

A few Sundays ago, I prayed publicly over the various ministries happening at First Baptist Church. There is a great deal that goes on beyond Sunday Morning worship, and many people are involved. Let me share some of those things with you.

We have four recovery groups that meet in our building at different times during the week. One group meets on Sunday evenings. Two meet on Tuesday mornings, and there is also a group on Wednesday nights. I am grateful our church can provide a safe space for those working on their recovery and moving toward healing.

On Sunday afternoons, the First Baptist Haitian Community meets in the church chapel. They began meeting together in December of last year. The worship service is conducted in the Haitian language and meets the spiritual needs of many in the Haitian community who reside in and around Plainfield.

On Friday evenings, a Spanish-speaking small group meets in our hospitality room. This small group is part of another church in Indianapolis' ministry. That church has small groups that meet throughout Indianapolis, and they needed a place in Plainfield. They learned about our church through some of our ESL students and reached out to us.

Our next ESL session will begin on Thursday, September 4th. Last semester, we had over 90 adults pass through our classes, representing a diverse range of countries and languages. We could certainly use more volunteers as teachers, classroom assistants, greeters, or encouragers. If you are interested, contact Don Weasenforth or me. We work closely with Family Promise in this endeavor, and I am thankful our church is involved in welcoming the stranger as Jesus asked us to do.

Our Outreach Board provides leadership for each of the previously mentioned groups that meet in our church. They are also preparing meals for the homeless once a month. The Outreach Board intentionally ministers beyond the church walls, addressing specific needs, but they are certainly not the only board contributing to what God is doing in and through our church.

We have Bible Study groups that meet in homes for lunch and fellowship on Tuesdays. Our Connectedness board is scheduling opportunities for fellowship and connection. Our Worship Board is continually assessing the merging of our two worship services into one as they seek to provide a meaningful worship experience for all.

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Stewardship

2025 Church Stewardship — Tithes and Offerings

Tithes and Offerings	June 29	July 6	July 13	July 20
General Fund	\$5,500	\$7,209	\$3, 189	\$6,886
Building Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Misc. income	\$4,826	\$3,250	\$928	\$1,130
Total	\$10,326	\$10,459	\$4,117	\$8,016

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Our Spiritual Development board is currently planning an Adult Vacation Bible School this month (17th - 20th), in addition to providing ministry to all ages within our church each Sunday. Our Deacons meet needs through the benevolence offering we give on the first Sunday of the month. They minister to those in their deacon group, and they are currently organizing a church event in the park featuring amazing desserts, homemade ice cream, and an opportunity to get to know our newer members. Our Property Board works to maintain and improve our facility, and is currently undertaking a variety of projects. Our Mission Board actively keeps missions and our missionaries at the forefront. They recently initiated baby showers for the adult children (and soon-to-be-born grandbabies) of two missionary families we have supported for many years. Our Executive Board is responsible for providing accountability to all boards and identifying volunteers to serve on them.

Our church is very active and doing a great deal throughout the week. Your giving makes each of these ministries possible. Your prayers empower what we are doing. Your participation enables us to do all that we can. And, when we all give, pray, and participate, we are prepared to do even more. Thanks for being part of what God is doing through FBCP.

Pastor John

Property Board News

Hospitality Room / Loft Refresh

Changes are on the way! The Property Board, along with the Connectedness Board and Executive Board, are pleased share upcoming plans for a remodeling project in the Hospitality Room and Loft.

Working to make both spaces more effective and useful for gatherings and meetings, the Property Board will begin a project that will add two walls to the existing kitchen in the Loft, effectively creating an enclosed purpose-built kitchen. The two new walls will form an L shape, and adjoin with the current walls in the Loft (south and west side).

The Hospitality Room kitchen area will be moved into the newly created enclosed area in the Loft. There will be two serving windows built—one on the west wall and one on the east wall—which will allow for serving into both areas – Hospitality Room and Loft.

All of the cabinetry and appliances currently in the Hospitality Room will be moved into the new kitchen space for continued use.

This new enclosed kitchen area will allow for more meeting space in the Hospitality Room, and will take away only minimal walking space in the Loft. It will be nice to have a dedicated gathering and meeting space in the Hospitality Room and at the same time meals can be prepared in the new kitchen without being disruptive. (think funeral dinners, etc.).

