



Introducing Our Advent Theme

BY THE LITURGY WRITERS OF A SANCTIFIED ART

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear." When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

As you journey through this season, may your hope become gritty and resilient. May you remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER

We're excited to see you this Advent and Christmas season, as we insist on finding hope in the midst of fearful and uncertain times.

ADVENT BEGINS

Sunday, November 30 @ 10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLIGHT SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24 @ 5:30 PM

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 28 @ 10:30 AM

2026 Stewardship Season

BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL

This year's stewardship theme invites us to live out our faith through Hope in Action—by giving together and growing together. Your pledges of time, talent, and financial support sustain our ministries, justice work, and outreach that make a difference in our community and beyond.

You should have received by email the Church Council's stewardship letter and proposed 2026 budget—please look for it and prayerfully consider your commitment to our shared ministry!



HOPE IN ACTION
GIVING TOGETHER. GROWING TOGETHER.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

October Trustees Updates

BY BILL HAUSLER FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Zach Busch has been hired as our interim music director.
- We've received approximately \$5,000 in contributions and pledges toward a new sanctuary sound system.
- New fire alarm equipment was installed, and we switched to a new monitoring company.
- The analog emergency phone lines in the main elevator and lift were replaced with cellular systems for improved reliability and long-term cost savings.
- Bids are being obtained from Focus on Energy for potential energy improvements.
- Additional bids are also being gathered for further sanctuary upgrades.



Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE

September 2025 Budget Financials: *Year-To-Date Actual*

Revenues --- \$245,568.50
Expenses --- \$230,059.65
Surplus (Deficit) --- \$15,509.85

The bookkeeper's full report is available upon request. Please email Nancy Moore at bookkeeping@firstbaptistmadison.org.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

With Gratitude for Your Generosity

BY DENNIS RAY FOR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

You are generous followers of Jesus!

As of October 15: The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering has collected \$3,085; and your World Mission Offering has collected \$6,390. Thank you.

Your donations to Second Harvest Foodbank in memory of Russel Novkov came to \$1,860. From their thank-you letter: *"With 1 in 10 of our neighbors facing hunger, your gift is an important contribution. Together we can make a significant impact and ensure that everyone in our community has enough nutritious food to thrive."*

We also received a thank you message for your clothing donations to Madison Street Medicine: *"Wow!! Thank you so much. This is awesome and I love the bin. You guys are great and so is God!!! Thank you!!!"*

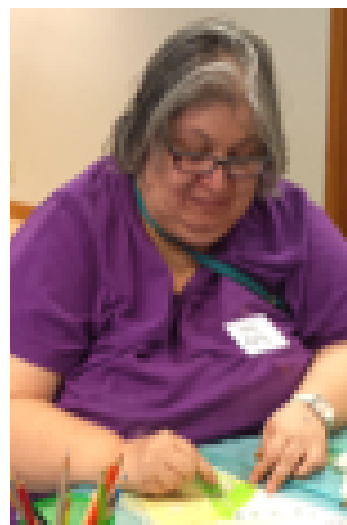
Donations Requested

BY MEG NIELSON, TRIANGLE COMMUNITY MINISTRY

During November, First Baptist Church will honor former member and Triangle resident **Katy Marty** with a collection of winter outerwear, 2026 calendars, and Christmas cards.

Bring new or handmade hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, 2026 calendars, and Christmas cards to church **by Sunday, December 7**, and place them in the collection box across the hall from the church office.

Questions? Contact the church office.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Leaf-free Streets for Clean Waters

BY DAVE BENFORADO FOR THE GREEN TEAM

Do you know about the **Ripple-Effects of Leaf-Free Streets**? With rain forecast for the next few days, try to remove leaves from the street where you live. Yes, rake them OUT of the street gutters onto the terrace. Or better yet, mulch them into your lawn. They make great lawn fertilizer.

Otherwise, if you "leaf" them in the gutter, they will be washed right into our lakes and create more phosphorus which is very bad for lake health. More information here: <https://ripple-effects.com/outreach-tools>.

The lakes thank you!

Small Group Updates

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Young adults—come connect this fall! Check out upcoming gatherings and find community. Upcoming events can be found at firstbaptistmadison.org/events

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP

November 3rd we will finish the book "Psalms – The Prayer Book of the Bible" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (chapters 16-18 plus biographical sketch).

November 17th we will begin the book "Everything Happens for a Reason: And other Lies I've Loved" by Kate Bowler.

If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to join our small group – please do! If you have questions, please feel free to contact Bill Hausler.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visio Divina

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 12:00 PM

Connect to God through art. Engage in a contemplative prayer practice using sacred imagery. Led by Rev. Tim Schaefer.

RSVPs are requested. To register, please:

- Visit the church website, scroll down to the “coming up” section, click on the “Church Calendar” button, OR;
- Click on the RSVP button in the most recent edition of the Weekend Update



Young Adult Taco + PowerPoint Party

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 5:00 – 7:30PM



Join our young adults for food and fun.

Please bring your favorite taco toppings to share (shredded cheese, tortilla chips, tortillas and meat will be provided).

Sign up to share a PowerPoint presentation with the group, or simply come to watch and eat!

Please RSVP using the form in the event details on the church's website event calendar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In Times of Fear & Uncertainty

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22 | 1:00 PM

The Racial Justice Team invites you to a special in-person worship service at First Baptist Church for reflection, prayer, and candle lighting.

Together we'll create reminders of love and hope that sustain us in uncertain times.

All are welcome to this healing space.

Transportation and service materials may be requested by contacting the church office.



Christmas Caroling

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 9:00 AM

Celebrate the holiday season with a morning of Christmas Caroling and spreading good cheer to our church family members who are homebound.

Meet in the Community Room for instructions, to organize carpools, and to warm up your voices before we head out.

**No singing experience necessary.
All are welcome and encouraged to join!**

BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

NOVEMBER 2025

1 JIM L	17 17 BRUCE M
3 SARAH B	17 BARBARA M
3 ANNA K	20 MARK C
5 TIM T	20 JILL T
8 CARLA E	21 JEAN J
10 MARY F	21 MARGARET P
10 TONYA T	23 MANJARI M
13 UNA T	24 JAMIE S
13 LAURA C-T	25 BROOKE S
14 DEB C	28 CRAIG T



DECEMBER 2025

2 TYLER H	24 MARCIA F
4 KYLE A	24 GENEVA M
7 SUE L	28 KACIA F
8 KATHRYN R	28 WILLA V MC
13 RAINGE D	29 AMIRA C
15 RYAN B	30 LYDIA H
15 JEFF M	30 DIANNE H
17 ANNA C	30 CARL S
18 LINDA S	31 JOYCE L
21 JAMIE K	31 TROY Z
22 JULIE B	

Prayer Wall

Our Church Family & Community Members:

The Abramson Family; Joel; Kiru; Peggy; Heather; Ted R; Curt Grinde; Nancy E.

Our Homebound:

Linda O; Sheila D; Susan H



Please visit our Prayer Wall, where you will see prayer requests from and for our members, friends, and community members.

Share your joys & concerns with us!

To submit a prayer request or view prayer requests submitted by others, scan the QR code or visit firstbaptistmadison.org/prayer.