

First News & Notes

October—November 2025



In Everything Give Thanks

"Thank the Lord! Praise his name! Tell the nations what He has done. Let them know how mighty He is! Sing to the Lord, for He has done wonderful things. Make known His praise around the world."

Isaiah 12:4–5

As we gather this Thanksgiving with hearts full of gratitude and tables full of abundance, Isaiah's words remind us that thanksgiving is more than a seasonal sentiment—it's a sacred calling.

Isaiah speaks of a time when the people of God erupt in joyful song, not just for what He has done for them personally, but for what He has done for the world. This is not quiet gratitude—it's loud, public, and contagious. It's a call to tell, sing, and make known the goodness of God.

What Has God Done?

Look around. Has He healed? Provided? Comforted? Redeemed? The "wonderful things" Isaiah speaks of are not distant miracles—they are the everyday mercies we often overlook.

This Thanksgiving, let's name them. Let's share them. Let's let our gratitude spill over into testimony. In Isaiah 12, we find a powerful blueprint for what Christian thanksgiving looks like: it's expressive, it's missional, and it's rooted in awe.

It's a Gratitude That Glorifies

As Christians, our thanksgiving begins with recognizing the source of every good gift. We don't just say "thank you" for blessings—we praise His name. We acknowledge that behind every provision, every healing, every moment of peace, stands a mighty and loving God. Thanksgiving becomes worship.

It's a Gratitude That Goes Global

Isaiah doesn't stop at personal praise. He doesn't limit praise to the sanctuary. He urges us to "tell the nations," and "make known his praise around the world." In a time when the world is hungry for hope, our thanksgiving becomes a witness.

It's a Gratitude That Speaks

This passage urges us to sing, tell, and make known. Thanksgiving isn't silent — it's vocal. It's the kind of joy that can't be contained. Whether through song, testimony or acts of kindness, our thanksgiving should echo beyond the walls of the church.

What It Means Today

In our modern world, Thanksgiving can easily become about food, family, and fleeting moments. But as Christians, we're called to something deeper. We're invited to live lives of continual gratitude—where every day becomes a chance to reflect God's goodness and share His glory.

Reflection: This Thanksgiving, take time to remember what God has done in your life and family. Share your story. Sing your praise. Let your gratitude be a light that points others to the One who gives us every reason to rejoice.

Prayer: Lord help us to live lives of gratitude and praise—not just in October, but every day. Amen.

Pastor Alex

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Scott Dillion—October 4

Helen Rust—November 1

Helga Mursall—November

Coffee and Conversation

October 26

November 30

**Join us in the Fellowship Hall right after
the service**



Thanksgiving
— ISN'T —
ABOUT WHAT'S ON THE
— TABLE —
IT'S ABOUT THE
PEOPLE
AROUND IT



Seniors' Lunch & Hymn Sing

Thursday, October 16—noon

Thursday, November 20—noon

**This is a really blessed time of good
food and fellowship so join us!**

And bring a friend!



The holidays are coming!

Be sure to put these special events on your calendar!

"A Vintage Christmas"
FBC Ladies Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 3
6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

SING FOR JOY!
Tuesday, December 16
7 p.m.
Festive refreshments to follow

Annual Church Family Dinner
Sunday, December 14 following our morning service
Turkey and all the trimmings
A definite holiday must do!



The "FBC Mitten Tree" is coming back!
We'll be collecting new gloves, mitts, hats and socks for
distribution thru the "Christmas for Everyone" hampers.

Ages infant to teen.

The tree will be located at the rear of the sanctuary.

November 23—30

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

Count
-YOUR-
blessings



VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

Is the Lord calling you to serve in our church?

Have you got a great smile or wonderful singing voice?

Maybe you have a noggin for numbers. Or a keenness for community outreach.

To learn what opportunities there are, please talk to Donna, Diane or Pastor Alex.

Join us every Wednesday morning at 10.

Come encouraged, deepen your understanding of God, and develop a sweeter relationship with Him.

Right now, we are studying “Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts” by Nancy Guthrie.

See Sara for details.

Ladies
**BIBLE
STUDY**

November 3, 2025

Last year, we were honored to have our ‘sisters’ from Central Baptist join us here for the Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer.

This year, we have been invited to join them!