Designated donations to the Property Board for the remodel will fund the project. Property Board Chair Ron Saxman said that the cost of the remodel will fall within the amount donated. No funds from the Property Board budget, Capital Projects, or general funds will be used for the work. The Property Board will be doing most of the work onsite and we're thankful for the skills that this group has which allows for this.

The project will begin later this fall with hopes that it will be completed by end of year with little disruption. If you have questions, please contact members of the Property Board:
Ron Saxman (Chair),



Adult Vacation Bible School

**EMBARK ON A TRIP TO
ANCIENT GREECE**

August 17-20, 2025
6 pm - 8 pm

Journey with us to Greece! This VBS is for adults only!

We'll visit Philippi, Thessaloniki, Athens, and Corinth as we explore Paul's Missionary Journeys. There will be music with Luanne Marshall; an introduction to each Greek city by Pastor Joyce; Bible Exploration with Pastor John; a Painting Party with John Essex; lots of recreation options; an Olympic Games led by Phyllis Schuck; a Mission project; and, of course, Greek food. Sunday night will kick off with "Greek Fest!" at 5:15 pm. You can sign up for this special meal featuring Greek food. On Wednesday, we'll enjoy a pitch-in dinner at 5:15 pm.

Outreach Board News

Almost Home Shelter with Family Promise of Hendricks County

The families staying in the Almost Home shelter are part of a residential program. While they're experiencing homelessness right now, they are filled with hope and working hard toward having a home of their own soon! Most families stay for 30—90 days, focusing on finding living wage jobs, reliable transportation, and childcare, while also beginning to heal from the trauma of homelessness. Along the way they are supported with case management, stability services, and a community that believes in them. Every family leaves the program ready to move into their own home and start fresh. Also, these are the families that receive our blessing baskets!

The shelter located in Plainfield houses up to six families. The Outreach Board has signed up to host a dinner once a month for these families. We are limited to the number of volunteers we can take each month, but we welcome any way that you feel you can assist: helping prepare a meal, serving, or donating ingredients and other items for the monthly meal.

For those interested in this outreach, we will have a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room. The dates that we have reserved for hosting a dinner are: July 21, August 4, September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 1.

Contact Vickie Davidson with any questions you may have.

Walk Time
In the FMC

**Monday through
Thursday**

10 AM - 12 PM



Mission Board News



American Baptist Annual Offerings

American Baptists have always been a people of mission; mission is in our DNA. First Baptist Church of Plainfield, as an American Baptist Church, participates in collecting four annual offerings associated with our American Baptist denomination; this is completed during each quarter of the year.

March – America for Christ Offering (AFC)

June – One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS)

October – World Mission Offering (WMO)

December – Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

The Mission Board promotes these offerings and has set a goal of \$1,500 for each. We ask that you contribute to these offerings, if you are able, above and beyond your normal tithes/gifts.

Below, you will find a description of the four offerings to help you better understand and appreciate the various offerings. If you have any questions about the offerings, please contact a member of the Mission Board: Stephanie Brown, Aaron Castleman, Beth Castleman, Myrna Parris, Glenda Thompson, Don Weasenforth

America For Christ Offering (AFC)

For over 50 years, generous giving to the AFC offering has enabled ABHMS (American Baptist Home Mission Societies) to provide financial support to American Baptist churches and affiliated organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico each year. This allows American Baptists to support life-changing ministry programs in their local communities that impact thousands - through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes, and much more. Two-thirds of received offerings are directed to the ABHMS, and one-third is directed to the ABC regional office of the giving church (our region is ABC IN/KY).

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

OGHS supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches (ABC) USA and its partners to address chronic needs. The fund is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of ABCUSA.

Throughout the year, there may be special appeals for specific disasters (designated funds), such as the California Fires and Thailand Flooding. The World Relief Committee will disburse the designated and undesignated gifts to domestic and global projects.

World Mission Offering (WMO)

During the WMO, our church can join the transformational work God is doing around the world through International Ministries' (IM) 120+ global servants and 250+ global partners. God can use your participation not only to change lives internationally, but also to deepen your own discipleship in Christ. You can take part in what the Holy Spirit is doing to bring God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." WMO gifts are used for mission program support (global servant, global partner, and other ministry support), administrative support, and development costs. IM does not ask global servants to raise all of the funds they need but comes alongside them in financial support as well as in ministry. When personalized funding falls short, WMO gifts fill the gap and keep global servants in their country of service. Giving to the WMO is the best way to make sure you support all of IM's ministries.

