



# FIRSTBAPTISTCHURCH

First Word - Issue 51 - December 21, 2025

## How to Experience Spiritual Growth in 2026

**“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.”**

**– Psalm 119:165**

If the word “un-handyman” were in fact a word, it would fit me. I recently spent the better part of a day trying to install a bathroom exhaust fan, and it’s still not finished. When the new fan is finally in place, I will have a needless hole to repair. I created more work for myself; thus, I need to pay more attention to instructions before attempting the next home project!

When it comes to living a fruitful Christian life, the instructions we find in God’s Word are essential. Unfortunately, it’s all too easy to ignore them. A person might say any of the following: “The Bible is so long, I don’t know where to start,” or “It will take years to gain a basic understanding of the Bible, who has the time?” or “The Bible is too complicated.”

“But ignoring the Word of God is dangerous. When we stop reading Scripture and applying its principles, we don’t just stand still; we actually start drifting away from God. The Apostle Peter tells us to long for the Word so we may grow in respect to our salvation (See 1 Peter 2:2). Do not forget, the indwelling Holy Spirit will bring understanding.”

“If your desire is to glorify God and overcome worries, fears, and sin, then Scripture must be your priority. Reading, studying, and applying the Word may require sacrifices, but the reward of knowing your Savior better and living a life pleasing to God is worth it.” (Adapted from “The Danger of Ignoring the Word” by Charles Stanley, 6 October 2021).

Do you want to experience new spiritual growth in 2026? Have a plan to read, study, and apply the Scriptures! You don’t have to commit to reading the entire Bible in a year to be successful. Yet, you still need a plan. An additional step may include involving a trusted friend to ask you throughout the year what you are learning in God’s Word.

Let us be richly blessed by the Book God has given to us!

Partners in ministry,

Pastor Kent

## This Week At FBC

### Sunday’s Sermon

**“What Christmas Promises”**

**Selected Scripture**

**Pastor Kent Hinkel**

### December 21-27

<b>Wednesday</b>	3:30p & 5:00p	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
<b>Thursday</b>		Christmas Day (Office Closed)
<b>Friday</b>	7:00p	Celebrate Recovery

**Want to stay updated with events, sermons, and more?**

Download the FBC App today! Easily submit prayer requests and connect with our church family. Scan the QR code to get started!



## WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

Our High Calling – “We are members of one another” (Ephesians 4:25c). “Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:8b). Here are three vital truths: One, as members of one family, we are called to work in unity and with interdependence. Two, though we work together, a future reward will be according to each person’s individual labor. Three, though God can accomplish His work in the world in any number of ways, He has called us to be working partners with Him, calling us “fellow workers.” He has even distributed spiritual gifts to each of us for this purpose! (See 1 Peter 4:10).



fbcminot.org



fbcminot



200 3rd St SW



701-852-4533



A beautifully wrapped empty box in my office is a visual reminder of a great truth. When I share the gospel, I point to this box wrapped as a “present” and emphasize the nature of a gift. A gift must be received to bring any benefit to a person’s life. Additionally, a good gift giver will not force a person to accept a gift. A gift is not received under compulsion. Our sin separates us from the life of God, but God offers each of us a great gift: full pardon. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). The question to be asked is, “Would you like to receive the gift of God today?” Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

**Pastor Kent & Trish Hinkel**

### **Missionary of the Week: Tim and Jenn Jackson-Undisclosed**

They serve in a mission's organization that assists local churches as they seek to make mature disciples, establish healthy churches, and train local leaders around the world. We believe that the local church is both the means and the end of biblical missions. We desire to serve local churches as they send missionaries around the world. They thank us for our continued support of their ministry.

### **NCA Ministry of the Week**

Herreid Baptist, Herreid, SD

### **Prayer**

Scripture reminds us, life and time are short. The Apostle Peter echoes this saying, “the end of all things is at hand.” It is vital for us to be watchful in our prayers, to live with an attitude of love, to serve, to endure trials well, and to accept suffering because of doing what is right (See 1 Peter 4:1-19). Ask God to help you live out His Word and to inspire others to do the same!

