

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. Colossians 1:28

The above verse (which I shared in a recent sermon) highlights the Apostle Paul's desire to help people become whole, or complete, in Christ. Paul is explaining why he works so hard, endures so much, and makes so many sacrifices as he carries out his ministry. Basically, Paul is explaining his call.

As I've shared with you before, I gave my life to Christ on January 10, 1972. I was seven. Twelve years later, when I was a sophomore in college, I felt God calling me into the ministry. That call happened on December 25, 1983, nearly 42 years ago. At that time, I committed to following God wherever God led me.

Being a minister hasn't always been easy. I have had discouraging seasons, times when I wanted to walk away to pursue other jobs. My family has moved multiple times, including international moves. There have been challenges, sacrifices, and costs along the way. There have also been incredible blessings and seasons of God's presence and undeniable activity. Looking back over the years, there is no doubt that God has been there through every moment. My history with God keeps me going. A sense of purpose pushes me on.

Luanne and I have lived in many places during our 38 years of marriage. In each home (including our seminary apartment), we've symbolized our commitment to that place by doing improvement projects both inside and out. Those hands-on projects signify to us, "this place is home", and if the Lord moves us elsewhere, the home we've invested in will be better than it was when we arrived.

For me, that same mindset plays out in the church. Wherever the Lord has called me to serve, I go with a commitment to follow God's leading in serving the body and moving us together to a better place, a healthier place. That certainly includes the physical building, but more importantly, I want us to grow in spiritual depth and in how we reflect Jesus to the world, so, for as long as the Lord has me here, this is the vision for the church I will follow.

This kind of church community is known for its kindness and warmth to all people from all walks of life.. It is a church that outwardly expresses, beyond our walls, the full expression of who Christ is. It is a church that expresses love for God by loving others both corporately and individually. It is a community that worships God without distraction or limitation. It is a body that is healthy, and healthy things flourish; they grow.

This is what I, and many of you, long for at First Baptist Church. This vision is the one God placed in me almost 42 years ago. This vision has remained consistent in every place God has called me to minister. This call, this vision, keeps me walking with Jesus. This vision moves all of us toward becoming whole, perfect in Christ. Let's continue to move forward together, following the Holy Spirit, growing in Christ, and becoming all God has called us to be.

Pastor John

Stewardship

2025 Church Stewardship — Tithes and Offerings

Tithes and Offerings	Sep 28	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19
General Fund	\$5,972	\$11,053	\$5,586	\$10,507
Building Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Misc. income	\$467	\$3,156	\$933	\$1,024
Total	\$6,439	\$14,209	\$6,519	\$21,531



On October 28th, we are sending out six from our church to Thailand. We will be working with the Karen seminary students preparing for ministry in Chiang Mai. Each of us on the team has a role to fulfill, and the seeds we sow through this mission work will be long-lasting in the lives of these seminary students. Pray for us as we travel, stamina during our days of teaching, and staying healthy until we return on November 13th.

Pictured (l-r): Rick Kivett, Aaron Castleman, Pastor Joyce Castleman, Don Weasenforth, Esther Weasenforth, Pastor John Marshall

SEEK JESUS. REACH THE COMMUNITY. DO LIFE TOGETHER.

Annual Church Business Meeting

Sunday, November 9

11:30am (after service)

Questions?

Informational meetings will be held on the 2026 proposed budget:

Sunday Nov 2: 10:00am and 11:30am in The Loft

Copies of the 2026 budget and Boards are available at The Hub

Penny Project for Blessing Baskets

Did you know it has been 10-years since the Penny Project was started to fund the Blessing Baskets? My, how time does fly! With the assistance of Family Promise, we have seen many families graduate from homelessness to a new-to-them home and we celebrate this milestone with them by providing a laundry basket filled with cleaning, laundry and everyday supplies. The funds for the Blessing Baskets are low. Since COVID, we no longer collect coins, but encourage you to give as the Spirit leads you. Funds for the Blessing Baskets can be placed in the offering plate or a designated gift can be made through the church's website. Thank you for your support.



