



The Tidings

SEPTEMBER 2025

First Baptist Church's Newsletter
125 SE Cows Street, McMinnville, OR
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Instructions
for living a life:

*Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.*

-Mary Oliver

TELL ABOUT IT
Story Night
Saturday, September 6
7pm in the FBC
Fireplace Room

FBC's Worship & Community Engagement Team invites you to our first **Tell About It!** This story night is an invitation to listen and share about the wild and ordinary stuff that makes us who we are and connects us to each other.

Our theme for the evening is **Back-to-School**. Consider, for example, your second-grade, or seventh-grade, or sophomore-year self:

Were you captivated by the thrill of learning something new? Worn down by the drudgery of the routine? Did you live for the adventure of the monkey bars at recess? Do you remember your favorite cafeteria lunch? Being locked outside after the bell rang? Moving into your college dorm? A teacher who stuck their neck out for you? A detention you didn't deserve?

Prepare a five-minute (or less) story that is true, centered on one specific experience, and yours to tell. Everybody, whether you're still in school or long gone from it, is invited.

Questions? Email erika@fbcmac.org.

FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

with
Dr. Mark Blegen
Linfield University
president
September 7
after the service



SEEKING PEACE

September 13-25

Saturday, Sept. 13 - 10-11:30am at FBC
Peaceful Decision-Making Workshop
A depiction from the book, "*Diddlysquat*"
by Kathy Beckwith & illustrated by JoAnn Sims
Creating Peace Cranes

(Peace Cranes will be sent to World Friendship Center, Japan)

Thursday, Sept. 18 - 25, 10am-4pm Daily
ART Exhibit- Peaceful images by local artists.
FBC upstairs Berean Room & hallway

Saturday, Sept. 20
An Evening of Stories & Songs of Peace, 7-8:30pm
Welcome to Atomic Bomb Survivors and
representatives from the Baptist Peace Fellowship &
McMinnville Refugee Coalition.
Peace Cranes creations will be on display.
FBC sanctuary - Free Will Offering taken
(Proceeds to World Friendship Center, Japan)

Sunday, Sept. 21
Atomic Bomb survivor stories, 11am-12n
FBC Walker Hall, after worship
> 12n - Community BELL Ringing, signaling
United Nations *International Day of Peace* <

Monday, Sept. 22
Atomic Bomb Survivor Discussion Panel - 4-6pm
Linfield University Library

Tuesday, Sept. 23 - Survivor Stories shared
McMinnville High School - 9am-12n
Rock of Ages - 10am / Hillside - 3pm

Contact: JoAnn Sims, joanncsims@gmail.com.

<https://fbcmac.org/seeking-peace-week/>

See page 4, for commentary



Sunday Worship Highlights

SEPTEMBER 2025

FBC is inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:

"Whatever you do unto the most vulnerable of my siblings, you do unto me."



10:00 am - WORSHIP in person in the sanctuary, or streaming live: www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmac/

This fall, we'll follow the minor characters in the Gospels, and look and listen for the ways they welcomed, supported, accompanied, loved, and challenged Jesus. We'll remember and celebrate folks who have done the same for us, too.

September 7 - Communion Sunday

"If You Say So," Sermon from Luke 5:1-11

Rev. Erika Marksburly preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson + offertory from Muriel Dresser

After church fellowship hosted by the Singles Group.

1st Sunday Speaker - Linfield University President, Dr. Mark Blegen

September 14

"Her Spirit Returned," Sermon from Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

Rev. Erika Marksburly preaching

Music led by Muriel Dresser & the FBC Choir



September 21

We are honored to welcome Rev. William Summerville, interim executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, as our guest preacher on this International Day of Peace.

Music led by Tegan Johnson

After church fellowship hosted by the Missions Ministry Team.

Atomic Bomb survivors share their stories in Walker Hall.

September 28

"Extending the Blessing," Sermon from Luke 11:24-28

Rev. Erika Marksburly preaching

Kick Off a Great Year of Music!

Come sing, ring, and celebrate the gift of music with us this year. No matter your level of experience (except a bit of musical background for bell ringers), you are warmly invited to join this ministry of joy and praise!



We're starting the season with a **KICK-OFF PIZZA PARTY on Wednesday, September 3, 6-7pm in Walker Hall.** Come enjoy pizza, fellowship, and a preview of the exciting year ahead of music making. Everyone is welcome—bring your appetite and your love for music!

JOIN OUR MUSIC MINISTRIES

Wednesday Rehearsals

Worship Team, Directed by Tegan Johnson, Practice: **6:30-7:30 PM.** Worship Team leads our congregational singing about three Sundays each month.

