



The Tidings

DECEMBER 2025

First Baptist Church's Newsletter
125 SE Cowsls Street, McMinnville, OR
97128 • 503.472.7941 • fbcmac.org • office@fbcmac.org



Finding the will to dream this Advent

Friends, the Advent season is upon us - again this year we will proclaim the promises of hope, peace, joy, and love, born among us long ago (into a world as troubled as ours today), and - if we dare - born among us always.

Advent centers and celebrates the dreamers in our faith tradition: **Isaiah**, who painted a picture of enduring peace and communal gentleness; **John the Baptist**, who told anyone who would listen that the world could be different, if only they committed to making their own lives more open, more just, more generous; **Elizabeth and Zechariah**, who threw their arms open to change, because they trusted it was God at work, giving new life to their almost-forgotten dreams; **Mary**, who imagined that her own life - her own willingness to participate with the Sacred source - could birth a revolution; **Anna**, whose long faithfulness brought her face-to-face with the object of her hope; and **Joseph**, whose dream promised another way was possible, and who had the courage to find out it was true.

This season, might those characters have something to say to you? To us? Are there dreams you've put aside because they seem too far-fetched? Are their hopes we harbor for our community that seem dangerous to speak? What if this is the season to pull those dreams out, dust them off, give them voice? This Advent, can we encourage in each other the will to dream?

Eager to explore and imagine with you, *Erika*





Sunday Worship Highlights

DECEMBER 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/

Sunday, December 7

Communion Sunday

"Prophetic Peace," from Matthew 3:1-12 & Malachi 3:1-6

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser

Special Music from the FBC Choir

You are invited to return to the sanctuary at 4pm (3:45 prelude) for the beloved tradition of the Christmas Concert & Candlelight Dessert Buffet! Bring friends, family, & a dessert to add to the table.

Sunday, December 14

"Unexpected Joy" from Luke 1:39-55 & Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser

Special Music from the FBC Choir

After church, our fellowship time will be hosted by the Social Justice Team, sharing treats & opportunities for advocacy!

Sunday, December 21

"Merciful Love" from Luke 1:57-80 & Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson & the Worship Team

Special Music from the Jubilee Bells

After church, our fellowship time will be hosted by STARS volunteers, sharing snacks and stories of their hospitality ministry.

Wednesday, December 24, 7pm

Join FBC friends and family for our traditional sacred remembrance of the night Jesus was born. We'll sing beloved carols, hear the old story in new ways, and close with candlelight.

Sunday, December 28

"Generational Praise" from Luke 2:22-40 & Psalm 148

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Robin Pederson

After church, we'll head to the Courtyard for our "Burning the Old Year" ritual, offering the prayer cards from 2025 into the fire as a way of expressing our gratitude for answered prayers and our continued hope for those needs still on our hearts. You are also welcome to bring your own written reflection about the year to offer to the fire.



Thanks to this great crew who decorated our sanctuary so beautifully for Advent!



Turning Toward
the Light ~
Honoring the
Deepest Dark
and Welcoming the
Returning of the Light.

Saturday, December 20, 2025

6:00-7:00 pm

First Baptist Church

125 SE Cows Street - Social Hall

Enter on Washington Street

Facilitated by Shanta Frisbee

We gather on the longest night of the year, in the heart of the season of darkness, to pause, to reflect, and to look forward with hope to the returning light. We welcome people of all ages—our youngest seekers and our wisest elders—to share in this ancient ritual.

Love Offering Appreciated

(No one turned away for lack of funds)

YTD	Actual for Period	% of Amount Budgeted
Contributions Income:	\$282,125	96.4%
Total Income:	\$351,632	97.8%
Total Expenses:	\$363,441	101.1%
Net Income:	- \$ <u>11,809</u>	<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:

During October we paid over \$10,000 in building maintenance and repairs while contribution income was 77% of our monthly goal. We moved \$6,000 from undesignated Memorials to reduce the deficit. We look forward to removing our budget deficit by the end of the year. Thank you for your ongoing support of FBC's ministry.

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

Church Board Notes ~

By Kathleen Verigin, Church Moderator

November's Church Board meeting lasted two and one-half hours. That reflects how much we needed to cover. Besides the regular reports, we reviewed a process to follow if someone brings an issue to a Board member and asks that it be discussed at the next Board meeting. It usually comes to me, as moderator. I listen, without judgment. Then I bring it to Erika. If we both feel it's a full Board discussion, then we add it to the agenda. If it's best addressed by one particular team or person, then we will assist in making that connection.