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

The RMMO is a joint project of ABCUSA and MMBB (Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board). Collected annually in December from participating American Baptist congregations, like First Baptist Plainfield, RMMO funds are distributed as "thank you" checks to retired, ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA, as well as surviving spouses. A portion of funds is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. The offering originated in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering and since 1977 has been known as RMMO.



*Serving
the hands
and feet
of Christ*

Missions Giving

Mission's Financial Update

This is the update on our Mission Giving; we have been able to improve upon our mission giving in the 2nd Quarter; however, we did not meet our monthly goals but are hopeful we can make this up throughout the rest of the year. The chart below shows the details:

	General Mission Giving Goal (8.75% of tithes and offerings)	General Mission Actual Giving	Special and Designated Offerings
Jan-25	\$ 2,856.79	\$ 1,183.00	\$ 420.00
Feb-25	\$ 2,923.29	\$ 1,933.00	\$ 295.00
Mar-25	\$ 2,815.62	\$ 883.00	\$ 1,598.00
1st Quarter Totals	\$ 8,595.70	\$ 3,999.00	\$ 2,313.00
Apr-25	\$ 2,081.98	\$ 1,463.00	\$ 120.00
May-25	\$ 2,854.78	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 120.00
Jun-25	\$ 3,625.36	\$ 2,533.00	\$ 1,400.00
2nd Quarter Totals	\$ 8,562.12	\$ 5,071.00	\$ 1,640.00

The Mission Board would like to share with you that we received a letter from American Baptist Churches USA in April 2025 recognizing us for our United Mission Giving. Here is an excerpt from the letter, *"On behalf of the American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary, it is our pleasure to congratulate you and your congregation on being ranked #64 in United Mission giving throughout the entire denomination of approximately 4,700 churches for the calendar year ending December 31, 2024. Congratulations and thank you for your generous support of \$14,563.83 in 2024!"*

Another exciting announcement came from the International Ministries in May 2025. First Baptist Plainfield was recognized as a leader in annual giving to International Ministries and an honorary member of the Luther Rice Society (contributions over \$5,000 annually); we made an impact in supporting our Missionaries in their ministries in Thailand, Democratic Republic of Congo, and India, as well as Missionary Kid care.

These are both great accomplishments, so the Mission Board would like to Thank YOU for your Mission Giving in 2024. We pray that we can continue and improve upon our Mission Giving in 2025! Let's Go First Baptist!!! *These two letters will be posted on the bulletin board next to the Mission TV across from the water fountains.*



CHURCH IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 3

6 - 8 PM AT SWINFORD PARK

1007 Longfellow Dr.

The Deacon Board invites you to
celebrate our new members and enjoy
homemade ice cream and desserts.



Men's Coffee FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, August 30

9:00 am

Hospitality Room



Fall Family Festival

September 28
4 - 6pm



TUESDAY MORNING *Bible Study*

Join us on Tuesdays
at 10 am for a new Women of
Faith study

**“Encouraging One
Another”**

Spiritual Growth

Start your week off right by joining us as we study God's Word together!

Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 9:00am:

THE TABLE (Adult 4 Classroom) Brad and Megan Martin, teachers

ANCHORED in FAITH (Adult 1 Classroom) John Hood, teacher

"What Happens Next: A traveler's guide through the end of this age"

Be prepared, not scared! In this optimistic, accessible, and non-sensational guide to end-times events, Lucado provides a well-researched overview that empowers you to face the future with faith.

TRUTH SEEKERS (Adult 2 Classroom)

"Walk Like Jesus: Who He Calls Us To Be"

Don Weasenforth, Melanie Zeiner, Teresa Perry, Sandy Clemons, teachers

Dive into the life of Christ like never before with the Truth Seekers Bible Study class. Studying not just what He said, but what He did, why He did it, and what that means for you in your context.

LEARNING through LOVE & LAUGHTER (Adult 3 Classroom) Laura Gamm, teacher

Discover ***God's Answers for Today's Problems*** from the book of ***Proverbs***. Take a fresh look at the greatest collection of wisdom ever recorded.