We’ll share details once they have been confirmed.

Save
THE
Date

HAPPENINGS ON OUR ASSOCIATION FRONT

September 2025 Update

The Middlesex, Lambton, Huron Association (MLHA) is currently revamping our Constitution. The process started last fall under the guidance of the newly formed Transition Team (Charlene Root, Rev. Ron Rye, Rev. Dave Adams, Rev. Eric Campbell, Susan Plumridge, Rev. Andrew Plumridge, Andrew Emmott, Miriam Kleber).

At our MLHA meeting at Arkona Baptist Church on September 20, we were able to review the first draft. In order to take a less formal approach, the document it is now called **GATHERING TOGETHER**. The team felt that this name reflects the purpose of the Association which is to strengthen fellowship among the Association Churches by gathering and working together with renewed excitement.

Our task now is to read over this document and suggest changes/wording to the Advisory Team made up of members of our Association. This team will also be making recommendations to the Transition Team. There will be further amendments prior to the Spring 2026 AGM.

I have a copy of the draft and can share it with anyone who would like to read it and give input.

The Transition Team had these main priorities in mind as they developed the document:

- fellowship is very important. There are small churches scattered over 3 counties and believers need to meet to encourage each other.
- we are people of scripture. The Bible is our guide.
- the wording must be able to go forth in the future. It is not just for existing churches but also for others that may come. We need to keep it user-friendly.

Other news

There are 14 churches in our Association. Most are struggling; this from Cid Latty, our Regional Associate and link to CBOQ which supports member churches and offers resources. He told us we are a trailblazer for other Associations that are watching how we go through this process.

HEALTHY CHURCHES=HEALTHY ASSOCIATION=HEALTHY CBOQ

The executive decided to suspend the honorariums given to the secretary and treasurer for their services to MLHA. Those in these positions are in agreement. This will help ease finances.

At the Association meeting, we were given the opportunity to take part in an interactive prayer session. Each church was asked in advance to share a story of encouragement from their church and one area of challenge. These were printed out and placed on chairs. Attendees then went around, read them and quietly prayed for the church. This really demonstrated that we face many of the same challenges. We were able to hold up each other up in prayer and show our support.

I highly recommend people attend these gatherings with our sister churches for uplifting fellowship, encouragement and to find out what is happening in our Association.

— Submitted by Donna McAuslan

FBC has long supported Petrolia's Food Bank and Community Refrigerator.

While we typically think of canned goods or cereal, donations of personal care items, paper goods and cleaning supplies are always needed.

Basically, anything you need in your home is also needed by food bank clients.

Our thanks to Bill for dropping our donations off at the Food Bank every month.



Our congregation also supports the Pregnancy Options and Support Centre.

This year, our church contributed \$1043.97 through the baby bottle campaign. The total amount raised by all participating Lambton Country churches was \$29,777.

Tickets for the Fall Gala on November 15th are \$60.00.
www.pregnancycentre/get-involved

Summer Services in Victoria Park

It was good to gather in faith and fellowship with fellow believers from St. Paul's United, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, and Christ Anglican.

The Lord blessed us with 8 rain-free Sunday evenings, wrapping up with songs of praise from The Chapelaires.

A record \$2,272.15 was raised thru the freewill offerings and will be split between the Food Bank and Community Refrigerator.



Ministry thru music with Cheryl, Larry and Pastor Alex

Intergalactic Voyage Bible Camp



This summer's Vacation Bible Camp was a blast!

Thanks to all who prayed, donated snack items and helped the planning and execution of this 5-day adventure.

The average attendance was 20 youngsters who enjoyed Bible stories, stories about a real astronaut, snacks, games, crafts and lots of attention from our amazing volunteer leaders and missionaries, Joyce 1 and Joyce 2 from Child Evangelism Fellowship.