In particular, we have heard some concern about the use of cell phones during Sunday service. And not just by our youth. Some people find it distracting. Some say it's disrespectful. Others say it's un-church like. In reality, it's a fact of life. Our solution is to add a statement in the Sunday bulletin asking everyone to silence their phones and to please refrain from using them unless it is an emergency.

Regarding the on-going exploration of switching our regional affiliation from American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast to the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches: After de-briefing the visit by Evergreen's Rev. Doug Avilesbernal, some felt it was only fair to invite someone from our current region to speak to our congregation. **Rev. Steve Bills, ABC Central Pacific Coast regional minister, will come to share with us in worship and after on Sunday, Jan. 4.** We will also offer smaller, more intimate group discussions so more voices can be heard. We'd like to make a decision formal at the **January 25th Semi-Annual Meeting.**

After so much work, and staying faithful to our mission statement and the due diligence to the requirements of various agencies, we decided we needed to do something fun. At our Dec 10th meeting, we'll receive small gifts from each other's Secret Santa. Are you making time for something fun?

May your December be filled with Laughter, Love, and God's Holy Light!

The First Baptist Church Board meets at 6:30pm on the second Wednesday of every month in FBC's second floor conference room. Meetings are open to all. If you have a topic to discuss with the Church Board, contact Kathleen Verigin, moderator, to reserve time on the agenda. Detailed minutes of each month's meetings are filed in the church office and available for reading by appointment with the office.

THANK YOU SO MUCH

Thanking Our Staff

FBC traditionally gives our staff a financial gift at the end of the year as one way of thanking them for their dedication and devotion.

The gifts will be divided among Erika, Sean, Donna, Ron, Tom, Geoff, Marilyn, Tegan, Muriel, Virginia, Zoila, and our cheerful childcare workers.

All gifts are completely confidential - only our financial secretary will know who has given and how much they have given.

We'll give out our thanks during worship on December 21. Therefore, to be included, gifts must be received no later than Wednesday, December 17.

There are three ways you can participate:

1. You can donate using Realm

Go to www.fbcmac.org - Give - Ways to Give - Give Online - Click Here (under Give Online in black box) - Give Online. Enter amount you wish to give, then click on the drop-down menu of the Fund box and look for Staff Holiday Gift. Follow directions to finish the payment.

If you have difficulty using Realm, please contact Barbara Burr, our Realm administrator, (971) 241-6112, or Don Watson, (503) 510-2816.

2. You can put your cash or check with a notation of "Staff Gift" on the envelope in an offering plate on any Sunday, or

3. You can mail your check to:

Roger Dell, Financial Secretary
First Baptist Church
125 SE Cowls St., McMinnville, 97128

Thank you, and may you be richly blessed during this holy season and throughout the coming year.

Gary Langenwalter, Chair, Personnel Team

Georgine Benner, Chair, Pastoral Relations Team

Suppers for Six in 2026

Suppers for Six is a January-June 2026 small group dinner series designed to help FBC members connect more deeply through shared meals and meaningful conversation.

Groups of six will gather for at least four meals—wherever they choose—with optional prompts to spark personal sharing and relationship-building. Inspired by the longing we all have to be seen and understood, this ministry invites participants to form stronger bonds and embody God's care for one another by journeying through life together.

The Faith Formation Team has created digital and print registration forms that are now available at fbcmac.org and at the information desk in Walker Hall on Sundays.



KeyNote CONCERT SERIES



A collection of seven local artists and groups will celebrate the holidays in style. We hope you join us for a festive evening.

**Wednesday, December 17
7:00 pm - at First Baptist Church**



On November 20, friends from FBC, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, and A Family Place celebrated the opening of a new playground on our property, made possible by AFP donors and federal grant monies. **Come and enjoy!**

Help ensure hungry families have food over the winter break

Tim and I have run a Friday Family Food program at Wascher Elementary School for children in need for the past eight years. Each Friday, the children are given a bag of food with items chosen by the family to help get them through the weekend. This year we have doubled the number of children we are serving and would like to provide a box of food items that will help the families get through the Christmas break. With your help, these families will be provided with food staples that will make it easier for them to get through the two weeks.

At right is a list of the items needed. We will have boxes available at the church and would suggest that you bring the food items to the church for packing as the boxes are very heavy once packed. Also, it will make it easier for us to load them into the truck if they're all in one place!! We will be available to pack the boxes on Sunday, December 7th after church if you would like help. Or if you truly want to take a box home to pack and bring back, we're happy to give one to you!

