

I can see it on your faces. I can hear your concern through your words. I can read what you write. There is a great deal of chaos in our world today, and it is impacting you.

I am an artist, and I love to study paintings. I observe the shapes, the scenes, and the colors to discover meaning in the picture and what the artist was trying to convey. It's all there, but it can be hard to see. Suppose an artist painted chaos. In your mind, what would a painting of chaos look like? Would it be dark? Foreboding? No discernible images?

There is a scripture passage that paints a picture of chaos. It says: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty; darkness was over the surface of the deep." Genesis 1:1 This is a description of chaos— formless, empty, dark.

How does one paint formless? What shape is it? In my view, something formless has no discernible shape or structure. It is hazy, shadowy, vague, and nebulous. You can't get a good look at it or define it.

How does one convey emptiness in a painting? How can an artist paint emptiness? How can we see emptiness? Emptiness is void of everything. Again, no substance, no shape, no form—nothing.

And then, imagine the formless and the empty being cloaked in total darkness, leaving the viewer incapable of seeing anything, even the obscure and nebulous. This is chaos. It is what pre-creation was like. No order, no structure, no contents, and deep darkness.

AND in that chaotic space, the Spirit of God hovered, present from the very beginning. Present in the formless and empty chaos. The only thing the chaos was not void of was the presence of the Spirit. It all began this way, and it remains this way. Even in our present-day chaos, the Spirit of God is here.

Then, we read the first recorded spoken words of God: "Let there be light." Out of darkness, God spoke light into existence. There was light. It was good

Let's return to our artist theme for a moment. If you were to paint chaos, what would it look like? I imagine most of us don't paint many pictures, and if we did, they probably wouldn't be paintings of chaos, but we know chaos. We can experience it in us and around us, so let me encourage you with two truths.

First, the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is ever-present with us, even in the chaos. When we feel alone, discouraged, covered in darkness, the Spirit of God hovers over our own chaotic world. The Spirit of God is unfazed by chaos.

Second, when all we can see in our lives and world is chaos, remember God's first recorded words: "Let there be light, and there was light", and there is light. May the light of the world shine upon you. May the Lord guide you down paths of righteousness. May you shine like stars in the universe in a crooked and chaotic world (Ph. 2:15). And may *you* be the light of the world, shining the light and love of Christ in the chaos.

*Pastor John*

# Stewardship

## 2025 Church Stewardship — Tithes and Offerings

<b>Tithes and Offerings</b>	<b>Aug 31</b>	<b>Sep 7</b>	<b>Sep 14</b>	<b>Sep 21</b>
General Fund	\$6,935	\$8,796	\$6,926	\$4001
Building Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$75
Misc. income	\$752	\$2,783	\$930	\$1,395
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,687</b>	<b>\$11,579</b>	<b>\$7,856</b>	<b>\$5,471</b>

Save the Date !

## Christmas in Plainfield

Friday, December 5, 2025  
at 7:00pm

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

## Choral Ensemble

Do you enjoy singing in a choral ensemble?

Come join us on October 1 & 8 at  
5:30 p.m. in the music room as we  
prepare special music to sing on  
Sunday, October 12

Questions?  
Contact Melanie Zeiner

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

Right now, there are opportunities to serve in 2026 at First Baptist — You don't have to be perfect, you just have to be willing. Whether it's greeting someone at the door, helping a child learn about God's love, helping with the property, or running the sound booth, your part matters. If you've been wondering how God might want to use you, this could be your next step.

Our 2026 board and ministry opportunities include:

Deacon Board — ministering through personal connection [ 2 open positions]

Mission Board — supporting missionaries and missions in our communities [1 open position]

Property Board — serving with a desire for the church property /grounds [3 open positions]

Spiritual Development Board — ministering with Christian Education [1 open chair position]

Stewardship Board — ministering through financial management [2 open positions]

If you feel led to join any of these ministries or would like more information on a particular board and their responsibilities, please let me know.

We hope to have our 2026 boards set and ready for the November 9 annual business meeting.

Reann Poray  
Chair, Executive Board

**Annual Church Business Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 9**  
**11:30am (after service)**

Please plan to attend this important meeting

# Upcoming Activities

## *Ladies Night: A Taste of Italy*

On **Saturday, October 18 at 5pm**, The **Connectedness Board** is sponsoring a fun night of fellowship, food, and assembling a craft project. Dinner is provided.

Come create, decorate, and fill up a holiday gift which will be given to our homebound members at the annual churchwide Christmas Caroling event on Sunday, December 7.



## Fall Family Festival

Get ready to play games, win prizes, enjoy the Bounce House and food!

**September 28**  
**4 - 6pm**





# A Men's Bible Study & Coffee

Saturdays: Sept 28, Oct 25, 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**



October is a time of transition. The flower beds are turning brown and require more attention. The pond is low, and the fish are jumping more often to catch low flying objects.

Life is also in transition. While reading some Global Servant Journal news, I was made aware of missionaries who have recently died and completed their tasks on earth. Others have simply retired from 35 or 40 years of service on the mission field as a global servant with International Ministries, but plan to continue working in a similar situation as a volunteer because they see a need and feel God's call to continue helping.