Christmas in Plainfield

An inspirational musical event celebrating the birth of Jesus! Sponsored by the Plainfield Federation of Churches held at First Baptist Church Plainfield.

Friday,
December 5,
2025 at
7:00pm

Activities for All



Do you enjoy singing in a choral ensemble? Come join us on Tuesday evenings, November 25 and December 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the music room as we prepare special music to sing at "Christmas in Plainfield" on December 5, and during Sunday worship, December 7.

Questions? Contact Melanie Zeiner



Dig Deeper with Friends

Bring your lunch and join us!

We'll spend time discussing a topic of interest while enjoying a fellowship lunch.

**Wednesday, November 5 at noon
in the Hospitality Room.**



Adult Ministries

A Men's Bible Study & Coffee

Saturday: Nov 22
9:00 am Hospitality Room



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

Holiday Activities



Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 23

7:00 p.m.

Hosted at First Baptist

Come join our brothers and sisters from other community churches for an hour of music, message and gratitude to God.

Hope to see you there!

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.



Operation Christmas Child



Looking to spread some international Christmas cheer this year? Consider filling a shoebox for a child. [Operation Christmas Child](#), operated by Samaritan's Purse, will be collecting and distributing wrapped and filled shoeboxes to children all over the world, sharing Jesus' love and the Gospel through these small gifts.

Check out the display near the Connection Hub for more information on how to fill a shoebox. You may also contact Reann Poray with questions. This is a Mission Board ministry.

Shoeboxes are due: Sunday, November 16

Annual Christmas Fluffing party

Come help fluff up the wreaths, brush off the bows, and put together some Christmas trees on **Tuesday, November 18 at 10AM**. We need to get an earlier start this year, and many hands make light work! Join us for a thank you Pizza party afterwards. Sign up at The HUB. Contact Teresa Perry with questions.



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 cards 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!*



Christmas Cookie Exchange

You are invited to join 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



This week I read a short journal article written by Baillie Myers, a Short-Term Mission Associate with International Ministries. Baillie had the privilege of leading a small team on a Discovery Trip to Southern Central Mexico. This trip was intentionally different: they did not build a structure, hold a Bible School, or teach a class. Their goal was to be present, to listen and to learn from the people with whom they met.

The group traveled through four different communities—each with its own culture, people, foods and expressions of faith. Our main task? Sitting at tables, sharing meals, hearing stories. It was through those moments—unhurried, sacred, and real—that we began to understand the heart of these communities.

So often we become consumed with doing--checking off tasks, completing goals, moving from one thing to the next. But what if God is inviting us to stop and simply **be present**?

That's what this trip reminded me (Baillie Myers) to value again. Not productivity. Not outcomes. Just presence. For me, this journey was also deeply personal. As a missionary kid who grew up in Mexico, returning felt like coming home. It was a joy to introduce our team to the beauty, warmth, and strength of a place and a people who have shaped so much of who I am. The individuals we met were not strangers; they are part of my extended family.

As I reflect on this Discovery Trip, I continue to dive deeper into the life of Jesus. I'm struck by how often He stopped. He made space for the stories of others—the beggar (Mark 10:46-52), the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10), and the children (Mark 10:13-16). He saw them. He heard them. And they were changed, not because He fixed their problems immediately, but because He was fully present.

This trip challenged me to do the same. To listen more. To notice more. To slow down.

What about you? Are you taking time to listen?

CROP Walk success!

60 walkers from multiple churches and 10 police officers gathered for walking and fellowship on Sept. 28. \$3000+ was raised to STOP HUNGER. Let's continue to pray for God's guidance and protection for those that serve and protect us every day in our community.

Mission Board News

American Baptist Women Collection for Edna Martin Christian Center

ABW of First Baptist Plainfield annually collects goods to benefit Edna Martin Christian Center, an urban Indianapolis ministry. Collection of items will occur November 16 – December 7. As usual, we will collect basic kitchen staples and canned goods for their Food Pantry. Full list will be provided soon.