Thursday Rehearsals

Bell Choir, Directed by Marilyn Dresser, Arrive: 5:10 PM, Practice: **5:20-6:20 PM** A basic ability to read music is helpful for bell ringers, as each player covers multiple notes. Bell choir performs in worship as pieces are prepared and ready to ring.

Choir, Directed by Marilyn Dresser, Arrive: 6:20 PM, Practice: **6:30-7:30 PM** During the holiday season, rehearsals may run until 8:00 PM as needed. Choir shares music in worship about once a month (twice in months with five Sundays).

>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our Annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 PM—a joyful celebration featuring our groups and some truly inspiring music.

We're excited for another joyful year of music-making together and there is a seat waiting for you!

Marilyn Dresser and Tegan Johnson

YTD	Actual for Period	% of Amount Budgeted
Contributions Income:	\$207,975	101.6%
Total Income:	\$ 254,000	100.9%
Total Expenses:	\$255,538	101.5%
Net Income:	- \$ 1,538	<deficit>

You may check on your financial contributions to First Baptist Church through our secure church software database, Realm. If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Treasurer, Don Watson (donjw@comcast.net) or Realm administrator, Barbara Burr (barbaracoleburr@gmail.com).

Important Financial Update - Contributions from individuals cover about 81% of our 2025 budget. Facility use covers about 10%. The remaining income this year must come from cash savings and memorial funds - both small amounts. Anyone who is able to give anything extra will help slow the spending of our Memorial Funds. Thank You, we appreciate every gift.

Finance Committee: Don Watson, Barbara Burr, Judee Kunze, Roger Dell, Jane Apel, Susan Chambers

Review August TIDINGS Insert page for ENDOWMENT FUND Update (copies at FBC or on website)

August Church Board Notes

"Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul."

- Peggy Toney Horton, American author

It's back to school time for the kiddos and perhaps back to soul time for adults. That will be the focus of our Fall Board Retreat. Many such retreats are work oriented; reviewing policies and procedures, visioning new ideas, setting goals. This retreat is intended to nourish the souls of the leaders you have entrusted to do the "work" for our beloved faith community. When the date is firm, we will ask for your prayers.

At our August meeting, Mike Burr attended with a request for Board approval for a Hospitality Ministry. This has to do with providing support for individuals and families dealing with immigration issues. The Board gave a hearty YES.

Have you heard talk about adding fencing to the Courtyard and Cows Street entrance? It's true. Both areas are continually blocked due to excessive drug

use and litter, and when it's cold, fires built by our neighbors living on the streets. Tim Duerfeldt and Steve Howard are looking into city codes and costs. This may sound like sad news, but it's a reality many churches in urban areas are faced with.

On a brighter note, shout out to JoAnn Sims for bringing her vision for a Seeking Peace week to FBC. It's happening! This is a huge vision and requires huge help. I reiterate President Kennedy's words, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Insert church for country and ask JoAnn or a Board member how YOU can help.

Finally, have you thanked a volunteer lately? We have more dedicated volunteers than at any church I've been a part of. FBC can't function without them. So, even if you are a volunteer, look for another volunteer to thank. A thumbs up, smile, or nod is the best spiritual paycheck. 😊

Submitted by Kathleen Verigin, Moderator

The Church Board meets at 6:30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. Meetings are open to all. Minutes are filed in the church office and available for reading by appointment with the office.

Our sanctuary reaches its Centennial year in 2026. A fitting celebration of this milestone would be the rejuvenation of the sanctuary and the church building by September 2026. **This fall, we will launch a CAMPAIGN to raise the funds** for the replacement of flooring in the most heavily used areas of our church. Every person who steps into our building matters. **The carpet has stepped up to serve, and now we will ask you to STEP UP.** Together we can replace our worn-out flooring to continue to provide a warm welcoming place to serve all.

Have questions? Want to participate? Contact Georgine Benner, georgine.benner@gmail.com or Tom Riggs riggsabode@icloud.com.



nurtured in nature

**FBC's 2025 All-Church Retreat
October 24-26, Camp Arrah Wanna, Welches**

Everyone is invited to spend the last weekend of October in the forested wonderland of Camp Arrah Wanna. Come to rest, create, connect, sing, pray, play, wander, feast, learn, and let God's Spirit speak to you through the beauty all around. This retreat is a mix of small-group workshops, communal worship, and unstructured time you can spend on your own or with friends and family. For more information or to register, visit fbcmac.org.

Thank you to all of you who participated in Tim's Celebration of Life on Saturday, July 19. So many people helped with the service and the reception following, and we want you to know that you all made a day that could have been very sad for us, thoughtful and up lifting. Thank you to all of you who helped in various ways.