The story of Global Servant Susan Hegarty is very interesting. Sue's father was an American Baptist minister in Pennsylvania. He would have loved to have a missionary doctor in the family, but Susan was drawn to languages and deep biblical text. In university she majored in French and minored in Spanish. In 1982, she graduated seminary, with a Master of Arts in Religion. In the mid 80's she organized a mission trip to Nicaragua for her church. In 1989 she returned as a short-term volunteer through International Ministries. From 1991 to 1995 she served as a special service worker. In 1996 she was officially commissioned as an IM global servant. Sue wrote curriculum and held Christian education workshops for Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention, intentionally creating content for teens and young adults. From 1998 to 2010, Sue served in Cuba, teaching Greek and Christian education at the Eastern Baptist Seminary. In 2012, she was invited to Costa Rica where she worked with immigrant women and their children coming out of domestic violence situations. Early on in Latin America she learned an important lesson: **ministry is relational**. Even as she retires, Sue plans to continue relational ministry, engaging in Bible studies, and volunteering with the Talita Cumi Girls' Club in Costa Rica.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

The Mission Board is grateful for your participation in our first Pancake Breakfast for Family Promise; without you it wouldn't have been a successful event. We served over **55** folks on Saturday morning but more importantly, we raised over **\$ 675.75** for Family Promise of Hendricks County. You are the BEST!!

The Mission Board

# Mission Board News



## Dig Deeper: Food Insecurity Documentary

Food insecurity is a critical issue affecting millions of people in the United States and around the world, including right here in Indiana.

The Mission Board will be presenting a 30-minute video on **October 8 for the Dig Deeper topic**. This documentary provides valuable insights into the causes, effects, and lived experiences of individuals and families facing food access challenges. When viewing a documentary about food insecurity, consider the following points:

- **Personal Narratives:** Listen to the firsthand accounts of those who experience food insecurity. Their stories add a human dimension to the data.
- **Systemic Causes:** Note discussions about the root causes of food insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, systemic inequities, and access to healthy food
- **Community and Policy Responses:** Observe examples of community-based solutions, nonprofit organizations' roles, and government policies aimed at addressing the problem.
- **Call to Action:** Many documentaries end with ways viewers can help, such as volunteering, advocacy, or supporting food programs.

After viewing, we will reflect on the main messages and consider discussing your thoughts about what you learned and what actions might make a difference in your community.

The Mission Board will be working on planning a day where we can unite our hands with an organization that provides food for the community in need in late October or early November.

**Wednesday, October 8 at 12 noon**  
**in the Hospitality Room**  
**(Bring you own lunch)**



## 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 Nettie Banning @ 317-502-7402.

CWRE meets on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:30 - times volunteers needed varies. Thank you!

### Almost Home Shelter Dinners: where serving others is love in action!

Thank you to all who have been supporting the Outreach Board Ministry since we served our first meal in May. We appreciate your continued support by the food items donated, meals, sides, drinks and desserts that have been given. We serve up to six families every month. The families have gone from homelessness to a temporary place until they move forward. For them to know that someone cares and supports them means a lot. They are so appreciative. We on the Outreach Board are so appreciative too!



Bob Means	Oct 01	Rick Kivett	Oct 18
Sandy Wagner	Oct 02	Brad Clemons	Oct 20
Ryland Henning	Oct 04	Teresa Perry	Oct 20
Marvis Hocker	Oct 07	Terri Worthington	Oct 20
David Brandenburg	Oct 10	Mark Hood	Oct 22
Henry Hood	Oct 12	Susie Parsley	Oct 23
Jean Louis Jeune	Oct 12	Matt Miller	Oct 25
Brylynn Singleton	Oct 15	Elizabeth Brandenburg	Oct 27
Loretta Broyles	Oct 16	Nathaniel Brown	Oct 28
Pat Connell	Oct 16	Jack Wiltermood	Oct 31
Jayellen Walker	Oct 16		



# 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  
"God Never Gives Up On You" a study from Max Lucado

**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.



## FBC Pictorial Directory

The FBCP Pictorial Directory will be updated in the next few weeks. If you would like an updated picture taken or if you've never had you or your family's picture taken for the directory, please see Linda in the Church Office on Sunday, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 or Oct 12 from 10:00 – 10:20 a.m. to get your pictures taken.

### 2025 Bundle Up Coat Drive

This year's coat drive will be September 28 - October 12! We need gently used clean or new coats, jackets, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens.

Watch for the blue collection barrel to appear in the main church foyer mid-September. The coat drive giveaway will be Saturday, October 18 from 10am - 2pm at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds.



### Second Graders Receive Bibles

On Sunday, September 21, six young second-graders received their own personal copy of a Children's Bible.

Pastor Joyce presented their bibles to them during the worship service. Congratulations to them and we hope as they read the Word of God that their hearts will fill with Jesus' love.



## Apple Works Outing

Get ready for some fun as we go to Apple Works in Trafalgar after church on **Sunday, October 19**. We'll enjoy wagon rides, live music, the petting zoo, climbing in the tree house, hiking the nature trails, picking pumpkins & apples, sliding out of the barn, finding our way through the bamboo maze, train rides, face painting, and a pony ride!

The cost is \$7.



Bring along a picnic lunch, or you can purchase food there.

### *Sunday Mornings*

9 AM

First Baptist Kids

Sunday Morning Youth (6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade)

10:30 AM

Nursery & Wobblers

Creation Station for Preschoolers

Power Zone (K–5<sup>th</sup> 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**

**1012 Stafford Road**  
**Plainfield, IN 46168**  
**(317) 839-8163**

[www.FirstBaptistPlainfield.org](http://www.FirstBaptistPlainfield.org)

### **Pastoral Staff:**

**Rev. John Marshall**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Joyce Castleman**  
Associate Pastor of Children &  
Spiritual Development