We will also be helping them meet their Christmas Gift needs; their greatest needs this year are for the Older Youth (13 – 17 years). Some ideas for Girls: Scented Lotions/Body Wash, Jewelry making kits, socks. Some ideas for the Boys: Axe Body Wash/Deodorant, Basketball/Football/Soccer balls, and socks. Please support this inner-city mission. Save your gift wrapping paper, bows and tape so we can help wrap their gifts and organize their Christmas Store on our visit sometime early December, more details on this to come too.



The 2nd Witmer grandchild has arrived: Julia (Witmer) and Adam Boardwell welcomed Winnifred (Winnie) in the wee hours of Sunday, September 28, 2025. Mom, Dad and Winnie are doing well. Proud grandparents are Kyle and Debby Witmer, our ABC missionaries in Thailand.

The Mission Board received a Thank-You letter from Family Promise:

We want to thank you for hosting the Pancake Breakfast and your generous donation of \$675.75 on September 19, 2025. Your support means the world to us here at Family Promise.

Because of your compassion, we can continue providing crucial services to families in need. Your donation plays a direct role in ensuring families have access to emergency housing, long term housing solutions, and key supportive services like childcare, employment support and transportation. It's this holistic approach that allows us to foster real, sustainable change.

In 2024, we ended homelessness for over 126 households and prevented it for 976. Our work doesn't stop at just providing homes, we are fighting for broader changes that will create opportunities for everyone in our community to thrive.

Your generosity truly makes a difference and your belief in our mission fuels meaningful change, and we're deeply grateful for your partnership in this life-changing work.

Sincerely, Jennifer Crooks, Chief Operating Officer

Dig Deeper: Food, Insecure Recap

On October 8, the Mission Board hosted the Dig Deeper lunch discussion session by viewing the documentary “**Food, Insecure**”. Here are a few insights that depict the state of food insecurity in Indiana.

Hunger in Indiana

- Over 1 million Hoosiers require food assistance. This includes households across income levels, from deep poverty to those earning above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (Survey Report: Food Assistance and Hunger in Indiana, Indy Hunger Network, 2024).
- Food assistance provided 87% of meals needed. Nonetheless, nearly all these families (92%) had low or very low food security.
- Hunger has increased: 40% of food-insecure households went hungry in a given week, compared to 23-29% in prior studies (Survey Report, 2024).
- Only 6% of households always eat nutritious meals, while 25% rarely or never do. Fruits and vegetables are the most commonly missing food groups, cited by 72% and 68% of respondents, respectively (Survey Report, 2024).

Impacts of Food Insecurity

- Food insecurity is linked to poorer health, lower worker productivity, and reduced academic performance (Poorly Understood, p.16).
- Health issues correlated with food insecurity include poor overall health, cardiovascular disease, hyperlipidemia, stroke, kidney disease, chronic pain, inflammation, pulmonary disease, and diabetes.
- Food insecurity is also strongly associated with behavioral health problems including depression, anxiety, binge eating, substance use disorders, and more. (Myers and Temple, 2024)

Low Wages and Working Poverty

- Three quarters (75.7%) of households with a food need reported that one or more persons in their household were employed for wages. (Survey Report, 2024)
- Low wage jobs are common, with 41% of Indiana jobs not paying the current living wage of \$21/hr. (Economic Policy Institute’s Low Wage Workforce Tracker and MIT’s Living Wage Calculator)
- In Indiana, 12 of the 20 most common occupations pay a median wage under \$18/hour, and 9 of these pay less than \$15/hour. (Overlooked & Undercounted, 2022; Survey Report, 2024)

The CEO of Gleaners, Fred Glass, stated that “food insecurity is not about the food, it’s about poverty. People are poor and they don’t have access to the food.” In the documentary, several families that struggle with food insecurity were interviewed; here are a couple of quotes from them:

Kayla – “Feeling punished to get ahead in life.”

