

NOVEMBER

Sundays	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Wednesdays	5:30 PM	Family Meal
	6-7:00	Youth/KidZone
Tuesdays	6:00 PM	A-Z College Age Study
Tuesday, Nov. 3	5:00 PM	Deacons
	5:30 PM	Trustees
	6:30 PM	CE & M&E
Tuesday, Nov. 10	6:30 PM	Council
Sunday, Nov. 15	2:00 PM	Cirque Musica
Wednesday, Nov. 18	NOON	SALT
Thursday, Nov. 19	6:30 PM	Sac & Fox
Friday, Nov. 20	2:00 PM	ABW Bingo
Sunday, Nov. 22	11:30 AM	Thanksgiving Meal

September Finances:
Giving: 10,445.05
Expenses: 18,683.32

Church Life

Fairfield First Baptist Church
"A Faith Building Community"

Vol. XLXI No. 11 October 30, 2026



Why Vote?

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (Romans 3:10-12)

For several months, now, we've all been inundated with campaign commercials on TV, the internet and through the mail, vying for our vote. These ads paint political opponents as negatively as they possibly can. (The term "mudslinging" has described our political campaigns since the early 1800's.) If we go by the ads we might wonder how we could vote for any of the candidates. They're **all** dirty, rotten scoundrels!

As I've thought about the tactics used in our American political campaigns there are three truths that have settled in my mind.

1. **Nobody is perfect.**

As Paul wrote in Romans 3, "There's no one who is righteous,

not even one."
Every human being is flawed, so every candidate is flawed.

2. **Human government is flawed.**

If no human being is perfectly righteous then human governments will also be flawed. Thomas Jefferson said, "Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him?" We find that none of us as citizens are angels so we need to be governed, but those we elect to govern aren't angels, either, so what are we to do? This is why the Framers concluded that we needed "checks and balances" that can reign in human flaws and ambitions. I believe our Representative Republic is the best form of human government, but it still involves flawed human leaders.

3. **God ordains human leaders.**

Paul wrote, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for *there is no authority except that which God has established*." (Romans 13:1) This necessarily means that God uses some very flawed leaders to accomplish his purposes in guiding human history. A child often learns lessons in what not to do through a poor father as well as what to do through a good one.

We have the blessed privilege to choose "the lesser of two evils" in our elections…and hopefully find some who also have good motives and intentions. So if you haven't voted yet, please do, for conscience's sake.

We start this month with a divisive election. We'll end it with a call to **Give Thanks** for God's provision. Regardless of the outcome of this year's election, let's give thanks for the goodness of our country and for the truth that, ultimately, God is the sovereign King over human affairs! *-John*

PRAYER LIST: The family of Rachel Clark, The family of Emily Reneker, the family of Don Rude, the family of Janet Morris, The family of Deanna Wilson, The family of Winnifred Fritz, The Miller Family, David & Margaret Wilson, Sharie Leazer, Rod Ryan, Nolan Stevenson, Betsy Wright, Dick and June Workman, Lisa Greenig's niece, Alyssa and sister, Jenny.



Fall Group Bible Study on the **Fruit of the Spirit,** Sunday Nights, (6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.) Beginning September 27th and running through November 22nd. Pick up your study book in the Narthex. **Let's get fruity!**



Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland
Nov. 15th 2:00 PM, Bridgeview Center. Ottumwa.
We are purchasing tickets to take a group to see this Amazing family Holiday show. Please sign up if you would like to be part of the fun! Ticket price has been covered!



ABW Bingo at Addington Place
November 20th at 2:00 PM
Any ladies who would like to come and play and help the folks out there it would be appreciated!

Family Thanksgiving Meal, Sunday, November 22. following worship. Don't miss one of the highlights of our year! Please sign-up in the Narthex.
A-K bring a side dish, L-Z bring dessert.