We need to have all the boxes ready to go on the 14th.

Thank you for your support of this mission and our families. We certainly appreciate it and know how grateful the families will be.

-Emily Duerfeldt

WASCHER CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES GROCERY LIST

- ✦ 5 cans vegetables—3 corn, 2 green beans
- ✦ 1 plastic jar peanut butter 40 oz
- ✦ Plastic jar jelly 20 oz
- ✦ 2 family-size chicken noodle soup 22 oz
- ✦ 2 cans chili 14 oz
- ✦ 1 large box pancake mix 40 oz
- ✦ 1 plastic bottle syrup 24 oz
- ✦ 2 cans chicken or tuna
- ✦ 2 boxes mac & cheese
- ✦ 5 cans fruit: 2 mandarin orange, 2 peach, 1 pear
- ✦ 2 cans spaghetti sauce 24 oz
- ✦ 1 large bag of spaghetti 48 oz
- ✦ 1 large box instant potatoes 28 oz
- ✦ 1 large bag of cold cereal

Note: Tim and Emily priced these boxes at \$55 each, shopping at Winco and choosing the store brand.

This would be a great project for friends, families, small groups, and classes to do together! We've committed to providing 30 boxes. Please let Pastor Erika (erika@fbcmac.org) and/or Missions Chair Vicki Cartwright (cartwright3909@gmail.com) know if you/your group can provide a box. Prefer to make a financial donation? Write a check to FBC with the memo "food pantry" or choose the "food pantry" option in the Realm drop-down menu.

McMinnville Youth Collective

Youth Group

Sunday, December 7

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

Sunday, December 14 - Kate-Fest!

All MYC youth, families, and churches are welcome for dinner and a celebration of Kate Satterstrom! 5-6:30pm at First Pres

Youth Dinner

Wednesday, December 17 at 6 pm

at Nancy Jo's Burgers & Fries
Drop off & pick up there,
bring money for dinner, and friends!

kidventure

Kidventure JUST FOR KIDS!

Monday nights from 5:15-6:30pm
at First Presbyterian Church
for children Pre-K thru 5th Grade.

We meet for dinner, music, a story and a game and/or craft. Our focus for this year is on stories of the Old Testament, here's the plan for December.

December 1 - Moses (part 3)
December 8 - Ark of the Covenant
December 15 - Party for Kate!
NO KidVenture on December 22 or 29

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Family Christmas Celebration

Join us Saturday, December 6
from 10-11:30am
at First Presbyterian Church
(390 NE 2nd St in McMinnville)

All children and families from FBC and any friends from the community are invited to gather for a morning of Advent/Christmas fun for all ages.

We'll have Christmas crafts, cookie decorating, caroling, Advent wreaths, and snacks.

We hope you will be part of this fun, special way to kickoff and prep for the holiday season all together!

Mend+Fix THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who was a part of our second annual Mend+Fix on November 2! Appreciate the help from all our menders & fixers, and grateful to all who brought something to mend or fix! It was fun to figure out how to bring new life back to some broken things, and all share a meal together!



MYC Lock Out 2025

On November 7, 45 youth and adults from the McMinnville Youth Collective spent seven hours together, sharing a meal, swimming at Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center, snacking at Krispy Kreme, and playing at Wunderland! We had an awesome night, thanks to all who were part and helped make it happen!



A month full of opportunities!

Sunday Connections - 8:25am via Zoom

Each week we listen to a podcast, followed by a spirited discussion about the topic together.

We meet virtually which provides the ability to connect with one 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

In the Fireplace Room

This is an informal class that meets to discuss topics related to real life, and how faith and living come together and inspire us.

Contact Rob: schulmanrob@yahoo.com

Sunday Chapel Class - 8:45am, in person

Currently reading/studying *Proof of Heaven* by Eben Alexander

Thousands of people have had near-death experiences, but scientists have argued that they are impossible. Dr. Eben Alexander was one of those scientists. A highly trained neurosurgeon, Alexander knew that NDEs feel real but are simply fantasies produced by brains under extreme stress. Then, Dr. Alexander's own brain was attacked by a rare illness. The part of the brain that controls thought and emotion shut down completely. For seven days he lay in a coma. Then, as his doctors considered stopping treatment, Alexander's eyes popped open. While his body lay in coma, Alexander journeyed beyond this world and encountered an angelic being who guided him into the deepest realms of super-physical existence. There he met, and spoke with, the Divine source of the universe itself.

Join the Chapel Class Sundays as we discuss *Proof of Heaven*, by Eben Alexander, from November 30 through December 20. See Gary Langenwaller (971-221-8155, or gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com) for more details.

