

The Christmas season has arrived. Unlike any other season, the Christmas season beautifully intertwines God, community, and the celebration of our faith as we ponder the birth of Jesus.

Christmas is about Emmanuel— God with us. Christmas invites us to reflect on the birth of Jesus— God enfleshed as one of us. This holy birth offers all humanity hope, peace, joy, and love. This holy birth initiated God's earthly journey, showing us who he is, what he is like, what he wants us to know, and his plan to save humanity through his death, resurrection, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us. This holy birth reminds us of God's faithfulness, God's mission, and our purpose in the world, knowing that God is in us, God is with us — Emmanuel.

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Christmas is also about community. We experience community through traditions such as caroling and special church services. We experience community as we remember past generations and find unity in those memories. We experience community as we focus on the message of Christmas, the very good news (gospel) that God lives among us and loves us. The Christmas season is full of meaning. It ushers in a spirit of generosity, love for others, and a sense of belonging that goes beyond presents and lights. Christmas brings people together in a way no other season does.

Christmas is about celebration. There are many symbols and expressions of Christmas beyond our faith that can be distractions; however, Christmas also brings the story of our faith into focus all over the world. As we celebrate, it is our task and our honor to keep Christ central to the meaning of Christmas. The birth of our Savior is a reminder of God's love and promise of peace for the entire world. Christmas gives us a wide-open door for sharing this truth with others. We celebrate our shared belief, this love, and this unity with open arms as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

May this season fill you with love, hope, renewed purpose, and joy as you celebrate Jesus' birth.

Merry Christmas.

Pastor John

Stewardship

2025 Church Stewardship — Tithes and Offerings

Tithes and Offerings	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23
General Fund	\$11,396	\$3,729	\$9,442	\$3,116
Building Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Misc /or designated	\$1,430	\$247	\$435	\$437
Total	\$12,826	\$3,976	\$9,877	\$3,553



Christmas

EVE SERVICE

Wednesday,
December 24 - 6:30 pm



AN INSPIRATIONAL EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

SPONSORED BY: PLAINFIELD FEDERATION OF CHURCHES

Friday, December 5
7:00pm

Held at First Baptist Church Plainfield

Holiday Activities

Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper

The Deacon Board invites you to join the annual Christmas Caroling and Soup Supper on Sunday, **December 7** at 4:00pm. In addition to the gift of caroling, we will be giving each home bound member an Explosion Box full of notes and goodies from the church. Upon our return, a nice warm soup dinner will be waiting for us, thanks to the Connectedness Board. If you're interested in participating in this fun event, please sign up at the HUB.



Christmas Cookie Exchange

You are invited to join the us for a Cookie Exchange and a delicious lunch!

Pull out your best cookie recipe and invite your friends. Your admission price is two dozen homemade cookies. Lunch will be provided

Tuesday, December 9
Hospitality Room 12:00 noon
Sponsored by the ABW



Encore Christmas Luncheon

"Celebrate Jesus"

December 17 at 12 Noon
Hospitality Room

The meal will be catered so **reservations are required**. Please sign up at the Connection Hub by :
Sunday, December 14.

Christmas Gift Wrapping Party

The FBC Encore group, along with the Mission Board, invite you to attend the Christmas Gift Wrapping Party at Edna Martin Christian Center on **Monday, December 15 from 10:00 to 2:00**. Bring any extra wrapping gift supplies along so we can help wrap their gifts and organize their Christmas Store on our visit to this inner-city mission. All the Christmas Elves should bring a sack lunch, EMCC will supply cookies, punch and coffee. Sign up at the Connection Hub! Meet at FBC at 9:15 to car pool to EMCC. Contact Stephanie Brown for more information.



Christmas Card Express!

Would you like to send Christmas cards to your First Baptist friends?

The Connectedness Board Christmas Card Express will be open for business Sunday, **November 30th** and close **Friday, December 19** (this allows you three Sundays – Nov 30, Dec 7th and 14th – to get those card in so we can sort and deliver!).

The Special Christmas Mailbox will be directly inside the Main Entrance Door (beginning Nov 30). **On December 21st**, cards will be bundled by family and may be picked up in the Hospitality Room.

Start early filling those cards and don't miss the December 19 deadline!