Middlesex-Lambton-Huron
Association

Missionfest

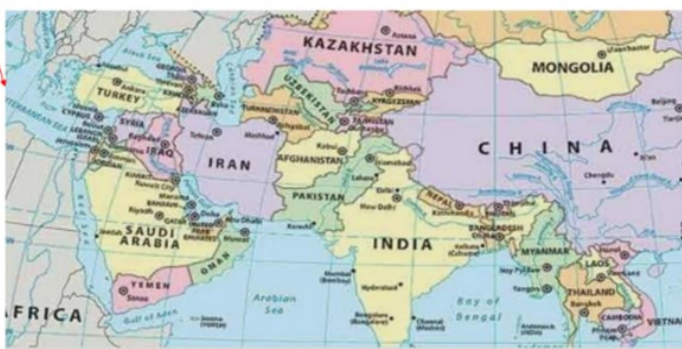
November 1, 2025

Poplar Hill Baptist Church

2 Projects

The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut has a broad influence with students from all over North Africa and the Middle East. A great witness to the saving grace of Jesus in the war torn middle east and around the world

Thailand - Ban Lao Liu Church Income-generating Cattle Farm: This project aims to generate income through cattle farming to provide financial support for local pastors' as well as for the Lord Love Center



More information to Follow
Check out cbmin.org

Lunch Cost - \$ 15.00

Goal - \$ 28,000.00

Praise God for his Blessings in the past year

Lunch - 1:00 P M Program - 2:30

This year, we are helping fund 2 projects:

- the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon. It is open to students across North Africa and the Middle East studying to become pastors and leaders for their home countries.

- the Ban Lao Liu Church in Thailand. They are working to generate income through cattle farming to support ministry in their area.

When making a donation specifically for Missionfest, please mark that clearly on your offering envelope.

The wrap-up event will be
Saturday, November 1.
See Harald for tickets.
\$15.00

"Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still."

E.M. Bounds



Join us for prayer

The second Sunday each month; 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Focusing on the needs/concerns for our church and congregation

The 3rd Thursday of the month (before the Seniors' Lunch); 11:00 a.m.

Bringing forward community issues/interests.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

Peanut Butter Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 cup peanut butter (smooth or chunky)

1/2 cup rolled oats

1/2 cup chocolate chips

1/2 cup brown sugar

1 large egg

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the peanut butter, oats, chocolate chips, brown sugar, and egg. Stir until well combined and the mixture holds together.

Drop spoonfuls of dough on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 2 inches apart. Flatten each cookie slightly with the back of the spoon.

Bake for 8-10 minutes, or until the edges are golden brown. The cookies will firm up as they cool.



For summer rains, and winter's sun,
For autumn breezes crisp and sweet;
For labors doing to be done,
And labors all complete;
For April, May, and lovely June,
For bud, and bird, and berried vine;
For joys of morning, night, and noon,
My thanks, dear Lord, are Thine!

For loving friends on every side;
For children full of joyous glee;
For all the blessed Heavens wide,
And for the sounding sea;
For mountains, valleys, forests deep;
For maple, oak, and lofty pine;
For rivers on their seaward sweep,
My thanks, dear Lord, are Thine!

For light and air, for sun and shade,
For merry laughter and for cheer;
For music and the glad parade
Of blessings through the year;
For all the fruitful earth's increase,
For home and life, and love divine,
For hope, and faith, and perfect
peace,
My thanks, dear Lord, are Thine!

~John Kendrick Bangs





PA Day Camps at First Baptist Church

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

November 21, 2025

January 30, April 24 and June 5, 2026

Afternoon Theme for November: History of steam trains in Petrolia
Including visiting the Library (Old Train Station) & train sets and puzzles to put together

January: Pioneer school history in Petrolia

Chalk slates, old school books; pioneer toys

*If you have any books or photos about the history of our town—or know of someone who does—please contact
 Connie Lorantfy or Sara Rust.*

*We're also looking for old Christian themed Christmas cards (front only) for a kids' craft.
 Please pass them along to Connie .*

**Why are they selling poppies, Mummy? Selling poppies in town today.
 The poppies, child, are flowers of love. For the men who marched away.
 But why have they chosen a poppy, Mummy? Why not a beautiful rose?
 Because my child, men fought and died in the fields where the poppy grows.
 But why are the poppies so red, Mummy? Why are the poppies so red?
 Red is the colour of blood, my child. The blood that our soldiers shed.
 The heart of the poppy is black, Mummy. Why does it have to be black?
 Black, my child, is the symbol of grief. For the men who never came back.
 But why, Mummy are you crying so? Your tears are giving you pain.
 My tears are my fears for you my child, for the world is forgetting again.**

Author unknown

