

10:45 am Worship Service

September 14, 2025

SERMON

"Find Us Faithful"

Rev. Dr. Jim Abernathy

Proverbs 22: 1-6, Matthew 5:14-16

FAB Staff

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**Fifth Avenue
Baptist Church**
LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

1135 Fifth Ave.
Huntington, WV 25701
Change Service Requested

"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" - Matthew 14:31

I imagine very few Fifth Avenue congregation members aspire to become trapeze artists, but the Christian imagery in this occupation is undeniable.

First, the idea of fixing your eye on the short and narrow path before you screams Sermon on the Mount "...strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life.. Matthew 7:14." I cannot speak from personal experience, but I would imagine that to successfully trek across the wire, you need laser-focused tunnel vision. Then there is the training, not just for success but for literal survival. "...This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Joshua 1:8"

But it seems to be the imagery of the safety-net that grabs my heart the most. When your eye inevitably veers off the path, the space around you becomes too vast to ignore, and you forget your training, the net is what keeps you from certain death.

The heading scripture is linked to the familiar passage of Simon Peter asking Jesus to call him out onto the water to walk amongst the storm. This may possibly be the first double-dog dare in human history, and miraculously, Peter survives the test and walks on water! But then the waves rise, and the wind becomes too strong, and he looks away from the narrow path to the Savior in front of him. Peter, standing in a divine moment, begins to sink. This is a man with years of Torah training, a lifestyle fixed only on Jesus and His ministry, and yet one shift of focus takes him from miracle to certain death.

We know that Peter, in faith, does the only thing we can do in times of trouble; he calls out, "Lord, save me," and Jesus delivers. But what if the waves had overcome him before he could speak? What if he had forgotten his training? Would Peter have drowned and become a cautionary tale? Would the grace of a loving God have left him empty in a bottomless sea?

Salvation through Christ, the very safety-net of our Christian faith, has kept us from sinking under during our pastoral interim period more times than we can count. This net, so intricately woven through our lives with biblical nourishment, fellowship with believers, intimate communion with God; this is the safe place to land when our human abilities fail. Now that our interim period has entered the homestretch, it would be easy to widen our gaze and notice the open space surrounding us, practically willing us to crumble. But God, in His infinite love, stands waiting below, above, around, beside us, waiting with a safety-net to carry us towards the goal. So why should we doubt? Keep looking forward, church. The desire of God's heart for Fifth Avenue Baptist Church is before us.

May God pour out His blessings on our trapeze work ahead.

~ Mycah Pemberton



Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

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Worship God wholeheartedly. Love one another unconditionally. Help people meet Jesus.
Help each other become more like Jesus. Love our hurting world.

