



The Tidings

FEBRUARY 2026

First Baptist Church's Newsletter
125 SE Cowsls Street, McMinnville, OR
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FBC votes for regional realignment



Look closely at the picture above and you'll see lots of folks applauding--they're cheering moderator Kathleen Verigin's announcement that the vote to realign our congregation with the Evergreen Baptist Association passed overwhelmingly! See more details on this decision and the rest of the Semi-Annual meeting in the Church Board notes on page 3.



Thanks to all who came out for the MLK Day Hootenanny, giving voice to dreams for a more just & peaceful world!

songs of healing & resistance

*come sing with Alma Mendez,
Bethany Lee, and your community
Friday, January 30, 6:30 in the
First Baptist Church Sanctuary*



Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Gathering

February 18
6pm Supper
7pm Service

at McMinnville Covenant Church
2155 NW 2nd Street

Everyone is invited to this gathering of friends from First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville Cooperative Ministries, Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church, and the McMinnville Covenant Church. We will welcome the Lenten season together with a shared meal, followed by sacred reflection and rituals of connection.

Contribute to the meal

Our congregational is asked to bring salads to the potluck meal preceding the service.

Contribute to the music

Again this year, St. B's choir director Lyn Giammanco will lead an ecumenical choir. Come to one rehearsal on Saturday, February 7, 10:30am at McMinnville Covenant Church, then perform with this group at the service.



Sunday Worship Highlights

FEBRUARY 2026

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."

In February, our gatherings will continue to be spaces to explore Big Questions. As we move this month from the Epiphany season into Lent, we'll also be incorporating some liturgical elements that draw us deeper into the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and giving. You might consider: what do you need more of - or less of - in your life this season? If love and liberation central to our religious practice, how can you make sure that anything you take on, or let go of, moves you close to those ends? We'll begin the Lenten season together with friends on Ash Wednesday, February 18. See page one for more details.

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

Sunday, February 1

Communion Sunday

Questions about What We Call Ourselves

Sermon from 1st John 2:28-3:3

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson and the Worship Team

If your small group/team/class/ministry would like to host fellowship time this day, please tell sean@fbcmac.org.

Sunday, February 8

Questions about Critiquing What We're Part Of

Sermon from Ephesians 4:25-32

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser & the FBC Choir

Offertory from Sherill Roberts, Nancy McCann, Corine Manroe

If your small group/team/class/ministry would like to host fellowship time this day, please tell sean@fbcmac.org.

Sunday, February 15

Questions about the Possibility of Change

Sermon from Acts 9:1-9

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Bethany Lee

If your small group/team/class/ministry would like to host fellowship time this day, please tell sean@fbcmac.org.

Sunday, February 22

Questions about What's Required of Us

Sermon from Matthew 4:1-11

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson & the Worship Team

After church, our fellowship time will be hosted by the Hiking Group!

A prayer for when every day feels like Good Friday...

Pastor Erika wrote this simple prayer for a Good Friday resource, but there are occasions before that day when it might be useful. If you want some words for your grief and outrage, here are a few:

My God, my God, why?

The words first
on the psalmist's tongue,
then on Jesus', now on our own.
My God, my God, why?

Why such cruelty?
Why the abuse of power?
Why the closing of hearts
and minds?
My God, my God, why?

Why the violence?
Why the lack of imagination?
Why the giving in
to our worst impulses?
My God, my God, why?

Why do we betray one another?
Why do we betray our truest selves?
Why do we betray you?
My God, my God, why?

My God, my God, why?

Be near us, O God, we pray.
Be near to all who mourn.
Hold our grieving world
in your heart. Amen.

And a breath practice from liturgist/activist Cole Arthur Riley, for when you need to feel grounded again...

Inhale: My practice is love.

Exhale: My path is justice.

Inhale: I remember my power.

Exhale: I do what I can.

YTD	Actual for Period	% of Amount Budgeted
Contributions Income:	\$356,228	96.9%
Total Income:	\$441,408	102.3%
Total Expenses:	\$435,923	101.0%
Net Income:	\$ <u>5,485</u>	

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:

Our December income was awesome making it possible to end the year with a budget positive net income. Note that we did have to use the \$22,780 from savings as approved last January. Thank you, FBC family.

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



Church Board Notes ~

The Church Board faced numerous challenges in 2025 that many previous Boards did not have to address. Most notable were the recent Stewardship campaign and subsequent budget reviews that forced significant revisions. Review of finances is a legal obligation of the Board. Last fall our treasurer, Don Watson, with support from the Finance Team and the Board, enrolled a variety of congregants to review the 2025 budget and make suggestions for 2026. This is what we mean when we say FBC is a congregationally-led church.

The budget was presented at the January 25, 2026 Semi-Annual meeting. By show of hands, the outcome was unanimous to accept the 2026 budget.

