

First Word - Issue 3 - January 18, 2026

## More Than Just Activities

I had a student recently tell me they weren't good at making friends. I asked them how they had started friendships with their three best friends. The response for each one was along the lines of, "I went to a youth event . . . we started playing a game together . . . and I just started talking to them."

Sometimes students either don't think they have friends or they can't make any new ones. This is why weekly games and monthly youth events are more than just activities. As students are given a shared task, they become united and must work together to accomplish a goal. Going through this experience together can be the spark that creates a lasting Christian friendship.

Students are often not that different from all of us. The way friendships form in our students is similar to how our faith grows in different seasons of life. Faith doesn't grow by waiting for certainty, but by venturing into obedience.

Many of us have endured a difficult time in life — winning a game when the odds are against us, meeting a tight deadline at work, suffering from the loss of a loved one. When we have another individual walking alongside us in those fires, bonds are forged.

The Christian life is not one of isolation. God has given us the church body, both to grow us and to help us grow others. Sometimes the idea of holding a conversation with someone can seem like such a daunting task. When we are attentive to the Spirit guiding us to an individual, He will give us the strength to take that first step. As theologian and author Eugene Peterson puts it, "Faith is a long obedience in the same direction." May we continue moving in the direction God is calling us.

In His Service,  
Pastor Christopher Eaton

## This Week At FBC

### Sunday's Sermon

**A Clean Heart Builds a Clear Vision**

**Matthew 5:1-8**

**Pastor Kent Hinkel**

January 18-24

<b>Sunday</b>	4:00p	Missions Committee Meeting
<b>Monday</b>	9:00a to 4:00p	Sew What Care Group
<b>Thursday</b>	1:00p	1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist Seniors
<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

George Whitfield was a central figure in the Great Awakening. Well before that historic event occurred, he was living the life of a devoted disciple of Jesus. He once said, "I have put my soul, as a blank, into the hands of Jesus Christ my Redeemer, and desired him to write upon it what He pleases. I know it will be His own image." As we give ourselves to **Becoming More Devoted Disciples** of Jesus in 2026, here is some recommended reading to supplement your study of Scripture: *Spiritual Discipleship* by J. Oswald Sanders, *The Radical Disciple* by John Stott, *Our Daily Walk* by F.B. Meyer, *Replicate* by Robby Gallaty and Chris Swain, and *What Jesus Said About Successful Living* by Haddon W. Robinson. These resources are also being consulted in the development of some of this year's messages on discipleship.



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The First Great Awakening swept through the American colonies in the 1740s. Its chief architects included George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards who brought to people's hearts the urgency of each person's need for God. Their words, spoken nearly 300 years ago, speak to all who desire to become a devoted disciple of Jesus. Edwards writes, "A true and faithful Christian does not make holy living an accidental thing. It is his great concern. As the business of the soldier is to fight, so the business of the Christian is to be like Christ." **Partners in ministry, Pastor Kent and Trish**

**Missionary of the Week: Tyler and Renae Schmidt-Mission Aviation Fellowship**  
Pray for their children who are struggling with dengue fever and malaria. Their son, Aaron, was air lifted to Australia with complications. Although he is doing better, please continue to offer prayers for healing.

**NCA Ministry of the Week**  
First Baptist, Plevna, MT

### Prayer

We pray for an end to the unrest in Iran and the war in The Ukraine  
We pray for the future of Venezuela as the government is in transition.  
We pray for peace to come amid the present conflict in America's major cities.

### Giving Thanks

In the classic work, *The Existence and Attributes of God*, Englishman Stephen Charnock (1628-1680) writes, "In a good man, how often there is a spiritual lethargy! Though he does not openly defame God, yet he does not always glorify Him. He does not forsake the truth, but he does not seek to rest in it. How hard it is to make our thoughts and affections keep their stand! Place them on a good object, and they will be flying from it like a bird from branch to branch. This ought to trouble us! Though we may stand fast in the truth, and spin our resolutions into a firm web, and though the Spirit may triumph over the flesh in our practice, we ought to bewail the inconstancy of our nature. The stability we do have is from grace. How contrary we are to the unchangeable God, who is always the same!"

Today, let us give thanks for our heavenly Father's unending grace! "Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given" (John 1:16). Seek to rest in grace!

Today, let us give thanks for a heavenly Father who is not fickle and changeable! "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed" (Malachi 3:6). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

### THIS MORNING AT FBC

#### Nursery

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

#### Pre-school/Kindergarten

Sunday School - 9:45a

#### Children's Ministry

Sunday School - 9:45a

#### Children's Church - Ages 3 - 5

Room 101/102 - 11:00a

#### Middle/High School Ministry

Downstairs Lounge - 9:45a

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

Room 106 - 9:45a

#### Adult Ministry

Sunday School - 9:45a

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

## WHAT'S COMING UP AT FBC

**2025 Giving Statement:** This year FBC will email your Giving Statement rather than mail a copy. Please log in to your Church Center Profile to make sure your email address is up to date. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.

**FBC Prayer Chain:** In Ephesians 6:18, Paul instructs us to "Pray in the spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Contact Marsha Rogne to be a part of this meaningful Church Ministry.

**Deaconess Meal Ministry:** If you or someone in our church family recently had a baby or was hospitalized, the FBC Deaconesses would like to love on you by delivering a meal. Please call the Church Office to let us know.

**Sew What Care Group** will be meeting on Monday, January 19, from 9:00a-4:00p. Bring your own project—whether large or small—and join us. Please RSVP at [jkreddig@srt.com](mailto:jkreddig@srt.com) or 720-2224/852-5485 if you plan to attend.

**Men's Monday Night Bible Study:** Do you want to grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord? Join other men on Monday nights, at 7:00p, in the Downstairs Lounge. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

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

**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.

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

**We recently received a damaged check in the mail that subsequently includes limited identifying information. If you sent a check but have not received a deposit notification, please call or stop by the office.**

## CONTACT US

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