Sincerely, Diane Marsh and Emily Denney

Dear Friends,

As we put together this September issue of the Tidings, I'm remembering that it was this week, ten years ago, that my family and I packed up our car and made the long trip from Kansas to Oregon. We didn't know what to expect, but the search committee and everyone at the candidate visits had been so welcoming of all of us, and so excited about this church, we suspected we were headed somewhere special.

Now, a decade in, I know how right that suspicion was. And I'm grateful you took a chance on me - a long-time church enthusiast but a first-time senior pastor - and for your willingness to teach me, on the job, how to do it. Your patience, kindness, wisdom, and grace have been gifts beyond what I could've imagined.

And I know, ten years is not a long pastorate at FBC - my two most immediate predecessors were each here more than twice that tenure! I just wanted to take a moment, some space on this page, to mark the time, and to say thank you - which seems so small - for the ways you have invited me to do ministry with you. Every day and every relationship here teaches me something new and beautiful about God's kingdom: about the messiness and the fun and the difficulty and the wonder of it all. I am so grateful to be in community with you, and for the ways we, together, get to learn and love and serve and seek justice and joy for all.

Yours, Erika



Seeking Peace, September 13 - 25

In these times of uncertainty and doubt, we are called to Seek Peace. This month, we celebrate the journey with stories of friends, locally, nationally, and internationally who have made seeking peace their life and passion. The Seeking Peace journey begins with a workshop and book launch on September 13. It is about decision-making with one fun picture book at a time. We'll also make peace cranes! An Art Exhibit displaying peace in pictures of varying media and three dimensional pieces will be open in the Berean Room September 18-25.

We will host seven Japanese guests who will share their Atomic Bomb survivor stories. The World Friendship Center in Hiroshima (WFC) Japan is a recipient of FBC's support through its mission budget. Every 2-3 years WFC sends a Peace Ambassador Exchange (PAX) delegation to the US sharing their survival stories of 80 years ago. This year PAX is coming to McMinnville! They will visit FBC, McMinnville High School, senior living communities, and Linfield University sharing their stories. On Saturday, September 20, from 7-8:30pm there will be a Song and Story Concert in the Sanctuary of FBC. At Linfield Library on Monday, September 22 from 4-6:30 pm a survivor panel is scheduled. The panel includes a Hidankyo member, the group receiving the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize.

Their stories include the following: "Let's Think about Nuclear Weapons and Peace," discussed by Atomic Bomb Survivor & Witness of Hiroshima, Ms. Kiyomi Koho, Hiroshima 1945: The Experiences of Atomic Bomb Survivors, Hiroshima's Atomic Bomb ~ Experience and the Power of Sports (Connecting Memory and Hope through Athletics) ~ The Impact of my Experiences with Peace Education and Activities ~ A Study: The History of Koko Kondo, Hibakusha.

WFC's visit coincides with the United Nations International Day of Peace on Sunday, Sept. 21. Listen to church bells ring in Peace at noon on that Sunday. To commemorate that day we will host the Interim Executive Director of Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Rev. William Moses Summerville. Seeking Peace will also celebrate an organization in our own community that Seeks Peace. We will hear the story of the McMinnville Refugee Coalition, a group of five faith groups providing support to an immigrant family from Ukraine.



Seeking Peace is possible. Mark your calendars for the many events during this time in our community. Look for the poster listing times and locations of events. Come, celebrate Peace with us. Bring your family, neighbors, and friends to both Seek Peace and celebrate this special time.

FBC & McMinnville Youth Collective youth Tayah Curry and Oscar Marksbury Page spent ten days in August on an Alaskan adventure with J.13, a regional American Baptist youth group. They helped lead a bike camp, did grounds work at the mission outpost on Kodiak Island, and had chances to soak in the natural beauty, too. They'll share more about it soon. They are grateful to the FBC Missions Team and budget for helping to make this trip possible!





Youth Group
 September 7 & 14
 at First Presbyterian Church
 Middle School from 5-6 pm
 Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm
 High School from 6:30-7:30 pm
 (NO Youth Group on September 21 & 28)

Children, Youth, and Families!
 Join us on Sunday, September 7
 as we celebrate the beginning
 of the new school year together.

**The McMinnville Youth Collective
 Fall Beach Retreats are back!**

Youth Dinner
Wednesday, September 17 at 6 pm
 at Gordo Tacos
 Drop off & pick up there,
 bring money for dinner, and friends!