November Birthdays

6. Gwen Rathbun
6. Diane Yule
15. Jim Wotherspoon
16. Dani Crandall
18. Randy Baird
24. Greg Fritz
30. Virgil Symmonds

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
1. Scott Worley	1. Erica & Adler Voreis
8. Marvin Roemen	8. Betsie Wotherspoon & Taryn Ryan
15. John VanWinkle	15. Lisa Greenig
22. John Rathbun	22. Sarah & Naomi Stiemsma
29. Jim Wotherspoon	29. Amy Kermott

COMMUNION November 1: Jan Baird and Margaret Wilson

First Baptist Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 13th, 2026

Members Present
Greg Hanshaw, Virgil Symmonds, Darrel Bisgard, Bob Keller, Pastor John, JoDee Kyle, and Mary Keller.

Greg shared a devotion from *Our Daily Bread* titled "Jesus' Prayer Priority."
Darrel opened the meeting with prayer.
Virgil moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. JoDee seconded the motion, which passed.

Trustee's Report
Bob Keller presented the Trustee's Report. The general fund balance is under $8,000. The $5655.00 approved for the Chimney repair will bring that down, but some special giving has already been received for the building repairs and we have faith that the rest will come in.

The Community Center asked to borrow the church van a few times each year for short trips, such as viewing Christmas lights or traveling to Cantril. Bob is checking with the church's insurance company to determine whether the arrangement is permitted. A church member may need to serve as the driver. The council supported allowing the Trustees to make the final decision, pending approval from the insurance company.

Upcoming Baptisms
Up to six baptisms may take place soon.

Calendar Items from committees, boards, and Pastor

A. Fruit of the Spirit Series
B. October 25th, Quarterly Meeting
C. November 15, Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland,
D. ABW Bingo
E. November 22, Thanksgiving Meal
F. December 3,4, Christmas Store Set UP/ Shopping Day
G. December 9, Chili/Soup and Caroling

Financial Report

Bob Keller reported that the general fund balance has declined, reflecting lower giving in September. The church remains confident that its financial needs will be met.

Insurance-Required Repairs

Bob also reviewed repairs requested by Church Mutual Insurance Company. The highest priority is replacing the Fellowship Hall roof. A plan should be developed to complete the work, ideally next year, to address the insurance company's requirements.

Old Business

Five-Year Planning Committee

The Five-Year Planning Committee is organizing small groups to continue the work of the Spiritual Gifts Now group. A committee will be formed for each topic.

"Finishing Well" Ministry

Plans for the "Finishing Well" ministry remain under development for the future.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has completed its work and presented its recommendations. See the attached list.

Virgil closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Keller, Clerk

Our goal wasn't simply to create a five-year plan—it's to build a stronger, more connected church with a shared vision for the future.

Thank you to everyone who has shared ideas, completed assessments, or expressed interest in getting involved. This work is just beginning, and there are opportunities for everyone to contribute. If you're interested in helping with any of these areas, please reach out to a committee member. We'd love to have you involved!

Fairfield First Baptist Five-Year Planning Committee

Ashley, Bob K, Erica, Greg, John K, John R, Sarah



Five-Year Planning Committee Update

The Five-Year Planning Committee has been working to turn the ideas and feedback gathered from our congregation into meaningful next steps for Fairfield First Baptist Church.

Through congregational meetings, surveys, and our Spiritual Gifts Assessment, we've identified three key priorities:

1. **People** – Reach, engage, and involve children, youth, young adults, and young families.
2. **Presence** – Create a church where visitors and current attendees feel welcomed, connected, and known.
3. **Practice** – Strengthen worship, spiritual growth, and the Sunday morning experience, with fellowship as an extension of worship.

We're now moving from planning to action! Small groups are beginning to address needs, explore ideas, and take practical steps in several areas, including youth engagement, sound booth and slides, digital signage, communications, and the Sunday morning experience, and incorporating more musical ministry through special music guests from the local community and beyond.

Some small changes you may have already noticed: Greg Hanshaw has assisted Pastor John with Sunday morning service - helping lead us through announcements and prayer. Others will likely have opportunities to help with this and other aspects of the service as well. This shift in responsibilities has allowed Pastor John to focus more on the message. We've also enjoyed having our KidZone children share music with the congregation on the last Sunday of each month. This has been a wonderful opportunity for them to participate in worship, share their musical talents, and highlight the ways we're engaging our youth in church life.



The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one hart and one voice by the whole American People.

I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficient Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and Union.