Wednesday Programming

September 17: Rev. Mark Conner, Jer. 18:1-11

September 24: Fall Business Meeting

October 1 & 8: Dr. Ellis Conley

October 15 & 29: Mrs. Abigail Duffield

November 5 & 12: Mrs. Abigail Duffield

**Please contact the office by noon on Monday to
make or cancel a reservation for that week.**

Dinner: 5:30 | Group Studies: 6:15 | Choir Rehearsal: 7:00

Upcoming Pulpit Schedule

Sept. 14: Rev. Dr. Jim Abernathy

Sept. 21: Rev. Dr. Peter Barnes

Sept. 28: Rev. Dr. Jana Stoner

Oct. 5: Rev. Dr. Ellis Conley

Oct. 12 & 19: Rev. Dr. Guy Sayles

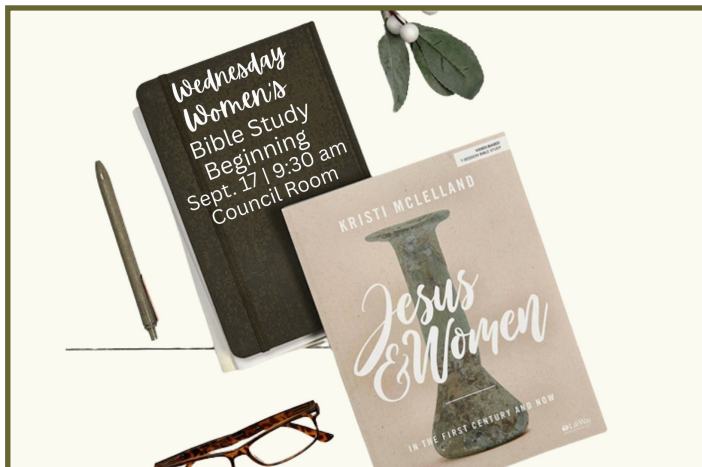
Oct. 26: Rev. Dr. Rob Ely



YYAC MEETING



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
12 PM, COUNCIL ROOM



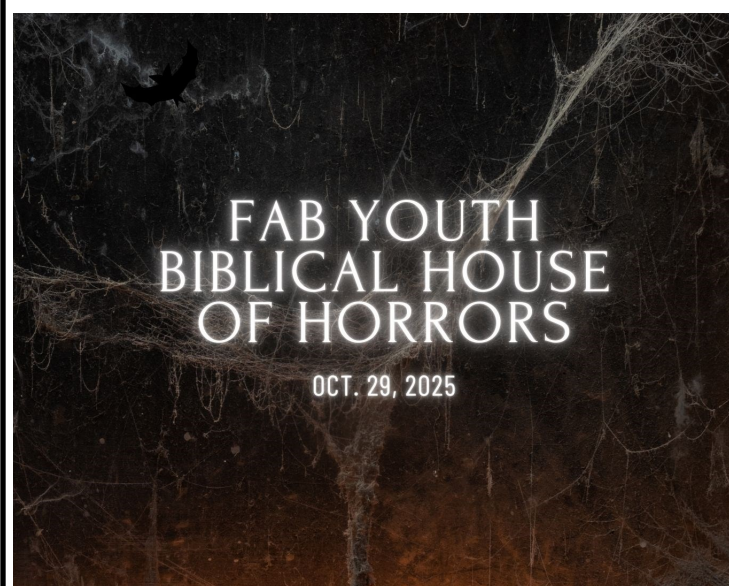
M&M monthly meeting

Sunday, September 14 | 8:30 am
COUNCIL ROOM

CMC MEETING



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
12:00 PM, WORSHIP ROOM



LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

CALENDAR | Sept 14–20

Sunday, September 14

- 8:30 M&M Meeting (Council Room)
- 9:30 Sunday Morning Bible Studies (FH)
- 10:45 Worship & Live Stream

Monday, September 15

- 9:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 17

- 5:30 Dinner
chicken alfredo, broccoli, salad, dessert
- 6:15 Group Studies w/ Mark Conner
Cornerstone Rehearsal
- 7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Ministry Action Budget: September 7, 2025

Envelopes	11,975.00
Online	725.00
Total	12,700.00
Given To Date	582,450.60
MAB Expenses To Date	613,524.49
Overage/(Shortage)	(31,073.89)

Designated Funds

Total Designated Funds	0.00
Designated Gifts To Date	5,555.20

PRAYER CONCERNS

Doris Andrews	Opal Jones
Gay Bird	David Justice
Christy Bird	Linda Lawrence
Judy Booth	Mary Lee Leslie
Nell Brumfield	Julie Lively, daughter of Jack & Jackie Lively
John Chapman	Kim Lively-Smith, daughter of Jack & Jackie Lively
Sandy Collins, sister of Bud Harbour	Suzanne Nieman, friend of Jerrie Hussell
Felix Daniels	Cindy Perry, niece of Mary Madsen
Penny Daniels	Steve Perry, nephew of Mary Madsen
Bill Denman	Jeanine Price
Carolyn Dickens	Bill Ransbottom
Natalie Swann Dodge, great niece of Jack Lively	Jean Read, sister of Mary Margaret King
Beverly Gaskin, friend of Gerry Smith	Allen Reasons
Martha Hagan	Justin Reynolds, nephew of Janet Jarrell
Cathy Hutchinson, friend of Jim & Brenda Isaac	Ryan Sharp, nephew of Jackie Ballard & cousin of Scott Ballard
Anne Jameson, niece of Mary Madsen	Patti & Mike Shaver Sr.
Janet Jarrell	Barbara Sheils
	Toni Shirk, cousin of Susan Dillard
	Jack, Becky & Haley Stephenson, friends of Martha Hagan

If you or someone you have added to the Columns Prayer list can be removed, please call or email the church office.

Please note, the Fall Business Meeting has been changed from Wednesday, Sep. 17 to Wednesday, Sep. 24.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Sept

- 15** Linda Brown, Pete Mastrangelo
- 16** Larry Tweel, Richard Finley, Pat Pinkerton, Jimmy Leach, Ryan Jarrell
- 17** Dean Wright, David Moore
- 18** Molly Robertson
- 19** Mary Gould, Mara Sutphin
- 20** Linda Hood, Deanna Tarter, Amber Biederman, Anna Stone



monthly meeting

Sunday, September 21 | 8:30 am
COUNCIL ROOM





Huntington City Mission

— WHERE HOPE BEGINS —

September ALMs

Needs: We are collecting **peanut butter** for their weekly food baskets. Please bring as much peanut butter as you can!