Mission Board News

Missions Financial Update

This is the update on our Mission Giving; we have been able to improve upon our mission giving in the 3rd Quarter; however, we did not meet our monthly goals but are hopeful we hopeful that we can make this up throughout the rest of the year. The chart below shows the details:

Quarterly Missions Giving Report						
	Projected Mission Giving - 8.75% of Tithes	Total Mission Actual Giving	Missionary Support (\$350 *3)	ABC United Missions (varies)/ABC IN-KY (\$83)/ Edna Martin (\$50)	Supported Campaigns (AFC, OGHS, WMO, RMMO)-Varies	Mission Giving Shortage
January-25	\$ 2,856.79	\$ 1,603.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 133.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 1,673.79
February-25	\$ 2,923.29	\$ 2,228.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 883.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 990.29
March-25	\$ 2,815.62	\$ 2,761.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 133.00	\$ 1,598.00	\$ 2,232.62
1st Quarter Mission Giving	\$ 8,595.70	\$ 6,592.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 1,149.00	\$ 2,313.00	\$ 4,896.70
April-25	\$ 2,081.98	\$ 1,583.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 413.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 618.98
May-25	\$ 2,854.78	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,987.78
June-25	\$ 3,625.36	\$ 3,933.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,183.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 642.36
2nd Quarter Mission Giving	\$ 8,562.12	\$ 6,711.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 1,771.00	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 3,249.12
July-25	\$ 2,193.63	\$ 2,443.63	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,143.63	\$ 250.00	\$ (0.00)
August-25	\$ 3,347.05	\$ 2,780.05	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,430.05	\$ 300.00	\$ 867.00
September-25	\$ 2,225.96	\$ 1,825.96	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 675.96	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00
3rd Quarter Mission Giving	\$ 7,766.63	\$ 7,049.64	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 3,249.64	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,366.99

We have made some improvements in our 3rd quarter giving: the mission giving shortage of \$1,366.99 is the lowest this year, the shortage is mainly due to our lack of giving to ABC United Missions, which supports various ministries throughout ABC USA. We have paid our three Missionaries \$350 each month, Edna Martin \$50 per month and ABC IN/KY \$83 per month. Let's keep up the good work FBC Plainfield and make that shortage even lower in the 4th quarter!

—Stephanie Brown, Chair
Missions Board



Adult Ministries



TUESDAY MORNING *Bible Study* "Building Your Strengths"

Join us as we study from Patsy Clairmont's book. Discover that true strength comes from leaning on God in all situations and using your gifts to shine His light and glory to the world around you.

TUESDAYS AT 10:00AM CLASSROOM 3

A Men's Bible Study & Coffee

Saturday: January 24
9:00 am Hospitality Room



The last two months of the year are recognized as months set aside for expressing our thanks to show appreciation and giving gifts to those we wish to honor. It is also the time of our last big offering for 2025, the **RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING (RMMO)**. Recipients include retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABC-USA (American Baptist Churches United States of America). A Legacy of Love: Honoring Those Who've Served.

I'm sure many in the congregation remember a past minister, retired now, who holds a special place in your heart because of their spiritual guidance, their fun and laughter during party games, and the family who were so much a part of the church, school and community. Following God's call often comes with sacrifice. Many retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses have served faithfully, yet often lack the resources to fully prepare for life's later seasons -- health challenges, the loss of a spouse, or isolation.

Thank You Checks from money donated in 2024 have already been delivered to 3,331 retired ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses. The 2024 amount given was divided between two categories— Thank You Checks (62%) and Emergency Assistance (38%). All the money goes to RMMO recipients, in the form of a Thank You Check, and, when necessary, to meet immediate emergency and special financial needs.

The theme for the 2025 RMMO challenge is taken from 1 Corinthians 16:14. Let all that you do be done in love. As retired ministers have shown their love for us through the years, so we too, can show our love to them by giving as God would direct us to this final offering, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

These gifts meet real needs and offer comfort in life's most vulnerable moments:

"Thank you for the RMMO gift. An unexpected and generous blessing. Thank you for all you do in Jesus's name."—Retiree from California

"Thank you for the special gift you've extended at the end of the year. It has helped with medical expenses for my wife, who is now in hospice care."—Retiree from Muncy, PA

Mission Board News



American Baptist Women Collection for Edna Martin Christian Center

ABW of First Baptist Plainfield annually collects goods to benefit the Edna Martin Christian Center. Collection will occur November 16 – December 7. As usual, we will collect basic Kitchen Staples and Canned Goods for their Food Pantry. A full list will be provided at the collection table. We will also be helping them meet their Christmas Gift needs for over 300 children! Please consider helping with the effort by purchasing a gift(s), the list is available at the collection table next to the Connection Hub. Please support this inner-city mission.

Mission Opportunity: Midwest Food Bank

Please Join the Mission Board and volunteer with us at the **Midwest Food Bank** on **Saturday, January 3 from 9:00 – 12:00**. This event was re-scheduled from November 1. Please sign up at the Connection Hub; we need at least 10 volunteers to proceed with the opportunity to serve others. A lunch outing will occur after our shift for those who want to attend. Meet at the church at 8:15 to carpool.