### **Giving Thanks**

Jesus tells us to let the little children come to him; indeed, our little FBC children did just that! We are so thankful for the joy we all experienced as we listened to our littlest children sing their little Christmas program tunes this past Sunday night. We watched the 2nd graders portray the characters from the Nativity, and we ended with some joy-filled songs from our Elementary children. Oh, we are so grateful to God for the excitement our children bring to our church!

### **THIS MORNING AT FBC**

#### **Nursery**

Staffed for kids through 36mon  
9:50a and 11:05a

#### **Pre-school/Kindergarten**

No Sunday School

#### **Children’s Ministry**

No Sunday School

#### **Adult Ministry**

Sunday School - 9:45a

#### **Children’s Church - Ages 3 - 5**

No Sunday School

#### **Middle/High School Ministry**

Downstairs Lounge - 9:45a

#### **Young Adult Ministry S.A.L.T.**

Room 106 - 9:45a

### **CONTACT US**

## **WHAT’S COMING UP AT FBC**

**FBC Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be on December 24 at 3:30p and 5:00p. The Nursery will be open but not staffed.

**No Awana** on Dec 24 and Dec 31

**No Children’s Sunday School** on Dec. 21 and Dec. 28

**Church Office Closed** on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

**1st Baptist Seniors** will not be meeting in December.

**RightNow Media:** This incredible video library offers free access to resources from Bible studies and conferences to marriage and parenting! There’s even a library with a ton of educational and entertaining Christian material just for kids. Contact the Church Office at [office@fbcmint.org](mailto:office@fbcmint.org) to get an email invite for this free offer.

**Kid’s Activity Bags:** “Busy Bags” for use on Sundays are now available in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return at the end of the service.

**Prayer Points:** This monthly prayer guide provides you with daily prayer needs identified specifically for FBC and its church family. The Prayer Points are available at the Information Desk and on the Media/Publications page of our website.

**Lost and Found:** A number of coats, water bottles, mugs, books, jewelry, and other items have been left in the church. Please check the coat rack in the upstairs hallway and the cabinet next to Pastor Brandon’s office for things that may belong to you. Any articles left will be donated to the Salvation Army at the end of January.



#### **First Baptist Church Office**

701-852-4533/[office@fbcmint.org](mailto:office@fbcmint.org)

**Hours:** 8-5 Mon-Thur/ Fri 8-12

#### **Rev. Dr. Kent Hinkel**

Senior Pastor  
[firstminot@yahoo.com](mailto:firstminot@yahoo.com)

#### **Elaine Carlson**

Children’s Ministry Director  
[elainec@fbcmint.org](mailto:elainec@fbcmint.org)

#### **Jess Eaton**

Assistant Youth Director  
[jess@fbcmint.org](mailto:jess@fbcmint.org)

#### **Carrie Trondson**

Worship Director  
[carrie@fbcmint.org](mailto:carrie@fbcmint.org)

#### **Rev. Dr. Brandon Smith**

Executive Pastor  
[pastorbrandon@fbcmint.org](mailto:pastorbrandon@fbcmint.org)

#### **Christie Vander Vorst**

Preschool Coordinator  
[clvanderorst@gmail.com](mailto:clvanderorst@gmail.com)

#### **Rees Weigel**

Media Coordinator  
[forrest@fbcmint.org](mailto:forrest@fbcmint.org)

#### **Chris Eaton**

Associate Pastor of  
Student Ministries  
[pastorchris@fbcmint.org](mailto:pastorchris@fbcmint.org)

#### **Cindy Baklenko**

Nursery Director  
[cbaklenko3@gmail.com](mailto:cbaklenko3@gmail.com)

#### **Larry Stenson**

Celebrate Recovery Director  
[larryboy122551@gmail.com](mailto:larryboy122551@gmail.com)

**Note:** All music and video performed under licensed permission by CCLI, CVLI, ASCAP & BMI. License numbers available in the church office

Find details for each ministry at the Information Booth in the Foyer, at [fbcmint.org](http://fbcmint.org), or at the Church Office.