Blessing of the Backpacks
 during the children's time
 at the 10am worship service

HIGH SCHOOL
 9th-12th grade youth ~ \$165
 Friday, September 19
 through Sunday, September 21

and save the date...
MYC Lock Out 2025
Friday, November 7
 from 5pm to midnight
 more details & registration coming soon

Youth Group (returns!)
 at First Presbyterian Church
 Middle School from 5-6 pm
 Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm
 High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL
 6th-8th grade youth ~ \$155
 Friday, September 26
 through Sunday, September 28

PLUS KidVenture (returns!)
 Monday, September 8
 at First Presbyterian Church
 from 5:15-6:30pm
 dinner, music, story and activities
 all focused on the Old Testament this year

More details and registration form
 available at
fbcmac.org/myc-fall-beach-retreats-2025

We hope you will join us!

Service Learning Trip 2025!

We had an amazing week on our Earth Keeper Pilgrimage with Circlewood on Camano Island, WA!
 Thank you to all who supported our team, and our service and learning!



A month full of opportunities!

Sunday Connections - 8:30am via Zoom

Each week we watch a short video that provides the ability to connect with on another and with others beyond our local area. Join us! All are Welcome. Contact: Barbara at barbaracoleburr@gmail.com

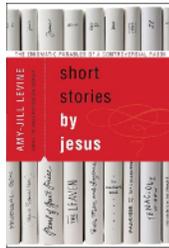
1st Sunday Faith & Java Class - 8:45am, in person

Exploring questions, issues, experiences in finding spirituality and bliss in everyday living. Contact Rob: schulmanrob@yahoo.com

Sunday Chapel Class - 8:45am, in person

Short Stories by Jesus: the Parables

Amy-Jill Levine invites her audience to read the parables of Jesus through a Jewish lens. With his parables, Jesus was requiring that his disciples do more than listen; he was asking them to think as well. As subversive as any parable, *Short Stories by Jesus* offers readers new ears for hearing stories we thought we knew by heart. It also shakes the faithful where we need to be shaken, showing us how close we have come to disarming some of Jesus' most potent teachings. Levine, a Jewish New Testament scholar of enormous depth, powerfully illuminates both Jesus and the Christian story. Join us to engage in vibrant discussions about this book. Contact Gary Langenwalter at 971-221-8155, gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com



Sunday Bereans Class - 9:00am, in person

Exploring the evolving church in modern times, using contemporary videos and theological texts & articles. Contact: Doug Verigin (503) 913-3401

Bible Study - *New Day/Time!*

Wednesdays 11:00am - in-person, Fireplace Room

This group meets with Pastor Erika. All are welcome! A discussion-based Bible study with opportunity to delve deeper into highlighted scripture for the week. We look at the text from multiple translations, discuss contexts, and ask questions about meaning for today. Come join in!

Sacred Centering - Wednesdays, 5:00pm

In-person in the Fireplace Room

except 2nd Wednesdays, in Walker Hall

Gather with friends mid-week to spend a quiet hour connecting with each other and tending to our souls. We rotate through various prayer practices: the Ignatian examen; lectio divina; body prayers; silent meditation; and other creative, gentle practices. All are welcome. Contact erika@fbcmac.org if you have questions.

Climate Action Group - Meeting times/locations vary

Contact: Lara O'Brady, lara_obrady@yahoo.com

Senior Breakfast - Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 8:30 am

1st Wednesday each month at American Legion Post 21
126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville / RSVP: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

Together Works - Sept. 8 & 22 at 7 pm, in-person

Fireplace Room at FBC - 2nd & 4th Mondays

Contact: Dee Moore, 971-241-8256, togetherworksinfo@gmail.com

Dads' Group - Sept. 8 at 8 pm, in-person (please RSVP)

2nd Monday, location varies - Contact: John Linder, john.linder93@gmail.com

Sew & Sos - in-person (2nd floor sewing room)

Weekly opportunities for individuals and/or small groups to sew together at FBC. Contact: Susan Chambers, susanlanechambers@gmail.com

Knit Wits - Knitting hats, hand/neck warmers & prayer shawls!

PM Group - 7 pm, in-person (meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

Sept. 2 & 16 at Gina's / Contact: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

AM Group - 9:45 am, in-person (usually meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays)

Sept. 11 & 25, at Linda's / Contact: Linda Watson, 971-237-2793

FBC Singles - Friday, September 5, Game Night!