Sunday Bereans Class - 9:00am, in person

Exploring the evolving church in modern times, using contemporary videos and theological texts & articles.

Contact: Doug Verigin at 503-913-3401

Sacred Centering - Wednesdays, 5:00pm

In the Fireplace Room (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.

Bible Study - Wednesdays, 11:00am, in the Fireplace Room

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!

Senior Breakfast - Wednesday, December 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 - December 8 & 22 at 7 pm, in-person

2nd & 4th Mondays, Fireplace Room

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

Dads' Group - December 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)

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

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

ONLY Dec. 11 at Linda's / Contact: Linda Watson, 971-237-2793

1st Friday Game Night - Friday, December 5, 6-8pm

ALL are welcome (not just singles) - FBC Fireplace Room

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

FBC Singles - Tuesday, December 9, 1pm

2nd Tuesday Lunch at the Grain Station

Contact: Nadya King, ladyharp1@gmail.com

Sister Circle - Every Friday at 11 am, Fireplace Room

Interested in joining? Contact: Sherill Robert (no mtg Dec. 26) shrobert@linfield.edu or 971-237-3630

Moms' Group - December plans TBD

Contact Heidi Toth: tothfive@gmail.com

Native Voices BOOK Group - Holiday Change

Sunday, Dec. 21, 11:30am (after worship) - Fireplace Room

Discussing *The Painted Drum* by Louise Erdrich

Contact: Nadya King, ladyharp1@gmail.com

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

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

Join us for breakfast with friends. Speaker & topic TBD.

Contact: Don Watson, donjw@comcast.net or

Neil Kunze, kunze@sou.edu

DECEMBER at FBC

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Matthew 25 12p - Personnel 4p - Missions Team 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Worship Planning	2 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	3 8:30a - Senior Breakfast at VFW Post, Atlantic Ave 11a - Bible Study 5p - Sacred Centering 6:30p - Worship Team	4 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses	5 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 6p - Game Night	6 10-11:30a - Family Christmas Celebration at FPC 5p - McMinnville Women's Choir Concert at FBC
7 Adult classes (pg. 7) 2nd Sunday of Advent 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 4p - Christmas Concert & Candlelit Desserts 5-7:30pm - MYC at FPC	8 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Together Works 8p - Dads' Group	9 9a - Building & Grounds 1p - FBC Singles Lunch	10 11a - Bible Study 2p - Faith Formation 5p - Sacred Centering 6:30pm - 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
14 Adult classes (pg. 7) 3rd Sunday of Advent 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11a - Social Justice Team Advocacy Fair 5-6:30pm - MYC at FPC Kate-Fest!	15 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture Party for Kate 6:30p - Care & Concern	16	17 11a - Bible Study 1p - Congregational Engagement Team 5p - Sacred Centering 6p - Youth dine out 6:30p - Worship Team	18 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses	19 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle	20
21 Adult classes (pg. 7) 4th Sunday of Advent 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11:30a - Native Voices Fireplace Room 3pm - Christmas Caroling	22 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 7p - Together Works	23	24 7pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service		26 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast	27 9a - Mens's Breakfast
28 Adult classes (pg. 7) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream	29 9-10a - STARS Breakfast	30	31 NEW YEAR's EVE 	1 FBC Office Closed		

DECEMBER Birthday

Tom Simpson 1
Cheryle Polte 1

Global Servant:
Ray Schellinger 2

Keira Dressel 4
Nancy Skowrup 5
Clark Olson 6
Kathleen Verigin 8
Walt Parry 9

Don Watson 9
Linda Watson 11
Margy Porter 12
Adam Diesburg 12
Roger Krug 12
Mary Jackson 13
Rachel Jacob 13
Holly Galer 15
Neil Kunze 16
Annette Horlyk 16
David Spalding 16

Marcy Berg 17
Miles Dresser 19
Eliana James 19
Tom Riggs 21
Christina Lundberg 22
Stewart Stout 25
Dash Diesburg 26
Jenny Haubenreiser 28
Helen Anderson 30
Dee Moore 30
Donna King 31

DECEMBER Anniversary

Kim Kushner Dominguez & Jorge Dominguez 3
Jay & Jessica Payne 11
Gregg & Charlotte Hendricks 21
Doug & Kathleen Verigin 21
Sherill & Mike Roberts 27
Joel & Laurie Kiff 28
Don & Linda Gilbert 28
Frosty & Pat Lay 29