At last October's meeting, Don Watson launched a serious conversation about our long-time affiliation with American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast, and the possibility of moving our affiliation to Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. After a discussion, Board members were encouraged to visit both websites and, from what we learned, bring impressions to the next meeting. While honoring both organizations, the Board leaned heavily towards Evergreen.

A community-wide conversation was held after service on October 19, 2025 in the Fireplace Room. A Zoom session was also hosted on October 29, 2025.

To further assist with this question, Rev. Doug Avilesbernal, Executive Minister, Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, visited on November 2, 2025. In the interest of fairness, Rev. Steve Bils, the Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast (ABCCPC) visited FBC on January 4, 2026. Some long-time FBC leaders' memories differ from the account of events that Rev. Bils recounted.

A vote was held at the semi-annual meeting. By raising of hands, the outcome was unanimous—to release FBC's long-time affiliation with American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast.

Another vote was held to affirm moving FBC's regional affiliation to Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. By show of hands, the outcome was unanimous.

The Church Board will now begin the process of pursuing membership in the Evergreen Baptist Association. We will keep you posted about what that process entails and report back as we achieve the steps along the way.

This, friends, is where we are. As we look back at 2025 and step fully into 2026, let us consciously connect with each other as the circle we draw widens. Let us infuse our mission statement with New Possibilities as together we learn, love, serve, and seek justice and joy for all. *-Respectfully, Kathleen Verigin, Moderator*

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.



**Board
Member
Spotlight**

**Local Roots: Judee Kunze,
Congregational Engagement Team**

It might have been fated that Neil and I end up in McMinnville.

Oregon became a state on February 14, 1859 and my paternal great great grandfather, Robert Crouch Kinney, was the elected delegate from Yamhill County to sign the Oregon constitution. A year later this same Kinney bought the flour mill on Cozine Creek from McMinnville founder, William Newby.

There is a plaque in the city park near the library commemorating this event. Kinney was my maiden name and that is now my middle name. So I guess, with me, the family has returned to its roots in County and McMinnville.

Judee stepped into service on the Church Board in June 2024 as the Congregational Engagement chair. Prior to this she was also on the Board as treasurer for a 3 year term. Most recently Judee completed 11+ years as FBC's bookkeeper. Thank you, Judee!

FBC History - Did You Know?

1893 - FBC statement from Rules of Order:
Anything seeming disgraceful is cause for dismissal from the church...
Card Playing, Drinking, Dancing.

KeyNote CONCERT SERIES



**Baby
Boomer
17 piece
BIG
BAND**

This amazing Big Band includes 5 saxophones, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones and a rhythm section.

They performed in KeyNote's concert June 2025 and was very well received.

Looking forward to another concert with music written and arranged by composer Dana Libonati.

**Wednesday, February 18
7:00 pm - at First Baptist Church**

**All-Church Campout
July 10 - 12 at Beachside State Park**

**Reserve your site today
with the church office!**



**SACRED
CENTERING**
Community Prayer Time
Wednesdays, 5-6pm
in the Fireplace Room





What is CASA? Court Appointed Special Advocate

One of the local organizations that First Baptist supports through our mission budget

CASA volunteers advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are involved in the court system. Several years ago, a judge was handling a case involving a small child. The room contained attorneys, social workers, and others involved in the case. The judge asked, "Who represents the best interest of this child?" There was dead silence. From that, the judge created the CASA movement.

A CASA (which is what we call ourselves) is a trained volunteer appointed by a judge to advocate for a child. A CASA spends more time with their "kiddo" than the social worker or attorney is typically able to. A social worker may have a caseload of several dozen children, and likewise an attorney often has dozens of clients and cases. A CASA usually serves just one or two kiddos.

In the courtroom, the CASA sits at the same table as the attorneys and social workers and has full access to all information. The CASA writes a court report that judges give significant weight to and is often read early in the process, because the CASA has spent more time with the child and is truly independent - focused only on the well-being of the child, not on parents, agencies, or attorneys.

Yamhill County judges truly appreciate the service that CASA's provide, and they deeply respect our work. Gary Langenwalter is currently a CASA; Yamhill County CASA would welcome additional volunteers. It's a rewarding experience!