Thank you

- What a wonderful surprise delivery to our pantry from your church's Vacation Bible School food drive. We are so appreciative of all the great food items you brought. The summer is a time when we need extra food due to the kids being home. Thank you! God Bless, Plainfield Federation of Churches at St. Mark's Food Pantry.

Christian Weekday Religious Education (formerly WRE)

Religious Education Release time during school is back and is now accepting registrations! What was known as WRE is now CWRE, Christian Weekday Religious Education, and is open to all 4th grade students in the Plainfield Schools.

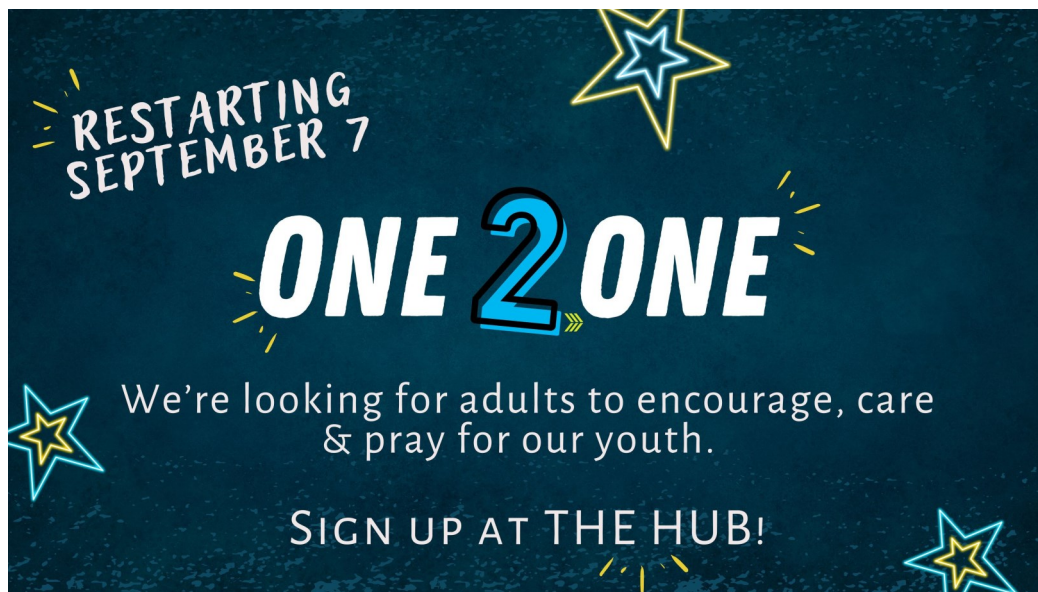
Starting in August students will be released from school for approximately an hour to attend CWRE throughout the school year. Valuable biblical and moral lessons will be taught.

To learn more about CWRE, to register your child, or to volunteer please go to the following link:

<https://bhall36.wixsite.com/cwreplainfield/>



Patty Hession	August 2	Bill Hulse	August 12
Madden Burrin	August 3	Bob Hanger	August 15
Jean Pryor	August 3	Barb Clark	August 17
Ryker Lucas	August 6	Karen Wallace	August 21
Linda Morton	August 6	Larry Sutherlin	August 26
Linda Swank	August 8		





Glenda, Randy, and I loved seeing our youth grow in their faith at QUEST as they stepped out of their comfort zones and tried new things. We saw them lead worship, study the Bible, work together on the challenge course, cheer each other on, and make new friends. We even “adopted” three other youth for the week. **THANK YOU** for making this experience possible!

Pastor Joyce





Worship
Service

10:30 AM
SUNDAYS

Sunday Morning
BIBLE STUDIES

9:00AM
SUNDAYS

SEEK JESUS.
REACH THE COMMUNITY. DO LIFE TOGETHER.



First Baptist Church of Plainfield is an American Baptist church. The mission statement, which is based on Matthew 28:18-20, is "To go, make disciples; baptizing and teaching in obedience to God's command."

First Baptist Church of Plainfield

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Pastoral Staff:

Rev. John Marshall
Senior Pastor

Rev. Joyce Castleman
Associate Pastor of Children &
Spiritual Development