Heidi – “I work 3 jobs just to make it. It’s hard for those who work and those who don’t work. It doesn’t make sense.”

Liz and Nigel – “We are trying to do the right things, but our past hinders us moving forward.”

Food pantries are a ‘Band-Aid’, systematic changes are needed; this needs to be driven through the government, corporations and community. The Faith Community needs to demonstrate hospitality, graciousness, love and compassion to their neighbors.

What can you do right now? Join the Mission Board and volunteer with us at the **Midwest Food Bank** on **Saturday, November 1st from 9:00 – 12:00**. 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.

CWRE Van Drivers / Volunteers Needed

Christian Weekday Religious Education **Needs Volunteers!** Volunteers are needed to escort and walk students to and from school to the Plainfield Friends Church **and we need van drivers, no special license is required**. Vans are provided.

If you are available and interested in helping please call Nettsie Banning @ 317-502-7402. CWRE meets on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:30 - times volunteers needed varies. Thank you!



Welcome, Teresa!

Administrative Assistant

As we look ahead, and prepare for the transition of Linda Hood as administrative assistant for the last seven years, we are pleased to share that Teresa Perry has accepted this position and will begin on November 10 as our new church administrative assistant.

Thank you

- Don and Sandy Clemons write: “Thank you sweet church family for the calls, texts, cards, and presence at our loved one’s visitation. You blessed us. Don, Sandy, and family”
- From Glenda Thompson, President of the Plainfield Church Federation: “Thank you to all who contributed to the annual coat drive in October. Our church collected 121 coats, along with hats and gloves, to keep many adults and children warm this winter. What a blessing to share in this way!”
- Jasmine Clemmer (daughter of ABC missionaries Bill and Ann) sent this note of thanks: “Your thoughtfulness meant so much to me and I just want you to know I truly appreciate it. We just wanted to take the time to thank your church for the gift cards. Words can’t describe how appreciative we are. God Bless, Jasmine & Trey, Trevion and Treshon”

Hospitality Room Kitchen Remodel Update



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

Property Board reports that the remodel began on Monday Oct 20th. The new walls will be up by Oct 31st. We are hopeful to have the project totally completed by Dec. 15th. Paul Frye is overseeing the project construction, with Donna Hutchens consulting. Once completed all kitchen related items from the Hospitality Room will be moved into the new kitchen. This will give us the flexibility and ability to prepare meals anytime and not disturbing the Hospitality Room or The Loft.



Nolan Brown	Nov 3
Dova Copeland	Nov 4
Margaret Schafer	Nov 4
Connie Bourne	Nov 6
Charlie Means	Nov 6
Harold Franks	Nov 8
Eddie Frank	Nov 9
John Poray	Nov 9

Nick Caldwell	Nov 12
Braxton Nikoll	Nov 15
Michael Worthington	Nov 15
Ednel Dorsainval	Nov 22
Carol Lowe	Nov 22
Nancy Painter	Nov 23
Terri Singleton	Nov 25
Jennifer Miller	Nov 26

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
"Peace of Mind"

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.

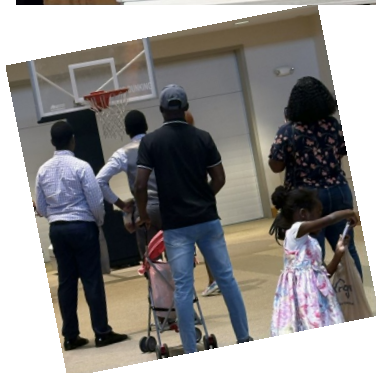
LEARNING through LOVE & LAUGHTER (Adult 3 Classroom) Laura Gamm, teacher
"What's So Amazing About Grace"

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

Fall Festival Fun

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Fall Family Festival!
Your help made the event a success and we couldn't have done it without you!





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