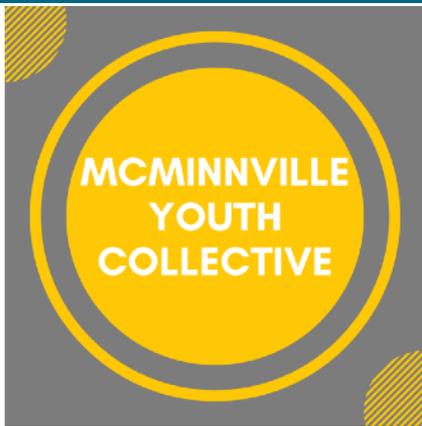
Hi, Friends,

I wanted to let you know that I have been invited to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Baptist Home Missions Societies, and have accepted this honor. ABHMS is part of our denomination that encourages neighborhood-based, peace-and-justice-oriented work, as well as creative and innovative approaches to church and ministry. Their identity statement is: *For nearly 200 years, American Baptist Home Mission Societies has answered God's call to meet the needs of those living on the margins. We develop programs, publications, and resources that encourage, equip and strengthen Christian leaders to make a positive impact in people's lives.* Today, this organization is led by Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, who was a virtual guest preacher for us during the early days of Covid. Terms are three years, with the option of renewal up to three times. My term began in January, with an orientation.



This responsibility will mean a few days away each year. ABHMS will cover the costs so there's no expense to me or to the church. There are two in-person meetings each year which, accounting for travel, will have me away for four days each, in June and in November. I'm a lifelong American Baptist, but have never been to Valley Forge/King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, the central hub of so much of our denomination's work, so I am eager to visit for these meetings! I will bring back tales of Baptist-land. :)

ABHMS offers a variety of online resources, trainings, and classes for church leaders and folks just interested in learning more about the intersections of faith and justice work, the history of the denomination, intercultural and specialized ministries, and more. I'd encourage you to check out their collection of offerings at abhms.org.



Youth Group
 Sundays, February 1 & 22
 (NO Youth Group on February 15)
 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

Super Bowl Party!
Sunday, February 8
 from 3:30 pm to the END of the game
 Toth Toy Barn - 2700 NW Pinehurst Dr
 (We'll have hot dogs & drinks,
 please bring a side or dessert to share!)

SPECIAL Youth Dinner
 We'll meet at Mac Cov
 on Wednesday, February 18
 for dinner at 6pm
 followed by an Ash Wednesday
 worship service at 7pm

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 January.

February 2 - Samuel
 February 9 - David
 February 23 - King David
 NO KidVenture on February 16

This summer the McMinnville Youth
 Collective's Service Learning Trip
 will be a Civil Rights Immersion Trip
 to Alabama!

We will be staying at Living River in
 Montevallo, AL, and spending time
 throughout the week in Birmingham,
 Selma, and Montgomery. We will visit
 some of our nation's civil rights historic
 landmarks, learning about equity
 and justice, and serve along side
 leaders of organizations in these areas
 that are working to meet the needs
 of people in their communities.

We are excited about this opportunity
 for our youth and adults to have
 a hands on, in person experience
 after dedicating time throughout
 this school year to better
 understanding the history & current
 realities, of racism, and the racial
 justice work that God calls us to be
 part of, now and in the future.

First Baptist Church has been selected to be part of the first cohort of churches in Nurturing Children Initiative, a program of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), which is funded, in large part, by a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., through its Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative.

Through this initiative, ABHMS hopes to fuel a culture shift that embraces children's natural curiosity, creativity, and forms of physical expression in the corporate, intergenerational worship environment. As a part of the "Best Practices Cohort," FBC will be encouraged to create opportunities within the context of corporate worship and prayer for the youngest among us to be affirmed and nurtured in who they are, encouraged in their faith, empowered in their gifts, and incorporated fully into the body of Christ.

The members of our team are Mary Dressel, Lauren Anderson (and Helen Anderson), and Sean P. Williams. We participate in an orientation in January and formally kick things off with all of the cohort congregations in King of Prussia, PA the weekend of February 13-15 for an opportunity of in-person learning and fellowship.

Congregations will share their best practices, and lead worship and prayer with and for one another, and learn from Music That Makes Community, a non-profit that specializes in the art and practice of paperless singing and music-making.

We're excited about this opportunity for the children of FBC and our entire church community! Please reach out if you have any questions, and be on the lookout for more information coming soon about focus groups & congregational activities that we will need you all to help with as a part of our participation in the grant. Thanks!



ABHMS
**Nurturing
 Children
 Initiative**

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.

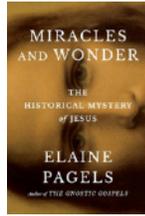
Contact Rob: schulmanrob@yahoo.com

Sunday Chapel Class - 8:45am, in person

In the Chapel

Reading: Miracles and Wonder (through March 29th)

In this New York Times bestseller, Elaine Pagels sets out to discover how a poor young Jewish man inspired a religion that shaped the world. The book reads like a historical mystery, with each chapter addressing a fascinating question and answering it based on the gospels Jesus's followers left behind.



Why is Jesus said to have had a virgin birth?
 Why do we say he rose from the dead?
 Did his miracles really happen and what did they mean?

The story Pagels tells is thrilling and tense. Not just does Jesus come to life but his desperate, hunted followers do as well.

We invite you to join the Chapel Class for vibrant discussions on this crucial subject. We learn and grow together by honoring all viewpoints.