6-8pm - FBC Fireplace Room

Contact: Emily Kerrigan, emily2.kerrigan@gmail.com

2nd Tuesday Lunch - September 9, 1pm - The Grain Station

Contact: Nadya King, ladyharp1@gmail.com

Sister Circle - Every Friday at 11 am, Fireplace Room

Interested in joining? Contact: Sherill Roberts, shrobert@linfield.edu or 971-237-3630

Moms' Group - September plans TBD

Contact Heidi Toth: tothfive@gmail.com

Hiking Group - Saturday, September 20

Hiking on the Oregon Coast

We will carpool from the FBC parking lot at 9 AM.

Bring water, lunch, and prepare for a good time with your hiking friends.

Contact: Gloria, glowm1@gmail.com

Native Voices Group - Wednesday, September 24 at 6pm

Fireplace Room - meeting to discuss books for the year

Contact: Nadya King, ladyharp1@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, September 27 - 9am

last Saturday each month in the Fireplace Room (enter Cows)

Scott Chambers speaking on "Challenges facing higher education" plus breakfast with friends.

Contact: Don Watson, donjw@comcast.net or

Neil Kunze, kunze@sou.edu

SEPTEMBER at FBC

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 FBC Office Closed 9a - Mini-STARS 	2 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	3 8:30a - Senior Breakfast at VFW Post, Atlantic Ave 11a - Bible Study 5p - Sacred Centering 6p - Music Ministries Pizza Party	4	5 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 6-8p - FBC Singles Game Night	6 7p - Story Night
7 Adult classes (see listing pg. 7) KICK-OFF Sunday 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 5:7:30pm - MYC at FPC	8 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 12p - Personnel 4p - Mission Team 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Worship Planning 7p - Together Works 8p - Dads' Group	9 9a - BUilding & Grounds 1p - Singles Lunch at Grain Station	10 11a - Bible Study 5p - Sacred Centering 6:30p - Church Board 6:30p - Worship Team	11 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses	12 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle	13 SEEKING PEACE 10-11:30a - Peaceful Decision-Making Workshop (Details on cover)
14 Adult classes (see listing pg. 7) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 5:7:30pm - MYC at FPC	15 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Matthew 25 5:15p - KidVenture 6:30p - Care & Concern	16 9a - Building & Grounds 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	17 11a - Bible Study 5p - Sacred Centering 6p - Youth dine out 6:30p - Worship Team	18 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses 10a-4p - Peace ART Exhibit through September 25	19 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle	20 9am - Hiking Group 7-8:30p - Stories & Songs of Peace
21 Adult classes (see listing pg. 7) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11a - Survivor Stories	22 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Together Works	23	24 11a - Bible Study 2p - Faith Formation 5p - Sacred Centering 6p - Native Voices 6:30p - Worship Team	25 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses	26 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle	27 9a - Mens's Breakfast
Youth Retreat					HS Youth BEACH Retreat 19-21	
28 Adult classes (see listing pg. 7) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream	29 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 6:30p - Care & Concern	30	September marks the transition from summer to fall, often described as a time of change and new beginnings, emphasizing the beauty of autumn and the feeling of "newness" that comes with it. "Hello, October! We look forward to bringing us a month filled with peace & joy, and a little spookiness!			
Youth Retreat						

SEPTEMBER Birthday

LeeAnn Parry 1
 Nadya King 2
 Tim Craig 2
 Vicki Cartwright 4
 Millie Boggie 6
 Cliff Watts 7
 Kerry Ballati 10
 Tom Kilinsky 10
 Peggi Lilly 14
 Donna Weed 14
 Michael Burr 15
 Gregg Hendricks 17



Michael Saylor 19
 Jeanette House 20
 Carl Aplin 21
 Momo Scarboro Ford 22
 Jen Linder 23
 Brian Anderson 23
 Dianne Belgard 24
 Kim Kushner 24
 Marilyn Switzer 24
 Sue Brandt 24
 Tim Lynn 25
 Rob Porter 25
 Pat Crissey 27
 Judee Kunze 27

Sidoney Winfield 27
 Suzanne Scarboro Ford 28
 Mylinda Baits 28
 Abram Williams 29
 Global Servant Birthdays
 Steve Howard 29
 Cynthia Parker 30

SEPTEMBER Anniversary

Kyle & Katrina Williams 1
 Global Servant Anniversary
 David & Debbie Ferry 2
 Tim Craig & Johnathan Davis 3

Marvin & Donna King 4
 Jace Early & Jan Whipp 5
 Eric & Virginia Holmstrom 9
 Don & Laura Christensen 10
 Walt & LeeAnn Parry 11
 Scott & Susan Chambers 15
 Peter & Pam Conner 19
 Darrell & Molly Eacret 25
 Jordan Robinson &
 Megan McCrossin 27
 Russell Mark & Michael Bone 30