www.biblerecap.com/start)) and is a "read through the Bible" plan that also gives an explanation of what is being read each day so kids can understand and develop a love for



## Birthdays

- |                   |                        |                    |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 5. Sonny Harris   | 16. Kaylee Wright      | 25. Adeline Diers  |
| 7. Roger McHone   | 22. Gwen Kermott       | 27. Ralph Paulding |
| 7. Ellie Anderson | 22. Milton Baerg       |                    |
| 14. John Rathbun  | 25. Betsie Wotherspoon |                    |

## Anniversaries

20. Shawn & Joni Worley  
 26. Jim & Betsie Wotherspoon

*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	
2	Bob Keller	2	Ashley Worley & Erica Voreis
9	Dick Workman	9	Diane & Amy VanWinkle
16	John VanWinkle	16	Sarah & Naomi Stiemsma
23	John Rathbun	23	Amy & Manon Kermott

COMMUNION SERVERS February 2: Lee Muntz and Margaret Wilson

## Council Meeting – January 14, 2025

Present: JoDee Kyle, Greg Hanshaw, Jan Baird, Pastor John Kermott and Margaret Stephens.

Greg Hanshaw gave the devotion, "Walking with God."  
 Jan Baird gave the prayer.

Motion made by JoDee Kyle to approve last month's minutes and seconded by Greg Hanshaw. So Passed.

It was mentioned Deacons will do Communion Server Schedule. Amy will put schedule in Newsletter.

January 19 is the Annual Meeting.

Greg talked on financial report and praised the good giving by church members.

Date for All-Church Retreat will be sometime in March. Will decide date next month.

Approved request by The Well to use our Baptistry Thursday, January 16 for private baptism.

Meeting closed in prayer by Pastor John.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Margaret Stephens