Contact: Don Watson, donjw1@me.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 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, February 4 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 - February 9 & 23 at 7 pm, in-person
 2nd & 4th Mondays, Fireplace Room
 Contact: Dee Moore, 971-241-8256, togetherworksinfo@gmail.com

Hiking Group - on winter break (but back in March!)
 Contact: Gloria LaFata, glowml1@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, neck warmers & prayer shawls!

PM Group - 7 pm, in-person (meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays)
February 3 & 17 at Gina's / Contact: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

AM Group - 9:45 am, in-person (meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays)
February 12 & 26 at Linda's / Contact: Linda Watson, 971-237-2793

1st Friday Game Night - Friday, February 6, 6-8pm
ALL are welcome! Come join us in the FBC Fireplace Room
 Contact: Emily Kerrigan, emily2.kerrigan@gmail.com

FBC Singles - Tuesday, February 10, 1pm
2nd Tuesday Lunch at Good Food Mac, 619 NE Third Street
 Contact: Nadya King, ladyharp1@gmail.com

Sister Circle - Every Friday at 11 am, Fireplace Room
 Currently reading The Dalai Lama's Cat, by David Michie.
 Interested in joining? Contact: Sherill Robert
shrobert@linfield.edu or 971-237-3630

Moms' Group - February Plans TBD
 Contact Heidi Toth: tothfive@gmail.com

Native Voices BOOK Group - Wednesday, February 25, 6:10pm
 Join us in the Fireplace Room - book discussion TBD
 Contact: Nadya King, ladyharp1@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, February 28 at 9am
Last Saturday each month - Fireplace Room (enter Cowls St.)
 Join us for breakfast with friends, plus speaker Kyle Chambers will be talking about farming in Yamhill County.
 Contact: Don Watson, donjw@comcast.net or
 Neil Kunze, kunze@sou.edu

FEBRUARY at FBC

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Adult classes (pg. 7) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 5-7:30pm - MYC at FPC	2 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Matthew 25 12p - Personnel 4p - Missions Team 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Worship Planning	3 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	4 8:30a - Senior Breakfast at VFW Post, Atlantic Ave 11a - Bible Study 5p - Sacred Centering 6:30p - Worship Team	5 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses	6 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 6p - Game Night	7
8 Adult classes (pg. 7) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 3:30pm - MYC Super Bowl Party at Toth's	9 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Together Works	10 9a - Building & Grounds 1p - FBC Singles Lunch	11 11a - Bible Study 5p - Sacred Centering 6:30p - Worship Team 6:30pm - Church Board	12 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses	13 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle	14 Valentine's Day
Wanna Winter Camp, Feb. 13-16						
15 Adult classes (pg. 7) 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream	16 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 6:30pm - Care & Concern	17 7p - KnitWits at Gina's 6p - Youth dine at Mac Cov & attend service at 7p	18 11a - Bible Study 1p - Congregational Engagement Team 2p - Faith Formation 7p - KeyNote Concert 7p ASH WEDNESDAY service at McMinnville Covenant Church	19 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses The Lenten Season begins ...	20 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle	21
Wanna Winter Camp, Feb. 13-16						
22 Adult classes (pg. 7) 1st Sunday of LENT 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 5-7:30pm - MYC at FPC	23 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Together Works	24	25 11a - Bible Study 5p - Sacred Centering 6:10pm - Native Voices Book Group 6:30p - Worship Team	26 5:20p - Bells rehearse 6:30p - Choir rehearses	27 FBC Office Closed 9-10a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle	28 9a - Men's Breakfast

FEBRUARY Birthday

Ken Piontek 2
 Estefania Lowe 3
 Mark Pederson 5
 Virginia Holmstrom 5
 Julie Lum 6
 Mary Dressel 7
 Doug Verigin 7
 Jim Kilinsky 7
 Sandy Sutherland 10
 Meg Kirschnick 10
 Nancy Ross 11

Laura Christensen 13
 Molly Robinson 13
 Marlene Pryts 13
 Jim Sloss 14
 Llynne Vincent 15
 John Linder 17
 Geneva Foster Ward 18
 Jace Early 20
 Zorissa James 23
 Mary Baker 25
 Joy Hallett 27

No FEBRUARY Anniversary

"Love and kindness
are never wasted.

They always make
a difference."

– Helen James

Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor
erika@fbcmac.org

Sean P. Williams, Children & Youth Minister
sean@fbcmac.org

Marilyn Dresser, Music Director, Bells & Choir
marilyn@fbcmac.org

Tegan Johnson, Music Director, Worship Team
tegan@fbcmac.org

Ron Richter, Building Superintendent
ron@fbcmac.org

Donna Weed, Office Administrator
office@fbcmac.org

Tom Simpson, Building Security
toms@viclink.com