Witmer Thank You

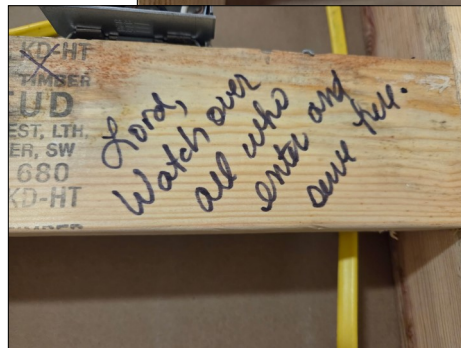
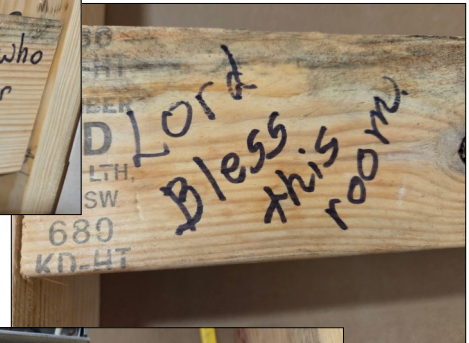
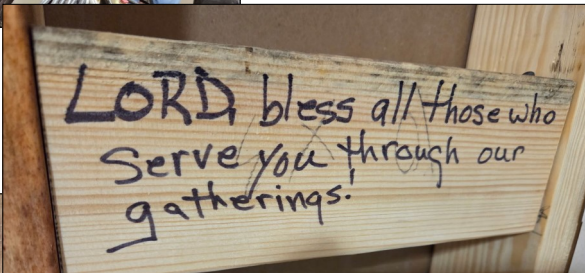
Brennan and Ariana Witmer send their appreciation for the generosity of our church family for the Amazon Gift Card that we were able to send them for the newest member of their family, Carolyn May. She is 2 ½ months old now and they are loving every minute of being parents. And our ABC Thailand grandparents Kyle and Debby Witmer are pretty happy, too!

**SEEK JESUS.
REACH THE COMMUNITY. DO LIFE TOGETHER.**

Property Board News



Work continues on the new kitchen remodel in the Loft and Hospitality Room. When completed, there will be a dedicated kitchen with two serving windows (Loft and Hospitality Room). The walled-in kitchen will allow for meetings to take place in both spaces without disruptions from food preparation. Soon, the existing appliances will make their way to the new space. The construction crew, headed up by Paul Frye, left prayer blessings on some of the lumber before it was drywalled.



Thailand Mission Trip

THANK YOU for all your prayers, encouragement, and support for our Thailand Mission Team as they met with our American Baptist Missionaries and taught two classes at the Siloam Bible College! Here are some pictures from our time in Thailand.



Thank you

- Thank you to all who contributed to the November Food collection for the Plainfield Federation of Churches Food Pantry located at St. Mark's. They were thrilled to receive our 87 cans of soup to offer those in their longer lines these days. We will be collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese in January.



Happy Birthday

Miranda Means	Dec 1
Lennes Smith	Dec 5
Cheryl Phillips	Dec 6
Jeff Zeiner	Dec 8
Betty Holland	Dec 10
Flavio Acosta	Dec 11
Russ Rader	Dec 11
Dean Caldwell	Dec 12
Nancy Bruns	Dec 13
Jim Hession	Dec 14

David Poray	Dec 14
Cheryl Frye	Dec 16
Immy Caldwell	Dec 18
Karissa Frank	Dec 20
Tom Johnson	Dec 22
Marc Pierre Noel	Dec 22
Reann Poray	Dec 26
Susie Wilson	Dec 27
Myrna Parris	Dec 29

Spiritual Growth

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

Sunday Morning Bible Studies at 9:00am:

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

"The Promise of Heaven" a study from Dr. David Jeremiah

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

"What's So Amazing About Grace"

It's one thing to talk about grace; it's another to experience its power. Discover how radical and life-changing grace can be.

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

On break until January 2026



Christmas Party and Reindeer Games!

Sunday, December 14 from 4 – 5:30 pm

Youth & BLAST Kids, get ready for fun, food, crafts, and of course games!

Bring a \$12 gift to exchange.



Birthday Party for Jesus!

Sunday, December 21 during worship.

For Creation Station & Power Zone Kids.





Fusion Youth Ministry Weekend

January 23-24, 2026

at Terre Haute First Baptist Church
for 6th – 12th grade students

REGISTER NOW for this AMAZING WEEKEND! Along with worship services and workshops exploring prayer, friendship and worship in art, there will be lots of fun activities! Friday night we will enjoy late night bowling and pizza. Cost: \$25

HELP OUR YOUTH and ADULTS! We will be sleeping in rooms throughout the church during the Fusion Youth Ministry Weekend. If you have a twin size air mattress, cot, or camping bed we can borrow, contact the church office or Pastor Joyce. THANKS!

Sunday Mornings

9 AM

First Baptist Kids

Sunday Morning Youth (6th–12th grade)

10:30 AM

Nursery & Wobblers

Creation Station for Preschoolers

Power Zone (K–5th grade)

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